

Moth Cocoons

Luna Moth

Species: *luna*
Genus: *Actias*
Family: Saturniidae
Order: Lepidoptera
Class: Insecta
Phylum: Arthropoda
Kingdom: Animalia

Promethea Moth

Species: *promethea*
Genus: *Callosamia*
Family: Saturniidae
Order: Lepidoptera
Class: Insecta
Phylum: Arthropoda
Kingdom: Animalia

Cynthia Moth

Species: *cynthia*
Genus: *Samia*
Family: Saturniidae
Order: Lepidoptera
Class: Insecta
Phylum: Arthropoda
Kingdom: Animalia

Conditions for Customer Ownership

We are a USDA compliant facility and hold all necessary permits to transport our organisms. Each state is assisted by the USDA to determine which organisms can be transported across state lines. Some organisms may require end-user permits. Please contact your local regulatory authorities with questions or concerns. To access permit conditions, [click here](#).

Never purchase living specimens without having a disposition strategy in place. Live specimens should not be released into the wild! Please dispose of any unwanted organisms using the guidelines below.

Primary Hazard Considerations

- Always wash your hands before and after handling pupae or adult moths.
- Moths can fly away. Be careful when opening their cages.
- Moths have scales on their wings that will fall off and make a dust-like material; this dust is an allergen to some people.

Availability

All moth pupae are wild-collected at the end of October. Pupae will remain viable in the refrigerator for at least six months and up to one year. Shortages may occur if demand is high.

Arrival Care

All moth cocoons will arrive in a 4 oz. jar with cotton balls. They can be placed in the refrigerator upon arrival and kept cold for approximately 6 months. If not refrigerated, they will emerge approximately 4–6 weeks from the time of arrival. (Please note these are wild-collected so it is difficult to know the specific age; emergence may vary widely.)

To Emerge Pupae

The pupae should be placed in a glass or plastic terrarium (minimum 3-gallon size). A mesh enclosure may also be used. The enclosure must be able to receive air circulation but not be open on any side to prevent escape. The pupae may be placed on a small piece of tissue paper or paper towel to remain clean until emergence. You may lightly mist your pupae daily with dechlorinated water.

Captive Care

Habitat:

- 3- or more gallon plastic cage works well for keeping moths. You can add dirt, grass, moss, sticks, and/or branches to the habitat to give the moths something to climb on.
- The habitat can be misted daily with de-chlorinated water, to provide the moths with some moisture. You can de-chlorinate tap water by leaving it out for 24–48 hours, or adding a de-chlorinating agent to it.
- The habitat should be kept at room temperature (70–80°F). No special lighting or heat is required.

Care:

- Adult moths are short-lived and do not feed during this stage of their life.
- If branches or leaves are present and you have more than one moth in your habitat, mating may occur. At this point eggs may be laid within the enclosure.

Sexing Moths

Type	Male	Female
Promethea	Mostly black/purple wings with a pattern border around	More patterns on border than males and colored red/brown
Cynthia	Longer overall wing span	Shorter overall wing span
Luna	Longer extension to tail and larger, fuller antennae	Shorter tail and slimmer antennae

Life Cycle

Complete metamorphosis.

- **Egg:** This stage lasts about 10 days.
- **Larvae:** They are voracious eaters, and go through five instars during this stage, which lasts about 3½–4 weeks.
- **Cocoon:** This stage lasts about 2–3 weeks.
- **Adult Moth:** They do not eat. They only mate for the week that they will live.

Wild Habitat

These moths are found in deciduous forests and have a distribution throughout the U.S. The larvae feed on the leaves of many different types of trees. Adults do not feed. The season for these moths is from March to September, depending on the part of the country you are in. They are subject to predation by birds.

Disposition

- We do not recommend releasing any laboratory animal into the wild, and especially not insects that are considered to be pests or not native to the environment.
- Adoption is the preferred disposition for any living animal.
- If the insects must be euthanized at the end of study, follow one of these procedures
 - Put them into a container or bag and freeze for 48 hours.
 - Place them in 70% isopropyl alcohol for 24 hours.
 - Autoclave them @ 121°C for 15 min.
- A deceased specimen should be disposed of as soon as possible. Consult your school's recommended procedures for disposal. In general, dead organisms should be handled as little as possible or with gloves, and wrapped in an opaque plastic bag that is sealed (tied tightly) before being placed in a general garbage container away from students.