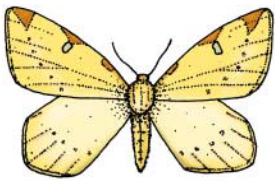


MOTHS

Moths are insects and are closely related to butterflies. Both moths and butterflies belong to a group known as **Lepidoptera**. A person who studies moths and/or butterflies is called a **lepidopterist**.

There are some ways to tell a butterfly from a moth but there are always exceptions. Butterflies are usually seen during the day whereas moths are more often seen at night. Moths generally rest during the day and tend to have dull colours to hide them in daylight hours. Some moths however, do come out during the day and are

often mistaken for butterflies as they can be just as colourful. Butterflies tend to fold their wings vertically above themselves when resting whereas moths tend to keep their wings flat and tucked into their body. There are some moths though that, when resting, will hold their wings vertically like butterflies. Most butterflies have the same type of antennae (also known as feelers) – long and straight with a little 'bubble' or 'club' at the end. The antennae of moths are sometimes feather-like and generally do not have a 'bubble' or 'club' at the end.



Brimstone

Opisthocraptis luteolata Leamhan ruibheach

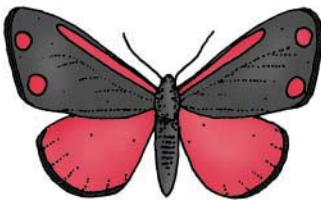
Like many other moths the Brimstone flies at dusk and is often attracted to light. The caterpillar is a 'looper' like the Garden Carpet whereby it lifts or loops the middle of its body as it moves. It is approximately 30mm long and has a pointy growth on the middle of its back.



Poplar Hawkmoth

Laothoe populi Conach poibleoige

The Poplar Hawkmoth is very well camouflaged, making it difficult to see when sitting on a tree trunk during the day as it looks like a dead leaf. The adult moths do not feed. The caterpillar goes underground to pupate in a chamber.



Cinnabar Moth

Tyria jacobaeae Leamhan flanndearg

Both the moth and the caterpillar of the Cinnabar are brightly coloured to warn predators that they are poisonous to eat. It can therefore be seen out in the open during the day as it is not at risk of being eaten.

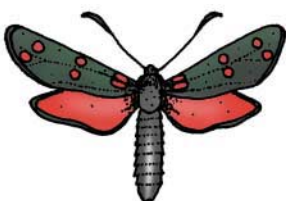


Garden Tiger

Arctia caja Leamhan tìograch garraí

The Garden Tiger moth varies so much in colour and markings that it is very rare to find two moths that are identical. The female is usually larger than the male. It flies late at night and many can often be seen flying towards light. Because of its

dark and hairy appearance the caterpillar is often known as 'woolly bear' and it can sometimes be seen sunbathing on warm sunny days or running along the ground.



Six-spot Burnet

Zygaena filipendulae Buirnèad sébhallaigh

The adult moth and caterpillar of Six-spot Burnet can produce poisonous toxins to warn off predators. It can often be seen flying during the day. The caterpillar creates a straw-coloured cocoon on a blade of grass, inside of which it changes into a moth.