

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Invertebrate Abstract

Element Code: IIILEY0V220

Data Sensitivity: No

**CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE**

**NAME:** *Heterocampa* sp. 1 nr. *amanda*

**COMMON NAME:** A Notodontid Moth

**SYNONYMS:** *Heterocampa amanda*

**FAMILY:** Notodontidae

**AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION:** Barnes & Lindsey, 1921.

**TYPE LOCALITY:**

**TYPE SPECIMEN:**

**TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS:** This species was identified by J.G. Franclemont of Cornell University as undescribed.

**DESCRIPTION:** For the family the adults are medium sized to large, typically with a relatively long forewing and stout body that extends two or more times the width of the hind wing. The head often has scale tufts or crests. The antennae are usually bipectinate to the tip in the male, filiform or sometimes bipectinate in the female. Proboscis is usually well developed and coiled. The abdomen is densely covered with long, slender scales and sometimes dorsal scale tufts at the base. The tips of the tibial spurs are serrated. These are mostly dull-colored, tan, brown, or gray moths. The larval body is stout, nearly bare, sometimes with long secondary setae, often possessing one or more protuberances.

**AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION:**

**ILLUSTRATIONS:**

**TOTAL RANGE:** Known range is probably a little more or less than 100 square miles in southeastern Arizona.

**RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA:** Ash Canyon, Garden Canyon, Pena Blanca Lake, and Sycamore Canyon in Southeastern Arizona.

**SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS**

**BIOLOGY:** According to NatureServe, adult males are powerful fliers but heavily laden females are probably not. Very few species feed as adults and so they probably do not live long. Larvae of this family of moths are usually gregarious. When disturbed they often freeze with ends of the body elevated.

**REPRODUCTION:** For the family, eggs are laid on the leaves of host plants.

**FOOD HABITS:** For the family, larval foods include a wide diversity of dicot angiosperms, mainly woody shrubs and trees, and a few feed on grasses. The caterpillars eat foliage and feed in groups to protect themselves from attacks by birds. Some produce chemicals and adopt threatening postures. Certain prominent caterpillars are described as “processionary” due to their nighttime habit of moving in a long, head-to-tail line when seeking food. During the day, these species often shelter en masse, sometimes in a loose, silk nest.

**HABITAT:** Mixed oak/juniper woodland with a rich array of other woody and herbaceous plants.

**ELEVATION:**

**PLANT COMMUNITY:**

**POPULATION TRENDS:** Unknown.

**SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:** None

**STATE STATUS:** None

**OTHER STATUS:** None

**MANAGEMENT FACTORS:** Threats to this species include its limited range. A single event, such as an extensive fire, could eliminate significant portions of this moth’s small range.

**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:** Part of this species range is on Fort Huachuca and the U.S. Army manages this area for wildlife values. The other parts of its range are on the Coronado National Forest, although it is not certain by how much protection is conferred by current management.

**SUGGESTED PROJECTS:** Life history, population status, and population range studies need to be performed.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** DOD - Fort Huachuca; USFS - Coronado National Forest.

## **SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **REFERENCES:**

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- Resh, V.H. & R.T. Carde. 2003. Encyclopedia of Insects. Academic Press. New York, New York. Pp: 658-659.

### **MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

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