

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org



licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).

Common Name: American Dagger Moth

Scientific Name: *Acronicta Americana* (Harris)

Order and Family: Lepidoptera; Noctuidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph	50 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - White or yellow “fuzzy” caterpillar with a black, shiny head - Have diverging black lashes on the 1st and 3rd segments - Have a single tuft of black hairs on the 8th segment
Adult	Wingspan: 50-65 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grayish-brown moths -Have black marking on the wings
Pupa (if applicable)		- A dense silken cocoon

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae have chewing mouthparts, adults have siphoning mouthparts.

Host plant/s: Maple, boxelder, birch, poplar, ash, elm, hickory, walnut, apple, basswood, oak, and willow.

Description of Damage: Damage is caused in the larval stage. Caterpillars feed on leaf material at night and before returning to their daytime shelter, will cut the partially consumed leaf at the petiole.

References:

Bartlett, T., Nendick-Mason, H., Moisset, B., McLeod, R., Kistler, E., & Hardy, R. (2004, February 4). Species *Acronicta americana* - American Dagger Moth - Hodges#9200. Retrieved February 8, 2016, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/505>

Colorado State University Extension. (2016, February 26). *Colorado Insects of Interest: American Dagger Moth* [PDF]. Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University.

Cranshaw, W. (2004). Chapter Three: Leaf Chewers – Silver Spotted Tiger Moth. In *Garden insects of North America: The ultimate guide to backyard bugs*. (pp. 124). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

University of Alberta E.H. Strickland Entomological Museum. (n.d.). Entomology Collection: Species Page - *Acronicta americana* . Retrieved November 01, 2017, from http://www.entomology.museums.ualberta.ca/searching_species_details.php?s=2813