

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Lance S. Risley, William Paterson University, Bugwood.org (Larvae)
& Mark Dreiling, Bugwood.org (Adult)



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Common Name: Unicorn Caterpillar, Unicorn Caterpillar Moth, Unicorn Prominent, or Variegated Prominent

Scientific Name: *Schizura unicornis*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera; Notodontidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		
Larva/Nymph	< 38 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second and third segments are bright green • Head and rest of body is brown • Have a prominent horn-like protrusion on first segment and smaller protrusion on eighth segment
Adult	Wingspan: 24-35 mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maroon to purplish-gray moth • Forewings are dark gray with yellow, rose, and brown markings • Basal area is a shade of green that fades into white and is bound by a double black line • Wings held in a “tent” when at rest • Hindwings are dirty white with shades of light gray on males and dark gray on females
Pupa (if applicable)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White, flimsy cocoon • Found in leaf litter

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

Host plant/s: Alder, apple, aspen, birch, elm, hawthorn, hickory, willow and other broadleaf trees and shrubs.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adults do not cause damage. Caterpillars consume leaves, causing holes or completely consuming entire leaves.

References:

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