

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University, Bugwood.org (Larva)  
Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org (Adult)



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**Common Name:** Saddleback Caterpillar

**Scientific Name:** *Acharia stimulea*

**Order and Family:** Lepidoptera; Limacodidae

### Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	Length: 1.5-2 mm Width: 1 mm	- Laid on the upper side of host leaves in irregular clusters of 30-50 eggs - Transparent and yellow in color with thin edges
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	1.2-20 mm	- Have a slug-like body with a granulated texture - Prolegs are concealed under the ventral surface - Brightly colored, denoting toxicity - Dark brown on both ends with a contrasting bright green pattern on the dorsal midsection that is outlined in white, giving it the appearance of a saddle - Have large fleshy tubercles covered in long setae and spines that extend from both ends - Have three cream colored spots on the posterior end that imitate a large face
<b>Adult</b>	Wingspan: 26-43 mm	- Glossy dark brown with black shading - Have dense scales on body and wings, giving it a “furry” appearance - Have a single white dot near the base of the forewing with 1-3 additional white dots near the apex - Hindwings are a light brown
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	~10 mm	- A hard, silken cocoon

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

**Host plant/s:** Maple tree, Hackberry, pecan, spicebush, crape myrtle, chestnut tree

**Description of Damage:** Caterpillars feed on plant leaves but most of their damage comes from unintentional contact with humans. Caterpillars have setae, or tiny hairs and spines, on their body that release a poisonous toxin that may cause an allergic reaction to the person who comes in contact with the caterpillar.

**References:**

Barlett, T., Nendick-Mason, H., Moisset, B., & Roberts, J. D. (2004, February 16). Species *Acharia stimulea* - Saddleback Caterpillar Moth - Hodges#4700. Retrieved November 06, 2017, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/507>

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