

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
Egg	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
Larva/Nymph	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
Adult	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
Pupa (if applicable)	~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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