

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Whitemarked Tussock Moth

Scientific Name: *Orygia leucostigma*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae.

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		Eggs are deposited directly on the female's cocoon and covered with frothy material.
Larva/Nymph	25mm – 38mm	Cream colored overall with coral red heads. On four segments of the abdomen, unique brush-like tufts of white or yellowish hairs are present, and there are pencil-like tufts of hairs at both the hind and front ends. The first to hatch feed on the remaining eggs and then disperse themselves by way of silken threads.
Adult	Females: 12.5mm Males wingspan: 25.5mm	Adult females are often noted in literature as wingless, but they are short-winged and can't fly. Males are dull grayish brown, sometimes with a purplish tint, with a distinctive white spot at the base of the forewing and at rest hold their first set of legs out in front of them.
Pupa (if applicable)		The larva constructs a cocoon out of silk and its own hairs, and is usually found on underside of limbs, in tree cavities, or cracks in bark. Numerous pupae are usually found together.

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Larvae: Chewing

Host plant/s: A wide variety of trees and shrubs including apple, basswood, elm, sycamore, maple, birch, pyracantha, live oak, mimosa, cherry, hackberry, willow and redbud. Some conifers are occasional hosts.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Young larvae chew holes in leaves, older larvae feed at the leaf edge, occasionally causing significant defoliation.

Medical Importance: Contact with the urticating hairs, which have a venom gland at their base, can cause dermatitis.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2004). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide To Backyard Bugs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

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