

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Sonoran Tent Caterpillar

Scientific Name: *Malacosoma tigris*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, Lasiocampidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Egg | | |
| Larva/Nymph | > 38.1 mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• black and orange stripes with blue lines crossing each body segment• hairy to the touch |
| Adult | 25.4 mm (wingspan) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• moth are brown to yellowish• two faint lines across the front wings• head region will be somewhat furry |
| Pupa (if applicable) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• cocoons constructed of silk, are loose and have a white or yellowish crystalline substance scattered throughout the mass |

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

Host plant/s: Mostly Gambel oak but will feed on other oaks or deciduous trees.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults):

Fortunately, the Sonoran tent caterpillar is not much of a concern in regards to plant damage (forest tent caterpillars ARE a concern). However, tent caterpillars create silk shelters, which are very noticeable as they gather in large numbers/colonies. Furthermore, the only damage a person should look for is early season defoliation on stressed plants.

References:

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- Cranshaw, W. (2010, February 23). Sonoran Tent Caterpillar. Retrieved February 07, 2016, from http://wiki.bugwood.org/HPIPM:Malacosoma_tigris
- Cranshaw, W. S. (2013, June). Tent-Making Caterpillars - 5.583 - Colorado State University Extension. Retrieved February 07, 2016, from <http://extension.colostate.edu/topic-areas/insects/tent-making-caterpillars-5-583/>
- Jackman, J. A. (2004). Tent Caterpillars. Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Retrieved February 07, 2016, from <http://counties.agrilife.org/somervell/files/2015/03/tent-caterpillars.pdf>