

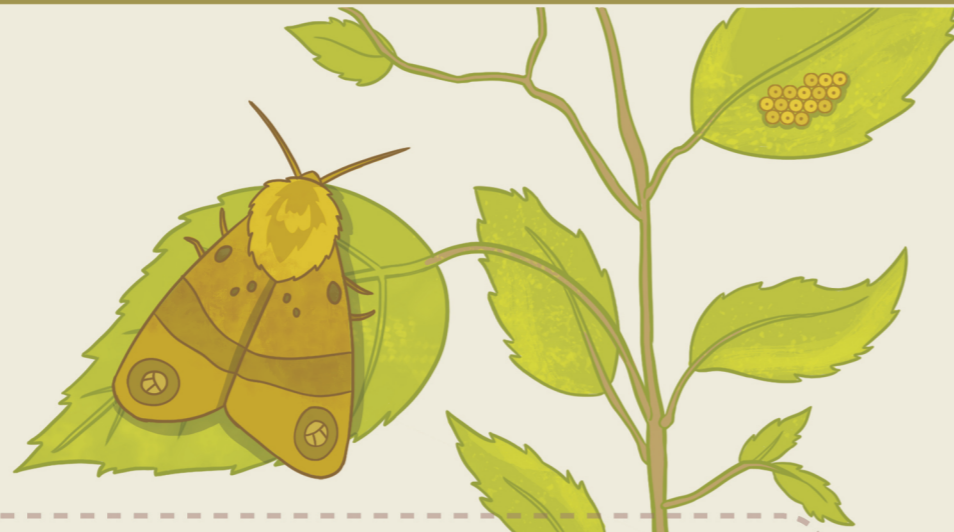


nature  
conservation  
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science for conservation

# MOTHS

By Nature Conservation Foundation



## crucial antennae

Moths use their antennae not just to smell things, but also to help them steer while flying.

Moth antennae tend to be comb-like, feathery or slender and unclubbed, unlike the slender and clubbed antennae of butterflies with earbud-like ends. Antennae help moths detect food from a distance, and also the scents of other moths.

Antennae also help moths stabilize their flight and so when the antennae of moths are damaged they fly off-course, crash into walls and even end up flying backwards.



← Moth →



Butterfly

## meet an EXPert!

Sanjay is a lepidopterist, an expert on moths.

? Sanjay, why is it difficult to spot moths?

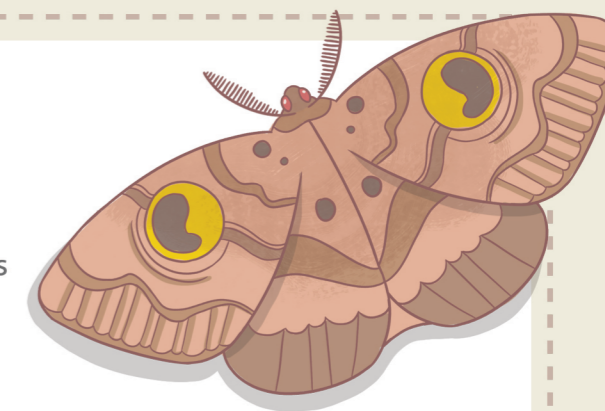
It's not! There are ten times more moths than butterflies. This means that there are thousands and thousands of moths in India. But moths tend to active at night and most humans are active during the day...which is why you don't see them easily. So, the best time to look for moths is at night.



? Where can I easily find moths, Sanjay?

Probably right at home. The caterpillars of some moths eat our clothes. Maybe you've seen the adults fly out of your cupboard at some time. You'll also find plenty of moths outdoors in gardens and forests especially during the summer or monsoon. Moths come in amazing colours and patterns and can range in size from smaller than a pencil tip, to larger than a sparrow!

Write to [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org) or visit us at [www.edu.ncf-india.com](http://www.edu.ncf-india.com) to ask Sanjay any questions you have about moths.



## for The field diary

Switch on a light at night somewhere outside (your verandah, porch or balcony) and wait with your field diary in hand.

You could also tie a sheet between two trees or bushes in your garden at night and shine a torch light onto the screen, or place a lighted CFL bulb at the top of the screen. Moths will likely come and rest on a wall near the light or on the sheet.

- How many moths do you see?
- How many different kinds are there? Note their sizes, colours and patterns.
- Try and look at their antennae and draw them in your diary.



## Write to us!

Send us a drawing of the most interesting moth you see and tell us why you think it is interesting. If you have set up a light-trap in your garden or balcony, do send us a photo of it. Share your notes and drawings with us at [edu@ncf-india.org](mailto:edu@ncf-india.org)!

