

# Promethea Moth (*Callosamia promethea*)

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This moth has a wing spread of 2.5 to four inches, the females averaging a little larger than the males. The female promethea resembles the cecropia to some extent although it is much smaller. Both have an eye spot near the tip of the front wing and a white mark near the middle of each wing. However, the female promethea is a richer red-brown than the cecropia; the male promethea is dark brown to nearly black and lacks the white marks. The male also has the unusual habit, for a saturniid, of flying in the late afternoon. The rest of the saturniids are only active after dark.



Promethea caterpillar (R. Bessin, Univ. of Kentucky)



Promethea Moth (UW-Extension)

Promethea caterpillars develop to their full two inches length by late summer or early fall. They are not as conspicuously adorned as some of the other saturniids, but they do have two short red pegs on the second and third body segments and a single yellow peg on the next to last body segment.

Tulip trees seem to be a favorite host plant but they will also feed on ash, azalea, bayberry, barberry, birch, button bush, cherry, lilac, plum, poplar, sassafras, spice bush and sweet gum.

Full grown caterpillars spin a cocoon within a rolled leaf and change to the pupal stage. The petiole of the rolled leaf, covered with a layer of silk, forms a strap by which the cocoon hangs from a twig. These dangling cocoons are easily found on the bare trees in winter. Mature moths emerge from the cocoons and lay their eggs in June.