

Io Moth



Automeris io



Host Plants



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Common name

- Sugarberry Tree
- Coastal Plain Willow
- Redbud Trees
- Blackberries and Dewberries
- Oak Trees
- Plum and Cherry Trees

Scientific name

- *Celtis laevigata*
- *Salix caroliniana*
- *Cercis* spp.
- *Rubus* spp.
- *Quercus* spp.
- *Prunus* spp.

Biology

The **Io Moth** is a medium-sized (2 - 3 inches in wingspan) saturniid moth found in North and Central America. The caterpillars spend their early stages in groups, while older caterpillars are usually found alone. They are characterized by "stinging" spines, which serve as protection from predators. The sting feels like that of a bee and is usually harmless. Caterpillars take 60 - 100 days to mature; when ready to pupate, they spin a thin cocoon. Adult moths do not feed and females emerge from the cocoons with 250 - 350 fully formed eggs, which they lay in groups of 10 - 20 on a variety of host plants. In north central Florida, the **Io Moth** undergoes two reproductive cycles a year.



For more information scan the QR code or visit <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/index.php>



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