

# Atlas Moth

*Fun facts about the Atlas moth.*



(Credits: Animal Spot)

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## INTRODUCTION

Atlas moths are large and beautiful moths that are sometimes mistaken for butterflies. The moth has a wingspan of something between 9 and 12 inches. Pretty big huh? You might be a little freaked out by their size but don't worry they are perfectly harmless, they don't even have mouths after they turn into adults.

Lots of people would say the Atlas moth evolved, but we know that's not true, it's impossible! We know that God created the moth just like he created every other living thing. Let's read on to find out more about this amazing creature that God created.



(Credits: Reddit)

### Scientific name.

Attacus Atlas

## Diet

Atlas moths don't eat as adults. After the larvae(caterpillar) hatch they eat a lot of food. They eat for about two weeks before they make a cocoon. After the moth comes out of its cocoon it can't eat because it doesn't have a fully developed mouth. Because of this the moth has to use the energy that it made as a caterpillar. The caterpillar eats: **the leaves of cinnamon, citrus fruit, guava, and Jamaican cherry trees.**

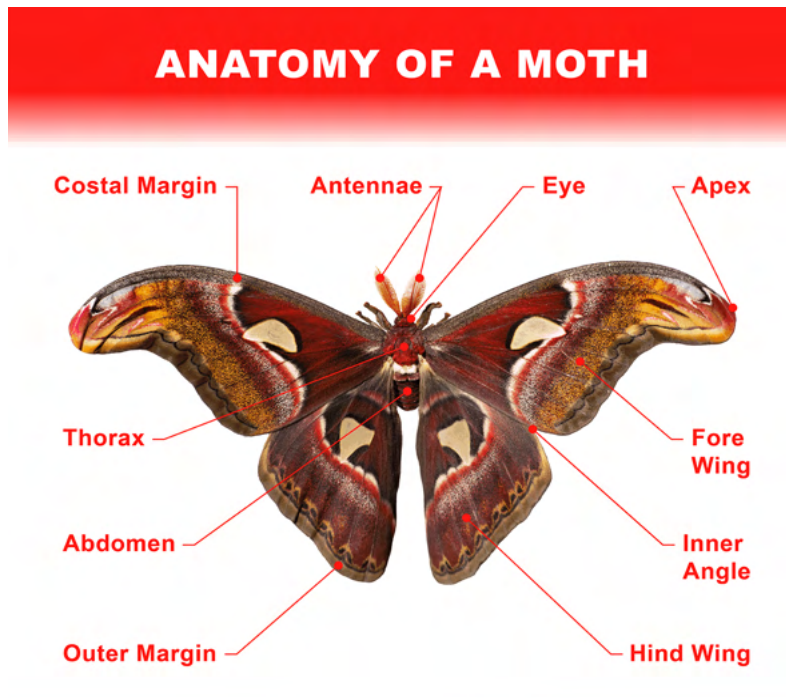


(Credits: Animal Spot)

## Habitat

The Atlas moth can be found in Southeastern asia. It is mostly found in tropical and subtropical rainforests. Forests like these only have two seasons instead of four, there is a rainy season and a dry season. The temperature is around 77 degrees fahrenheit (25 degrees celsius).

## Moth characteristics.



(Credits: Home Stratosphere)

This photo has an Atlas moth on it but these are the characteristics of any moth. The Atlas Moth like most moths is nocturnal which means it sleeps or rests during the day and flies at night. The Atlas moth has feathered antennae (look at the introductory photo in this report.)



## Lifecycle

First the moth starts out as an egg. The females will produce 200 to 300 eggs. That's a lot! Imagine if a chicken laid that many eggs... nah I'm good.



(Credits: Animal Spot)

Next of course the caterpillars (or larvae) have to hatch, they typically take 14 days to hatch.



(Credits: Bird Ecology Study Group)

As I said in the 'diet' section, the caterpillars (larvae) eat for about 2 weeks before forming a cocoon. The caterpillars form a cocoon when they're about 4-1\2 inches long. Here's a photo of an Atlas moth cocoon,

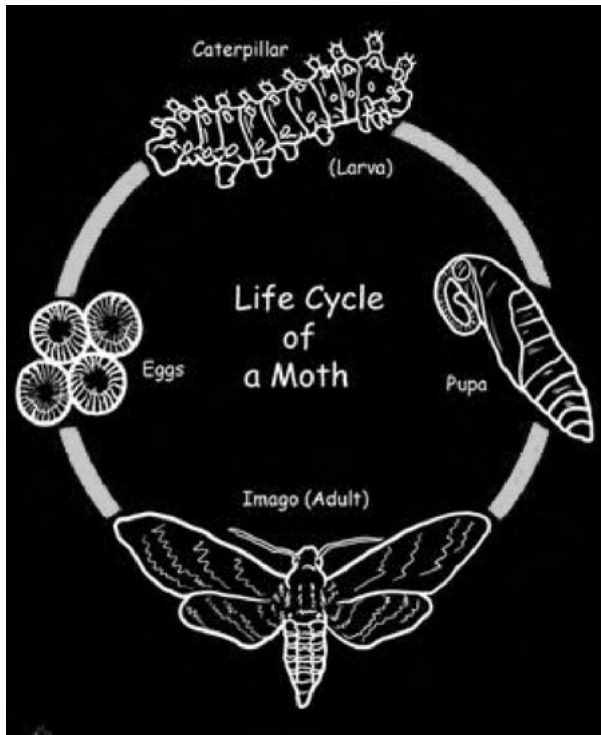


(Credits: GoodFreePhotos)

After being in the cocoon for 4 weeks they come out as a beautiful Atlas moth! The adult moths only live around 5-7 days. They don't fly around much after they are adults, that way they conserve their energy for mating. After emerging from the cocoon their only mission is to find a mate. After doing so the females lay eggs and die. And the life cycle begins again.



(Credits: Animal Spot)



(Credits: Pest Wiki)

## Did you know? Fun facts about Atlas Moths.

Here's the classification table for these moths,

### Atlas moth

Order:	Lepidoptera
Family:	Saturniidae
Genus:	<b>Attacus</b>
Species:	<b>A. atlas</b>

Atlas moth caterpillars are impressive in their defense strategies. They have a threatening appearance — the caterpillars are a bluish-green color with spiny things sticking out of them and a waxy white coating. The larvae have an emission that they can spray a distance of almost 12 inches, it has a strong odor and is used against its predators, mainly ants and lizards. The adult moth has wingtips that look like cobra snake heads, when something threatens the Atlas moth it slowly moves its wingtips to imitate a cobra (that's neat!) Cobras live in the same area so this often works. However if this fails to work the moth has transparent spots that look like eyes on its wings.

The cocoons from the Atlas moth are used to make purses and other clothing products, the cocoons are spun from a silk called fagara. Sometimes the large cocoons are used to make money change purses by just adding a zipper, then you have a cocoon shaped purse.

Doesn't the amazing beauty of these moths just make you want to glorify God? I'm a nature lover, it just makes me feel happy to see all the beautiful things that God has made.

That's all I have for you, hopefully you learned something and found this interesting! Thanks for reading, :)



(Credits: Pixabay)