

Caterpillar Observation Notes



If you find a caterpillar but don't see its picture on the opposite page, use this form to write down a description of it. Be sure to include the date that you saw the caterpillar. If possible, go back to see your caterpillar a few days later to see how it has changed. When you observe your caterpillar, record the following information about it:

- Habitat and location.**
- Color and pattern.** If you draw the pattern, this can help you to remember later.
- Description of spikes or hair** (if it has any).
- The name of the plant.** Write down the name of the plant on which you find your caterpillar. If you don't recognize the plant, describe it in writing and draw a picture of the leaf. You might recognize the leaf from one of the photos of a caterpillar in a field guide.

Caterpillar Ouch!

It's a good idea not to disturb insects. But if a good idea isn't good enough for you then at least take my word of caution.

Some moth caterpillars can sting.

You will not recognize every caterpillar you see and, therefore, you won't be able to tell if the caterpillar is a butterfly or moth. The moth caterpillars that sting are usually those with long bristles, or spines. Really—don't pick them up—*really!*