

# A CHECK-LIST OF THE MOTHS OF SASKATCHEWAN

## PART 1 - TENT CATERPILLARS, SILK MOTHS AND SPHINX MOTHS

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There are between 1500 and 2000 species of moths in Saskatchewan. This series will cover the major families of larger moths. Abbreviations are used in the text for directions (n north, s south, e east, w west) and size (mm millimetres, cm centimetres).

### Tent Caterpillars (Lasiocampidae)

These moths are called Tent Caterpillars because the larvae of some of the species live in silken tents. Most people of the prairies and parklands are familiar with the tents of the Prairie Tent Caterpillars on Choke-cherry bushes. The Forest Tent Caterpillars live in colonies, but they do not spin silken tents; they often defoliate whole bluffs of aspen. Our friends that help keep them in control are Black-billed Cuckoos and ground beetles called Caterpillar Hunters.

Adult moths of this family are mostly rusty coloured and from 25 to 30 mm in wing expanse.

### MACROMPHALIINAE

Larch Lappet Moth - *Tolyte laricis* (Fitch) — Shoal Lake

### GASTROPACHINAE

Small Lappet - *Phyllodesma (Epicnaptera) americana* (Harr.) — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing and Otter Rapids

### LASIOCAMPINAE

Forest Tent Caterpillar - *Malacosoma disstria* Hbn. — Throughout Sask.

Eastern Tent Caterpillar - *M. americanum* (F.) — s Sask., n to Indian Head and Elbow

Western Tent Caterpillar - *M. californicum pluviale* (Dyar) — n Sask., s to Kamsack and Kyle

Prairie Tent Caterpillar - *M. californicum lutescens* (N. & D.) — s Sask., n to Foster Lake

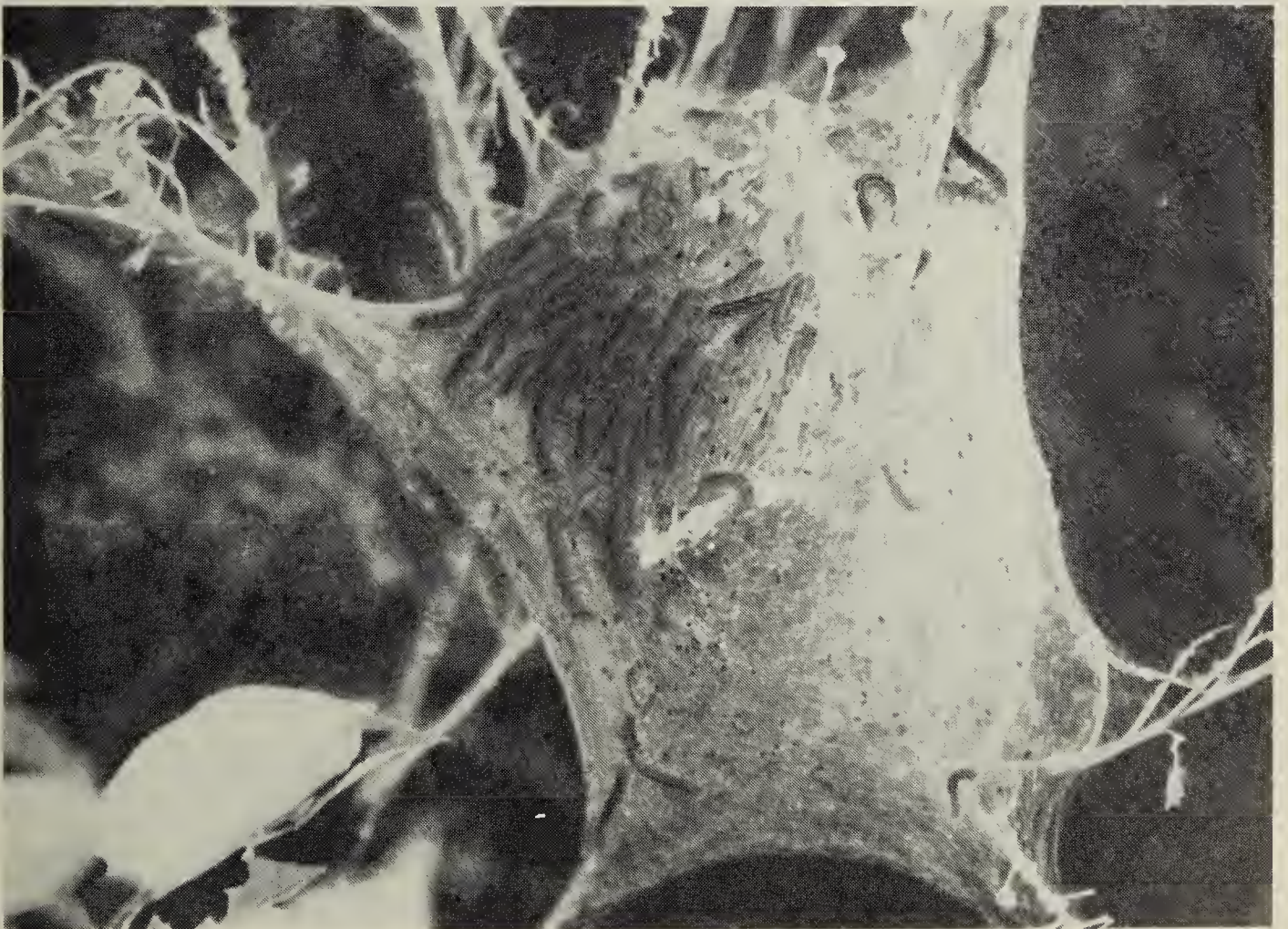


Forest Tent Caterpillar R. Hooper



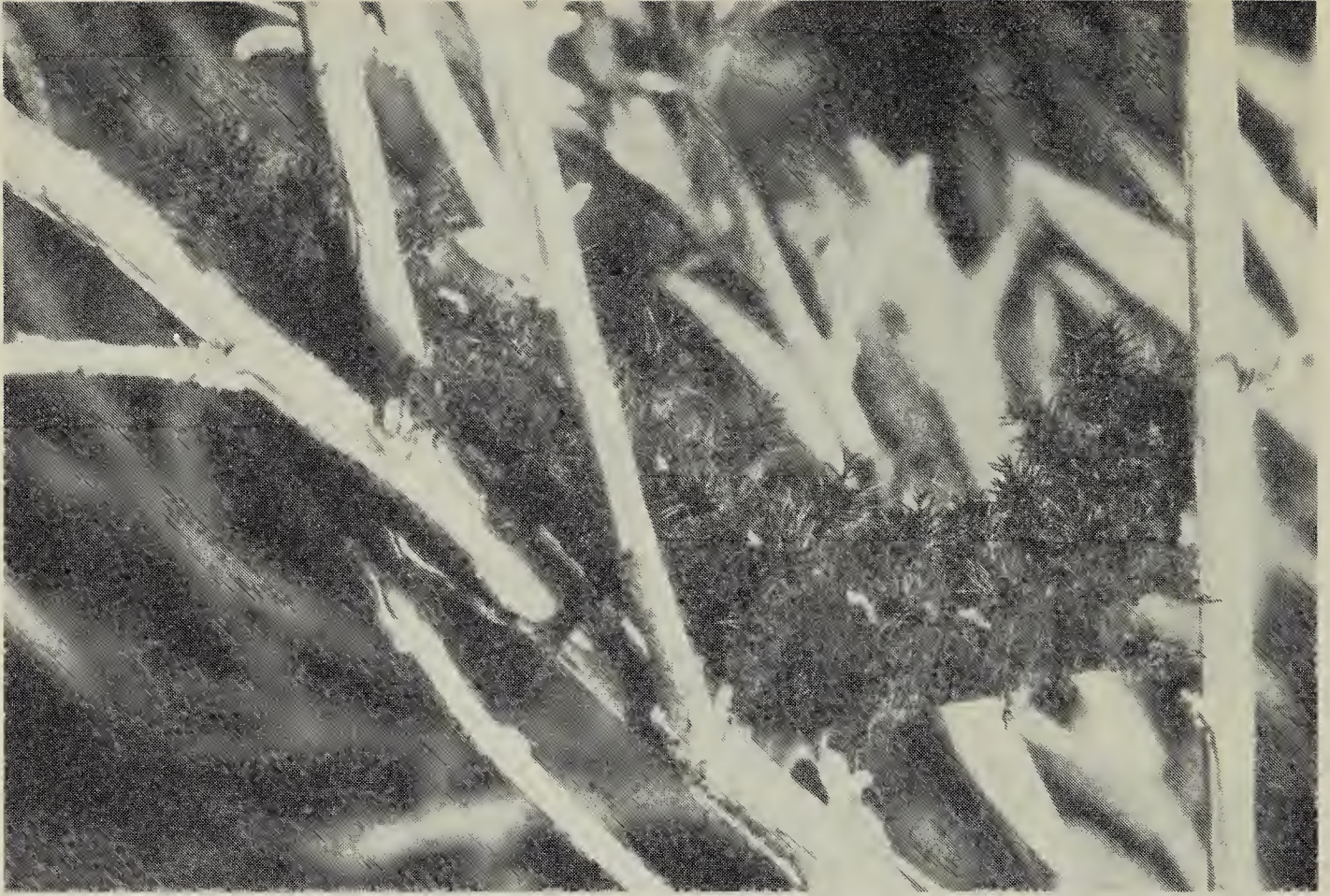


*Prairie Tent Caterpillar*



*Tent Caterpillars*





*Sagebrush Sheep Moth Caterpillar*

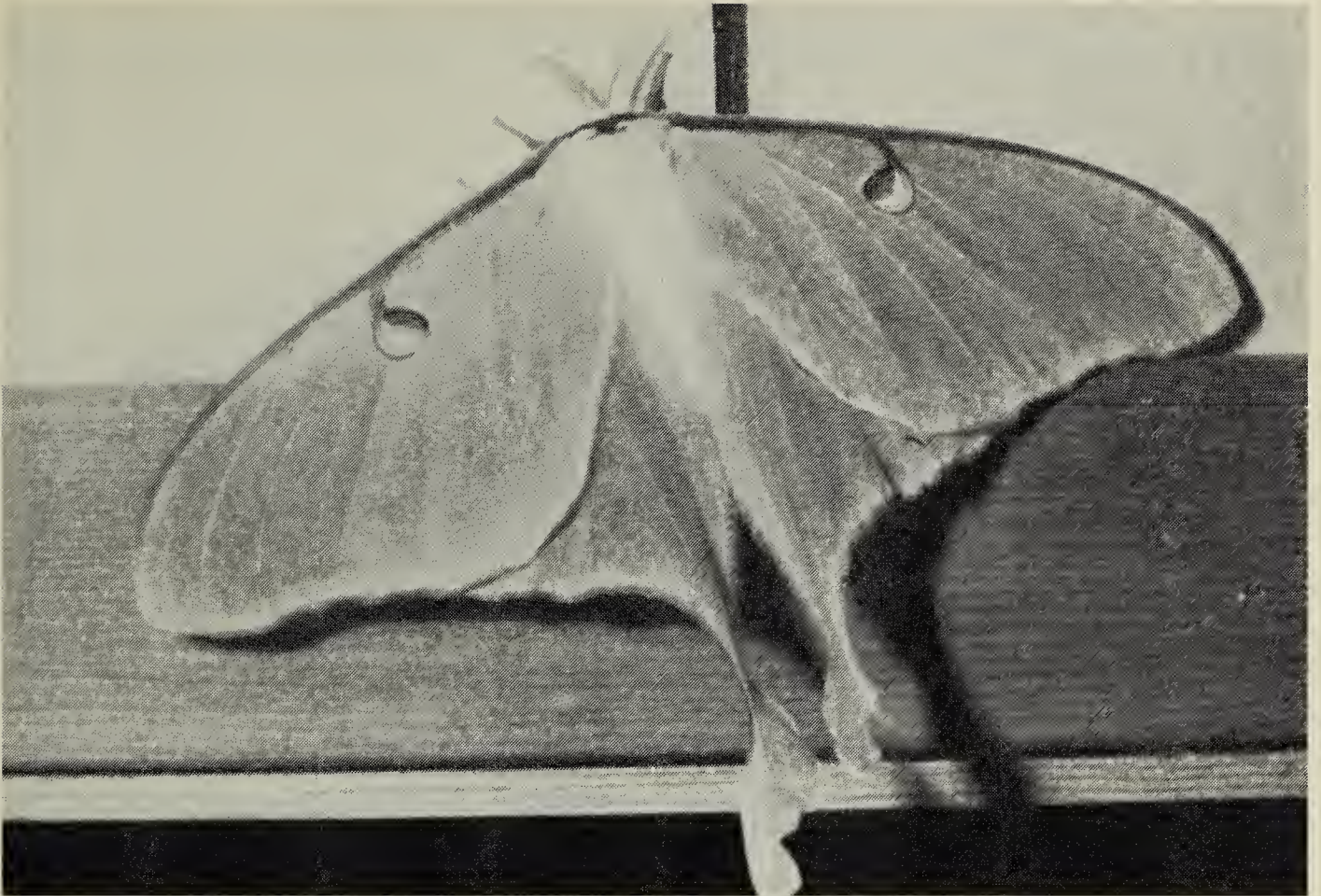
*R. Hooper*



*Polyphemus Silk Moth, Maryfield, Saskatchewan*

*R. Hooper*





*Luna Moth, Moose Mountain Provincial Park*

*K.N. Roney*

**Giant Silk Moths** (Saturniidae)

This family is called Silk Moths for the large silken cocoons that the larvae spin, but their silk is not used for commercial purposes as the Silk Moth from Asia.

The Cecropia Moth is our largest moth that is raised in this province (although we do have two larger species of Owllet Moths that come here as strays).

The caterpillars are large and bulky and they need to be for they do all their feeding in the larval stage because the adults have no mouth parts. The adults are therefore quite short-lived.

To enable the males to find the females by scent more readily they have large feather-like antennae. Each wing of a Giant Silk Moth has a round or crescent-shaped "window" which is actually a false eye.

Stretch — Indian Head and North Battleford

Sagebrush Sheep-moth - *H. hera* (Harr.) — Killdeer Badlands, Val Marie and Govenlock

**SATURNIINAE**

Polyphemus Silk Moth - *Antheraea polyphemus* (Cram.) — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing and Otter Rapids

Luna Moth - *Actias luna* (L.) - e Sask., w to Weyburn, Saskatoon, n to Pasquia Hills, Nipawin and Prince Albert

Cecropia Moth - *Hyalophora cecropia* (L.) — s Sask., n to Hudson Bay, Candle Lake and North Battleford

Glover's Silk Moth - *H. gloveri* (Stkr.) — s Sask., n to Deschambault Lake and Meadow Lake Park

**HEMILEUCINAE**

Buck Moth - *Hemileuca nevadensis*

**EXPECTED SPECIES**

Manitoba Oakworm Moth - *Anisota*





*Tomato Hornworm*

Richard Fyfe

*manitobensis* McD. — has been taken west to Aweme and Shoal Lake, Man.

Pink-striped Oakworm Moth - *Anisota virginiensis* (Drury) — has been taken west to Shoal Lake, Man.

### **Sphinx Moths** (Sphingidae)

Sphinx moth caterpillars and pupae are recognized by the horn on the tail. The adult moths are recognized by their relatively large sized bodies and the long narrow fore-wings.

#### SPHINGINAE

Tomato Hornworm - *Manduca quinquemaculata* (Haw.) — Melville and Kindersley

Elm Sphinx - *Ceratomia amyntor* (Geyer) — s Sask., n to Fort Qu'Appelle and North Battleford

Waved Sphinx - *C. undulosa* (Wlk.) — s Sask., n to Pasquia Hills and Prince Albert

Great Ash Sphinx - *Sphinx chersis* (Hbn.) — s Sask., n to Stockholm, Fort Qu'Appelle and Saskatchewan Landing

Vashti Sphinx - *S. vashti* Stkr. — s Sask., n to Kamsack, Bjorkdale and Meadow Lake Park

Laurel Sphinx - *S. kalmiae* J.E. Smith — Indian Head

Gordian Sphinx - *S. gordius* Cram. - n Sask., s to Fort Qu'Appelle

Clemen's Hawkmoth - *S. luscitiosa* Clem. — Tantallon, Somme, Bjorkdale and Loon Lake

Wild Cherry Sphinx - *S. drupiferarum* J.E. Smith — Maryfield, Fort Qu'Appelle, Punnichy and Douglas Park

Bombyx Sphinx - *Lapara bombycoides* Wlk. — Nipawin Provincial Park, Prince Albert and Loon Lake





Vashti Sphinx Moth, Maryfield, Saskatchewan

R. Hooper

Twin-spot Sphinx - *Smerinthus jamaicensis* (Drury) — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing, Otter Rapids and Clearwater River

(F.) — throughout Sask.

Cerisy's Sphinx - *S. cerisyi* Kirby — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing, La Ronge and Lloyd Lake

Snowberry Clearwing - *H. diffinis* (Bdv.) — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing and Otter Rapids

Blinded Sphinx - *Paonias excaecatus* (Smith) — s Sask., n to Somme and Prince Albert

Gaudy Sphinx - *Eumorpha labruscae* (L.) — Lancer (1 stray)

Small-eyed Sphinx - *P. myops* (J.E. Smith) — s Sask., n to Somme and Bjorkdale

Strecker's Day Sphinx - *Proserpinus juanita* (Stkr.) — Killdeer Badlands

Big Poplar Sphinx - *Pachysphinx modesta* (Harr.) — s Sask., n to Sturgeon Landing and Lake Athabasca

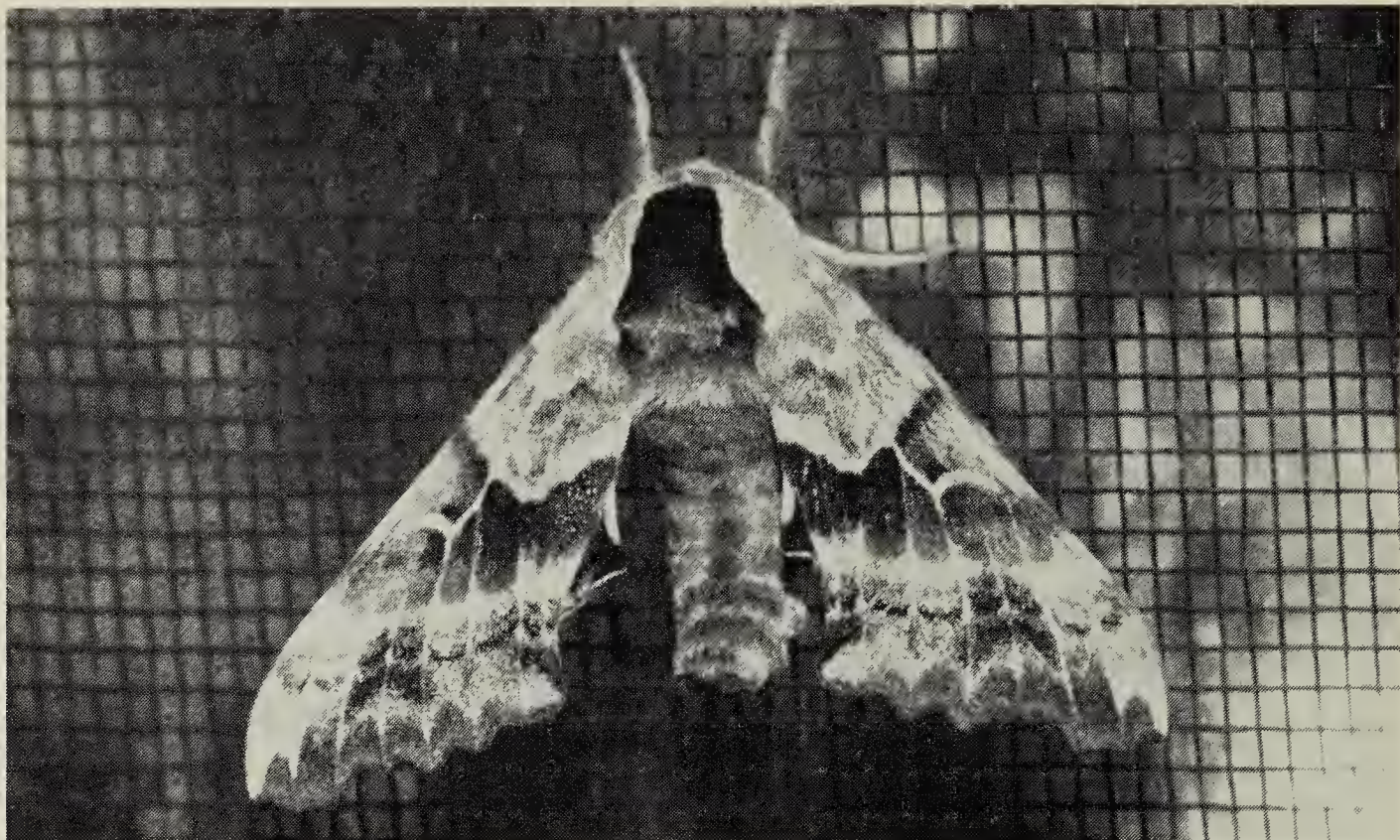
Yellow-banded Day Sphinx - *P. flavofasciata* (Wlk.) — Bjorkdale, Nipawin Provincial Park and s end of La Ronge Lake

MACROGLOSSINAE

Hummingbird Clearwing - *Hemaris thysbe*

Azalea Sphinx - *Darapsa pholus* (Cram.) — central Sask., n to Pelican





*Cirisy's Sphinx Moth*

Fred Lahrman

Narrows and Meadow Lake Park, s to Maryfield

Spurge Hawkmoth - *Hyles euphorbiae* (L.) — Introduced at Jamieson and Weyburn (by Biological Control, Department of Agriculture) to control Leafy Spurge.

Galium Sphinx - *Hyles gallii* (Rott.) — throughout Sask.

Striped Morning Sphinx - *H. lineata* (F.) — s Sask., n to Fort Qu'Appelle and Saskatoon

#### EXPECTED SPECIES

Nessus Sphinx - *Amphion floridensis* B.P. Clark — found in both southern Manitoba and southern Alberta

<sup>1</sup> COLLINS, M.M. and R.D. WEAST 1961. Wild Silk Moths of the United States. Collins Radio Corp., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

<sup>2</sup> FERGUSON, D.C. 1972. IN R.B. DOMINICK *et al.* Mimallonoidea: Bombycoidea (in part). The Moths of America North of Mexico. fasc. 20.2. E.W. Classey Ltd., London.

<sup>3</sup> FRANCLEMONT, J.G. 1973. IN R.B.

DOMINICK *et al.* Mimallonoidea: Bombycoidea (in part). The Moths of America North of Mexico. fasc. 20.1. E.W. Classey Ltd., London.

<sup>4</sup> HODGES, R.W. 1971. IN R.B. DOMINICK *et al.* Sphingoidea. The Moths of America North of Mexico. fasc. 21. E.W. Classey Ltd., London.

<sup>5</sup> HOOPER, R.R. 1972. An introduction to Saskatchewan's Sphinx Moths. *Blue Jay* 32(2):80-86.

<sup>6</sup> PETERSON, L.O.T. and M.A. WORDEN 1962. The Cecropia Moth in the Prairie Provinces. *Blue Jay* 20(1):28-33.

<sup>7</sup> SELMAN, C.L. 1975. A pictorial key to the Hawkmoths of the Eastern United States (Except Florida). Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

<sup>8</sup> STEHR, F. and E.F. COOK 1968. A revision of the genus *Malacosoma* (Hubner) in North America (Lepidoptera:Lasiocampidae): systematics, biology, immatures and parasites. Smithsonian Institute Press, Washington, D.C.