CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Pale tussock moth caterpillar

Calliteara pudibunda

The pale tussock moth caterpillar is the larval stage of the pale tussock moth, easily recognizable by its bright yellow-green coloration and distinctive tufts of hair. This fuzzy caterpillar sports …

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Erebidae
Habitat: Forest edges, woodlands, gardens, and hedgerows
Diet: Herbivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: Caterpillar stage: 4-6 weeks; total lifespan (egg to adult moth): up to 1 year
Weight: 0.2–0.5 grams
Scientific name: Calliteara pudibunda

Did you know?

- Despite its bright and fuzzy appearance, the caterpillar is harmless unless touched, when its hairs may cause an itchy rash.
- The pale tussock moth caterpillar's hairs can cause mild skin irritation in humans. Its vivid coloration is a form of aposematism, warning predators …

What I learned

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