

Sycamore *Acronicta aceris* (Linnaeus)

The caterpillar of the Sycamore is one of the most distinctive caterpillars. At around 40mm in length when fully grown, it can be found in parks, gardens, woodlands, and amongst scrub from July to September. The long, dense tufts of hairs coating the caterpillars are yellow and red in colour, and a bird's-eye view reveals quite large white spots with black edging, along the centre line of the caterpillar's body.



Photograph Paul Knibb

This bizarre looking caterpillar is usually most frequent in urban areas and feeds predominantly on Sycamore, maples and

Horse-chestnut, with some reports of it on oaks, birches and roses.



Photograph Butterfly Conservation

The Sycamore moth is light grey in colour, decorated with patterns of darker grey and brown. The moth flies from June to August and may, on occasion, be found at rest during the day on trees or fences. They come to light and artificial baits and also feed from flowers.

The Sycamore is rather locally distributed, occurring mainly in southern England, southwest Wales, the east Midlands and North towards Yorkshire and Cheshire.