

Moths – Identification

A look at the four different families of moths



← Family URANIIDAE – Day flying moth

One of a few species of moth that actually fly at daytime. Males and females are pretty well identical in colour and shape. A common species to the coastal and tableland areas of North Queensland.

↓ Family SATURNIIDAE – Emperor Moths

Adults are mainly nocturnal and come to lights at night, especially the males. The larvae feed on green foliage, usually of trees. Pupation occurs in a silk cocoon, usually spun on the food tree.



← Family SPHINGIDAE – Hawk moths

The adults are nearly all fairly large, strongly built moths, capable of very fast flight. Hawk moths are capable of hovering in front of flowers and insert their proboscis to feed. These moths assist in pollination.



Family NOCTUIDAE – Fruit Piercing moths →
The adults of most Noctuidae are active at night. They nearly always have cryptic patterns and colours, which they rely on to avoid predators. When resting, many fold their wings towards the sky, just like the one in this image. Many feed at flowers and others at the sweet secretions of scale insects or overripe fruit or fermenting liquids. A few are able to pierce the rind of fruits to suck the juices.

