

Bulls Eye Silkmoth

Gonimbrasia zambesina



Inside



Outside



Pupa

Bulls Eye Silkmoth

Gonimbrasia zambesina

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Saturniidae

Etymology: The origin of *Gonimbrasia* is currently unknown. The species *zambesina* is currently unknown.

Wing span: 5 - 5.5 inches (125 - 140 mm)

Habitat: The Bulls Eye Silkmoth is found in the broad-leaved woodland areas along the Zambezi River.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on a variety of tree species such as willow, beech, oak, oleander and persimmon.

Adult Food Source: Adults do not have functioning moth parts so as adults they will not feed.

Life History: Males find females at night with the aid of the female pheromone trail. After mating, the females go around and lay eggs in groups of about a dozen on the host plant. The larvae feed gregariously, in groups, on the host plant until they are ready to pupate

Flights: There are two generations a year; adults can be found once in the fall and a second time in the winter.

Fun Facts: Larvae in the genus *Gonimbrasia*, in which the Bulls Eye Silkmoth belongs, develop into a large caterpillar which is edible and is considered an important protein source for millions of indigenous South Africans.

Range:

