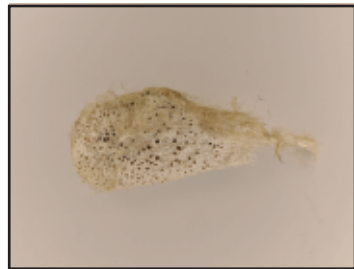


# Madagascar Moon Moth

*Argema mittrei*



Adult



Cocoon

# Madagascar Moon Moth

*Argema mittrei*

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Saturniidae

**Etymology:** The origin of the genus and species is currently unknown.

**Wing span:** 5 – 9 inches (125 – 226 mm)

**Habitat:** The Madagascar Moon Moth is found in the rainforest and the surrounding areas.

**Host Plant:** In the wild the larvae feed on plants in the genera *Eugenia* and *Weinmannia*. In captivity they have also been reared successfully on other plants such as *Eucalyptus gunnii* and *Liquidamber*.

**Adult Food Source:** As adults the Madagascar Moon Moths do not have functioning mouth parts, so they will not feed.

**Life History:** At night females release a pheromone into the air. Males flying through the air sense the pheromone and follow it back to the female. The female and male, in some cases, can remain copulated until the next night. Each following night the female searches out host plants on which to lay her eggs.

**Flights:** The flight period of the wild Madagascar Moon Moth was not found in the literature at this time.

**Fun Facts:** Madagascar Moon Moths are sexually dimorphic with males being much larger than the females. The female Atlas Moths (*Attacus atlas*) are considered the largest moth in the world based on surface area but the male Madagascar Moon Moth is considered the longest moth primarily due to its long tails.

**Range:**

