

String bottle



3

Melting holes



Top & bottom units



Cutting



Making a bottle cage

Making a bottle cage



2 liter



Skinning



Marking



Puncturing

2



Equipment

9

Cecropia moth biology.

- name: *Hyalophora cecropia*

- family: Saturniidae

- order: Lepidoptera

- North America's largest silk moth

- size: wingspan 13-15cm ~ 10cm

- range: Eastern NA to Rocky Mts

- life cycle: - 1 generation per year

- adult flight: May - July, mainly June

- eggs: ~ 2mm, reddish brown, on leaves

- on groups of 4-5, - incubate 10-12 days

- larvae: 5 stages L1-5 ~ insect each

- feed on many deciduous trees & shrubs

- apple/crabapple (*Malus sp.*); pin cherry (*Prunus*), Osier dogwood (*Corylus*) willows (*Salix*), see: web site

- larval L1 - black with tubercles

- L2 - orange/yellow/green with black spots & black tubercles

- L3 - green with red, yellow & blue tubercles & black spots

- L4 - green with red, yellow & blue tubercles, no spots

- L5 - green with orange, yellow & blue tubercles

- cocoon - made of silk, contains pupa & silk

Raising Cecropia moths is fun!

- start with any stage of the life cycle
- eggs, larvae (L1, L2, L3, L4, L5) cocoon
- collect cocoons in winter on low (2-4ft) branches of shrubs, keep cocoons outside
- in a bottle cage.
- adults emerge in May & June
- females have egg filled abdomens
- males have large feathery antennae
- females will attract wild males, keep female in screen cage or porch
- mating takes about 20 hours then put female in large paper bag for egg laying. Bill Oehlke's web is excellent!
- find an abundant supply of the chosen larval food, eg. apple, pin cherry etc - see web for list of food plants
- give larvae fresh leaves every 2-3 days
- clean out frass from bottle cage.
- larvae molt about each week
- L5 are very large (~ 10cm) and eat voraciously.
- observe cocoon spinning.
- store cocoons outdoors in bottle cage.

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4 Large bottle cage



Cutting apple twig

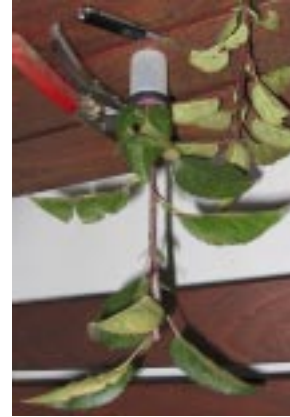


Raising Cecropia

Feeding larvae



Preparing twigs



5 L3 & L4 larvae



Eggs & L1 larvae



L5 larva



L2 & L3 larvae



Grow your own *Cecropia* moth



Male *Cecropia* Moth



Cocoon

Pupa & L5 skin



Female *Cecropia*

References:

- www.bottlebiology.org
- <http://www3.islandtelecom.com/~oehlkew/zcecmoth.htm>

Instructions for rearing *Cecropia* moths in bottle cages