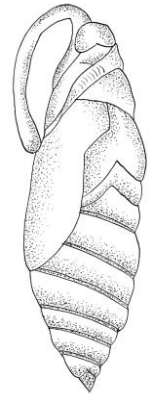


# HAWKMOTH COCOON

The hawkmoth (*Manduca sexta*) is also known as the hummingbird or sphinx moth. Unlike many other moths, its caterpillar does not spin a silken cocoon or wrap itself in a leaf before it pupates. Instead, it buries itself an inch or two underground in loose soil, where it sheds its last larval exoskeleton and becomes a pupa.

The hawkmoth pupa is glossy red-brown and beautifully patterned with sections that show where the eyes, wings and abdomen of the adult moth will form. A “hook” at the top of the pupa protects the moth’s long, delicate proboscis.



Hawkmoths overwinter in the pupa stage. When the adults emerge in spring, they have six yellow bands on each side of their abdomens, mottled gray-brown-black forewings, and finely patterned hind wings. Some observers believe that the gray pattern on the back of the thorax looks like a human skull.

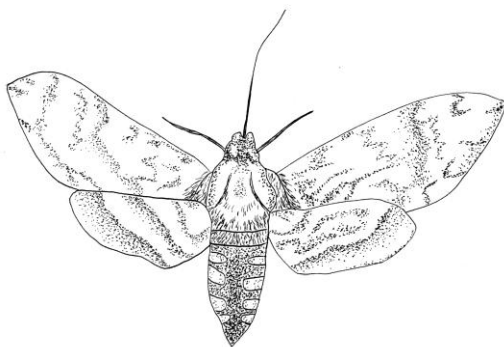
Both male and female adults have unusually long proboscises, which unfold to about twice the length of their bodies. In the evening and at sunrise, hawkmoths may be seen hovering in the air next to flowers, sipping nectar through their proboscises as if they were hummingbirds sipping through long beaks.

Female hawkmoths may lay up to 700 eggs in their short lifetimes. Hawkmoth caterpillars (hornworms) feed on tobacco and other plants in the nightshade family. They are large and bluish-green, with a red horn at the end of the abdomen.

**If you received a hawkmoth pupa instead of a luna moth cocoon,** it is because your state’s department of agriculture has banned the shipment of lunas to your state.

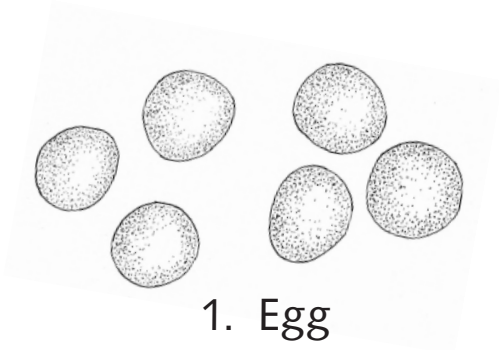
## CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Cover the bottom of your insect house with one or more paper towels. If you are not using a mesh house, also tape a paper towel to one wall.
- Place a small branch or several sticks in your house to give your moth a place to perch.
- Unpack your cocoon and place it on the paper towel at the bottom of the house. Examine the cocoon, but handle it carefully. It’s fragile!
- Check your house first thing every morning to see if the moth has emerged in the night. It should take no more than 20 days.
- Hawkmoth adults live for about 7 days.

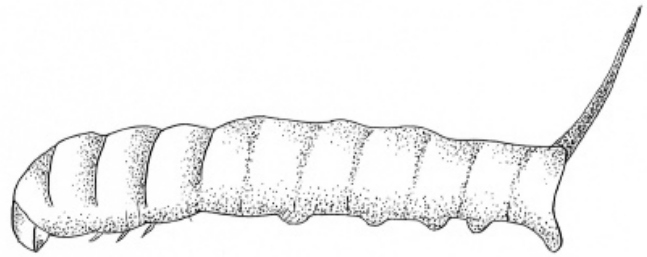


For **FREE hawkmoth life-cycle and anatomy handouts** or to order live hawkmoth caterpillars, please visit us at [earthsbirthday.org/more-bugs/hornworms](http://earthsbirthday.org/more-bugs/hornworms).

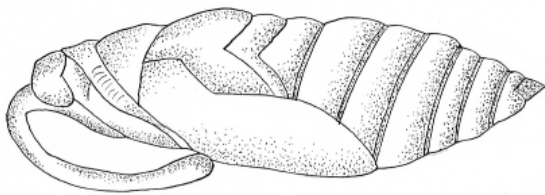
# Hawkmoth Life Stages



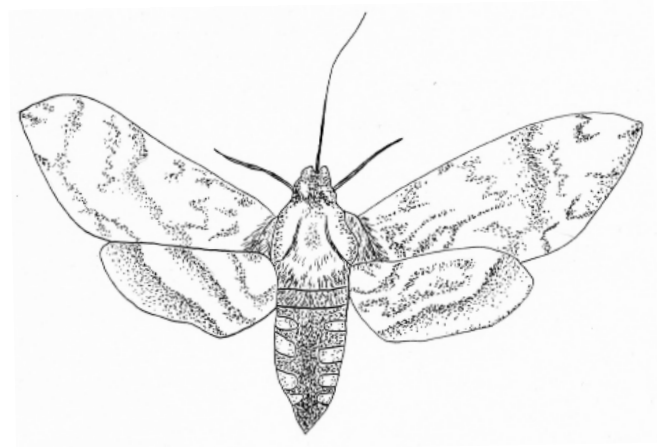
1. Egg



2. Larva (hornworm)



3. Pupa



4. Adult moth