

SPHINX MOTH

LEPIDOPTERA: SPHYNGIDAE



Did you know?

Sphinx moths can move very quickly. Snowberry clearwings (a type of species in this moth family) can fly at a speed of over 30 mph! That is because these moths evolved to have features such as streamlined bodies and narrow wings.

Just look at that aerodynamic, airplane-like build and long tongue!



Did you know?

Many of the moths in this family are excellent at camouflaging in with their surroundings. Through a type of protective mimicry they often blend in while resting on trees and bushes.

Did you know?

One type of Sphinx moths called Wallace's Sphinx has the longest proboscis (or tongue) of any moth or butterfly on Earth. It is a whopping 12 inches long!



An example of protective mimicry would be this Virginia Creeper Moth evolving to have this very earthy, reddish-brown coloring and thus passing off as tree bark. This look helps it protect itself from predators such as birds.

Credits:

Photos: Bob Glotzhofer (<https://www.ohiohistory.org/halloween-sphinx-part-ii/>), Sandora Sphinx: Сделал сам (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Agrius_convolvuli_with_stretched_proboscis.jpg), Convolvulus Hawk-moth: roadsendnaturalist (<https://roadsendnaturalist.com/tag/summer/>), Virginia Creeper Sphinx

Facts: Birds&Blooms

(<https://www.birdsandblooms.com/gardening/garden-bugs/sphinx-moths-stars-evening/>); InsectIdentification

(<https://www.insectidentification.org/insect-description.php?identification=Pandorus-Sphinx-Moth>); ThoughtCo.

(<https://www.thoughtco.com/sphinx-moths-family-sphingidae-1968209#:~:text=The%20proboscis%20of%20certain%20Sphingidae,of%20any%20moth%20or%20butterfly>)

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