

# Pūriri moth / pepetuna

## Pūriri moth facts

- The pūriri moth is New Zealand's **BIGGEST** moth
- A female can grow to up to 15 cm (about as wide as your stretched out hand). Males are a little smaller
- Caterpillars start life in the leaf litter and then climb up a tree and make an 'L' shaped burrow in the trunk and live there for around 5-7 years



## Pūriri moth classification

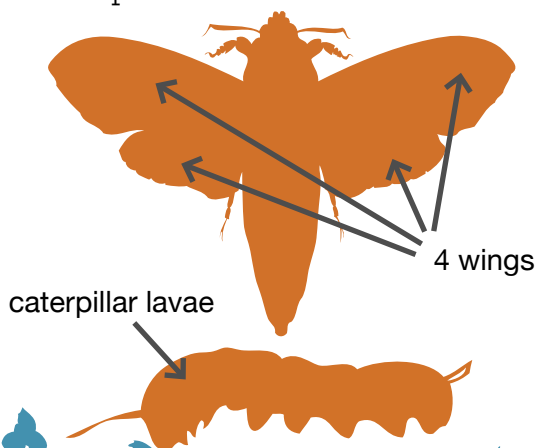
Animal

Invertebrate

Lepidoptera

Pūriri moth

- Moths and butterflies both belong to the **Lepidoptera** group.
- **Lepidoptera** have 4 large scale-covered wings and larvae that are caterpillars.



## Diet

- Adult moths do not eat. They only live for a few days and their purpose is to lay eggs/ have babies.
- When they are caterpillars they eat fungus, rotten wood and native tree parts

## Habitat

- They are nocturnal (only come out at night) and live in a variety of habitats including grassland, shrub land, forests, and caves. Some live in holes under stones, rotting logs, or in trees
- These moths usually live in or near native forests
- They are only found in the North Island