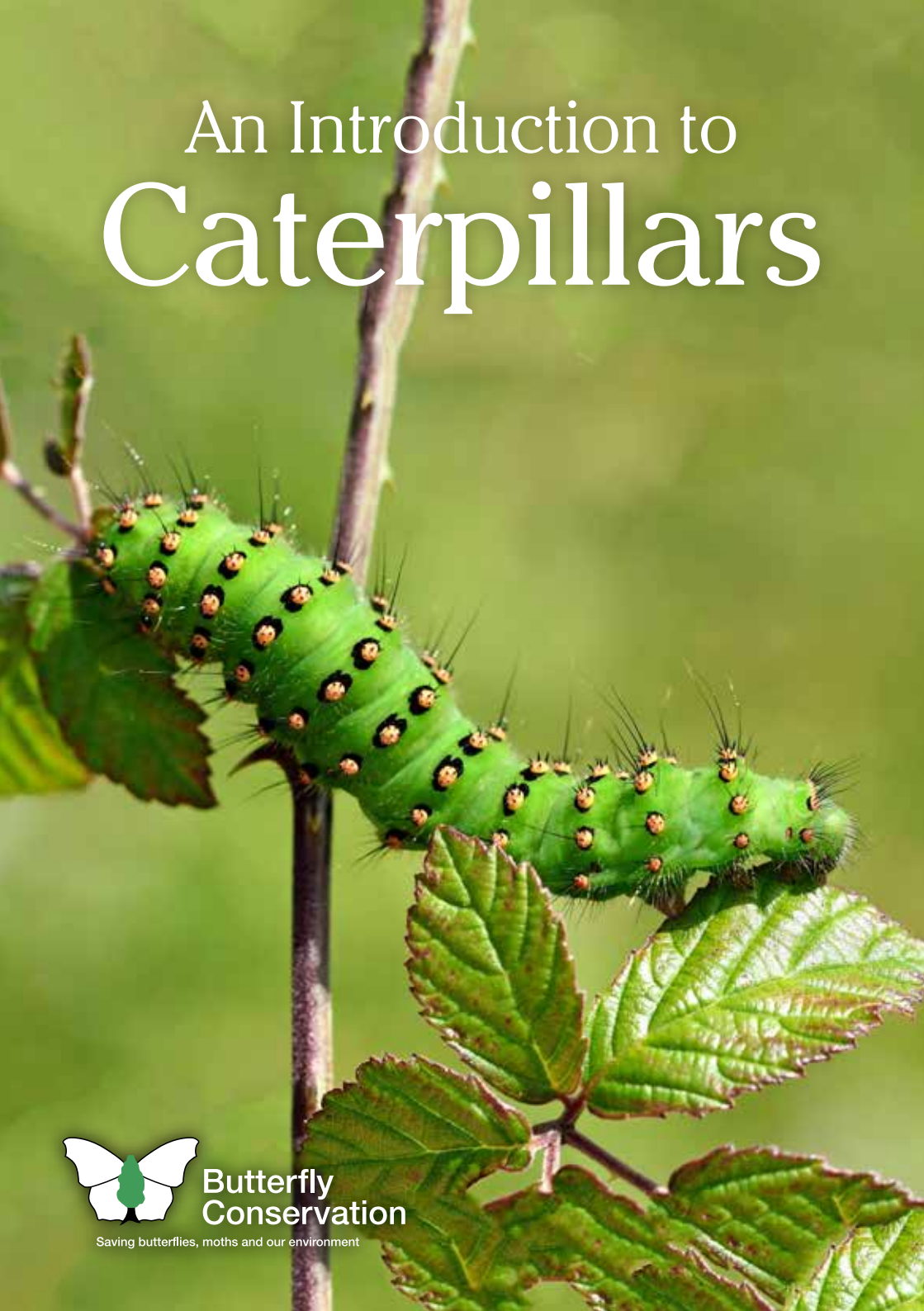


An Introduction to Caterpillars



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



Oak Eggar
All year-round

TIP:
Many species look alike as caterpillars. If you can identify their food source you will find it easier to work out which butterfly or moth it will become.

Introduction to Caterpillars

All butterflies and moths spend part of their life cycle as a caterpillar. Some pupate after just a few weeks while others spend all winter curled up in their caterpillar form.

Lepidoptera lay their eggs on or close to the food source for their caterpillar, to maximise their chance of survival once they hatch. To address moth and butterfly declines we must provide habitat that offers food and shelter for the caterpillars of struggling species. As a caterpillar grows it sheds its skin

several times, sometimes changing colour or appearance as it does so. Caterpillars often use their looks to protect themselves from predators. Their markings and body shape can camouflage them, warn of unpleasant chemicals or even mimic more dangerous creatures.

Combine butterflies and moths and there are more than 2,600 different types of caterpillar to be found in the UK. Here are a few of the most frequently encountered.

Visit www.butterfly-conservation.org to discover more about these species and their foodplants.



Comma butterfly
Apr-early Sep



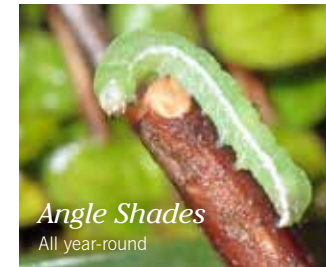
Large White butterfly
May-Oct



Sycamore
Jul-Sep



Cinnabar
Jul-early Sep



Angle Shades
All year-round



Elephant Hawk-moth
Jun-Sep



Drinker
Aug-Jun



Fox Moth
Jul-Apr



Broom Moth
late Jul-early Oct



Garden Tiger
Aug-late Jun



Vapourer
May-early Sep



Knot Grass
Jun-Oct

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Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter to learn where to look for and how to identify butterflies, moths and their caterpillars, discover how to help butterflies in your garden and get more information about how Butterfly Conservation saves endangered species. Sign up to All Aflutter at www.butterfly-conservation.org/enews

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION


Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5QP


T: 01929 400209


E: info@butterfly-conservation.org

www.butterfly-conservation.org

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