

# ATTENTION!



## DO NOT TOUCH LARVAE AND NESTS

### The Pine Processionary moth urticating hairs harm humans and animals

#### Description

The Pine Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) is a defoliating lepidopteran belonging to the family Nododontidae; genus *Thaumetopoea*. The pest's peculiar name derives from the characteristic transfer in single file of mature larvae from the plant to the soil before metamorphose.

The Italian Ministerial Decree 30/10/2007 provides fighting measures against this pest.

#### Host plants

It mainly attacks pines of the species *Pinus nigra* and *Pinus sylvestris* as well as other *Pinus* (*P.halepensis*, *P.pinea* and *P.pinaster*) and sometimes larches or citrons.

#### Symptoms and Damages

The lepidopteran is widespread around the Mediterranean basin (South Europe, Middle East and Northern Africa) and in the entire Italian peninsula.

Notwithstanding the severe attack to young plants located in sunny areas, their survival is not at risk. The pest feeds on pine needles eventually defoliating the plant, weakening and making it particularly sensitive to other insects and photogenes. Lastly, the pest is can impair human health provoking breathing difficulties, skin and eye rashes.

#### What's in case of suspected occurrence?

In case of suspected symptoms do **immediately inform** the Regional Plant Protection Organization:

1. contact the closest office of the Regional Plant Protection Organization by e-mail or telephone (providing name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail and exact detection site);
2. if possible, to be sure not to have confused it with other insects, do send a photograph to [fit@assam.marche.it](mailto:fit@assam.marche.it);
3. it is forbidden to transport **alive insects** or **infested plants**.

Marche Region Plant Protection Organization -  
 ASSAM Via dell'industria 1- Osimo (AN)

email: <a href="mailto:fit@assam.marche.it">fit@assam.marche.it</a>	web : <a href="http://www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario">www.assam.marche.it/fitosanitario</a>	
Main headquarter and Province of Ancona:	☎ 071-8081	☎ 071-85979
Provinces of Ascoli Piceno and Fermo:	☎ 0735-654131	☎ 0735-654131
Province of Macerata:	☎ 0733-233771	☎ 0733-272380
Province of Pesaro and Urbino:	☎ 0721-891663	☎ 0721-878258

