

# **BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TUSSOCK MOTH (*Dasychira axutha*) ON *Pinus massoniana***

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## **Summary**

Massion's pine tussock moth (*Dasychira axutha* Collenette) is complete metamorphosis species, the life cycle shows four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. Larva has six instars, first and second larva instars live concentrated, release the silk to move along the wind, only eat the epidermis of pine needle; third to fifth larva instars eat all the leaves. Last larval instar always works slowly, looking for cracks in the bark, fallen leaves, dry branches or caves around the tree base to pupating. Adults usually emerge and active at night. The antennae of female is filiform and the antennae of male is plumose. The new egg are greyish green, then turn to dark grey. Larvae are dark brown to black, thick and dark hairy, and yellowish brown hairs (brush-form) on the 1<sup>st</sup> abdomen to the 4<sup>th</sup> abdomen. Pupae are blackish brown, appear hairy and have patches of dorsal spatulate setae on abdominal segments 1 - 4, with cremaster in last segment.

**Keywords:** *Biological characteristics, morphological characteristics, Dasychira axutha* Collenette.