



Is the *Lonomia obliqua* the world's deadliest caterpillar?

The caterpillar has been responsible for many human deaths, especially in southern Brazil. Its venom has been the subject of numerous medical studies. The species was first described by Francis Walker in 1855. Guinness World Records classified *Lonomia obliqua* as the most venomous caterpillar in the world.

What are the symptoms of *Lonomia obliqua*?

Envenomation caused by contact with *Lonomia obliqua* bristles is characterized by pain, an intense systemic proinflammatory reaction and disturbances in the coagulation cascade that can cause severe clinical manifestations and death.

Why does the *Lonomia obliqua* sting?

***Lonomia Obliqua* larvae are fairly large and rounded with tubercles and spines or hairs. These hairs can cause skin irritation or sting. The larvae or caterpillar stage corresponds with the spring and summer months and this is of concern because this increases the chances of contact with humans**

What happens if you touch a *Lonomia obliqua*?

***Lonomia obliqua*. *L. obliqua* releases toxins with anticoagulant properties through its bristles. These toxins in contact with the skin can cause pain, redness, swelling and a burning sensation at the site, and headache, nausea, vomiting, hematoma, hematuria, bruising, anemia and leucocytosis.**

Where are *Lonomia* caterpillars found?

The Giant Silkworm Moth is found in South America. Specimens have been sited in southern Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina. The name Giant Silkworm moth has been given to several giant moths found in the Saturniidae family, but the focus here will be on *Lonomia obliqua*

What is the deadliest moth in the world?

L. obliqua

Deadliest Moth: *Lonomia* is often considered to be the most venomous of *Lepidoptera*, in particular *L. obliqua*, of which the hemotoxin is known to inflict severe envenomation and cause disseminated intravascular coagulation and haemorrhagic disease in victim

Where is the *Lonomia* caterpillar?

Lonomia electra is a beautiful and fascinating silkworm found in Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama). The moths very much resemble leaves, and may be hard to find between vegetation or leaf litter.

What happens when a caterpillar dies?

Yet, it happens every day. Caterpillars die and are resurrected as butterflies, using the same juices as the original life form. It is clear that the genetic instructions for the formation of the caterpillar and the butterfly coexist in the same animal.

What is the common name for *Lonomia obliqua*?

Lonomia obliqua (or giant silkworm moth, a name also used for a wide range of other Saturniid moths) is a species of Saturniid moths from South America

How big are *Lonomia* caterpillars?

about 4.5 to 5.5 centimeters

Description. These caterpillars are about 4.5 to 5.5 centimeters (about 2 in) long, with background colors ranging from green to brown. Well camouflaged, they have rows of tubercles crowned with whorls of easily detachable spines of different sizes.

