

Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons
African Nature Study

MOPANE WORM

Photo by Dreamstime

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by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons

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First African Nature Study: Mopane Worm

Insects or Insecta are hexapod invertebrates and the largest group within the arthropod phylum. Definitions and circumscriptions vary; usually, insects comprise a class within the Arthropoda. As used here, the term Insecta is synonymous with Ectognatha.

Mopane Worm

Scientific names: *Gonimbrasia belina*

Gonimbrasia belina is a species of emperor moth which is native to the warmer parts of southern Africa. Its large edible caterpillar, known as the madora or mopane worm or amacimbi, masontja, feeds primarily but not exclusively on mopane tree leaves.

The name of the Mopane worms comes from the Setswana and Tshivenda names for this delectable dish. **Mopane worm is an African delicacy** that has literally “wormed” its way into the hearts (and bellies) of people across Southern Africa. The Mopane worms are high in nutritional value. The mopane worm is distributed throughout Mozambique, Malawi, southern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa and north, east and central Botswana, closely following, but not entirely restricted to, the distribution of the mopane trees (*Colophospermum mopane*). It's called a Mopane worm because it feeds on the leaves of Mopane trees after it hatches in summer.

The mopane worm is a pretty, brightly coloured caterpillar with little spikes on its back that feeds mainly on the leaves of the mopane tree, hence its English name. It is harvested some weeks into the rainy season, just before it goes into pupation and ultimately turns into the large Emperor moth.

Size:

Mopane worm:

Length: is about 7cm long.

Emperor Moth:

Wingspan- 11-13.5 cm

Large front wings- light brown to green and brown to red with 2 black and white bands isolating eyespots and orange eyespot on each hind wing.

Eggs- 1 emperor moth can lay up to 200 eggs

Lifespan:

The adult moths live only for three to four days.

Habitat: Very common in semi-desert, bushveld and grassland.

Composer study

Franz Schubert

January 31, 1797 - November 19, 1828

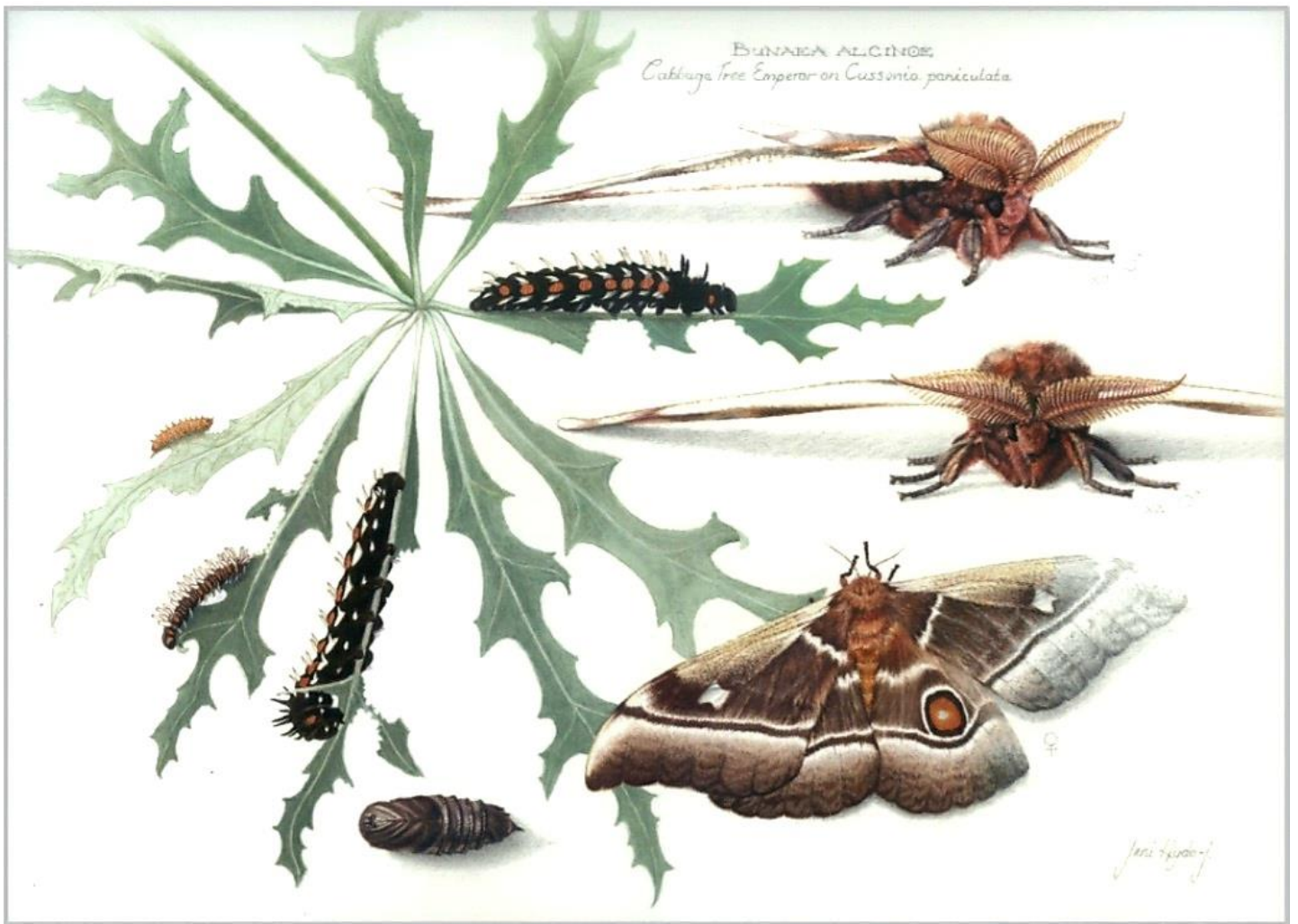
Marche Militaire

https://www.classicsforkids.com/composers/composer_profile.php?id=65

Artist

Jenny Hyde-Johnson

<http://botanicalart.co.za/cabbage-tree-emperor-by-jennifer-hyde-johnso/>



Something to watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvcEfu0vzM>

African Nature Study by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iblveeTDkXQ>

Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock:

pages 294- 332

Poetry

Caterpillar by Christina Rossetti

Brown and furry

Caterpillar in a hurry,

Take your walk

To the shady leaf, or stalk,

Or what not,

Which may be the chosen spot.

No toad spy you,

Hovering bird of prey pass by you;

Spin and die,

To live again a butterfly.

<https://internetpoem.com/christina-rossetti/caterpillar-poem/>

Journaling activities:

Materials:

Journals

Pencils

Watercolour

Eraser

Ruler

Brushes

Magnifying Lens

Indoor or Outdoor activities:

Create a nature journal entry

Look for eggs, larvae, caterpillars or worm, and mature Moth or butterflies.

Watch a moth or butterfly as it works in the garden.

If you don't find a moth for study, do a research and then record your findings on your nature journal.

Nature Journaling:

Add the following in your journal:

Date

Time

Drawing

Your observations

Location

Weather

Words

Label the frog parts

Quotes

Measurements

Scientific name

Painting & drawing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gzTJxjRCG0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcBJ--kQRM8>

Here's the video links of getting to know more about Nature journaling.

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/introduction-to-nature-journaling-video/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/getting-started-with-nature-journaling-video/>

References:

Wikipedia.org

Amazing Animals if South Africa

*Please do share on the Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons on the FB group your Nature journaling of your African Bullfrogs with journaling this week. Thank you all.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798820646986484>