



WHICH MOTH ARE YOU?

A fact file on 12 German moths — and what they might reveal about you

The moths and their facts are real. The personality types are just for fun.

coll. & photos: Egbert Friedrich.
Created with the assistance of Claude (Anthropic).



FACT FILE No. 01

Death's-head hawk-moth

Acherontia atropos

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

When you walk in, the room goes quiet — you make a really cool, mysterious entrance! But underneath the dramatic exterior you're actually very clever, and you usually get exactly what you want without any fuss.

DID YOU KNOW?

It's the only moth that can make a sound almost like a little squeak! It even sneaks into beehives and steals honey without the bees noticing.





FACT FILE No. 02

Poplar hawk-moth

Laothoe populi

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You just do things differently from everyone else — and that's a good thing! While others simply hide, you have your very own style. And when you do surprise people, everyone is amazed.

DID YOU KNOW?

When resting, it holds its hindwings further forward than its forewings — no other native hawk-moth does that! If disturbed, it flashes a hidden rust-red patch to startle enemies.





FACT FILE No. 03

Emperor moth

Saturnia pavonia

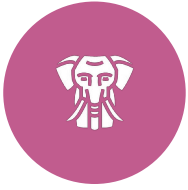
IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

When someone matters to you, they really matter! You give everything to find and keep good friends — maybe a tiny bit over the top, but that's exactly what makes you so lovable.

DID YOU KNOW?

The males have huge, feathery antennae that let them sniff out a female from kilometres away — and then they fly straight off to find her.





FACT FILE No. 04

Elephant hawk-moth

Deilephila elpenor

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're soft, friendly and pink-and-green like this moth — which is why some people underestimate you. Big mistake: when it counts, you can make yourself big and brave!

DID YOU KNOW?

Its caterpillar has a trunk-like front end, like a little elephant, and huge fake eyespots. When startled, it puffs itself up and suddenly looks like a small snake!





FACT FILE No. 05

Puss moth

Cerura vinula

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're fluffy, cute and seem completely harmless — until someone really annoys you. Then you suddenly show how strong and tough you actually are!

DID YOU KNOW?

As a caterpillar it has two whip-like tails that it lashes at enemies. It can even squirt a liquid several centimetres to drive attackers away!





FACT FILE No. 06

Peppered moth

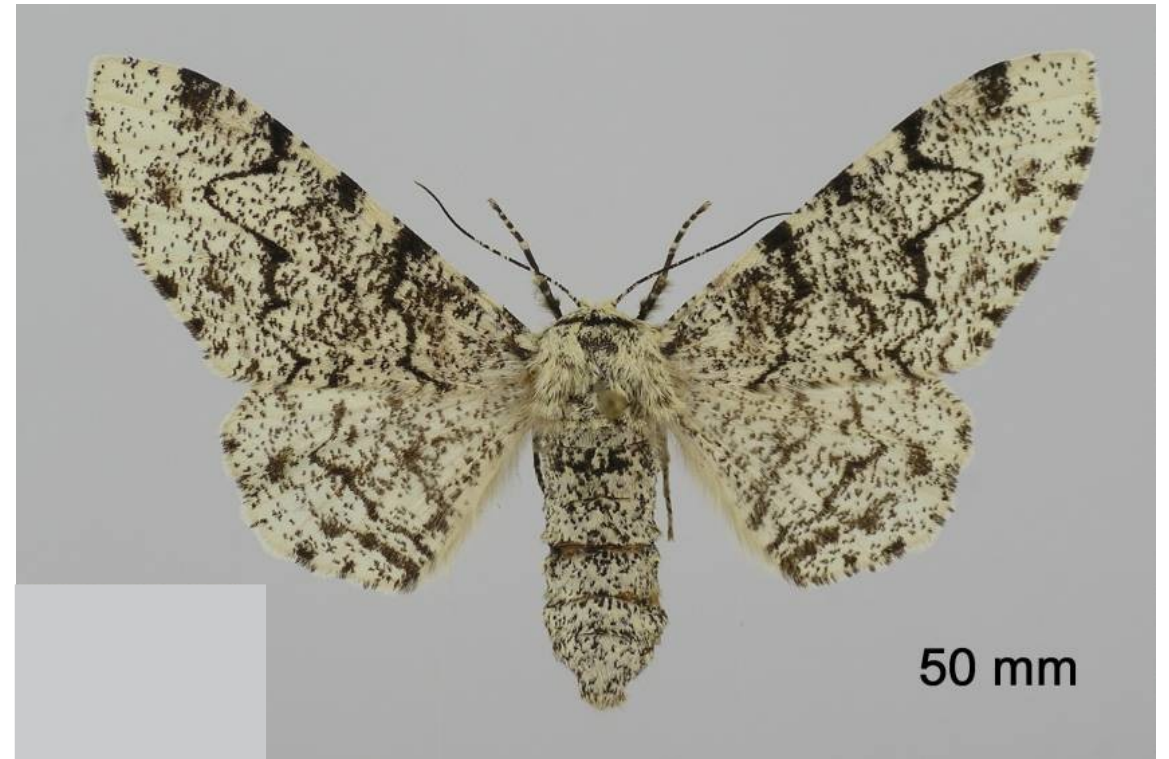
Biston betularia

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're great at adapting to new situations — sometimes so well that old friends hardly recognise you. That's not a weakness, it's a real superpower!

DID YOU KNOW?

This moth is a famous example of how animals can adapt: when factory chimneys once turned tree bark black, dark peppered moths suddenly became much more common, because they were better hidden on it than pale ones.





FACT FILE No. 07

Buff-tip

Phalera bucephala

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're a true master of disguise! At first glance you hardly stand out — but anyone who looks closely soon notices how surprisingly clever and special you really are.

DID YOU KNOW?

When it rests, it folds its wings so that it looks like a snapped-off piece of birch twig — one of the best disguises in the whole insect world!





FACT FILE No. 08

Garden tiger moth

Arctia caja

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're loud, colourful and proud of what makes you special — nobody overlooks you! But you've also got a really clever trick up your sleeve in case things get tricky.

DID YOU KNOW?

When a bat hunts it at night, it can make rapid clicking sounds with its body that confuse the bat's navigation system — a built-in alarm against night-time enemies!





FACT FILE No. 09

Oak processionary

Thaumetopoea processionea

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're more of a homebody: big, noisy groups aren't really your thing, but you stick tightly with your closest friends — through thick and thin, quite literally.

DID YOU KNOW?

As caterpillars they live by the hundreds in a silk nest on oak trees and set off at night head to tail in a line to eat leaves — hence the name “processionary”. Their fine hairs can itch, so in real life it's best to leave them alone.





FACT FILE No. 10

Eyed hawk-moth

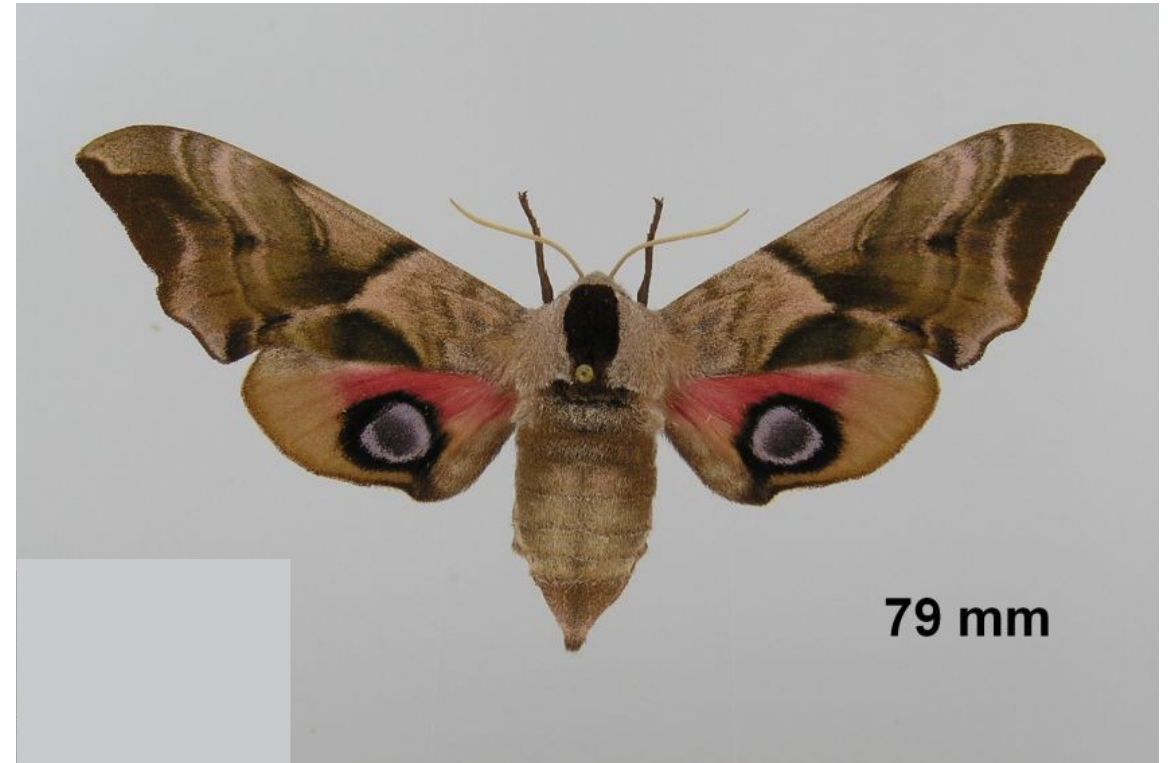
Smerinthus ocellata

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You're calm and inconspicuous — until something startles you. Then you suddenly show a whole new, surprising side of yourself, and everyone's eyes go wide.

DID YOU KNOW?

Its brown forewings look plain, but underneath it hides bright blue “eyes” on its hindwings. When startled, it flips them open in a flash to surprise enemies.





FACT FILE No. 11

Lackey moth

Malacosoma neustria

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

When you're young you're super sociable — you love hanging out with the whole gang and making sure nobody gets bored. But at some point you've had enough, and then you're perfectly happy on your own.

DID YOU KNOW?

The young caterpillars live together in a tent they spin themselves from silk, leaving it to feed and then retreating back inside. The mother lays her eggs in a striking ring around a thin twig — which is why its German name, “Ringelspinner”, means “ring spinner”.





FACT FILE No. 12

Leopard moth

Zeuzera pyrina

IF YOU WERE THIS MOTH ...

You've got your very own look — nobody looks like you, and you couldn't care less what others think. And beneath the elegant exterior there's a dose of strength that no one would expect from you.

DID YOU KNOW?

Its white wings are covered in deep-blue spots — a pattern unlike any other native moth. Its caterpillar even bores through solid wood, digging tunnels up to 30 centimetres long!





So — which moth are you?



Twelve German moths, twelve possible yous — made up for fun, not scientifically proven.

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