



Poplar tentmaker

Clostera inclusa

Order Lepidoptera, Family Notodontidae; prominent
Native pest

Host plants: Poplar and willow (*Populus* and *Salix*)
species

Description: Moths are approximately 12 mm long, have a wingspan of approximately 25 mm, and are brownish gray with three white lines crossing each forewing. Mature larvae can reach 42 mm in length. Larvae are grayish and have four light yellow lines on their backs, and one bright line and several less distinct lines and yellow marks on their sides. There are black tubercles on the first and eighth abdominal segments.

Life history: Eggs are deposited underside of leaves in spring. The gregarious larvae live in tents or webs that they construct by pulling the edges of leaves together and lining them with silk. After feeding, they crawl to the ground and pupate. There is usually one generation a year, but there can be two.

Overwintering: Pupae in cocoons in debris.

Damage symptoms: Larvae skeletonize leaves. Trees growing in open sites, may be heavily defoliated.

Monitoring: From May through October, look at poplars and willows for nests constructed from webbed leaves. Look for signs of defoliation.

Physical control: In light infestations and when accessible, remove larvae by hand.

Chemical control: *Bacillus thuringiensis* is effective against early instars. For heavy infestations and later instar larvae, apply a residual insecticide.

Biological control: Lady beetles on eggs.

Plant mortality risk: Low

Biorational pesticides: *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*, diflubenzuron, insecticidal soap, pyrethrins, spinosad, tenbufenozide

Conventional pesticides: acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, fluvalinate, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin



Poplar tentmaker larvae. (106)
Photo: David Laughlin



Poplar tentmaker hatched eggs and first instar larvae. (207)
Photo: John Davidson



Close-up of poplar tentmaker eggs. (208)
Photo: John Davidson