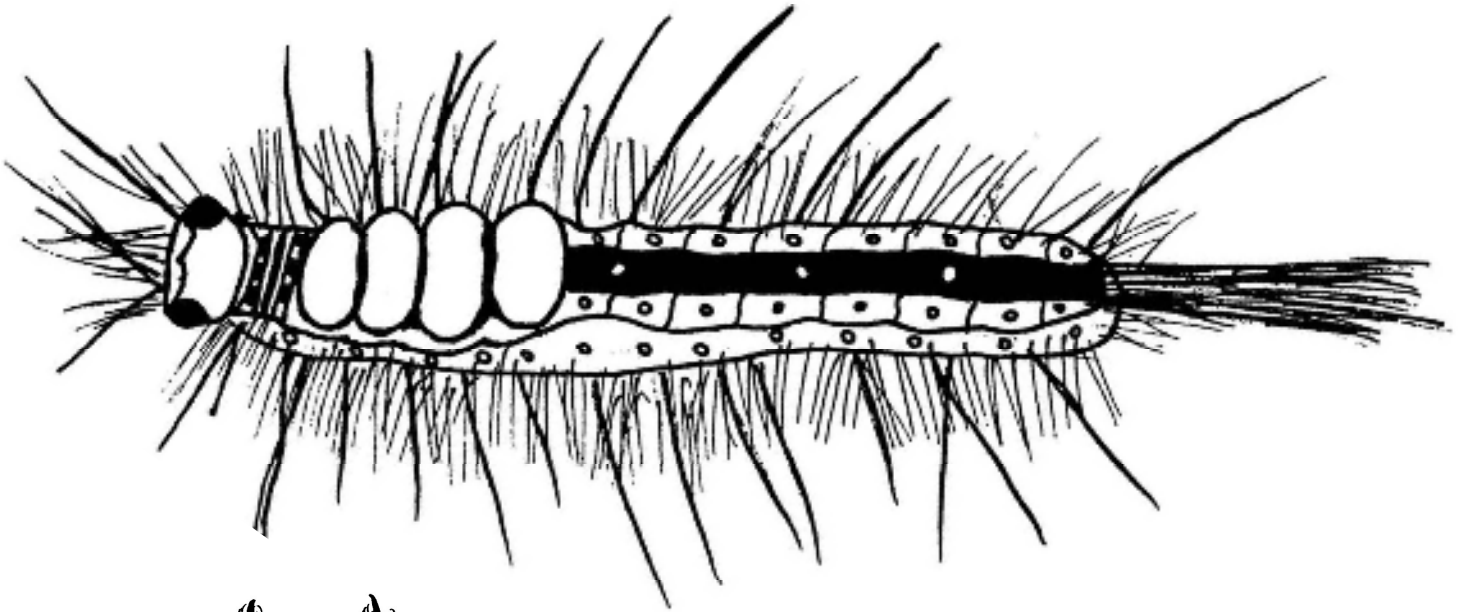


# Tussock Moth Caterpillar



**Coloring Instructions** – There are two main kinds of tussock moth caterpillars in Florida, one dark, and one light. Both have a red head. If you want yours to be the darker species, color 4 dark brown tufts on its back. The other tiny spots are bright orange, and the rest of the caterpillar is black. If you want yours to be the lighter species, color 4 yellow tufts on its back. The tiny spots are orange, and the rest of the caterpillar is light blue. The adult male moth (left) has alternating light brown and dark brown stripes.

**Interesting Fact:** The tussock moth caterpillar stings, so watch out! It's called a tussock moth because "tussock" means "tuft" or "hill" and refers to the 4 tufts on the caterpillar's back. A female tussock moth has no wings. When she comes out of her cocoon, she emits a smell that helps a male find her. After the male flies over to her, she lays her eggs on top of her cocoon and never leaves the area.