

## **Gypsy moth trapped in Capitola**

The notorious hitchhiking gypsy moth has been trapped in the Live Oak/Capitola area, the agricultural commissioner's office said today.

A state trapper, who is conducting an extensive gypsy moth trapping operation there, turned up a single moth. Other moths have been trapped in the same general area in each of the past four years. All were males; no females or egg masses were found.

The gypsy moth is an insatiable consumer of broadleaf and conifer trees, including redwoods, manzanita and oaks.

"It could be serious if it hit agriculture," Paul Larson, of the agricultural commissioner's office, said.

Rick Bergman, deputy commissioner, said he was not surprised by the find. "It is premature to predict what this means exactly, but we are likely to find out in the near future," he said.

Trappers have stepped up their operations to determine if there is an infestation.

Bergman said it is possible that the recent find is a "carry-in" from another state and not an infestation. He noted that considerable tourist traffic passes through the area and the gypsy moth is "famous for its ability to hitchhike from other areas."