

## Research Note

### Cocoon size and sex in the European Pine Sawfly

Recent very severe epidemics of the European pine sawfly (*Neodiprion sertifer* Geoff. Hymenoptera, Diprionidae) in Ireland have given cause for concern. During recent investigations which were concerned with damage quantification and host susceptibility, the opportunity was taken to confirm quantitatively the known relationship between cocoon size and sex. Adult females have larger cocoons than adult males. A sample of 300 cocoons was collected in the field, and these were divided into large and small cocoons. Adult emergence by sex was recorded. 98% were classified correctly. The lengths and diameters of 25 large and 25 small cocoons were measured. The means and standard errors are given below.

	COCOON SIZE	
	Large	Small
Length (cm)	1.01 $\pm$ 0.013	0.74 $\pm$ 0.013
Diameter (cm)	0.45 $\pm$ 0.010	0.31 $\pm$ 0.007

It is concluded that an error as low as 2% would be quite acceptable for most conditions. However it should be recognised that the method is subject to error albeit a small one.

G. de Brit,  
Research Branch, Forest and Wildlife Service, Dublin.