

MIMOSA WEBWORM—*Homadaula anisocentra*

HOSTS: Honeylocust and mimosa

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Mature larvae are 12 mm long and pale green to dark brown with 5 longitudinal white stripes. Moths are silvery-gray with small black spots, and have a wingspan of 12 mm.

Pupae overwinter in whitish silken cocoons located in the soil or on vertical protected surfaces such as the trunks of trees. Moths emerge by May and lay eggs on flowers or foliage. Larvae weave a nest around the flowers and young leaves before feeding



Mimosa webworm nest with eggs, larva, and adult

within the nest. During July, larvae pupate within the nests, and by early August moths of the second generation appear. Larvae of the second generation may completely defoliate a tree. A third and even a fourth generation occur in the Southern Plains.

Mimosa webworms often severely defoliate ornamental trees, decreasing vigor and making them unsightly.

CONTROL: Spray foliage with carbaryl, acephate, diazinon, chlorpyrifos, or *Bacillus thuringiensis* (B.t.) when brown foliage first appears during early July and again in early August.



Mimosa webworm larva