**Worms that eat plastic !**

Naturalists & scientists recently discovered the wax moth, a *Lepidoptera*n with typical morphology (form/shape) & lifecycle that includes:

**larvae --**(worm-like stage) *hatch from eggs*

**pupae --**(cocoon stage) *undergoing metamorphosis*

**moth stage** --*completes the cycle by laying eggs*

In the worm stage they consume various types of plastic, including Styrofoam and thin plastic sheeting.

**Questions?**

**What is the source of energy for them?**

**Are these wax moths a possible solution to plastic pollution? What are potential problems?**

**Observing the worms how much plastic do you think they eat?**

*Warning! These wax worms should not be released outdoors because they are detrimental to honey bees which are important pollinators of flowers, fruits & vegetables. If moths lay eggs in wax-based beehives, the pupae will destroy it.*