

BEWARE OF THESE CATERPILLARS!



Larva of Taiwana orvasca caterpillar

Close-up of a venomous
larva hair



Please be careful of the Taiwana orvasca caterpillars, which are found on the mainland of Okinawa

The bodies of Taiwana orvasca caterpillars are covered with fine hairs that are not visible to the human eye. **Students are cautioned against touching these insects as contact with these hairs can cause serious skin irritation.**

Caterpillar hairs may also be blown to the ground by wind, so if you come in contact with soil or have bent down to the ground, you should wash your hands and exposed body areas properly with soap and water.

If you experience extreme skin itchiness, please refrain from scratching. Pat the area and surrounding skin with a section of sticky tape to remove the caterpillar hairs before washing carefully with soap and water. Apply anti-histamine cream afterward to soothe the itch. Please see a dermatology doctor if skin becomes red, swollen and inflamed.



Example of skin inflammation caused by Taiwana orvasca caterpillar hairs

Taken from Okinawa prefectural
government website