

## Processional Caterpillars

Deep in the jungles of South America, zoologists were studying the life cycle behaviour of a particularly rare moth. In its caterpillar form it was dependent on the leaf of just one tree species for nutrition. Evolutionary forces had helped it calculate the odds on survival and produced an extraordinary adaptation. The head end had developed a hook that could couple to a matching adaptation on the tail end of a fellow caterpillar. Caterpillars would form a processional train and move about the forest floor in search of their food. Finding a tree thus ensured the continued existence of many rather than just one caterpillar.

One day a particularly bored zoologist got curious about what would happen if he hooked up the head of the procession leader to the tail of the 'lanterne rouge' – the last caterpillar in the procession. What would happen now?

Well, the caterpillars just went round and round in circles until they starved to death.

Of course businesses would never exhibit processional behaviour would they?

Do you know who is leading and why you are following?

Are the best odds for survival based on one train or more? - or even no trains at all?

