A Field Key to Some Common Larvae Found in Cotton in Oklahoma

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Legs and prolegs absent
  - Mandibles exposed, longer than head
    - Aphid-Lions (Family Chrysopidae)
  - Mandibles hidden, shorter than head
    - Lady Beetle Larvae (Family Coccinellidae)

Legs present, prolegs absent
  - 5 pairs prolegs
    - Cabbage Looper (Trichoplusia ni)
  - 3 pairs prolegs

Legs and prolegs present
  - Many hairs on each segment
    - Woolly worms (Family Arctiidae)
  - Few hairs on each segment
    - Ballworm (Hypothesis zea)

Body hairs long
- Cotton Square Borer (Strymon melinus)

Body hairs short
- Microspines not present
- Microspines present on back between hairs

Head with large black spots
- Cotton Leafworm (Alabama argillacea)

Head without large black spots
- With inverted "Y" on front of head
  - Fall Armyworm (Spodoptera frugiperda)
- Without inverted "Y" on front of head

Pink or red in color
- Pink Bollworm (Pectinophora gossypiella) or Pink Scavenger Caterpillar (Pyrodectes nilex)

Greenish, with 3 black spots on side of each segment
- Webworms (Larostega spp.)

Larvae not as described
Species not included in the key