Mexican Sister

Adelpha fessonia



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mexican Sister

Adelpha fessonia

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The genus *Adelpha* is Greek for sister. The origin of the specie *fessonia* is currently unknown.

Wing span: 2 - 2.75 inches (50 - 70 mm)

Habitat: The Mexican Sister prefers to stay in the vicinity of forest areas so they are usually found along the forest edge or clearings within the forest.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on *Randia formosa* and *Celtis lindheimeri* (Hackberry).

Adult Food Source: Adults will feed from a variety of small flowers such as Lantana. They are also known to feed on rotting fruits.

Life History: When they are not feeding the males sit in an open location waiting for a female to pass by. After mating the female lays an individual egg on the leaves of the host plant. The caterpillar feeds on the host plant until it forms its chrysalis.

Flights: In the northern part of their range there are multiple generations making it possible to find adults March - November while in the southern part it is believed they can be found year round.

Fun Facts: While it is considered native to Texas the Mexican Sister is really only found in the southern most tip of Texas and can actually be quite hard to find in those areas during certain years.

Range:

