Autumn Leaf

Doleschallia bisaltide



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Autumn Leaf

Doleschallia bisaltide

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The origin of the genus *Doleschallia* and the specie *bisaltide* is currently unknown.

Wing span: 2.5 – 2.75 inches (63 – 68 mm)

Habitat: The Autumn Leaf is primarily found in tropical forests and often visit openings along and around those forested areas.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on *Pseuderanthemum variable, Artocarpus heterophyllus* and *Graptophyllum pectum*.

Adult Food Source: From time to time the adults will visit flowers but they seem to prefer sap and rotting fruits as their primary food source.

Life History: After mating the female lays her eggs individually on the host plant leaves. The caterpillar emerges from the egg, it finds a hiding place and only comes out at night to feed on the host plant. When it comes time for the caterpillar to form its chrysalis it leaves the host plant to find a sheltered location away from the host plant.

Flights: In the north of their range it is possible to find adults year round while in the southern parts they are primarily found September – June with the highest populations in both areas at the end of the rainy season.

Fun Facts: Whether it is the leaf like shape of the Autumn Leaf when it closes its wings, the color and pattern of the of the underside which resembles that of a dead leaf or the rapid erratic flight, the Autumn Leaf Butterfly can almost instantly disappear in its surroundings as soon as it lands.

Range:

