Orange Dead Leaf

Kallima inachus



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Orange Dead Leaf

Kallima inachus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The origin of the genus and species is currently unknown.

Wing span: 2.75 - 3 inches (70 - 75 mm)

Habitat: Adults of the Orange Dead Leaf butterfly are almost exclusively found in the tropical forest with only brief trips into the surrounding areas.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on *Strobilanthes capitarus, Girardinia heterophylla* and *Polygonum orientale*.

Adult Food Source: As adults, the Orange Dead Leaf butterfly primarily feed on rotting fruit that has fallen to the forest floors.

Life History: Males patrol the forest habitat for the slightly larger females. After mating, the females search for host plants on which to lay their eggs. The caterpillars feed on the host plant until they form their chrysalis.

Flights: There are two generations a year; the first is in flight during the dry season while the second is found throughout the wet season.

Fun Facts: While in flight the Orange Dead Leaf butterfly has a very erratic flight. If the butterfly is threatened while in flight, the butterfly drops into the surrounding foliage. Due to the shape and pattern of the Orange Dead Leaf butterfly, once it lands it quickly closes its wings instantly blending in with the surroundings.

Range:

