Ismenius Longwing

Heliconius ismenius



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Ismenius Longwing

Heliconius ismenius

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The genus *Heliconius* is broken into two parts: Helico = Helix and nous = reason and knowledge, as opposed to sense perception. *Ismenius* comes from Ismenos, a Greek river god.

Wingspan: 2.0 – 2.4 inches (50 – 60 mm)

Habitat: The Ismenius Longwing prefers the middlestory of sunny tall forests.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to feed on plants in the subgenera *Granadilla and Distephana*.

Adult Food Source: Adults are known to feed on a variety of nectar plants.

Life History: Females mate with multiple males and lay one or two eggs under the younger leaves of a host plant. When they hatch, the larvae feed on the host plant until they form pupae. The larvae prefer to feed in solitude as to avoid easy detection by predators.

Flights: There are multiple generations each year which makes it possible to find the adults year round.

Fun Facts: Like all *Heliconius*, the Ismenius Longwings are long lived individuals, lasting over two months in the adult stage. At night, adults will congregate in large groups, usually at the forest edge, on the tendrils of host plants and trees.

Range:

