Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Question Mark

Polygonia interrogationis

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The origin of the genus Polygonia derives from the Greek words poly which means many and gonia which is corners. The origin of the specie interrogationis is currently unknown.

Wingspan: 2 – 2.75 inches (50 – 70 mm)

Habitat: The Question Mark is commonly found in woodlands, floodplains, roadsides, urban areas, parks and mesic forests.

Host Plant: The larvae primarily feed on elm and hackberry but they may also be found feeding on hops and nettles.

Adult Food Source: Adults can be seen visiting flowers for nectar but they prefer rotting fruit, tree sap, carrion, and dung.

Life History: Males perch on trees or leaves waiting for a passing female. After mating the female lays her eggs on the underside of the host leaves either individually or she may stack them.

Flights: There are two generations of the Question Mark each year. The summer form can be found flying from May – September. The winter form emerges in August and overwinters as an adult possibility living until the following May.

Fun Facts: The common name comes from the small silver symbol found on the outside of the hind wing which resembles a backwards question mark.

Range:

