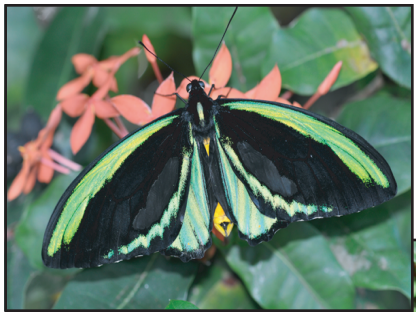
New Guinea Birdwing

Ornithoptera priamus



Male

Female



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

New Guinea Birdwing

Ornithoptera priamus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Papilionidae

Etymology: The genus *Ornithopera* is Greek for Bird Wing. In Greek mythology Priam was the king of Troy during the Trojan War.

Wing span: 5 – 7.5 inches (128 – 189 mm)

Habitat: New Guinea Birdwings are only found in tropical rainforests where the host plant is present and the areas directly bordering those forests.

Host Plant: The larvae are known to eat a variety of species of *Aristolochia* (Dutchman's Pipe).

Adult Food Source: Adults will feed from a variety of nectar-producing flowers.

Life History: After finding a suitable mate and mating, the female goes about laying her eggs. Eggs are laid individually on the host plants. Often, once the caterpillar hatches, the remaining egg becomes the caterpillar's first meal. The chrysalis is formed on a structure in close proximity of the host plant.

Flights: Adults can be observed year round with the highest numbers occurring in the summer and fall.

Fun Facts: The New Guinea Birdwing was first described over two hundred years ago. Since that time the species has been broken up into several different subspecies which inhabit different geographic ranges.

Range:

