Polydamus Swallowtail

Battus polydamus



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Polydamus Swallowtail

Battus polydamus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Papilionidae

Etymology: In Greek mythology Battus was a shepherd that witnessed Hermes stealing Apollo's cattle. Also from Greek mythology Polydamas was a lieutenant in the Trojan War.

Wingspan: 3.5 – 4 inches (90 – 100 cm)

Habitat: The Polydamus Swallowtail is commonly found in beachside scrub and open woods but they may also visit urban gardens.

Host Plant: The larvae feed almost exclusively on plants in the genus Aristolochia (Pipevines).

Adult Food Source: Adults are known to feed from a variety of flowers including Lantana, Hibiscus and Poinciana.

Life History: After a female has mated she lays here eggs in small groups on the new leaves or the tendrils of the Pipevine. While the larvae are early instar they feed in groups on the host plant. If the individuals are in an area where overwintering is required it is done as a chrysalis.

Flights: In the northern most part of their range there maybe up to 3 broods a year while in the southern portion, the broods are continuous, making it possible to find individuals year round.

Fun Facts: While the Polydamus Swallowtail is the in the genus Battus, it is a close relative to the butterflies in the genus Papilio. Even thought the common name implies it, the Polydamus Swallowtail does not have tails on its hind wings, which are found on most of the Papilio species

Range:

