Cream-Spotted Tigerwing

Tithorea tarricina



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Cream-Spotted Tigerwing

Tithorea tarricina

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

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

Wing span: 3 – 3.25 inches (75 – 80 mm)

Habitat: Adults are often observed in forested areas with moderate to high precipitation. They frequent the forest edge and areas immediately surrounding the area.

Host Plant: Larvae feed on plants in the Genus *Prestonia* such as *portabellensis* and *longifolia*.

Adult Food Source: Adults visit a variety of nectar plants such as *Epidendrum panniculatum, Eupatorium, Psychotria,* and *Hamelia*.

Life History: Males perch on trees waiting for females to pass through the area. From late morning until early afternoon, females lay their eggs on the host plants. The larvae feed on the host plant until they are ready to form their pupae.

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

Fun Facts: The pupae of the Cream-Spotted Tigerwing is a metallic color. The surface of the pupae is so reflective that it is possible to see your reflection in the surface. The advantage of a pupa with such a reflective surface is that it picks up the color from its surroundings, allowing it to blend in almost anywhere.

Range:

