White Morpho

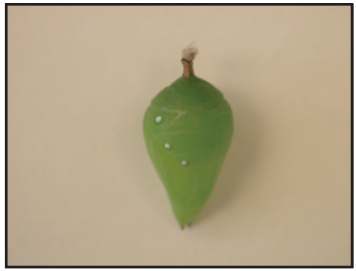
Morpho polyphemus



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

White Morpho

Morpho polyphemus

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: Morpho in Greek mythology refers to Morpheus the god of dreams. Polyphemus was a Cyclops from Greek mythology who was blinded by Odysseus.

Wing span: - 4 - 4.75 inches (102 - 120 mm)

Habitat: The White Morpho is found in tropical rainforests, primarily those with a distinct dry season.

Host Plant: Larvae are known to feed on *Inga* and *Paullinia piñata*.

Adult Food Source: Adults prefer to feed from rotten fruit or sap from trees.

Life History: Males patrol for receptive females. After mating, the female lays her eggs individually on the host plant. The larvae feed on the host plant until they pupate. Pupa hangs on the host plant or surrounding structure until it emerges.

Flights: Adults are in flight from May through November.

Fun Facts: While most of the Morpho species are primarily an iridescent blue color there are a few species like the White Morpho which are made up of different colors. Even though the White Morpho is white, it still contains iridescent properties similar to those found on the Common Blue Morpho (*Morpho pelides*).

Range:

