

Pest Profile

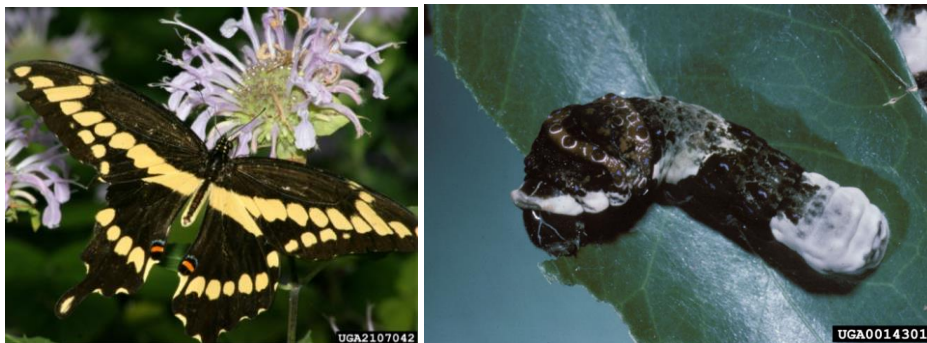


Photo credit: (Left) David Cappaert, Bugwood.org; (Right) Gerald J. Lenhard, Louisiana State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Giant Swallowtail

Scientific Name: *Papilio cresphontes*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, Papilionidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	1-1.5 mm	Eggs are globular in shape and are cream to brown in color. They are covered in a secretion of an irregular orange color that looks similar to an orange peel.
Larva	Mature larvae: 38.1-50.8 mm	The mature caterpillar is also called an “orange dog”. The color of the older larvae is brown with a white mottled middle and anal saddles. They also resemble a bird dropping in appearance. The younger caterpillars resemble a more realistic bird dropping, being black in color with a white mottled middle and anal saddles. The younger larvae have setae (bristles) on prominent knobs, whereas the older caterpillars lack or have reduced setae and knobs. When disturbed, the larvae go into a snake-like striking pose with a swollen thorax that resembles a snake head. They can evert a reddish, hornlike gland (osmeterium) that resembles a forked snake tongue.
Adult	Wingspan: 102-154 mm	The wings of the adults are a dark brown or blackish above with a broad band of yellow spots. Two of the yellow bands that are on the forewings meet at the tip and one meets across the middle of the hindwings. The tail on each hindwing has a yellow spot. The underside of the wing is mostly cream-colored with a band of blue, red, and rust patches that run across the hindwings. The antennae are thread-like with a small club at the tip.
Pupa (if applicable)		The chrysalis is brownish in color and is usually vertically oriented upward at a 45° angle, with the posterior end directly attached to

		a silken pad by a Velcro-like cremaster (spine-like process). The anterior end is attached to the substrate by a silken-like thread.
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Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The larvae have chewing mouthparts, and the adults have a proboscis used for siphoning.

Host/s: The caterpillar develops on a variety of plants in the citrus family (Rutaceae) which includes sweet orange, Osbeck, northern pricklyash, Hercules club, lime pricklyash, hoptree, and Mexican orange. This also includes a variety of exotic plants from the citrus family including gasplant and white sapote.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The adults are considered a welcome sight in the gardens; however, the caterpillars can be considered a pest due to their feeding on citrus trees. A few larvae or “orange dogs” can defoliate small or young plants. They are considered a minor pest of sweet orange.

References:

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