

Pest Profile



Photo credit: (left) William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org; (Right) Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Two-tailed Swallowtail

Scientific Name: *Papilio multicaudata*

Order and Family: Lepidoptera, Papilionidae

Size and Appearance:

| | Length (mm) | Appearance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Egg | | Eggs are globe shaped. |
| Larva | | The mature caterpillar is humpbacked and bright green in color with yellow eyespots that have a green or blue “pupil”. The mature larvae have a thin black rim on the hump. The caterpillar turns reddish before pupating. They also contain a horn-like structure known as the osmeteria which can be extruded from behind the head and produce a foul odor. Young larvae are mottled black and white, making them look like bird droppings. |
| Adult | Wingspan: 110-128 mm | The adults have two tails on each hindwing. The adults are similarly patterned to that of the western tiger swallowtail, with black stripes on the forewings and with black bands and yellow dots on the outer edges. Besides the two tails on each hindwing, the two-tailed swallowtail differs from the western tiger swallowtail in that it is larger, has narrower black stripes, and has a darker yellow color. The hindwings also have a curved row of blue patches along with several bars of orange spots below that. The adults have a high floating flight. |
| Pupa (if applicable) | | The chrysalis is obdect, meaning the appendages are firmly attached to the body. The chrysalis attaches to the substrate in upright position by using a hooked process (cremaster) at the tip of the abdomen and a silk girdle that is attached to the middle of the body and the substrate. |

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): The caterpillar has chewing mouthparts; the adult has a proboscis used for siphoning.

Host/s: The larvae of the two-tailed swallowtail feed on a variety of trees and shrubs, but primarily develop on chokecherry, ash, and hop trees. The adults feed on nectar.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): The caterpillar feeds on the leaves, and will also create small feeding structures by rolling leaves using silk.

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