

# Chinese Yellow Swallowtail

*Papilio xuthus*



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

# Chinese Yellow Swallowtail

*Papilio xuthus*

Order: Lepidoptera  
Family: Papilionidae

**Etymology:** The genus *Papilio* is Latin for butterfly. *Xutho* is Greek for yellowish or yellowish-brown.

**Wing span:** - 2.5 - 4.5 inches (58 - 115 mm)

**Habitat:** The Chinese Yellow Swallowtail are primarily found in broad-leafed and mixed forests, especially in valleys of major rivers.

**Host Plant:** The larvae are known to feed on plants in the genus *Dictamnus*, *Zanthoxylum* and *Evodia*.

**Adult Food Source:** Adults can be found nectaring on a variety of flowers.

**Life History:** Males patrol the forest edge. After the female lays her eggs in groups of two or three on the underside of the host plant. The caterpillar feeds on the host plant until it forms its pupa usually on the trees trunk or branches.

**Flights:** There are 2 broods a year. The first is from April - June and the second is July - August. On a warm summer it is possible to have a 3rd generation in the southern parts flying in September.

**Fun Facts:** The Chinese Yellow Swallowtail are seasonally dimorphic which mean the chrysalides formed in the fall and the adults which emerge from them are quite a bit smaller than the summer brood.

**Range:**

