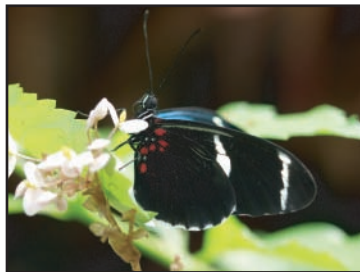


Sara Longwing

Heliconius sara



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

Sara Longwing

Heliconius sara

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: The genus *Heliconius* is broken into two parts: Helico = Helix and nous = reason and knowledge as opposed to sense perception. The specie sara means princess.

Wing span: 2 1/8 - 2 1/4 inches (55 - 60 mm)

Habitat: The adults prefer rainforest habitats where they are usually found along forest edges or in the secondary growth vegetation.

Host Plant: *Passiflora auriculata* and other vines of the family Passifloraceae.

Adult Food Source: Adults can be seen feeding on Hamelia, Palicourea, Lantana, and Psiguria.

Life History: Females lay small yellow eggs in clusters of 10 to 50 on the new leaves and tendrils of the host vines. Caterpillars feed on the host plant until they form their chrysalis, which is usually found on the host vine as well. The adults can live an average of 2 to 3 months.

Flights: There are multiple generations continuously throughout the year.

Fun Facts: The larvae feed on passion vines which have a variety of noxious chemicals in them so animals will not eat them. These larvae have found a way around the plants defenses, which allows them to process and store some of the compounds in their bodies making them and their adult forms poisonous to would be predators.

Range:

