

# A Bug's Life

# Black swallowtail

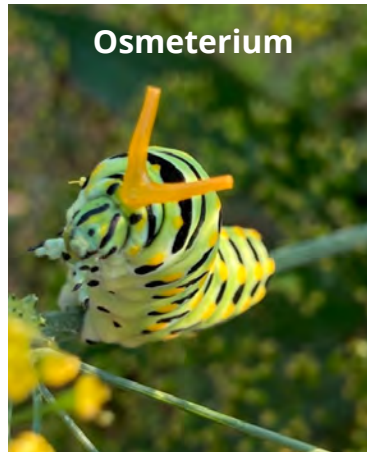
Family: Papilionidae; *Papilio polyxenes*

## Fun facts

- Caterpillars known as parsleyworms
- Young larvae resemble bird droppings to evade predation
- For defense, extends forked, scent gland called an osmeterium, which is yellow-orange and odorous
- Mature caterpillars may completely defoliate food source
- Before pupation, caterpillar wanders away from host plant to a protective place to form chrysalis
- Two generations a year with last generation overwintering as pupa



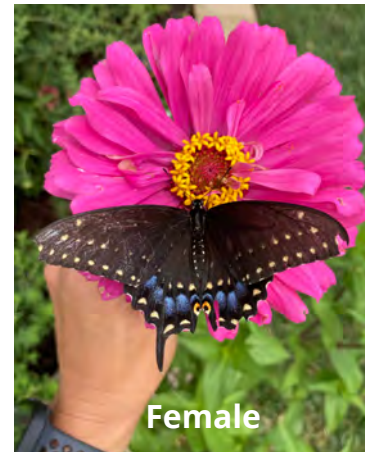
Caterpillars



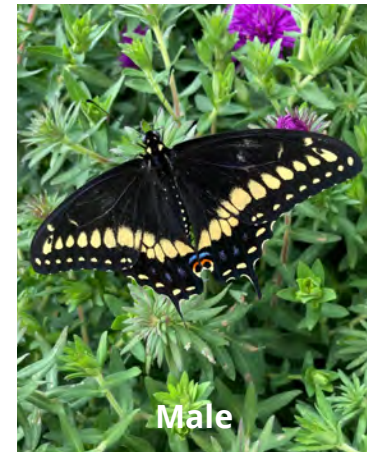
Osmeterium



Chrysalis/pupa



Female



Male

## Identification

Egg: White, round eggs laid singly on young leaves

Caterpillar: Young larvae are black with a white band in the middle; Older larvae are various patterns with prominent bands of yellow, black, white or green

Pupa: Green or brown chrysalis, attached to horizontal surface with a silk

Butterfly: Large butterfly with black wings, yellow spots on body, edges of wings marked with yellow bands/spots, hind wings each with orange and black spot; Females have wings with more blue coloration, males with more yellow

## Host plants

- Caterpillars feed on plants in the carrot family (*Apiaceae*)
- Feed primarily, parsley, dill, fennel, also carrot, celery, caraway
- Occasionally feed on common rue

## Management

- Plant various herbs in large quantities for caterpillars
- Provide blooms for butterflies in spring, summer, and fall
- Be mindful during fall clean up in the garden of pupae on vegetation and on structures