

# EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE  
*Papilio glaucus*

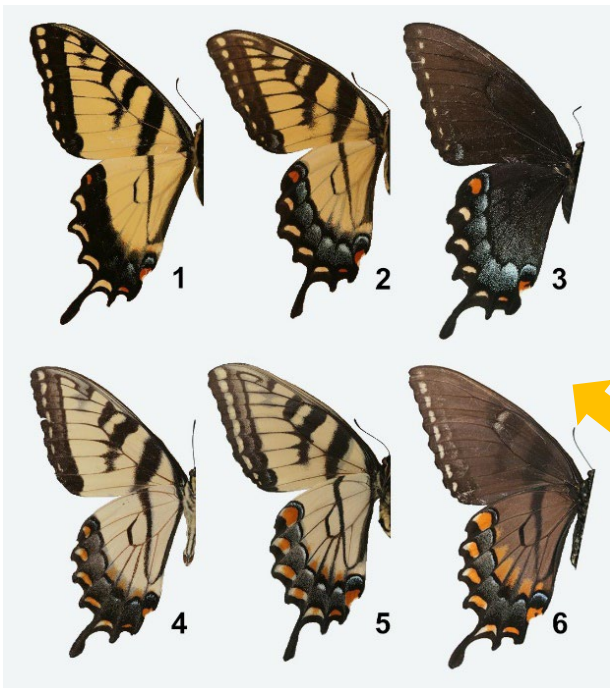


**Did you know?** Eastern tiger swallowtails exhibit dimorphism—they have two forms that look different!

**Did you know?** The eastern tiger swallowtail is the state butterfly of South Carolina!

**Did you know?** Caterpillars of the eastern tiger swallowtail resemble bird poop when they are young! As they get older, they turn bright green and get eyespots on their thorax. If they feel threatened, they deter predators by everting an osmeterium (a forked orange gland that smells bad) from behind their head.

## Look and see!



1, 2, 3: top side of wings  
4, 5, 6: underside of wings

That's the osmeterium! It usually stays hidden, but can blow up like a balloon.



This photo shows the morphs, or forms, of the butterfly! Male tiger swallowtails are yellow (1 and 4), and females can be yellow (2 and 5) or dark blue and black (3 and 6). Can you find any other differences?



Credits:

Photos: Megan McCarty ([wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Meganmccarty](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/User:Meganmccarty)), color morphs; Roy Cuhutta Brown ([inaturalist.org/people/roy\\_cohutta](https://inaturalist.org/people/roy_cohutta)), male butterfly; Noppadol Paothong ([mdc.mo.gov](https://mdc.mo.gov)), osmeterium

Facts: Wikipedia ([wikipedia.org](https://wikipedia.org)); Missouri Department of Conservation ([mdc.mo.gov](https://mdc.mo.gov))

Sheet created by: Nikolai Artley, December 2022