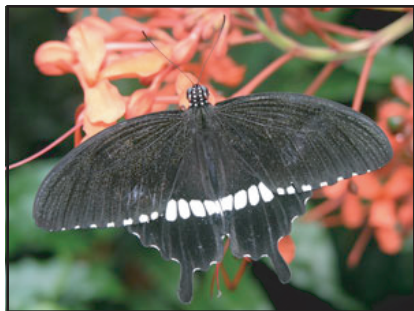


# Common Mormon

*Papilio polytes*



Male



Outside



Inside



Chrysalid

# Common Mormon

*Papilio polytes*

Order: Lepidoptera  
Family: Papilionidae

**Etymology:** The genus *Papilio* is Latin for butterfly. Poly in the species is Greek for many or more.

**Wing span:** 3.5 - 4.25 inches (90 - 115 mm)

**Habitat:** The Common Mormon is primarily found in the open plains, especially in areas where the host plant is found. The Common Mormon seems to do very well in urban situations.

**Host Plant:** Citrus trees are the primary host plant but they will also feed on a variety of species in the family Rutaceae.

**Adult Food Source:** The adults will feed on a variety of different flowers.

**Life History:** The male and female adults tend to be very active fliers especially while nectaring. After mating, the females visit host plants, laying their eggs one at a time. The larvae feed on the host plant until they pupate in that host plant.

**Flights:** There are multiple broods each year making it possible to find adults flying almost all year round.

**Fun Facts:** The Common Mormon is sexually dimorphic meaning the males and females look different from each other. Along with being sexual dimorphic the females are known to come in 3 different forms. One of those forms mimics *Pachliopta aristolochiae* (Common Rose) which is distasteful to predators.

**Range:**

