

# Chequered Swallowtail (*Papilio demoleus*)



Male and female Chequered Swallowtail have similar markings. The females are larger than the males.  
*Photos: Euan Moore.*

**Other Common Names:** None.

**Family of Butterflies:** Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

**Wingspan:** Males 72mm, females 75mm.

**Local Records:** There are no local records for the Castlemaine area in fauna databases although it is likely to occur in the region. There are records from across northern and western Victoria and from around Melbourne.

**Distribution:** This is a widespread species ranging from the Persian Gulf eastwards across the Indian sub-continent to South-east Asia and Australia. Ref: [iNaturalist](#). The [Australian distribution](#) is shown by records in the Atlas of Living Australia where you can zoom in on the map to see Victorian and local distributions.

**Larval Host Plants:** These are members of the genus *Cullen* (Scurf Peas) which occur most commonly in drier areas of inland and northern Australia where most breeding occurs.

**Larval association with ants:** None.

**Adult Flight Times in Victoria:** In Victoria this species is most often seen in spring (October/November) and in March although it may occur at any time of the year. Across Australia most records are in February and August/September Ref: [iNaturalist](#).

**Conservation Status:**

[The Action plan for Australian Butterflies:](#) Vulnerable in Australia

[Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999:](#) Not listed

[Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 – Threatened List 2021:](#) Not Listed

**Other Notes:** This species is mainly found in drier areas where its food plants are more common than in Victoria. It may be abundant after wet years when movement to more southern areas may occur.

**References and further reading:**

Atlas of Living Australia [Papilio demoleus](#), Chequered Swallowtail

iNaturalist [Papilio demoleus](#), Chequered Swallowtail