

Dainty Swallowtail (*Papilio anactus*)



Males and females have similar markings. Females are larger. Kalimna Park, Castlemaine.

Photo: Euan Moore.

Other Common Names: Dingy Swallowtail, Small Citrus Butterfly.

Family of Butterflies: Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

Wingspan: Males 67mm; females 72mm.

Local Records: There are records of this species from Castlemaine/Maldon and nearby areas such as Bendigo, Kyneton and Drummond. Dainty Swallowtails are seen in this area during late summer months.

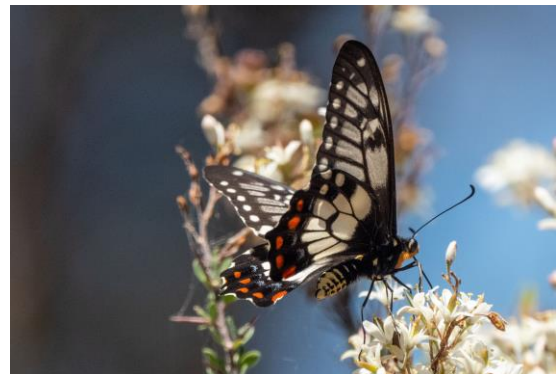
Distribution: The [Australian distribution](#) is shown by records in the Atlas of Living Australia where you can zoom in on the map to see Victorian and local distributions.

Larval Host Plants: The larvae feed on both native and introduced *Citrus sp.*

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: This species is most frequently seen in Victoria during late summer and early autumn (February/March). Across Australia, flight times peak in January with most sightings from December to April. It is rarely reported during the winter months. Ref: [iNaturalist](#).

Conservation Status:



Dainty Swallowtail feeding on Sweet Bursaria, *Bursaria spinosa*, at The Monk, Castlemaine. *Photo: Euan Moore*

[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: The geographic range for this species has expanded over the past century due to the planting of citrus trees in gardens and orchards. Although there are some earlier records, it is believed to have only become fully established in southern Victoria since the 1970s (Field, 2013).

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia - [Papilio anactus](#), Dainty Swallowtail

iNaturalist - [Papilio anactus, Dainty Swallowtail](#)