

Orchard Swallowtail (*Papilio aegeus*)



Male Orchard Swallowtail. The lower photos show detail of the upper and lower sides of the hindwing. The females have more white on both the forewing and hindwing with the pattern of spots on the upper and lower surfaces of the hindwing similar to that on the lower side of the male hindwing.
Photos: Euan Moore.

Other Common Names: None.

Family of Butterflies: Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

Wingspan: Males; 102mm, females; 108mm. This is the largest butterfly found in Victoria.

Local Records: There are no local records for the Castlemaine area in fauna databases although there are a number of records for surrounding areas e.g. Bendigo, Maryborough, Kyneton and Daylesford indicating that this species is likely to occur in the region.

Distribution: This species occurs right along the eastern seaboard of Australia, extending inland to the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range with a few outlier records in central and Western Australia. 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. For the global distribution which extends to the islands of New Guinea see [iNaturalist](#).

Larval Host Plants: Native food plants include members of the *Rutaceae* family such as *Boronia sp*, *Eriostemon sp* and *Ziera sp*. Larvae may also feed on introduced *Rutaceae* including *Citrus sp*, *Murraya sp* and *Choisya sp*.

Larval association with ants: None.

Adult Flight Times in Victoria: In Victoria this species is most often seen in late summer (February to March). Across Australia it may be seen in any month with sightings peaking in January and April. Ref: [iNaturalist](#).

[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 has extended its range into Victoria with the planting of citrus orchards providing a food source for the larvae.

References and further reading:

Atlas of Living Australia – [Papilio aegaeus](#), Orchard Swallowtail

iNaturalist Australia [Papilio aegaeus](#), Orchard Swallowtail