

# Hackberry Emperor



*Asterocampa celtis*



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## Host Plants

Hackberry Trees

*Celtis* spp.

### Fun fact:

The **Hackberry Emperor** also is called the Hackberry Butterfly. The latter can be a misleading name since other butterflies also use Hackberry Trees as a host.

## Biology

The **Hackberry Emperor** is common in northern Florida, wherever its host plant is found. It is widely distributed in the eastern United States, reaching westward to Colorado and Arizona. This medium-sized butterfly inhabits uplands and hammocks. The white or pale yellow eggs are laid singly or in clusters on the underside of leaves. Larvae are green with yellow markings and have horns. They rest on the underside of leaves. Larvae turn brown and build shelters by rolling leaves prior to going into their winter diapause. In Florida, the **Hackberry Emperor** undergoes two, possibly three reproductive cycles per year and it overlaps with a similar species, the Tawny Emperor, *Asterocampa clyton*.



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