

Question Mark



Polygonia interrogationis



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Biology

The **Question Mark** is distributed from southern Canada throughout the southeastern United States to Florida and west to Arizona and Mexico. Although it frequents upland habitats, hammocks, and swamps, it can also be found in urban areas and parks. It is a medium-sized butterfly, with a wingspan of two inches. When closed, its wings resemble dry leaves and are highly variable among individuals. Pale green eggs are laid singly or in stalks on the underside of the leaves. The larvae vary in color from red to orange, sometimes almost black, and are equipped with branched spines. Larvae occasionally construct shelters by folding leaves. In Florida, the **Question Mark** undergoes two reproductive cycles per year. There are seven other similar-looking *Polygonia* species in the United States, but in Gainesville the **Question Mark** is the only member of its genus.



For more information scan the QR code or visit <http://natl.ifas.ufl.edu/index.php>

Host Plants

Common name

- Sugarberry
- Winged Elm
- American Elm

Scientific name

- *Celtis laevigata*
- *Ulmus alata*
- *Ulmus americana*



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