

# Palamedes Swallowtail



*Pterourus palamedes*



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## Biology

The **Palamedes** or **Laurel Swallowtail**, is a large butterfly that can be recognized by its dark coloration and yellow markings along the forewing and hindwing margins. It is distributed across the southeastern United States, upward to Virginia and west to Texas. In Florida, it is a common butterfly except in the Florida Keys. The eggs are slender and green and are laid on new growth of the host plant. Larvae are green with gray, black, white and blue markings and present a pair of conspicuous eyespots at each side of the slightly humped thorax. Mature larvae change color to a pale yellow and pupate away from the host plant. In the northernmost part of its range, **Palamedes Swallowtail** undergoes two reproductive cycles per year whereas in Florida it undergoes three.



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

## Host Plants

Red Bay  
*Persea borbonia*

Swamp Bay  
*Persea palustris*

### Sad fact:

Laurel wilt disease has been greatly reducing the available host plants for the **Palamedes Swallowtail**. This disease is caused by the fungus *Raffaelea lauricola* and transmitted by the invasive redbay ambrosia beetle, *Xyleborus glabratus*.



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