

Dainty Swallowtail Butterfly *Papilio anactus*

When to look:

October to May, flying season may be longer in warmer areas

Similar species:

Orchard or Citrus Swallowtail Butterfly: the caterpillars are larger (up to 6 cm long) and lighter green in colour with some pale yellow and brown markings. The butterfly is larger (10-12 cm wingspan) and only the male has black wings, with an arc of creamy-white spots near the tip of each forewing, but not patches over its entire black forewing like the Dainty Swallowtail.

Clearwing or Greasy Swallowtail Butterfly: the forewing is transparent with one or more black spots.

Black wings covered with white-grey patches

Yellow tip on the body

Red and blue patches along its hindwing

The back edge of its hindwing is scalloped

Image courtesy of Geoff Walker