The large swallowtail butterfly *Papilio palamedes* Drury (Fig. 1, 4) was first reported in Louisiana by von Reizenstein (1863), and subsequently by Rothschild & Jordan (1906). More recently, Jung (1950), Lambremont (1954) and Ross & Lambremont (1963) reported it. Lambremont (1954) stated *palamedes* "is a rather rare insect in Louisiana". Despite this statement, it is the most common *Papilio* at the Abita Springs, St. Tammany Parish study site. Nearly all of the specimens recorded here (Fig. 2) were captured by hand net with the exception of 40-50 specimens captured in ultraviolet light traps. Though a significant number of specimens are recorded here, I have found it exceedingly difficult to find sufficient time to consistently and accurately survey the adult flight periods throughout the years. Despite this, it is apparent that *palamedes* has three annual broods.

No specimens of *palamedes* were reported by Brou (1974) among 607 butterflies taken in light traps at St John the Baptist Parish, though *palamedes* were occasional visitors there.

I have successfully reared *palamedes* numerous times over the years by enclosing wild captured females within a polyester fabric bag tied over a branch of the food plant *Persea palustris* (Raf.) commonly known as Swampbay, a small tree, quite abundant at the Abita Springs site. Brown (1945) reported *palustris* to be abundant in the swamps of eastern Louisiana. Within a few weeks larvae can be found in the bag feeding voraciously. The various stages of the maturing larvae are illustrated in Fig. 4. Unprotected larvae at this location are quite susceptible to infestation by a tiny metallic blue parasitic wasp, with as many as 20 wasp emerging from a single infested pupae. Heppner (2003) lists the range of *palamedes* to be Southeast US: Delaware to Florida and Missouri to Texas in all 12 months.
Fig. 4. *Papilio palamedes* larvae: a, b, c, early instar, d, e, mid instar, f, mature larvae, g, color change in preparation for pupal stage, h, prepupal stage, j, k, m, green and brown pupae.
Literature cited

   Soc. 17:148-158.
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