

**KAISER-I-HIND**  
(*Teinopalpus imperialis imperatrix*)

The Kaiser-I-Hind is a very rare, stunning swallowtail known from Nepal to southern Myanmar. It is threatened by over collecting and rapid destruction of the high elevation forests upon which it depends.

**Status**

IUCN status: Threatened

**Description**

The Kaiser-I-Hind is a superb green, black and orange tailed butterfly.

**Natural history**

This butterfly is restricted to mountainous wooded districts, where it flies high in the canopy of broad leafed evergreen forest. The caterpillar is green with a large head and eats the laurel like shrub, *Daphne spp.*

**Distribution**

The Kaiser-I-Hind is found from Nepal to Myanmar and in two Chinese provinces. Although they are widely distributed they are very localized and rare.

**Threats**

This butterfly is very localized and never abundant and only survives in intact forests. Much of the forest habitat in these regions is under great pressure from logging and development.

**Conservation**

The best way to protect this species is to protect the forest habitat where it remains and impose collecting restrictions.

**References**

Collins, N. Mark and Michael G. Morris (1985) *Threatened Swallowtail Butterflies of the World: The IUCN Red Data Book*. IUCN, Cambridge, U.K. 401 pp. (see pp. 299 to 300).

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

*Advocate*, August 2002

<http://www.elaw.org/news/advocate/default.asp?article=1428>

Article on legal efforts to protect *T. imperialis* in Nepal.

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