

Butterflies

VOLUME -1

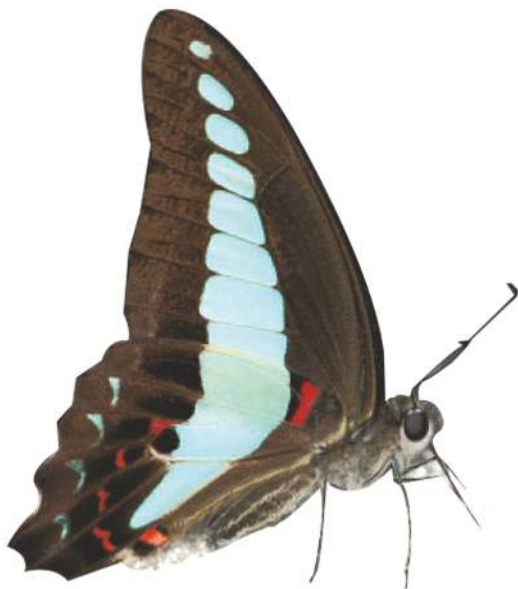
Puducherry



Puducherry ENVIS Hub Centre
Department of Science, Technology & Environment
Puducherry Pollution Control Committee, Puducherry



BUTTERFLIES OF PUDUCHERRY



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PUDUCHERRY

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Butterflies of Puducherry



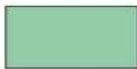
Colours indicates various families



Papilionidae



Pieridae



Nymphalidae



Lycaenidae



Hesperidae

About Puducherry:

"The Union Territory of Puducherry comprises the former French establishments of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam, which lie scattered in South India. Puducherry, the capital of the Territory was once the original headquarters of the French in India is situated on the Coromandel Coast of the Bay of Bengal and is about 135 kms from Chennai Airport. It is bounded on the east by the Bay of Bengal and on the three sides by Tamil Nadu. About 130 kms south of Puducherry on the East Coast placed in Karaikal. Mahe is situated on the Malabar Coast on the Western Ghats surrounded by Kerala and is about 70 kms from Calicut Airport. Yanam is situated adjoining the East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh and is about 200 kms from Visakhapatnam Airport. The Union Territory with legislature extends over an area of 479 Sq. kms. Total population of the Union Territory is 1244464, with a literacy rate of 86.55, as per 2011 Census (Provisional)".

About Envis

ENVIS scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, with a objective to create awareness on both local, regional, national and international issues. This scheme is being operated by Puducherry Pollution Control Committee since 2000. Subsequently based on the request of MoEF, a separate account has been created by ENVIS and is being operated by the Member Secretary and Chairman of PPCC. The salient features of the scheme is as follows :

- (i)The state node will have an information base that includes both descriptive information as in the form of publication reports. Reports and abstracts on environmental related subjects are to be stored for dissemination, with special reference to Status of Environment and its related issues.
- (ii)The Node will have linkage with information sources in the country and abroad for increasing the information contents.
- (iii) The Node will establish a data bank containing data on selected parameters and its assigned subject area.
- (iv)The Node will develop website and linkage with the existing ENVIS centres, and ENVIS –Capacity Enhancement Programme.
- (v)The Node will work under overall supervision and control of ENVIS –Capacity Enhancement Programme Secretariat of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.
- (vi) In order to continue the programme activities after the end of the period of the agreement the node shall give an undertaking that suitable man power would be deployed for this purpose for atleast further period of five years of cessation of assistance and the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change shall have the right to monitor its activities during this period.



About Puducherry Envis centre

The Environmental Information System (ENVIS) is a project funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoE&F), Government of India to facilitate collection, analysis and dissemination of information on various facets of environment. Around 90 ENVIS centers have been established over India and each centre has been allotted specific subject area.

Our ENVIS centre located at the Puducherry Pollution Control Committee (PPCC), Puducherry focuses on special reference to "Status of Environment Related Issues". Activities of our centre include collection, analysis, storage, retrieval and dissemination of information in the subject area allotted. The information is being disseminated through the quarterly newsletter and website.

The long-term objectives of the Scheme are as follows: To build up a repository and dissemination Centre in environmental science and engineering.

- To gear up state-of-art technologies of information acquisition, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of environmental nature.
- To support and promote research, development and innovation in environmental information technology.
- Its short-term objectives are as follows:
- To provide national environmental information service relevant to present needs and capable of meeting the future needs of the users, originators, processors and disseminators of information.
- To build up storage, retrieval and dissemination capabilities, with the ultimate objective of disseminating information speedily to the users.
- To promote national and international cooperation and liaison for exchange of environment-related information.
- To promote, support and assist education and personnel training programmes designed to enhance environmental information processing and utilizing capabilities.
- To promote and exchange of environment-related information amongst developing countries.



COMMON ROSE *Pachliopta aristolochiae*

Description: Tailed. Red – bodied swallowtail. UNH: with white discal and sub – marginal spots.

Size: 80-110 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Slow flight. Males mud- puddle at moist patches with other swallowtails. Feeds on flower nectar. Found in open country side and forested habitats up to 2,400m.



M. B. Gupta

Food plants: The larvae feed on creepers and climbers of the genus *Aristolochia*, family *Aristolochiaceae*, and they sequester toxins such as aristolochic acid in their bodies.

CRIMSON ROSE *Pachliopta hector*

Description: Tailed. Red-bodied swallowtail. UNH: with white discal and red sub-marginal spots

Size: 90-130 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: This is very common species can be found in numerous habitats including lowland rainforest, semi-deciduous woodlands, beach hinterlands, acacia thickets, farmland, city parks and gardens.



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Food plants: The larval food plants are *Aristolochia* and *Thottea* (*Aristolochiaceae*)

LIME BUTTERFLY *Papilio demoleus*

Description: Tailless, black and yellow swallowtail.

Size: 80-100 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast. Males mud-puddle. Prefers open countryside. This species can be found in forests but is normally associated with more open habitats ranging from semi-desert to Acacia scrub, beach hinterlands, woodland mosaics, parks and gardens.



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Food plants: The larval foodplant Lime Citrus varieties Citrus aurantifolia, C. grandis, C. limon.

COMMON MORMON *Papilio polytes*

Description: Tailed, black-bodied swallowtail. Male- black above with row of discal white spotsUPH, continued as smaller spots along margin UPF.

Size 90-100 mm.

Status: Very common.

Habitat: Powerful flight. Male mud-puddle. Feeds on flower nectar. This species is found in rainforest, semi-deciduous woodland, thorn scrub, beach hinterlands, parks and gardens.



M. B. Guptha

Food plants: The larval food plants include Citrus, Clausena, Fortunella, Glycosmis, Zanthoxylum, Murraya koenigii and Murraya paniculate

COMMON BANDED PEACOCK *Papilio crino*

Description: Tailless, black and dark brownish black swallowtail.

Size: 100-116 mm.

Status: Not Threatened

Habitat: Flies very fast. Males mud- puddle on moist soil. Through normally not in the company of other swallowtails. Feeds on flower nectar, prefers thick forest level.

Food plants: The female lays eggs on leaves of the Satinwood tree *Chloroxylon swietenia*



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BLUE MORMON *Papilio polymnestor*

Description: Tailless, black and dark brownish black swallowtail

Size: 100-116 mm.

Status: Not Threatened

Habitat: Flies very fast. Males mud- puddle on moist soil. The butterfly is most common in heavy rainfall areas, such as evergreen forests. Also common in deciduous forests and wooded urban areas, primarily due to the cultivation of its host plants, i.e. the Citrus species

Food plants: female lays eggs on leaves of the Citrus grandis and Citrus limon



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SPOT SWORDTAIL *Graphium nomius*

Description: Wings white with five dark bars in FW cell. Board brown wing margin. Discal red spots UNH.

Size: 70-80 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Fast flight. Generally found in deciduous forest areas, among bushes with lesser secondary growth. Locally abundant below 3000 feet and less common above this level. Generally stays close to hilly and forested country



M. B. Guptha

Food plants: The larval host plants are *Milium tomentosum*, *Milium velutinum* and *Polyalthia longifolia* of the Family Anonaceae.

COMMON BLUEBOTTLE *Graphium sarpedon*

Description: ve dark brown with greenish- blue band across both wings. Below, lighter brown and paler greenish- blue band.

Size: 80-90 mm. short tail. Abo

Status: Common

Habitat: Rapid flight. This species occurs in almost all forested habitats at altitudes between 0-1400m but is much more abundant at lower altitudes.



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Food plants: The food plants used vary according to country and location, and include *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia*, *Cinnamomum camphora*, *C. macrocarpum*.

TAILED JOY *Graphium agamemnon*

Description: Above, dark brown with green spots. Below, lighter brown with green spots.

Size: 85-100 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Powerful fast, restless flier, its wings quivering when sitting or even when feeding from flowers. Does not sit for very long during the day. Mud – pudding much less frequently compared to other swallowtails. Prefers forests, but often visits gardens where its larval food plants are growing. Seen in the plains and the foothills up to 1,800m.

Food plants: The foodplants used vary according to country and location, and include *Polyalthia longifolia*, *Polyalthia cerasoides*, *Annona squamosa*, *Annona reticulata*



M. B. Guptha

LEMON EMIGRANT *Catopsilia crocale*

Description: Yellow- white to greenish on both sides. Marking and colour variable. UN marked with fine striations.

Size: 50-70 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Flight and behaviour similar to *Catopsilia pomana*. This species is ubiquitous, being found throughout the year in open areas in secondary forest, along river courses, on open grassland, and even in deserts.

Food plants: The foodplants used it feeds diurnally on many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in the Leguminosae (Fabaceae), favouring *Cassia* but also using *Butea*, *Bauhinia*, *Pterocarpus*, *Senna* and *Sesbania*.



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COMMON EMIGRANT *Catopsilia pomana*

Description: Yellow to greenish-white. Markings and colour variable

Size: 55-80 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Irregular bouncing flight, hence popularly called the yellow bouncer. Feeds on flower nectar. During pre-monsoon and monsoon months, some areas experience large scale emergence of adults. Seen in gardens, open country side and hill up to 4,000m.



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Food plants: It feeds diurnally on many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in the *Senna fistula*, *Sennasiamea*, *Sennaalata*.

MOTTLED EMIGRANT *Catopsilia pyranthe*

Description: Greenish – white to yellow on both sides. Marking and colour variable. Un marked with fine striations.

Size: 52-70 mm.

Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Irregular bouncing flight, The Mottled Emigrant, as its name implies, is strongly migratory in behaviour and can therefore be found in many habitats including *Acacia* scrub, dry open woodlands, beach hinterlands, gardens and wasteland



M. B. Guptha

Food plants: It feeds diurnally on many trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants in the *Senna fistula*, *Sennasiamea*, *Sennaalata*, *C. roxburghii*; *C. bakeriana*), *Gnidiaglauca*, *Senna* spp

COMMON GRASS YELLOW *Eurema hecabe*

Description: Yellow colour on both sides— two spots in cell, through one or both may be absent. Black border with prominent tooth.

Size: 40-50 mm.

Status: Very common

Habitat: Habit and habitats similar to other grass yellow. Found in gardens, open countryside and forest edges. Feeds on flower nectar. Males frequently mud – puddle.



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Food plants: Eggs are laid on *Abrus precatorius*, *Acacia* spp., *Aeschynomene* spp., *Albizzia* spp. and numerous other Leguminosae, Euphorbiaceae and Cucurbitaceae species

SMALL GRASS YELLOW *Eurema brigitta*

Description: Yellow colour on both sides— two spots in cell, through one or both may be absent. Black border with prominent tooth.

Size: 30-35 mm.

Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Habit and habitats similar to other grass yellow. This is a savannah and grassland species but it sometimes enters forests during the dry season. Males frequently mud – puddle.



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Food plants: The larvae feed on *Hypericum aethiopicum* and *Chamaecrista mimosoides*.

THREE-SPOT GRASS YELLOW *Eurema blanda*

Description: Yellow colour on both sides. Under hind wing irregular ring spot, cell end. Upper side wing board, black margin, not continued along dorsum to base. Significant variation in markings in both side of wing margins.

Size: 40-50 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Inhabits wooded areas around human habitation, forest cleaning and stream edges. Feeds on flower nectar. Males frequently mud-puddle

Food plants: larvae feed on *Hypericum aethiopicum* and *Chamaecrista mimosoides*.



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COMMON JEZEBEL *Delias eucharis*

Description: underside of the hind wing yellow and white with sub marginal red orange spots, which are not black-edged on the inner side.

Size: 70-80 mm.

Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Slow flier. Feeds on flower nectar at bushes and at the three canopy. *Delias eucharis* was nomadic in behaviour, and can be found in a wide variety of habitats including temperate hill forest, tropical rainforest, dry open woodland and beach hinterlands. Keeps to open forest from the foothills up to 1,600 m.

Food plants: The larval foodplant is mistletoe – *Loranthus* (*Loranthaceae*).



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PSYCHE *Leptosia nina*

Description: rounded wings upper side plain white, upper side of the fore wing black apex and spot at end of cell. Underside of the hind wing whitish, striated with brown in wet season form.

Size: 35-50 mm.

Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Fluttering flight which is diagnostic in separating it from other whites. Keeps to herbs and bushes along roadsides. This is a butterfly of open but sheltered grassy places, including clearings in primary and secondary forest, plantations, roadsides, parks, gardens, quarries, railways and waste land.

Food plants: *Capparis zeylanica* has been noted as a food plant.



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COMMON GULL *Cepora nerissa*

Description: wet season form, both sexes – underside of the fore wing yellow with blackened veins. Underside of the forewing apex and costa yellow, rest of the wing with darkened veins. Two spots in 1b and 3.

Size: 50-65 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: *Cepora nerissa* is a lowland species which inhabits thorn scrub, savannah / woodland mosaics, open areas within dry woodlands, and beach hinterlands. Fluttering flight which is diagnostic in separating it from other whites. Keeps to herbs and bushes along roadsides.

Food plants: The larval food plant is *Capparis* (Capparidaceae).



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WHITE ORANGE TIP *Ixias marianne*

Description: upper side light yellow with orange and black apex. Underside yellow. Female upper side- yellow or white with the white patch on black outer half of wing.

Size: 52-60 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast. Keeps to shrub and bushes. Prefers scrub and light forest from the foothills up to 2,000 m. more common in foothills.

Food plants: The food plant for the larvae is *Capparis grandis*, a caper shrub in the *Capparaceae* family.



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YELLOW ORANGE TIP *Ixias pyrene*

Description: upper side pale yellow with orange and black apex. Underside yellow. Female upper side- light yellow or white with the white patch on black outer half of wing

Size: 50-60 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: This species inhabits rainforest, humid deciduous forest, dry forest, Acacia scrub, and savannah / woodland mosaics at elevations between sea level and about 800m.

Food plants: larval food plant is *Capparis* (Capparidaceae).



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CRIMSON TIP *Colotis danae*

Description: Male: Upperside: white, base of wings generally irrorated, Female: Upper side: white; base of wings lightly, often heavily, irrorated with greyish-black scales.

Size: 48-52 mm.

Status: Common

Habitat: This species inhabits forest, humid deciduous forest, dry forest, Acacia scrub, and savannah / woodland mosaics at elevations between sea level and about 800m. Coloration very variable, especially in the female.

Food plants: The larval food plants include Cadaba, Capparis and Maerua (Capparaceae).



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COMMON WANDERER *Pareronia valeria*

Description: Male: Upperside: pale blue with black veins, Upper side fore wing: black apex with pale blue spots. Female – upper side like a glassy tiger parantica aglea.

Size: 65-80 mm.

Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Unconfirmed sighting. Flies fast. Feeds on flower nectar prefers forest and open clearings.

Food plants: The larval food plant Capparis zeylanica.



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COMMON EVENING BROWN *Melanitis leda*

Description: Fore wing produced. Hind wing toothed. Wet season form: below brown, heavily striated with Ocelli. Dry season form: fore wing even more produced. Ocelli absent or obsolete. Very brown variable from brown with black spots, to pale yellowish brown with bands.

Size: 60-80 mm.

Local Status: Common



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Habitat: This species occurs in forests and plantations at elevations between sea level and about 500m. *Melanitis leda* is a very common and extremely widespread species found across almost the entire Oriental region, and also across most of Africa and much of Australia.

Food plants: The larval food plants include the grasses *Miscanthus*, *Isachne*, *Setaria*, *Brachyaria*,

TAWNY COSTER *Acraea terpsicore*

Description It has a weak fluttery flight. It is avoided by most insect predators. Ground-colour ochraceous yellow or a paler tawny yellow. Fore wing: paling to whitish on the apex, with the black markings as on the upper side but somewhat blurred and diffuse. The black spots and black terminal band as on the upper side.

Size: 53-64 mm.

Local Status: Common



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Habitat: This is a relatively common species occurring primarily at low altitudes on scrubby grasslands, dry open woodlands, beach hinterlands and flowery gardens. It has however been recorded as high as 2000m in the Eastern Ghats of India. The butterfly is seen in the highest numbers in the monsoon seasons, and is quite scarce at the peak of the dry season.

Food plants: The larval foodplants include various genera in the Loganiaceae, Cucurbitaceae and Passifloraceae.

COMMON CASTOR *Ariadne merione*

Description: Fore wing termen not excised between veins 3 and 5, or very mildly so. Upper side of the fore wing discal lines beyond cell, double and highly waved. Shows seasonal variations in colour and markings.

Size: 55-60 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Habits like the angled castor *A. ariadne*. More likely to be found near forest than previous species. Prefers forest edges, but also seen in city gardens. Seen from the foothills up to 2,500 m.

Food plants:

The larval food plant is *Tragia* (Euphorbiaceae), *Castor Ricinus communis*.



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ANGLED CASTOR *Ariadne ariadne*

Description: Forewing termen deeply excised between veins 3 and 5. Upper side fore wing: discal line beyond cell, single, and inwardly curved in 5. Shows seasonal variations in colour and marking

Size: 50-55 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species is found in disturbed forest habitats including roadsides, clearings and small glades, at elevations between sea level and about 900m.

Food plants: The larval food plants include *Ricinus*, *Acalypha*, *Cnesmone* and *Tragia* (Euphorbiaceae).



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COMMON LEOPARD *Phalanta phalantha*

Description: upper side fore wing pale tawny with four dark lines in cell. Underside fore wing purple glossed in fresh individuals and wet season form

Size: 50-60 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Fast flier. Feeds flower nectar. This is primarily a butterfly of Acacia thorn scrub and savannah / woodland habitats, but can also be found in clearings within tropical and subtropical rainforest. Seen in the plains and the foothills up to 2,300 m.

Food plants: The larvae feed on several genera of Flacourtiaceae including Aberia, Dovyalis, Flacourtia, Oncoba, Scolopia, Trimeria and Xylosma.



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COMMON SAILER *Neptis hylas*

Description: white marking above and below. Hind wing cilia chequered black and white. Upper side fore wing white spots in 2 and 3 not in line with 5, their centres directed to termen below apex. All discal spots separated. Costal spot very short. Spot beyond cell streak pointed.

Size: 50-60 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species can be found in rainforest and humid deciduous forest where it flies in sunlit glades and forest-edge habitats at elevations between sea level and about 700 metres, and glides with horizontal wings, followed by short wing beats. Found of basking on upper surfaces of leaves, close to the ground.

Food plants: The larval food plants include Lathyrus, Rhynchosia, Lespezeda, Flemingia, Mucuna, Canavalia, Psophocarpus.



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LEMON PANSY *Junonia lemonias*

Description: upper side fore wing dark brown with yellow spots and a large orange crowned eyespot. Upper side hind wing lighter brown with similar eyespots.

Size: 40-60 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Habits like other pansies. Seen in gardens, forest tracts and scrub forest in the plains and foot hills up to 2,000 m.



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Food plants: The larval food plants include Asteracantha, Nelsonia, Lepidagathis, Sida and Goldfussia.

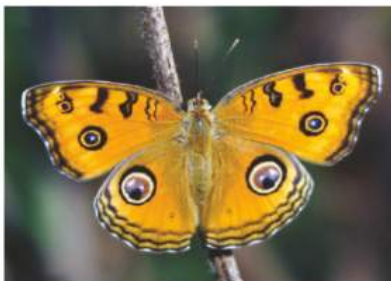
PEACOCK PANSY *Junonia almana*

Description: above tawny orange with eyespots on both wings. Below, dull yellowish brown with eye spots. Dry season form plain brown below without eyespots.

Size: 60-65 mm.

Local Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Graceful, sailing flight. This species found in a wide variety of habitats including forest clearings, Acacia thorn scrub, palm-fringed beaches, savannah, dry woodlands, arable farmland and botanical gardens. It is primarily a lowland species found at altitudes between sea level and about 500m, although it can be found as high as 1000m.



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Food plants: The larval food plants include Asteracantha, Hygrophila, Barleria, Osbeckia, Alternanthera, Mimosa, Vandellia, Antirrhinum and Plantago.

BLUE PANSY *Junonia orithya*

Description: upper side wing black with white sub apical band, flanked with eye spots. Upper side hind wing bright blue with a prominent range crowned eyespot in 2. Dry season form: duller colours.

Size: 45-60 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species, like most others in the genus, is found mainly in open habitats. In Africa I have found the butterflies common on open savannah country in the dry season, seen in gardens forest tracks and scrub forest in the plains and foothills up to 2,000m.

Food plants: The larval food plants include *usticia*, *Hypoestes*, *Lepidagathis*, *Thunbergia*, *Rostellularia*, *Hygrophila*, *Asystasia*, *Pseuderanthenum*, *Barleria*.



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YELLOW PANSY *Junonia hierta*

Description: upper side fore wing and hind wing both are yellow with black apex. Bright blue spot at base. Female: dry season form with duller markings.

Size: 45-60 mm.

Local Status: Uncommon

Habitat: Habits like other pansies. Seen in gardens, forest tracks and scrub forest in the plains and the foothills up to 2,000 m.

Food plants: The larval food plants include *Barleria Montana*, *Hygrophila*, *Asystasia*, *Pseuderanthenum*, *Barleria*.



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CHOCOLATE PANSY *Junonia iphita*

Description: Apex produced. Above, dark brown with paler discal band. Dry season form duller brown. Eyespots on upper side fore wing which may be obscure.

Size: 55-80 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Habits like other pansies. Seen in gardens, forest tracts and scrub forest in the plains and the foothills up to 2,000 m. *Junonia iphita* is found mainly in degraded and disturbed forest habitats including palm plantations, small clearings, and along roadsides

Food plants: The larval food plants include *Justicia*, *Hygrophila*, *Lepidagathis*, *Asteracantha*, *Goldfussia* and *Strobilanthes*



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GREY PANSY *Junonia atlites*

Description: above grey with dark lines and series of discal eyespots on both wings.

Size: 55-65 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species is found in disturbed areas including forest clearings, riverbanks, roadsides and the margins of agricultural land, at elevations between about 200-1000m according to locality.



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Food plants: The larvae feed on a wide range of plants including *Lepidagathis*, *Justicia*, *Barleria*, *Goldfussia*.

DANAID EGGFLY *Hypolimnys misippus*

Description: Under side hind wing black mid costal spot. Male under side hind wing with white bands on disc. Upper side black with blue glossed oval spot on both wings.

Size: 70-85 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species is extremely adaptable and can be found in many habitats including desert, savannah, acacia scrub, well vegetated beaches, open areas within tropical rainforest, and is a regular visitor to botanical gardens and flowers wastelands.

Food plants: The larval food plants are very diverse, and include *Portulaca*, *Talinum*, *Ruellia*, *Asystasia*, *Blepharis*, *Justicia*, *Pseuderanthemum*.



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GREAT EGGFLY *Hypolimnys bolina*

Description: Under side chocolate brown. Marginal white line on both wings. Under side fore wing white sub apical band of conjoined spots. Under side hind wing white discal band. Upper side fore wing black with blue glossed oval marking with white center.

Size: 70-110 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast. Found of basking. Feeds on flower nectar. Prefers stream and forest edges in the plains and the foothills up to 2,000 m.

Food plants: *H. bolina* breeds on *Fleuria interrupta*, *Sida rhombifolia*,



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BLUE TIGER *Tirumala limniace*

Description: Fore wing blue spots beyond cell broader and not very long. Hind wing cell blue with a narrow brown streak. All markings pale blue to almost white.

Size: 90-100 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat:

Slow, gliding flight. Feeds on flower nectar. Found in gardens and lightly wooded areas from the foot hills up to 2,000m. Known to migrate in south India.

Food plants: The larval food plants include *Dreggea*, *Heterostemma*, *Asclepias*, *Calotropis*, *Marsdenia*, *Crotalaria*, *Hoya* and *Epibaterium*.



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PLAIN TIGER *Danaus chrysippus*

Description: Tawny, without stripes. White band across black apex.

Size: 70-80 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Slow, gliding flight. Feeds on flower nectar. Often, large numbers congregate on plant roots with other milkweed butterflies. Prefers open countryside and forest edges from the foothills up to 2,500 m.

Food plants: The plain tiger's larval host plants are from several families *Asclepias* – milkweeds recorded on *A. cancellata*, *A. coarctata*, *A. curassavica*, *A. fulva*, *A. kaessneri*, *A. lineolata*, *A. physocarpa*.



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COMMON CROW *Euploea core*

Description: above, dark brown, or black, not blue glossed. Upper side a series of post discal and sub marginal white spots. Under side additional cell end and discal white spots .

Size: 85-95 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Slow, lazy flight. Other habits similar to other crows. Feeds on flowers nectar. Prefers forest clearing and open country side from the foothills up to 2,500 m.

Food plants: The common crow feeds on a large number of plants of the families Apocynaceae (Dogbanes and Oleanders), Asclepiadaceae (Milkweeds), Moraceae (Figs), Rubiaceae, Ulmaceae (Nettles).



M. B. Guptha

BARONET *Euthalia nais*

Description: above, greenish brown. Fore wing apex highly falcate. Upper side fore wing board, diffused pale discal band curving in at costa. Pale spots in 3, 4, 5 and 6, the last two larger. Hind wing with tornus produced

Size: 65-80 mm.

Local Status: Rare

Habitat: Flies fast. Basks high up at canopy level. Seen at stream edges and open forest from the foothills. Visit most patches. Prefers stream edges in dense forest.

Food plants: The larval food plants include Diospyros (Ebenaceae) and Shorea (Dipterocarpaceae).



M. B. Guptha

COMMON BARON *Euthalia aconthea*

Description: above, brown. Fore wing apex strongly produced. Upper side fore wing green gloss along costa. Red spot in cell. Veins greenish.

Size: 81-113 mm.

Local Status: Rare

Habitat: Powerful flight. Both sexes visit moist patches. Seen at stream edges in dense forest. This is a lowland species found in rainforest habitats. It can also be found in gardens and orchards where its foodplants are grown.

Food plants: The larval food plants include mango *Mangifera* and cashew *Anacardium* (Anacardiaceae); and also *Scurrula* (Loranthaceae).



M. B. Guptha

COMMON THREEERING *Ypthima asterope*

Description: underside of the hind wing single apical ocellus. Three tornalocelli in line, that in 1c often double pupilled. Upper side the fore wing at least ocelli in 2,3.

Size: 32-42 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Though not as common as *Y. baldus*. Habits like other rings. Seen at forest paths, forest edges and inside forest from the foothills up to 1,600 m.

Food plants: The larvae feed on Poaceae grasses.



M. B. Guptha

COMMON PIERROT *Castalius rosimon*

Description: below white with numerous black spots. Under side of the fore wing basal streak on hind wing, continued to fore wing. Upper side fore wing white with brown spots, bases bluish. Female with more brown above. Dorsal side fore wing markings below reduced.

Size: 24 - 32 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Weak flier. Seen on bushes and shrubs close to the ground. Feeds on flowers, moist spots, bird dropping and animal dung. Prefers open forests, countryside and edges of fields from the foothills up to 2,500 m.

Food plants: Feeds on *Zizyphus jujube* plant species.



M. B. Guptha

RED PIERROT *Talica niseus*

Description: under side of fore wing: cell and base white, rest of wing black with two rows of white spots. Under side of hind wing white with a few black spots in disc. Margin with bright red band.

Size: 30- 36 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Weak, fluttering flight. Stays close to the ground, or on low shrubs and bushes. Prefers forest edges, open country side and gardens, often close to its larval food plant. It is colonizing new areas in north India up to 1,900 m.

Food plants: Feeds on the cuticle of leaves of *Bryophyllum* and *Kalanchoe* (Crassulaceae).



M. B. Guptha

ZEBRA BLUE *Leptotes plinius*

Description: Male Upperside: dark violet with, in certain lights, a rich blue suffusion. Fore wing: no discocellular black spot so conspicuous in *T. theophrastus*; terminal margin with a narrow edging of fuscous black, widest at the apex, gradually decreasing to the tornus, followed by an inconspicuous antiliary jet-black line.

Size: 29-31 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Habits like other ceruleans. Prefers forests, but can be found in open countryside and drier habitats than other ceruleans. Found in the plains and the foothills up to 2,000 m in Himalaya.

Food plants: Plants of the Legume family, Plumbaginaceae and some of the citrus family Rutaceae.



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LESSER GRASS BLUE *Zizina otis*

Description: Under side of the fore wing mid cell spot absent. Brownish grey. Fore wing: a short, transverse, dusky lunule on the discocellulars and a transverse, anteriorly curved, discal series of seven minute black spots, all the spots more or less rounded

Size: 19 -26 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This species can be found in almost any open grassy habitat including forest clearings, riverbanks, roadsides, parkland and gardens, at elevations between sea level and about 1500m.

Food plants: The species breeds on many plants of the family Leguminosae including *Alysicarpus vaginalis*, *Desmodium* spp., *Glycine max*, *Indigofera* spp., *Mimosa* spp.



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LARGE OAKBLUE *Arhopala amantes*

Description: Two tails. Purplish brown below. Underside of the fore wing discal band broad from costa. Then narrow, dislocated and above male dark with board borders on both wings.

Size: 32-35 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast, in short sorties. Keeps to foliage at forest edges. Visits moist soil. Prefers low elevation forests.

Food plants: The larval food plants are *Syzygium* spp



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COMMON CERULEAN *Jamides celeno*

Description: under side of the fore wing 3rd line from base continues from costa to dorsum. 4th line straight, ends at v.3. Male – pale bluish white above. Upper side fore wing border narrow, widening to apex.

Size: 27-40 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Habits like other ceruleans. Prefers forests, but can be found in open countryside and drier habitats than other ceruleans. Found in the plains and the foothills up to 2,000 m in the Himalaya.

Food plants: They feed on the foliage of various plants including *Trichilia*, *Pueraria* and *Saraca* (Leguminosae)



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FORGET-ME-NOT *Catochrysops strabo*

Description: . under side of the fore wing 3rd line from base continues from costa to dorsum. 4th line straight, ends at v.3. Male – pale bluish white above. Upper side fore wing border narrow, widening to apex.

Size:: 27 - 40 mm

Local Status: Common

Habitat: This butterfly is found in Acacia scrub, savannah, forest edges and clearings, gardens, roadsides and almost anywhere else where the caterpillar's foodplants occur. It is a lowland species, normally found at elevations between sea level and about 800m.

Food plant: The larvae feed on *Ougeinia dalbergioides*, *Schleichera trijuga* and *Desmodium* species.



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PLUM JUDY *Abisara echerius*

Description: Male: Upperside rich purple-brown or maroon-brown with a blue gloss. Upper side Forewing with discal and post discal transverse fasciae very obscure and only slightly paler than the ground-colour. all these spots bordered slenderly and somewhat obscurely on the outer side with white. Underside dull maroon-brown. Local Status: Common

Size: 41-52 mm.

Habitat: Flies fast. Males visits moist spots in large numbers on stream banks. Females seldom seen. Prefers stream edges and tracks in forest at low elevations through may be found up to 1,300 m.

Food plant: The eggs of the butterfly are laid on host plants belonging to the family Primulaceae, including *Ardisia* spp., *Maesa indica* and *Embelia laeta*.



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MONKEY PUZZLE *Rathinda amor*

Description: Male: Upperside rich purple-brown or maroon-brown with a blue gloss. Upper side Forewing with discal and post discal transverse fasciae very obscure and only slightly paler than the ground-colour. All these spots bordered slenderly and somewhat obscurely on the outer side with white. Underside dull maroon-brown.

Size: 26-28 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast. This butterfly is found in jungle areas of moderate to heavy rainfall - both, in heavy forest and scrub. The butterfly occurs below 900 meters or so. It keeps to undergrowth and can be seen along forest paths and in clearings.

Food plant: The butterfly has a number of food plants *Mangifera indica*, *Meiogyne pinnosa*.



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COMMON BANDED AWL *Hasora chromus*

Description: black or dark brown above with white spots. Upper side fore wing 3 cell spots and prominent sub marginal spots.

Size: 45-50 mm.

Local Status: Common

Habitat: Flies fast. This species is found in glades and clearings in rainforest, deciduous forest and plantations at elevations between sea level and about 500 metres.

Food plant: The larval food plants include *Pongamia*, *Derris* (Fabaceae), *Ricinus* (Euphorbiaceae), *Swietenia*,



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NOTES



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