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Butterflies of Puducherry

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India is estimated to have 1508 butterfly species of which 319 species have been recorded from Tamil Nadu region, including the landscapes of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and the plains (Kehimkar,2008; Davidar et al.,2010).

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Pieridae family is comparatively diverse and well-represented in the region; they can be considered as trademark butterflies of the open scrubland. Pierids are among the most abundant butterflies present year-round in Puducherry.

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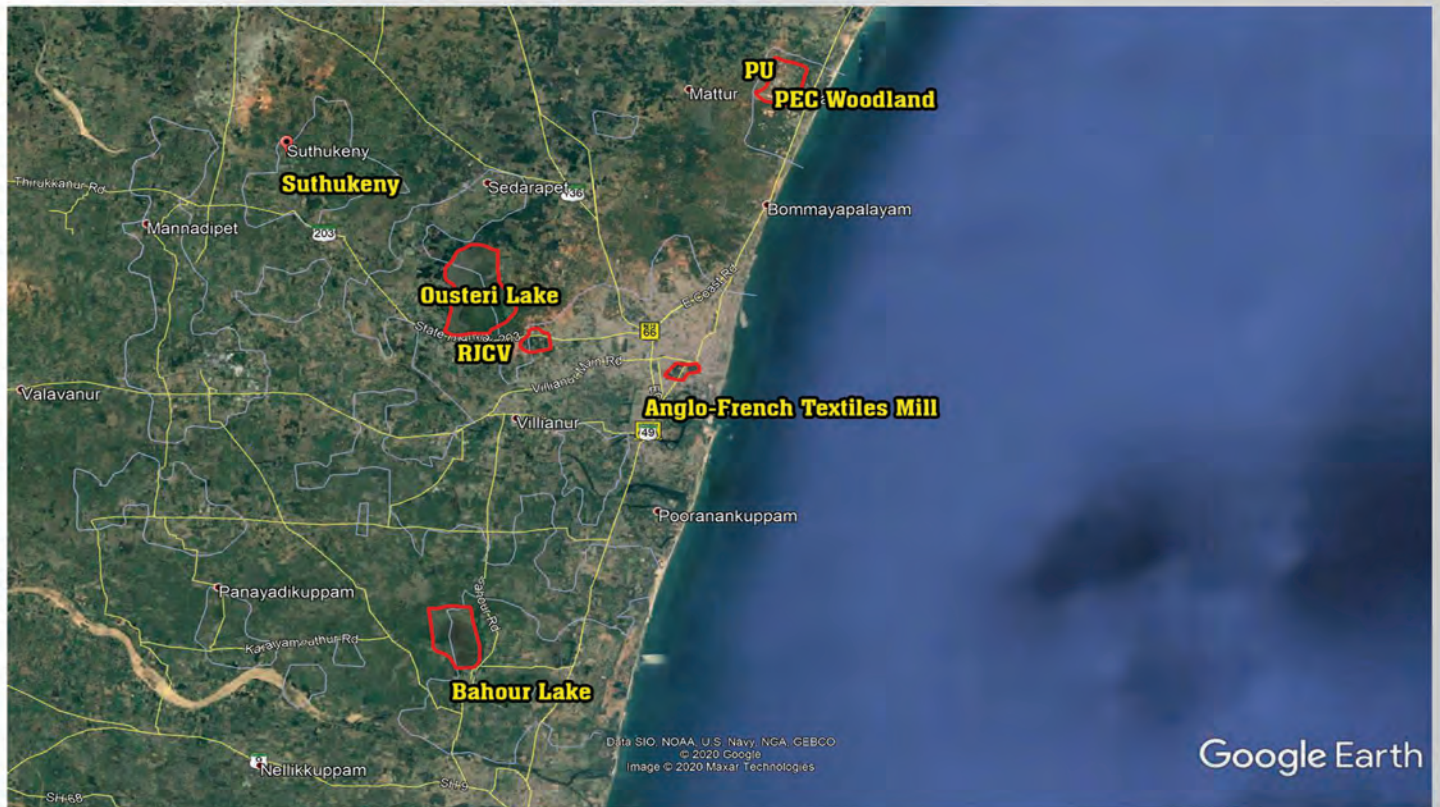
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Introduction

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India is estimated to have about 1500 butterfly species of which 323 species have been recorded from Tamil Nadu region, including the landscapes of Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and the plains (Kehimkar, 2008; TNBS, 2020). About 215 species have been photo-documented from Tamil Nadu region excluding the Western Ghats proper (Kunte *et al.*, 2017). Tamil Nadu plains are located on the leeward side of Western Ghats and most of the Eastern Ghats hills cutting across these plains are highly weathered and much reduced, resulting in low annual precipitation amounts. Apart from this narrow stretch of hills and pockets of tropical dry evergreen forest, the entire landscape is uniform and open, favouring habitat generalist and highly mobile species of butterflies.

Union Territory (UT) of Puducherry is an amalgam of four non-contiguous coastal regions, out of which three regions viz. Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam are located on the east coast while the fourth one Mahe is located on the west coast. Puducherry and Karaikal are located close to each other as cluster of enclaves enclosed by the Tamil Nadu plains and their butterfly fauna represent that of the Coromandel coast. The present newsletter deals with butterflies of Puducherry region of the UT.



Google Earth Map showing butterfly hotspots of Puducherry (grey lines represent the outline of Puducherry enclaves within Tamil Nadu)

Puducherry lies on the east coast 140 km south of Chennai between 12°02'36 "N 79°52'19 "E and 11°46'30 "N 79°45'29 "E. Topographically, Puducherry has 84 tanks; paddy fields; mangroves and estuaries; sand dunes; coastal plateaus and ravines; remnants of tropical dry evergreen forests protected as sacred groves; natural scrub jungles; invasive species-dominated scrub; plantations, orchards and farmlands; savannah etc. which form special habitats for butterflies. There are up to 68 species of butterflies previously reported from Puducherry (Davidar *et al.*, 2010, Murugesan *et al.*, 2013). During 2011-'17, author recorded **115** species of butterflies in the region.

A checklist of **116** species of butterflies of Puducherry was prepared including the valid record of the rare straggler, Southern Birdwing (Table 1). Butterfly community of Puducherry is well represented by five families viz. Papilionidae or Swallowtails; Pieridae or Whites and Yellows; Nymphalidae or Brush-footed butterflies; Lycaenidae or Blues and; Hesperidae or Skippers. Lycaenidae is the most diverse family with 34 species followed by Nymphalidae with 30 species, Pieridae with 20 species, Hesperidae with 20 species and finally, Papilionidae with 12 species. However, on comparing the family-wise species richness to that of the Tamil Nadu Plains, Papilionidae tops the list since 90% of its species reported in the plains is present in Puducherry.

Butterfly abundance

Pieridae family is comparatively diverse and well-represented in the region; they can be considered as trademark butterflies of the open scrubland. They are among the most abundant butterflies present year-round in Puducherry. This is because most of them have Fabaceae and Capparidaceae as host plants which are drought tolerant and well distributed across the region. Common Emigrant, Mottled Emigrant, Common Gull, Pioneer, Psyche, Common Jezebel, Common Grass Yellow and Small Grass Yellow are the most common Pierids of Puducherry. Common Jezebel is abundant due to the profusion of *Dendrophthoe falcata*, a parasitic plant that grows on invasive species *Acacia mangium* and *Acacia auriculiformis* which have become one of the dominant trees in wastelands of Puducherry. Butterflies like Plain Orange Tip, Little Orange Tip, White Orange Tip, Yellow Orange Tip, Great Orange Tip, Crimson Tip, Small Salmon Arab, Large Salmon Arab and Striped Albatross occur locally common along wetlands, sacred groves and roadsides where their host plants like *Capparis zeylanica*, *Cadaba fruticosa*, *Maerua oblongifolia*, *Azima tetraantha*, *Crataeva adansonii* etc. are present. Common Albatross, Striped Albatross and Pioneer are migratory and can be found in good numbers between May and July.

Many Papilionidae, Nymphalidae and Lycaenidae butterflies show seasonal abundances at Puducherry due to migration and host plant phenology. Among Papilionidae, the most abundant butterflies are Crimson Rose, Lime butterfly and Common Mormon due to the abundance of host plants like *Aristolochia indica*, *Toddalia asiatica*, *Citrus spp.*, *Atlantia monophylla*, *Catunaregam spinosa*, *Aegle marmelos* etc. in the region. Among Nymphalidae, Tawny Coster, Plain Tiger, Striped Tiger, Chocolate Pansy, Lemon Pansy etc. are common throughout the year while Yellow Pansy, Blue Pansy, Common Leopard, Great Eggfly, Danaid Eggfly, Blue Tiger, Dark Blue tiger, Common Crow are seasonally abundant. Among Hesperidae, skippers like Indian Palm Bob, Rice Swift, Straight Swifts, Indian Skipper, Rounded Palm Redeye etc. are common throughout the year.

October–February is the major flight season for Lycaenidae since some blues prefer to oviposit on the inflorescence of pea-family plants. A minor abundance peak exists during June–July. However, Lycaenids like Forget-me-Not, Gram Blue, Indian Cupid, Plains Cupid, Plains Blue Royal, Oriental Grass Jewel, Dark Grass Blue, Lesser Grass Blue etc. are common throughout the year.

Migrations

The butterfly communities of Puducherry are highly seasonal. Southward mass migrations can be experienced during South-west and North-East monsoon months. Hence, the best seasons for butterfly watching at Puducherry is June – August and October – December when the butterfly

abundances peak. The strength of migrations may vary across years. Some noticeable migrations are the South–West monsoon that of Emigrants, Pioneer, Albatrosses, Lime butterfly, Common Leopard, Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Common Crow, Double–branded Crow, Lime Blue, Gram Blue, Dark Cerulean etc. and North–East monsoon migration of Pansies, Danaid Eggfly and Great Eggfly. Common butterflies like Pansies (Chocolate, Lemon, Peacock, Grey, Yellow and Blue Pansies) and rare migrants like Joker migrate during both periods while Spot Swordtail and Painted Lady migrate during the onset of SW monsoon.

Rare butterflies

Among Papilionidae family, Common Banded Peacock, Spot Swordtail, Bluebottle and Common Mime are rare residents. Southern Birdwing is a rare vagrant reported from Puducherry (Davidar *et al.*, 2010; Murugesan *et al.*, 2013; Surendiran Ryan, unpublished, 2020). Among Pieridae, White Orange Tip, Large Salmon Arab, Great Orange Tip and Striped Albatross are locally common but comparatively rare. Among Nymphalidae, butterflies like Common Nawab, Black Rajah, Joker, Painted Lady, Double Branded Crow, Lascar, Chestnut–streaked Sailer and Dark Evening Brown are rare. Among Lycaenidae, butterflies like Indian Sunbeam, Large Oakblue, Centaur Oakblue, Leaf Blue, Small Cupid, Bright Babul Blue, Cornelian, Indian Red Flash, Guava Blue, Dark Cerulean, Dingy Lineblue, Monkey Puzzle, Apefly, Pale Grass Blue etc. are comparatively rare. Among Hesperidae, species like Common Grass Dart, Tricolour Pied flat, Grass Demon, Pale Palm Dart, Bush Hopper and White Banded Awl are very rare.

Invasive butterfly

A major outbreak of Rounded Palm Redeye *Erionota torus* (Hesperiidae) in the banana plantations was first noticed in central Kerala in September 2013. Soon it spread throughout Kerala and all of its neighbouring States. It was noticed in Puducherry in January 2014. This skipper butterfly is popularly known as Banana Skipper since its host is the banana plant, and is crepuscular in nature. The larvae hatch in batches; feed on the leaf from within the compartments made by tearing and rolling the leaf. Each leaf will have several such larval enclosures.

The previous record of Banana Skipper in South India is that of *Erionota thrax*, another species of Banana skipper present in West Bengal and North–Eastern States, recorded 100 years before. The original home range of *E. torus* in India includes Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar islands. The 2013 outbreak was considered to be an accidental introduction with contaminated banana propagules/parts. The infestation came under control within a few months of its initial outbreak through natural pest control by insectivorous birds. In Puducherry, the Banana Skipper infestation still remains to be a problem in localities where bird activity is low.

Ecosystems of high butterfly diversity in Puducherry

Sacred Groves

Sacred Groves in Puducherry region are remnants of tropical dry evergreen forest (TDEF) protected on the grounds of religious faith as the seat of indigenous deities by the local community. These groves occur in community land, temple land, Purambokku land (wastelands) and even in private land. Hence, they are under immense pressure of encroachment, fuelwood collection and other anthropogenic activities. About 70 patches of Sacred Groves have been identified in the Puducherry region, many of them have become greatly reduced to the deity and its immediate surroundings.

However, there are a few sacred Groves of 0.1 – 0.5 ha that harbour typical TDEF flora and native scrub vegetation. The noticeable among these are Abhishekapakkam, Keezhbuvanagiri, Mangalam, Mettupalayam, Poornamkuppam, Periyakattupalayam, Thirukannur etc. Many rare medicinal plants and native evergreen trees, shrubs and lianas can be found in these groves. The lianas, low height trees and shrubs produce stratification and closed canopy effects.

These groves are home for butterfly hostplants like *Capparis zeylanica*, *Capparis brevispina*, *Capparis sepiaria*, *Maerua oblongifolia*, *Cadaba fruiticosa*, *Drypetes* spp., *Azima tetracantha* etc. utilized by a variety of rare and uncommon Pierids like Crimson Tip, Plain Orange Tip, Little Orange Tip, Yellow Orange Tip, White Orange Tip, Great Orange Tip, Common Albatross, Small Salmon Arab, Large Salmon Arab etc., thus becoming a hotspot for these butterflies. Nevertheless, a few forest-preferring butterflies like Chestnut-streaked Sailer, Tricolour Pied Flat, White-banded Awl etc. were encountered mostly in these groves.

Wetlands

Puducherry has brackish water wetlands and freshwater wetlands. Brackish water wetlands consist of estuaries, lagoons and mangroves which are greatly impoverished in butterfly fauna. The freshwater wetlands consist mainly of tanks historically constructed for the purpose of irrigation and flood control. Puducherry has 84 tanks mostly located in the flood plains of Gingee and Pennaiyar river and its distributaries. These tanks were restored to their full capacity during 1999–2008 under the European Union-aided Tank Rehabilitation Project – Puducherry (TRPP).

Ousteri Bird Sanctuary and Bahour Lake are the largest among these tanks, spanning 800 ha and 600 ha respectively and a part of these lakes fall within Tamil Nadu State. Both tanks are Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and also butterfly hotspots. The boundary vegetation of these tanks has high occurrence of certain uncommon host plant resulting in local abundances of uncommon butterflies. Ousteri Lake has good butterfly hostplant diversity along its SW, W and E boundaries, and is a hotspot for Striped Albatross, Crimson Tip, Plain Orange Tip, Small Salmon Arab, different Lineblues (Common, Tailless and Dingy), Common Banded Awl, African Marbled Skipper etc. and also for rare migrants like Joker, Painted Lady etc.

Bahour Lake boundary vegetation on the south and east are abundant in butterfly host plants, nectar plants and alkaloid plant *Heliotropium indicum*. Due to such favourable vegetation, Bahour Lake is a natural butterfly garden and butterfly migrations can be strongly felt here. The lake is a hotspot for resident species like Small Salmon Arab, Large Salmon Arab, Striped Albatross, Crimson tip, Plain Orange Tip, Small Orange Tip, Yellow Orange Tip, Great Orange Tip, Grey Pansy, Striped Tiger, Angled Castor, Eggflies, Common Evening Brown, Western Centaur Oakblue, Branded Swifts, African Marbled Skipper etc. The uncommon local migrants like Spot Swordtail, Joker etc. and the mass migrants like Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Common Crow, Double-branded Crow, Lime butterfly, Common Leopard etc. can also be encountered at Bahour in the migratory months.

Kirumampakkam Lake in Bahour harbours host plants like *Cadaba fruiticosa*, *Azima tetracantha*, *Tragia involucrata*, *Ricinus communis*, *Hygrophila* sp. etc and consequently is a hotspot for butterflies like Crimson Tip, Plain Orange Tip, Little Orange Tip, Small Salmon Arab, Angled Castor, Common Castor, Peacock Pansy and Grey Pansy.



Crimson Tip laying egg on *Cadaba fruticosa* at Ousteri lake

Woodlands

Pondicherry University (PU), Pondicherry Engineering College (PEC), Anglo-French Textile Mill (AFT Mill), Rajiv Gandhi Veterinary College (RJVC) and adjoining PK Krishi Vigyan Kendra (PKKV) have considerable extend of vegetation cover and higher plant diversity and hence, can be considered as woodlands. PU and PEC are part of the Auroville plateau; are geographically contiguous and are located near the coastline. The PU-PEC complex has secondary forest and tree cover area of 400 ha and hence is a great place for observing both resident and migrating butterflies that prefer tree cover. The high plant diversity is due to the availability of larger patch-area and extensive horticultural introduction of ornamental, economic and invasive plants among the naturally occurring forest and scrubland vegetation that includes rare medicinal plants.

A total of 105 butterfly species and 108 host plant species are recorded from PU-PEC. It is a hotspot of resident butterflies like Common-banded Peacock, Common Mormon, Tawny Coster, Striped Tiger, Peacock Royal, Plains Blue Royal, Redspot, Indian Sunbeam, Large Oakblue, Western Centaur Oakblue, Monkey Puzzle, Common Pierrot, Emigrants, Common Gull, Common Wanderer, Common Jezebel, Tamil Bushbrown, Dark Palm Dart, Chestnut Bob, Brown Awl etc. PU-PEC also support good numbers of common migrants like Blue Tigers, Crows etc., uncommon migrants like Dark Cerulean, Albatrosses, Joker, Bright Babul Blue etc. and partial migrants like Pansies, Eggflies, Common Leopard, Lime Butterfly etc.

The Anglo-French Textiles Mill has 15 ha of secondary and degrading forest composed mainly of exotic trees and scrub vegetation. At present this forest patch is maintained by Puducherry Forest Department. A hotspot for Blue Mormon, AFT is also abundant with Pierid butterflies like Psyche, Common Grass Yellow, Orange Tips, Small Salmon Arab etc. The RJVC – PKVKK woodland complex near Ousteri Lake spanning 63 ha support over 60 species of butterflies, but is not systematically explored for their butterfly diversity.

Minor Butterfly hotspots

There are a few minor butterfly hotspots generally low in butterfly diversity yet support rare species or high abundance of common species. Bharathi Park located in the heart of White Town of Puducherry is a hotspot for Spot Swordtail. Pillayarkuppam village near Ousteri is a hotspot for White Orange Tip and Suthukeni Checkdam area is a hotspot for Lime Blue, migrant Danaids and resident Swallowtails. Alankuppam village in Auroville is a hotspot for Small Salmon Arab and Grass Demon. The village also support abundant numbers of migrant Danaids like Blue Tiger, Dark Blue Tiger, Common Crow etc since it has good density of alkaloid plants *Crotalaria juncea* and *Heliotropium indicum*.

Butterflies and their natural population control

Butterflies have natural enemies in each of the life stages from egg to adult. Many butterflies have evolved different mechanisms to escape from predation such as making themselves unpalatable by feeding on poisonous/medicinal plants, mimicking the appearance of unpalatable butterfly species, assuming a common appearance code, camouflaging, caterpillar association with ants, spiny caterpillar, larval leaf shelters etc. Still, populations of most butterflies are controlled at multiple levels through biological control and even by natural calamities. A major role in defining population structure can be assigned to parasitoid wasps, Potter wasps, crab spiders, Dragonflies, Robber flies and insectivorous birds. Parasitoid wasps are often host specific, which infect the butterfly larvae in egg or an early instar stage, develop inside the caterpillar and kill it during near pupation or pupation stage when the wasp larvae reach the cocoon stage. This mode of control is especially widespread in HesperIIDae family. To escape from the parasitoid infection, the skipper caterpillars feed from inside of a self-made leaf shelter.

Hundreds of butterfly larvae become food for both resident and migratory birds. The prominent caterpillar seekers in Puducherry are Indian Oriole, Black-headed Cuckooshrike, Common Woodshrike, Blue-faced Malkoha, Greater Coucal, Rufous Treepie, Common Iora, Yellow-billed babbler, Small Minivet, Warblers, Indian Pitta etc. During breeding season, many omnivorous birds like Brahminy Myna seek out caterpillars.



Blue-faced Malkoha feeding on Common Jezebel caterpillar.

Dragonflies and Robber flies catch small butterflies in flight while Potter wasps kidnap caterpillars especially that of the Pierid butterflies, stuff the paralysed victim in larval mud houses that would be later sealed, to be eaten alive by its developing nymphs. Crab spiders wait inside similar coloured flowers and on leaves to grab the unaware adult butterflies that approach for nectaring and oviposition. Palatable adult butterflies are hunted down in flight by birds like Green bee-eater, Blue-tailed Bee-eater, Black Drongo, Ashy Drongo, Ashy Woodswallow, Paradise Flycatcher etc. Resting butterflies sometimes fall to lizard predation while puddling butterflies are at the risk of frog predation. In this manner, good butterfly diversity and abundance indicates not only high plant diversity but also a healthy food web in the area, thus reflecting overall health of the ecosystem. In this context, the anthropogenic threats become a double blow for not only the butterfly populations but also the food chain they support.

Threats to the butterfly community in Puducherry

Puducherry is predominantly urban and fast developing due to its Union Territory status and tourism-based economy. The small size of the union territory coupled with ever-increasing land demand for developing the infrastructure, real estate and tourism sectors exert extra pressure on the existing butterfly habitats leading to rapid land use changes; destruction of native vegetation and encroachments on wastelands, wetlands and sand dunes. Butterfly host plants are constantly threatened by even ordinary activities like widening roads, cleaning the street sides, clearing backyard, building construction etc. Illegal dumping and burning of solid waste in wastelands and roadsides is another major problem that destroy butterfly host plants and their life history stages. Different butterfly-rich ecosystems face threats other than development too. The major threats are invasive plant species, application of pesticides, firewood collection, medicinal plant collection and hindrance to regeneration of native plants by entertainment activities.

The problem of invasive plant species is a double-edged sword as far as butterflies are concerned. On one hand, the invasive species displace and restrict many native butterfly host plants. On the other hand, butterflies aid in the spread of invasive species like *Lantana camara* by pollinating (thus aiding in fruit set) which is an abundant nectar source. Application of pesticides and weedicides in well-maintained gardens and farmlands kill hundreds of egg and larval stages of butterflies that use these habitats. Many of the 'weeds' that the weedicides kill could also be butterfly host plants.

Firewood collection and medicinal plant collection are only minor issues, but cause significant negative impact when the collection happens from sacred groves where rare butterfly host plants thrive and reach admirable proportions. Sometimes such collection happens as part of academic research. For example, the root of *Maerua oblongifolia*, the host plant of Large Salmon Arab, is a highly regarded ethnic medicine and at present the plant has become very rare in the sacred groves. The butterfly is correspondingly rare in the region due to the paucity of its host plant. Another threat is the perishing seedlings in sacred groves due to stomping and baring the understory ground by people for taking food, rest and get-together, which may lead to general regeneration failure.

However, the loss of indigenous values attached to forests due to the change in belief system is the biggest threat to the existing large sacred groves. A recent trend is the expansion of sacred grove shrines beyond its original scope into big temples by the local community in order to absorb the local deities into main-stream Hinduism projecting them as avatars of a popular Hindu Gods. This process involves clearing away the vegetation, installing sub-shrines, constructing halls and compound walls, and holding festivals, thereby shifting the reverence and focus from the sacredness of such forests to the deity alone. Such practices would undo the protection enjoyed by these groves through belief systems.

The anthropogenic activities leads to decline in butterfly populations, it can be mitigated and populations can be restored to a considerable extend through butterfly gardening, sacred grove restoration projects and native plants conservation programmes.

Table 1. List of butterflies of Puducherry region

Sl No.	Common Name	Scientific name
	Family Papilionidae	
1	Spot Swordtail	<i>Graphium nomius</i> (Esper, 1785)
2	Southern Birdwing	<i>Troides minos</i> (Cramer, 1779)
3	Southern Bluebottle	<i>Graphium teredon</i> (C. & R. Felder, 1865)
4	Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i> (C. & R. Felder, 1864)
5	Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium agamemnon</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
6	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
7	Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i> (Cramer, 1775)
8	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
9	Common Banded Peacock	<i>Papilio crino</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
10	Common Rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
11	Crimson Rose	<i>Pachliopta hector</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
12	Common Mime	<i>Chilasa clitia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	Family Pieridae	
13	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
14	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
15	Common Albatross	<i>Appias albina swinhoei</i> (Moore, 1905)
16	Striped Albatross	<i>Appias libythea</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
17	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
18	Three-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i> (Boisduval, 1836)
19	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i> (Stoll, 1780)
20	Plain Orange Tip	<i>Colotis aurora</i> (Cramer, 1780)
21	Little Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i> (Boisduval, 1836)
22	Crimson Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
23	Great Orange Tip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
24	White Orange Tip	<i>Ixias marianne</i> (Cramer, 1779)

Sl No.	Common Name	Scientific name
25	Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i> (Linnaeus, 1764)
26	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
27	Pioneer	<i>Belenois aurota</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
28	Common Wanderer	<i>Pareronia valeria</i> (Cramer, 1776)
29	Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
30	Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
31	Large Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis fausta</i> (Oliver, 1804)
32	Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i> (Drury, 1773)
	Family Lycaenidae	
33	Apefly	<i>Spalgis epius</i> (Westwood, 1851)
34	Indian Sunbeam	<i>Curetis thethis</i> (Drury, 1773)
35	Large Oakblue	<i>Arhopala amantes</i> (Hewitson, 1862)
36	Western Centaur Oakblue	<i>Arhopala centaurus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
37	Indian Red Flash	<i>Rapala iarbus</i> (Fabricius, 1787)
38	Slate Flash	<i>Rapala manea</i> (Hewitson, 1863)
39	Red Spot	<i>Zesius chrysomallus</i> (Hubner, 1819)
40	Leaf Blue	<i>Amblypodia anita</i> (Hewitson, 1862)
41	Monkey Puzzle	<i>Rathinda amor</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
42	Peacock Royal	<i>Tajuria cippus</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
43	Plains Blue Royal	<i>Tajuria jehana</i> (Moore, 1883)
44	Cornelian	<i>Deudorix epijarbas</i> (Moore, 1857)
45	Common Guava Blue	<i>Deudorix isocrates</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
46	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
47	Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes plinius</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
48	Common Lineblue	<i>Prosotas nora</i> (C.Felder, 1860)
49	Tailless Lineblue	<i>Prosotas dubiosa indica</i> (Evans, 1925)
50	Dingy Lineblue	<i>Petrelaea dana de</i> (Niceville, 1884)
51	Oriental Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria putli</i> (Kollar, 1844)

Sl No.	Common Name	Scientific name
52	Forget-Me-Not	<i>Catochrysops strabo</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
53	Pea Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
54	Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
55	Indian Cupid	<i>Everes lacturnus</i> (Godart, 1824)
56	Plains Cupid	<i>Chilades pandava</i> (Horsfield, 1829)
57	Small Cupid	<i>Chilades parrhassius</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
58	Common Cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i> (Cramer, 1775)
59	Dark Cerulean	<i>Jamides bochus</i> (Stoll, 1782)
60	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i> (Moore, 1865)
61	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i> (Kollar, 1844)
62	Tiny Grass Blue	<i>Zizula hylax</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
63	Lesser Grass blue	<i>Zizinia otis</i> (Fabricius, 1787)
64	African Babul Blue	<i>Azanus jesous</i> (Guerin-Meneville, 1847)
65	Bright Babul Blue	<i>Azanaus ubaldus</i> (Stoll, 1782)
66	Lime Blue	<i>Chilades lajus</i> (Stoll, 1780)
	Family Nymphalidae	
67	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i> (Cramer, 1775)
68	Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i> (Butler, 1874)
69	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
70	Striped Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i> (Cramer, 1779)
71	Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i> (Cramer, 1780)
72	Double-branded Crow	<i>Euploea sylvester coreta</i> (Godart, 1819)
73	Common Nawab	<i>Polyura athamas</i> (Drury, 1773)
74	Black Rajah	<i>Charaxes solon</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
75	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melantis leda</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
76	Dark Evening Brown	<i>Melantis phedima</i> (Cramer, 1780)
77	Tamil Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis subdita</i> (Moore, 1892)
78	Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i> (Fabricius, 1775)

Sl No.	Common Name	Scientific name
79	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
80	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i> (Drury, 1773)
81	Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hylas</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
82	Chestnut-streaked Sailer	<i>Neptis jumbah</i> (Moore, 1858)
83	Common Lascar	<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i> (Stoll, 1790)
84	Common Baron	<i>Euthalia aconthea</i> (Cramer, 1777)
85	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i> (Cramer, 1779)
86	Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i> (Linnaeus, 1763)
87	Joker	<i>Byblia ilithyia</i> (Drury, 1773)
88	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
89	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithiya</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
90	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
91	Grey Pansy	<i>Junonia atlites</i> (Linnaeus, 1763)
92	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i> (Cramer, 1779)
93	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
94	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
95	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i> (Linnaeus, 1764)
96	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
	Family Hesperidae	
97	Tricolour Pied Flat	<i>Coladenia indrani</i> (Moore, 1866)
98	Brown Awl	<i>Badamia exclamationis</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
99	Common Banded Awl	<i>Hasora chromus</i> (Cramer, 1780)
100	White-banded Awl	<i>Hasora taminatus</i> (Hubner, 1818)
101	Dark Palm Dart	<i>Telicota ancilla</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1869)
102	Pale Palm Dart	<i>Telicota colon</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
103	Common Grass Dart	<i>Taractrocera maevius</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
104	Grass Demon	<i>Udaspes folus</i> (Cramer, 1775)
105	Bush Hopper	<i>Ampittia dioscorides</i> (Fabricius, 1793)

Sl No.	Common Name	Scientific name
106	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
107	Indian Grizzled Skipper	<i>Spialia galba</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
108	African Marbled Skipper	<i>Gomalia elma</i> (Trimen, 1862)
109	Variable Straight Swift	<i>Parnara naso bada</i> (Grey Moore, 1878)
110	Evan's Straight Swift	<i>Parnara ganga</i> (Evans, 1937)
111	Rice Swift	<i>Borbo cinnara</i> (Wallace, 1866)
112	Bevan's Swift	<i>Pseudoborbo bevani</i> (Moore, 1878)
113	Small Branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i> (Fabricius, 1798)
114	Dark Branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas agna</i> (Moore, 1865)
115	Chestnut Bob	<i>Iambrix salsala</i> (Moore, 1866)
116	Banana Skipper	<i>Erionota torus</i> (Evans, 1949)

Plate 1. Some butterflies of Puducherry region



Common-banded Peacock.



Crimson Rose



Spot Swordtail



Blue Mormon



Lime Butterfly



Black Rajah



Double-branded Crow



Pioneer



Joker



Plain Orange Tip

14



Dark Blue Tiger



Small Salmon Arab



Striped Albatross



Indian Red Flash



Oriental Grass Jewel



White Banded Awl



Large Oakblue



African Marbled Skipper



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Butterflies Lifecycle

Common Crow (Scientific Name : *Euploea core*)



THE
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