

# BUTTERFLIES OF TAMILNADU



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Butterflies are realtime bio-indicators of a healthy environment and a healthy ecosystem. In Tamilnadu, the forest cover stands at 17.59% as of 2015 and over 323 species of butterflies were recorded during the British era. Our current recorded species is 312 out of which around 32 are endemic and these are spread out across different habitats of the state mainly in the Western and the Eastern Ghats. 'Butterflies of Tamilnadu' is the maiden effort by Tamilnadu Forest Department in association with Act for Butterflies.

We need butterflies more than they need us.

*Let them fly!*

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Published April 2018

## TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

In association with ACT FOR BUTTERFLIES

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Common Pierrot (*Castalius rosomon*) - Firos A.K  
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## About the Book

Butterflies are real time bio-indicators of a healthy environment and a healthy ecosystem. Areas rich in butterflies are generally rich in other invertebrates and they provide a wide range of environmental benefits including healthy pollination. A world without these pollinators will not survive, and over 75% percent of our flowering plants rely on bees and butterflies with the rest carried out by other insects such as wasps, flies, moths, beetles, etc along with birds and bats which also help move pollen from one plant to another. Bees & butterflies are the most important pollinators and undoubtedly have a major role in saving our native plants which directly increase forest cover.

In Tamil Nadu, the forest cover stands at 17.59% as of 2015 and over 323 species of butterflies were recorded during the British era. Our current recorded species is 312 out of which around 32 are endemic and these are spread out across different habitats of the State mainly in the Western and Eastern Ghats.

Out of over 1000 native larval host and nectar plants out of which a few are endemic to support these beautiful creations of Nature. A Few noted endemic & scheduled such as: Crimson Rose, Tamil Catseye, Nilgiri Clouded Yellow, Nilgiri Grass yellow, Malabar Banded Peacock, Malabar Tree Nymph, Palni Four Ring and Blue Oakleaf.

Butterflies of Tamil Nadu is the maiden effort by Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) in association with 'Act for Butterflies', the Environment Arm of the Registered NGO – ACT.

Highlights of the book:

1. The first book from Tamil Nadu Forest Department covering 312+ Species with Tamil Name.
2. Advanced Digital QR Technology used and directly linked to top Butterfly Database.
3. Guide to 32 important butterfly hotspots of Tamil Nadu with map.
4. Pictorial field guide for beginners.
5. Basic Guide for butterfly conservation.

Butterflies are widely used by ecologists to study healthy environment and the impact of habitat loss, fragmentation and climate change.

We wish you a pleasurable reading.

## Acknowledgement

Act for Butterflies thank Mr. Satheesh, DFO of Trichy District for the confidence bestowed on us and the constant encouragement and freedom to work on the book. Our sincere thanks to all the photo contributors who readily agreed to provide their pictures. Our Heartfelt thanks to the major photo contributors of the book Mr.Jeevan Jose, Mr.VKChandrasekaran, Mr.Balakrishnan Valappil, Mr.Gowthaman Ganesan, Mr. Sagar sarang and Mr.Firos.A.K. We also thank the experts in the butterfly fields, especially, helping us out with their expertise in the identification process. Special thanks to Dr.Gunathilakaraj, Dr.Pramod, Mr. Peter Smetacek, Mr. Isaac Kehimkar, Dr. Kalesh Sadasivan and Mr.Ashok Sengupta. We also thank Act for Butterflies team members Mr.Mohanprasath, Mr.Rajkumar, Mr. Rangarajan, Mr. Kishore Kumar and Mr.V.S.Kaarthi and their tireless support. Last but not least, we also thank many people who worked for this book day and night to bring the best output. We also specially thank Mr. Balachandran, Dr. Kalesh Sadasivan and Mrs. Ambika Seetharaman who Proof read, supported us, encouraged us, and constantly motivated for completion of the book, and our special thanks to Hi-Tech Printers who made this dream into reality by making an excellent book.

### **When the spirit of nature touches us, our hearts turn into a butterfly! – Mehmet Murat ildan**

Butterflies have always been considered as the epitome of beauty and grace. They not only brighten up our world but also remind us the fleeting nature of life. Poets have waxed eloquently about butterflies. To watch a pretty butterfly flutter its wings and settle down on a flower to drink its nectar is a sight of pure joy to us. Scientifically speaking, the butterfly plays an important role in our ecosystem; hence it is significant to preserve and sustain these beautiful creatures. They are indicators of a healthy environment. Unfortunately, the human-induced loss of natural habitats rings the death of knell of butterflies along with other species.

This wonderful book highlights various fascinating features of the species of butterflies that exist in the state of Tamil Nadu. Through learning about butterflies and their ecology, we can still hope to reverse the trend of nature loss. Spreading awareness of these beautiful insects is of great contribution to nature conservation.

This book is a must-read for the scientifically-inclined, as well as for anyone who has a deep concern for conserving nature and protecting the endemic species and their habitats. My special words of appreciation for the efforts of the Editorial Team, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, and to all who have contributed directly or indirectly in bringing out this invaluable book. It is hoped that many such books will be published in future to enlighten the public about the importance of nature conservation.



**- Dr. H. BASAVARAJU IFS**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Department  
PCCF Office  
Panagal Building, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 600 015

### **The butterfly counts not months but moments, and has time enough! - Rabindranath Tagore**

The most striking and enchanting nature of the fellow creatures that share this world with us, butterflies are close to our hearts. They bring joy to us and also form an integral part of nature. From the point of view of survival of life on earth, it is a matter of great importance that these fragile creatures are capable of warning us of the threats to our environment. Habitat loss and chemical pollution of the elements have taken many to the verge of extinction; many might be already extinct. By learning about butterflies and their role in the larger drama of life, we not only understand the world around us better but it would also compel us to act for nature conservation.

The book on Butterflies of Tamil Nadu would greatly enhance public interest, scientists and students of nature involved in the study of insects. It is a laudable effort to bring out a book on these special, colorful creatures about which we can read at leisure in our coffee table. The high quality photographs and informative text in the book would contribute greatly to the popularization of Lepidopterology - the branch of science that studies butterflies and moths. My best wishes to the creators of this masterpiece.



**- Mr. T. P. RAGHUNATH IFS**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden  
PCCF Office  
Panagal Building, Saidapet,  
Chennai - 600 015

**What caterpillar calls the end of the world, the Master calls a butterfly! - Richard Bach.**

We live in an era of unprecedented, catastrophic changes in nature. Climate change, man-induced natural calamities, habitat destruction and pollution of air and water have created irreversible changes in our environment. The soil is poisoned and forests all over the world are rapidly decreasing. Increasing human population and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources threaten the very survival of life forms. The fundamental reason for all this is the alienation of mankind from his environment. We have lost respect for nature, we do not love and care for our fellow-beings. This alienation is due to our ignorance of our natural world. So, it is highly vital that we educate people about nature conservation. The best path to this is through introducing different animal lives that share Earth with us. Butterflies and moths are some of the most beautiful of them.



Character and Beauty are two things that add value to a human being. It is a fact that the two are built only in times of great adversity. A calm, routine life doesn't speak of anything greatly achieved! While the Caterpillar has to fight its way out of its own cocoon flying out in unimaginable combination of spots and colors, the enchanting butterfly has to wing its way to the edges of a wild rock, a shrub, a tree or a stone near a rivulet avoiding the bewitched eyes and hands of the onlookers.

There are approximately 20,000 species of butterflies in the world. But there are still many thousands of butterflies and moths undiscovered or undescribed by scientists. India, with its tropical climate and a variety of landscapes attracts a substantial species of butterflies particularly during the rainy season. The biodiversity hotspots include the Western Ghats, the Himalayan ranges, and the hilly ranges bordering Myanmar. Brigadier William Harry Evans identified nearly 1439 species in British India.

Tamil Nadu is home to more than 300 species of butterflies. With Western Ghats Mountains on one side and the Eastern Ghats on the other, our repertoire is rich. Act for Butterflies and the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu deserve to be lauded for their great effort in publishing this book with excellent illustrations and information. I am sure the book will contribute to the conservation efforts of the Department as well as nature lovers of Tamil Nadu. I look forward to many more publications of this kind.

**- Mr. P.C. TYAGI IFS**

Rtd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Chief Wildlife Warden  
PCCF Office, Panagal Building, Saidapet, Chennai - 600 015



## TAMILNADU FOREST DEPARTMENT

Tamil Nadu has an area of 22877 sq. kms under forests which constitute 17.59% of the geographical area of the State as against 33.33% required under the National Forest Policy, 1988. The variability in climate, topography, soil, water resources, altitude and biotic influences has resulted in formation of different forest communities, commonly known as forest types.



The State has a spectrum of forest vegetation types ranging from wet evergreen forests to moist deciduous, dry deciduous, sholas, grass lands and scrub forests. Invaluable trees like Sandal, Teak and Rosewood and wildlife like Tiger, Elephant, Lion-tailed Macaque, Grizzled Giant Squirrel and numerous rare species of fauna and innumerable species of flora including important medicinal plants are found in the forests of the State. Tamil Nadu therefore, has adopted a compelling vision to inspire people to protect wilderness, the ecological diversity and species richness. The Tamil Nadu State Forest Act, 1882, The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and a host of regulations formulated under these Acts are being implemented by the Forest Department. Adhering to the best scientific principles and accommodating traditional knowledge, new socio-economically and ecologically sound paradigms for managing forests and wildlife have been incorporated in the management strategies adopted by Forest Department.

Tamil Nadu Forest Department (TNFD) comprises dynamic and dedicated forest officials working 24/7 to protect our forests, its flora and fauna. The forest cover can neither be maintained nor improved without their contribution, sacrifice and tireless efforts. TNFD System is like a pyramid with Anti-poaching Watcher at the bottom, next come Watcher, Forest Guard, Forester, Forest Ranger Officer, District Forest Officer/Wildlife Warden/Deputy Director, Director, Assistant Conservator, Conservator, Chief Conservator and Principal Chief Conservator at the apex.

Butterflies are one of the most conspicuous species of Earth's biodiversity and are recognized as useful bio-indicators, being extremely responsive to changes in environment namely temperature, humidity, sun light, rainfall and others. Studying these beautiful insects will thereby definitely throw light on impact of Climate Change as the life of a Butterfly, its breeding, nectaring and behavior is directly in sync with the diversity and quality of the habitat.



The Butterflies of Tamil Nadu is the first publication of its kind from TNFD. This book contains around 312+ Photographs with relevant information from across the state.

We believe this book should inspire many people to watch, record, and conserve butterflies.

## Tropical Butterfly Conservatory, Tiruchirappalli

“Conserving butterflies will improve our whole environment for wildlife and enrich the lives of people now and in the future.”



'Tropical Butterfly Conservatory' was conceived by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department to propagate the importance of butterflies. Our honorable former Chief Minister laid the foundation stone and inaugurated on 13th November, 2015 and dedicated the Conservatory to the general public. The mission of the conservatory is to create awareness amongst the people and to help them understand butterfly ecology and its importance. The Conservatory will also help to interpret and conserve the biological diversity of Tiruchirappalli district along with awareness initiatives and environmental education.

The Conservatory is at Srirangam in the Upper Anicut Reserve Forest covering over 27 acres. The Butterfly Park consists of an outdoor conservatory, indoor conservatory, a Nakshatravanam and a Raasivanam. It also have breeding lab for non-scheduled species, an open air theatre, a plant nursery, shade houses, ponds and fountains, models and signage's along with a children infotainment park and an eco-shop. The conservatory has 98 species of butterflies and 298 species of plants. Most of the plants are larval host plants, nectar plants for butterflies providing them with the sustenance they need.



Mr. N. Satheesh IFS  
TROPICAL BUTTERFLY CONSERVATORY

## ACT FOR BUTTERFLIES

Act for Butterflies is an initiative of Aeon Charitable Trust (ACT), an environmental NGO in Tamil Nadu. We have been working for over a decade to promote environmental awareness about India's most pressing environmental problems. We started the systematic documentation of butterflies in the state in 2012. We continue to conduct butterfly-related programs. Some of our recent activities were:

- May 2015 - Butterfly Walk in Kovai Kutrallam. Validated 103 species.
- August 2015 - Butterfly Walk in Kallar Reserve Forest. 36 members who contributed 138 butterfly species.
- September 2016 - Annual Butterfly Survey at Pachamalai Hills. Validated 105 species and recorded Emigrants migration from Pachamalai hills to the plains.
- September 2016 - Annual Butterfly Walk at Siruvani Hills & Vellingiri Hills in which 36 members participated from all over Tamil Nadu and neighboring states; sighted 138 species.
- June - December 2017 - Regular Bi-monthly Survey conducted at TBCT Park, Trichirapalli and validated 98 Butterfly Species.
- June 2017 - One Day Certificate Course on Butterfly Conservation was started with Tropical Butterfly Conservatory, Tiruchirappalli.
- July 2017 - Annual Butterfly Survey & Butterfly Race conducted at Kallar Reserve Forest with 42 members sighting 85 butterfly species.
- February 2018 - First official systematic Butterflies & Dragonflies Survey was conducted in Coimbatore District with 7 ranges. 120 members participated and contributed 197 butterfly species, 38 species of dragonflies and damselflies. As a part of the survey: Butterfly Race, Dragonfly Race and Photography contest was conducted and given awards.

We regularly train children for butterfly awareness and conservation activities. We are motivating and encouraging more and more butterfly lovers to watch record and conserve Butterflies in their locality.

We are extremely happy and grateful to Mr. Satheesh, IFS, District Forest Officer of Trichy, who gave this opportunity to work on Butterflies of Tamil Nadu Coffee Table Book. We thank him for the confidence, constant encouragement and freedom he gave us to work on the book. We have tried to share the joy we had in the field watching, observing, running behind, worshipping and capturing these flying angels through our hearts & lenses.



We hope you all would like this book and get motivated an active involvement in butterfly watching which would eventually lead into the conservation, not only butterflies but also nature as a whole. Together we can strive for a greener planet where all life co-exists harmoniously.

We need butterflies more than they need us.

Let them fly!

**Mohanprasath.P**  
Act for Butterflies



## EXPERT VIEW

I am truly delighted to see that the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in association with the Act for Butterflies have together put efforts to bring out this excellent book on butterflies seen in Tamil Nadu. This is really a very healthy beginning to see that the younger generation of Tamil Nadu taking keen interest to study and protect their natural heritage. Now we are witnessing a renewed interest in studying insects like butterflies, moths and dragonflies all over India, and I am glad that the Tamil Nadu Forest Department along with Act for Butterflies has taken a good lead in this pursuit.



Tamil Nadu has around 323 species of butterflies seen across the different habitats ranging from wet evergreen forests to moist deciduous, dry deciduous, sholas, grass lands and scrub forests. These habitats have some endemic species like the Nilgiri Clouded Yellow, Southern Birdwing, Malabar Banded Peacock, Nilgiri Tit and several more. In this book 320 butterfly species are described with colour photographs.

I am sure this book will draw attention towards the need to conserve and protect such habitats which has a rich biodiversity of fauna, including insects. India is one of the 12-mega diverse countries of the world, and Western Ghats is one of the hotspots for butterflies too. Butterflies like other wildlife are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act of India, 1972.

I must congratulate both the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and the Act for Butterflies for bringing out such an excellent book on nature's flying jewels. After reading this book, people are surely going to fall in love with nature. And once they start appreciating nature, they will surely strive hard to protect nature, which is now the need of the hour.

**Isaac Kehimkar,**

Deputy Director (Natural History), BNHS  
Joint Editor, Hornbill magazine, BNHS



## EXPERT VIEW

I am extremely happy to give the foreword to the book on BUTTERFLIES OF TAMIL NADU

Though designed as a coffee table book, it will enthuse all nature lovers by its beauty, namely the images. Images were contributed both by doyens like Kalesh Sadasivan and many amateur photographers. Visuals convey many things that words cannot and this book typifies it. It speaks volumes and volumes on the features of butterflies without the aid of words. I compliment the authors for bringing out a region-specific book and the sponsors, the Forest Department for supporting this venture. I wish and trust that such sponsorship may come for books on other faunal volumes also.



**Dr. K. GUNATHILAGARAJ**  
Butterfly Expert

Butterflies attract everyone. Due to their close association with the larval food plants, butterflies of an area indicate the diversity and richness of plant community as well. I am happy to see this wonderful Coffee Table book, a visual treat to all. This is a great attempt by the authors which will promote the love for butterflies to many more nature lovers in the coming years.



This book comes up with the first authentic comprehensive checklist of Butterflies of Tamilnadu. An excellent photograph of 320 species of butterflies of Tamil Nadu is the highlight. The authors have meticulously added many scientific details also to it. Another unique highlight of this book is the inclusion of hotspots of Butterflies in Tamil Nadu - information not available anywhere else at present.

This book is going to help all butterfly lovers and naturalists, who are interested in the butterflies of Tamil Nadu. I congratulate the authors of Butterflies of Tamilnadu, Act for Butterflies and Tamil Nadu Forest Department for coming up with this excellent work.

**Dr. P. Pramod**  
Principal Scientist  
Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology & Natural History, Coimbatore



## About the Authors

P. Mohanprasath is a Professional Psychiatric Social Worker, he was completed his PG- Master of Social Work and Specialized in Medical & Psychiatry. He is a Butterflifer, Birder, Photographer and Trekker. His interest in Nature & Society; he started a NGO: Aeon charitable Trust in 11.11.2011. As a part of Project Butterflies, he started a group called Act for Butterflies and documenting Butterflies in Tamilnadu & South India for the last 7 years. His keen interest on teaching and children, he started educating schools, colleges and common public on Butterflies and various nature related topics. He has been a member and core committee member in Salim Ali Naturalist Forum (SANF- SACON) from 2004 onwards. He also completed NCC Officer Lieutenant - Training in Officers Training Academy, Kamptee. Very recently he was recognized as Youth Active Citizenship Award by Arigauto International organized by Shanthi Ashram.



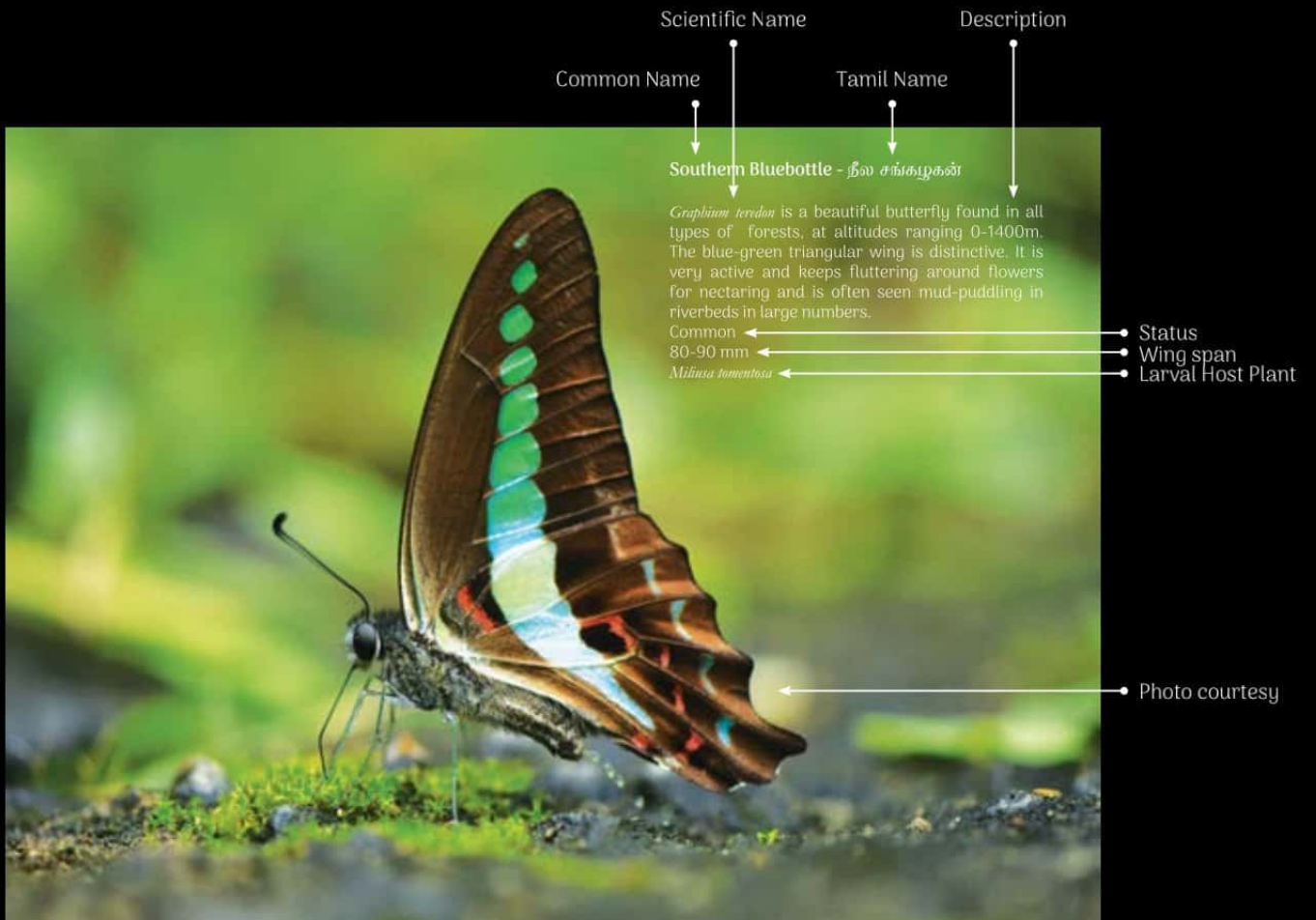
N. Satheesh is an Indian Forest Service officer of the 2003 batch, presently working as District Forest Officer Coimbatore District. He is a Post graduate in Forestry from Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He has demonstrated his academic excellence by winning a gold medal in the university. He has also bagged a medal in Wildlife management course during his IFS training in Dehradun. He has co-authored the book on Prey predator relationship study at Sathyamangalam and Forest Management in Tamilnadu: A Historical Perspective and the human dimensions in forest fire both at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve. He has worked as a District Forest Officer at Gudalur, Sathyamangalam and Trichy. Tropical Butterfly Conservatory (Butterfly Park) at Srirangam, Trichy is his major contribution.



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## HOW TO USE THE BOOK



## INTRODUCTION

Butterflies are beautiful creatures of nature with great importance as pollinator. Butterflies are found all over the world. There are approximately 20,000 species worldwide. Butterflies and moths are winged insects that belong to the order Lepidoptera. The name Lepidoptera comes from the Greek *lepis* meaning scale and *pteron* meaning wing. The wing colours and patterns are made up of thousands of these small dust-like scales. Butterflies vary from small to large sized, brightly coloured and have a conspicuous, fluttering flight.

Butterflies development is closely related to the evolution of flowering plants since both adult butterflies and caterpillars feed on food plants. There is an evidence from the five stunning amber specimens in 2004 that suggests it is possible butterflies may have even fluttered around the heads of dinosaurs, which wiped out 65 million years ago. "It was just incredible *Voltinia dramba's*, their closest relative (*Voltinia danforthi*- Ancient Metalmark) are now living in Mexico.

India has extremely diverse terrain, climate and vegetation, which comprises extremes of heat and cold, desert and jungle, of low-lying plains and the highest mountains, of dryness and dampness, islands and continental areas, widely varying flora, and sharply marked seasons. India forms a large part of the Indo-Malayan bio geographical zone; many of the floral and faunal forms show Malayan affinities with some taxa being unique to the Indian sub-region. Accordingly, India's diverse and varied fauna include a rich variety of butterflies and moths. Brigadier William Harry Evans recorded approximately 1439 species of butterfly from British India, including Ceylon and Burma. After 1947, the rise of several new nations led to a reduction of the area forming part of India proper, and the number of species dropped to an estimated 1318 species. Tamil Nadu is home to 323 plus species and the tentative check-list are prepared for Tamil Nadu for their occurrence.

Butterflies are grouped into 5 families- Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae, Lycaenidae (Riodinidae is treated as a part of Lycaenidae) and Hesperidae. Butterflies typically have a four stage life cycles (Egg - Caterpillar - Pupae - Adult). Some butterflies, especially in the tropics, have many generations in a year, while others have only one, and a few that live in cold regions may take a few years to pass through their whole life cycle. Butterflies are often have different forms (polymorphic), and many species make use of camouflage, mimicry and warning signals (aposematism) to escape from predators. Some, like the Monarch and the Painted Lady, migrate over long distances. Some butterflies have parasitoidal relationships with organisms including protozoans, flies, ants, and other invertebrates. Some species are considered as a pest because in their larval stages they can damage domestic crops or trees; other species are agents of pollination of some plants. Caterpillars of most species are herbivorous, but not all; some (about 1%) are insectivorous, even cannibalistic.



**Tamil Lacewing**



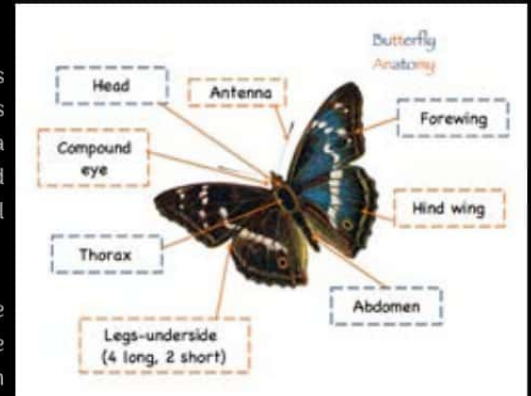
## ANATOMY OF A BUTTERFLY

Butterflies are beautiful creatures of nature with great importance as pollinator. Butterflies are found all over the world. There are approximately 20,000 species worldwide. Butterflies and moths are winged insects that belong to the order Lepidoptera. The name Lepidoptera comes from the Greek *lepis* meaning scale and *pteron* meaning wing. The wing colours and patterns are made up of thousands of these small dust-like scales. Butterflies vary from small to large sized, brightly coloured and have a conspicuous, fluttering flight.

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## BUTTERFLY FACTS



Antarctica is the only continent on which no Lepidoptera have been found.

A butterfly tongue is called as proboscis. Some sip flower nectar, tree sap, or salts and minerals from damp patches. Others may drink the liquid from decaying fruit and even animal droppings.



Butterflies are able to see light wavelengths from 254 to 600 nm, this includes ultraviolet light, a light that we are unable to see. Humans can see only 450 to 700 nm.

Butterflies can fly up to 30 miles per hours; Skippers have the fastest wing beats. Their wings were audibly at a rate of about 20 beats per second.



Butterflies cannot fly if their body temperature is less than 86 °C/ 55 °F (Fahrenheit)

Butterflies don't have lungs, but breath through openings on their abdomen called spiracles (white spots in abdomen).



Butterflies have chemoreceptors at the ends of their antennae and on the bottoms of their feet, they helps butterfly to smell and feel. Butterflies can't hear, but they can feel vibrations.

Butterflies live from a few days to a year maximum. Some butterflies hibernate during the winter in caves, under leaves, inside houses, and other safe places.



## BUTTERFLY FACTS



The egg is small, caterpillars grow faster, and they are also called as eating machine.

Butterfly's Colour is important in many ways. It functions as camouflage, to absorb heat, aids in finding a mate, serves as warning, and in many more ways.



Butterfly's wings are covered with tiny scales; these scales help the butterfly to fly and they are responsible for the colors on their wings. There can be 600 individual scales per square millimeter of wing surface, giving the wings a translucent appearance.

For protection, different butterflies use different defense mechanisms: camouflage, bad taste and smell, mimic the look of those eye spots terrible. Some caterpillars even have spots that make them look like snakes.



In some butterfly larvae (especially of blues), tentacular organs secrete a sugar-rich solution that attracts ants to feed on secretion. Ants in return tend to help caterpillar's needs and protect them from a variety of natural predators and parasitoids.

Monarch butterflies fly long distance of approximately 10,000 miles from Canada to Mexico.



Southern Bird wing is the largest Indian butterfly wing span is 190mm and Grass jewel is the smallest Indian butterfly wing span is 12mm in size.



## BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS



Active during the day (diurnal)  
Bright Colours  
Wings rest together and upright  
Straight and Clubbed Antennae  
Thin body



Active at night (nocturnal)  
Dull Colours  
Wings rest at their sides  
Feathered or Pointed Antennae  
Thick body

There are some exceptions

## FAMILY TREE



### Swallowtails (Family Papilionidae)

Swallowtails are easy to recognize large butterflies that usually have "tails" on their hind wing, frequently with some combination of black, yellow or blue markings. When landing on flowers for nectar, Swallowtails continue beating their wings instead of resting all their weight on it. Only Swallowtail caterpillars have a Y shaped gland called an osmeterium just behind their head that they can inflate when alarmed. Some species practice Batesian mimicry, in which the butterflies' appearance closely resembles that of distasteful species. Target species: 19



### Whites and Yellows (Family Pieridae)

These small to large butterflies are easy to separate into their two main subfamilies: the Whites and the yellows. Pieridae are moderately or fairly small sized butterflies in which majority of these are white or shades of yellow and orange with black. Pieridae are sun loving insects and males congregate at damp patches during hot weather to sip mineral moisture. Target species: 33.



**Brush-footed Butterflies (Family Nymphalidae)** Brush foots are the most diverse butterfly family and can be divided into twelve distinct subfamilies. Black, brown and orange are prominent colors here. Nymphalidae are medium to large sized butterflies and are also called as Brush-footed or Four-footed butterflies as their forelegs are modified and reduced to brush-like stumps. Some species look duller remarkably like dead leaves. The single character common to all Brush foots is their greatly reduced forelegs, giving the appearance of having only two pairs of legs. Some adults specialize in feeding on tree sap, rotting fruit, carrion or even dung. Non nectar feeding butterflies often have relatively short proboscises. The famous Migrants from our state, the Tigers and Crows belong to this family. Target species: 95



### Blues (Family Lycaenidae)

The Blues are named for the blue scales on the upper surface of their wings. Adults are usually small with a wingspan of up to 50 mm and are brightly coloured with a metallic gloss. These small gray butterflies usually perch with their wings closed. The antennae are dark with conspicuous rings around the shafts. The tails and dots in the tails are believed to mimic a false head to confuse predators. The caterpillars of most species are (myrmecophiles) having a parasitic, beneficial or symbiotic association with ants. Riodinidae which is sometimes treated as full family is treated here as sub family of Lycaenidae. Target species: 96



### Skippers (Family Hesperidae)

Skippers are usually small to medium sized brown butterflies. Some Skippers resemble moths, but unlike moths, Skippers have clubbed antennae. They land with their wings closed or only partially opened, somewhat resembling a tiny jet airplane. Larvae and pupae protect themselves in a shelter made by folding over a leaf of their food plant. Most Skippers have long proboscises enabling them to feed at a wide variety of flowers. Due to their large muscle mass to wing area ratio, Skippers tend to be strong flyers. Skippers are small to medium sized butterflies with orange, brown, black colors, though a few have iridescent scales. The flight is swift and close to the ground. Large numbers of skippers are crepuscular (early morning and late evenings) in nature. They appear to be sisters to the rest of the true butterflies. Target species: 80







## Swallowtails - Family Papilionidae

Swallowtails are large, colorful and attractive butterflies of the family Papilionidae, and include over 550 species worldwide. Though the majority of them are tropical, members of the family inhabit all continents except Antarctica. 107 species have been recorded in India of which 19 are found in Tamil Nadu. Papilionidae is the smallest family of butterflies.

The common name Swallowtail is based on the forked shape of its hind wings, which can be seen when the butterfly is resting with its wings spread. The spectacular species such as Kaiser-i-Hind, Bhutan Glory, Peacocks, Apollos of the Greater Himalayas, and the Dragon-tails of North-East India count among Swallowtails. The largest butterfly in the world, Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, (wingspan 250mm) and Southern Birdwing, the largest butterfly in India and the State Butterfly of Karnataka (wing span 190mm) are also Swallowtails. Southern Birdwing is common in Tamil Nadu forests. It is endemic to Western Ghats. Another beautiful species, the Blue Mormon, is the second largest butterfly in India as well as the State Butterfly of Maharashtra.

Swallowtails have many distinctive features; for example, most Swallowtails lay eggs in tender shoots. Eggs are spherical, broad, smooth or pitted and lay singly except in the case of Malabar Banded Swallowtail and Lime Butterfly. The Papilionidae caterpillar has a repugnatorial organ called the Osmeterium on its prothorax. The osmeterium normally remains hidden, but when threatened, it everts outward and emits a pungent smell, mainly to repulse ants, parasitic wasps and flies. The caterpillar is spindle-shaped, blunt ended with large head. The pupae are variable in shape, angular and supported head upwards by tail hooks. Adults of some species practise Batesian mimicry, a behaviour in which the butterfly's appearance closely resembles that of species distasteful to predators.



**Southern Bluebottle - நீல சங்கழகன்**

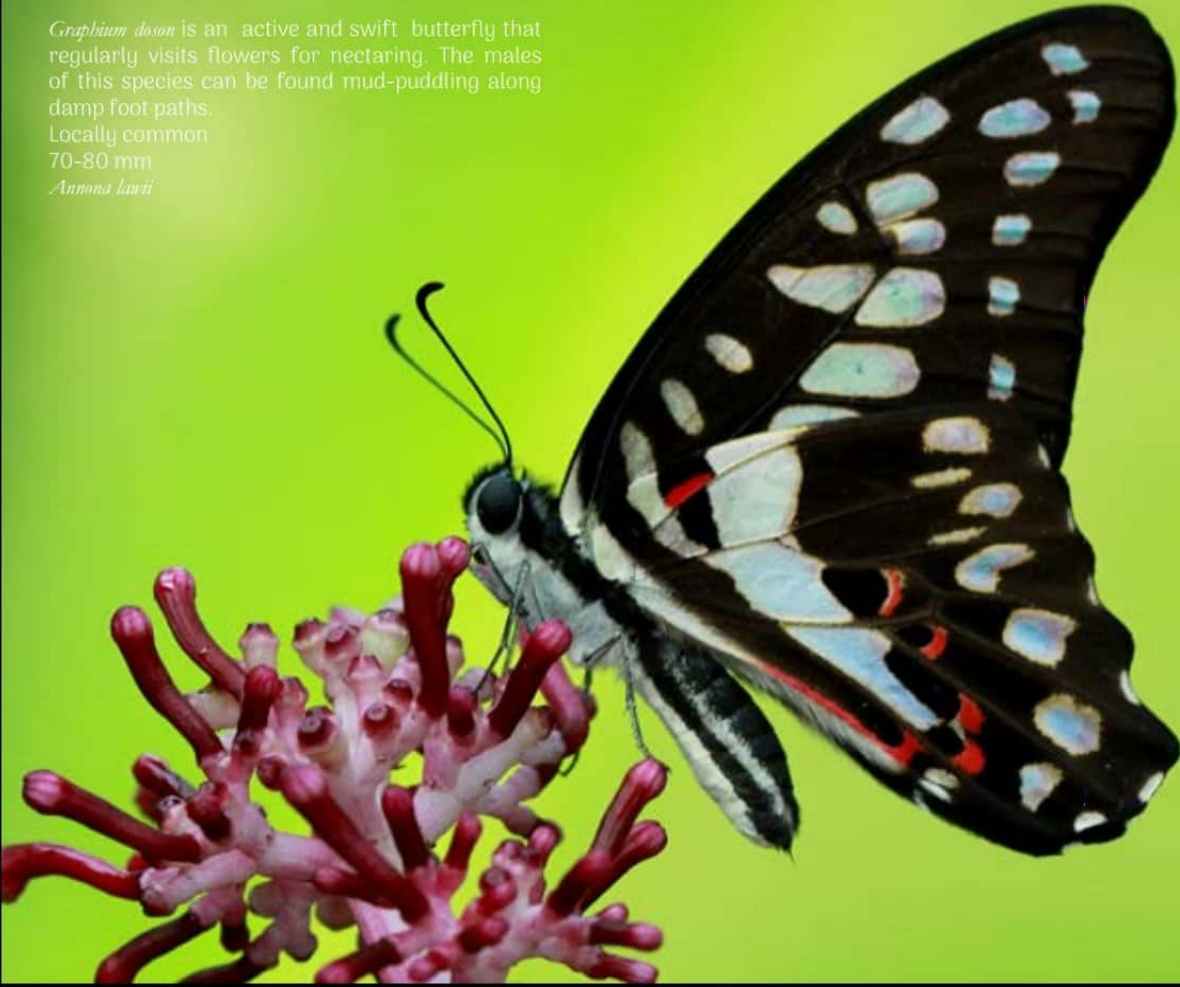
*Graphium terebon* is a beautiful butterfly found in all types of forests, at altitudes ranging 0-1400m. The blue-green triangular wing is distinctive. It is very active and keeps fluttering around flowers for nectaring and is often seen mud-puddling in riverbeds in large numbers.

Common  
80-90 mm

*Milusa tomentosa*

**Common Jay - நீல பொட்டழகன்**

*Graphium doson* is an active and swift butterfly that regularly visits flowers for nectaring. The males of this species can be found mud-puddling along damp foot paths.  
Locally common  
70-80 mm  
*Annona laurii*



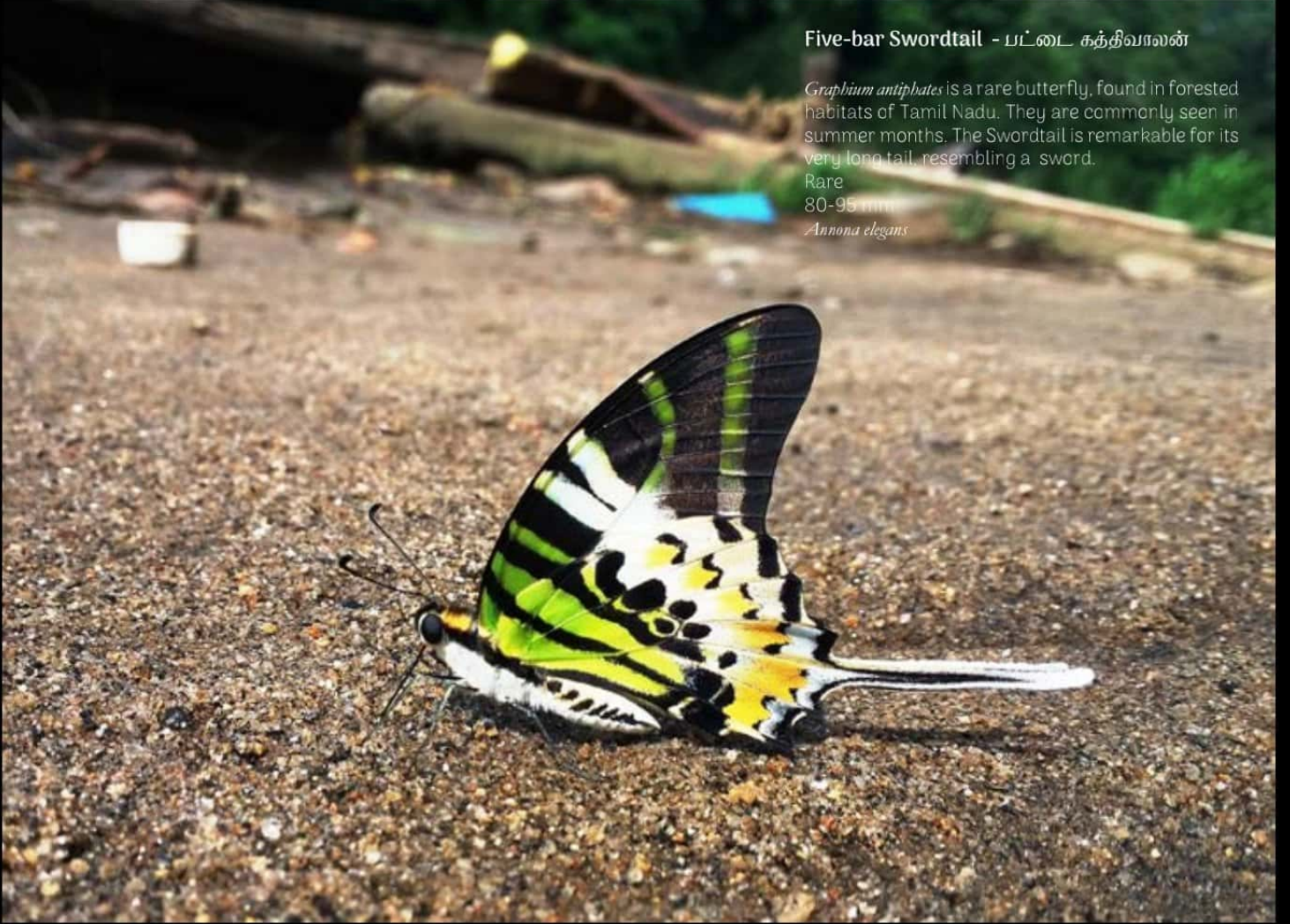
### Tailed Jay - மரகத அழகன்

*Graphium agamemnon* flits from flower to flower restlessly. They have green and black upper wings with emerald green spots and streaks. Found mostly in forest habitats; well-adapted to urban areas as well.

Common  
85-100mm  
*Annona discolor*







**Five-bar Swordtail - பட்டை சுத்திவாலன்**

*Graphium antiphates* is a rare butterfly, found in forested habitats of Tamil Nadu. They are commonly seen in summer months. The Swordtail is remarkable for its very long tail, resembling a sword.

Rare

80-95 mm

*Annona elegans*



### Spot Swordtail - கத்திவால் அழகன்

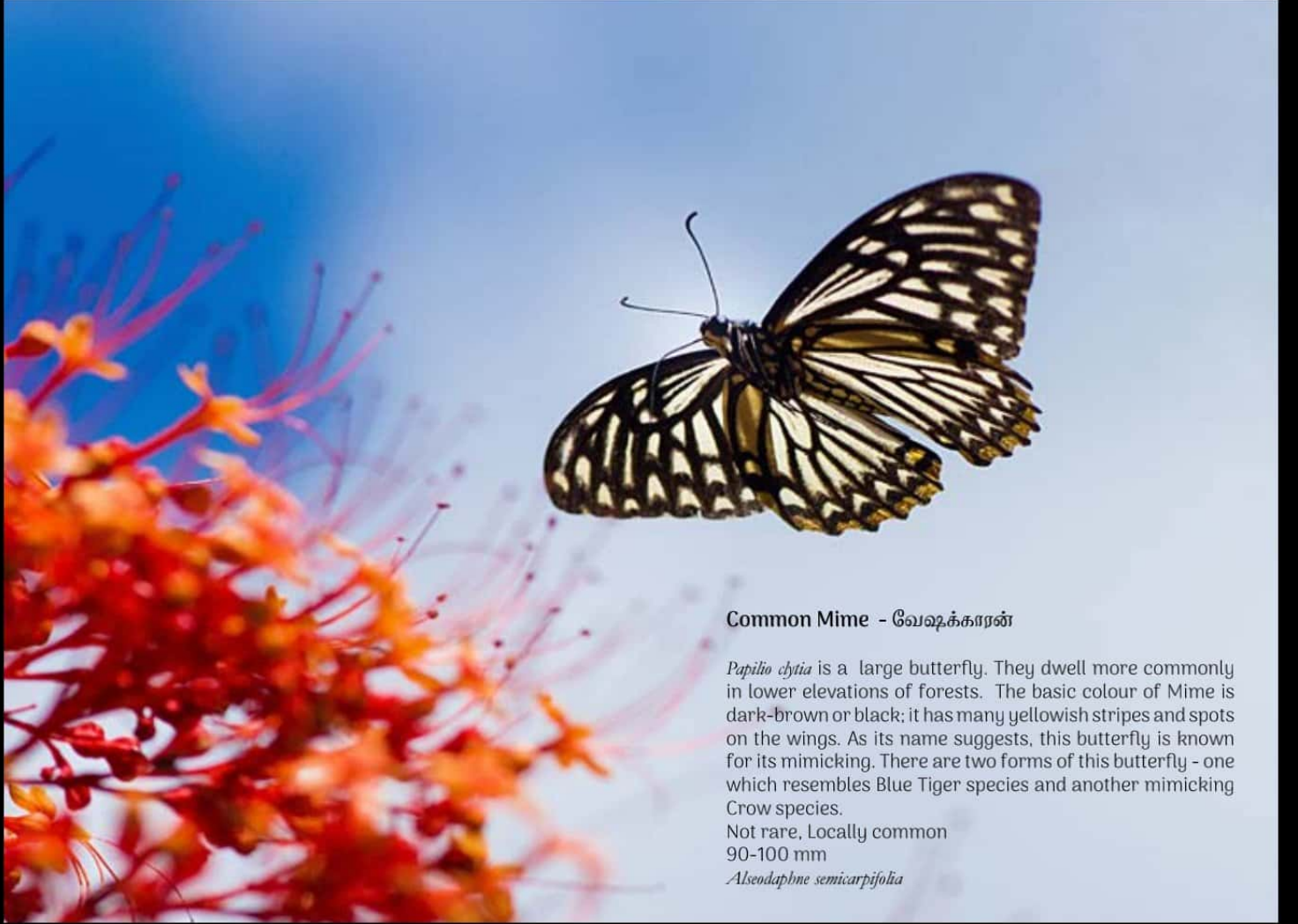
*Graphium nomius* is medium-sized. Has long sword-like tail and a prominent row of white spots arranged near the apex; hence its name, Spot Swordtail. Found below 3,000 feet, mostly in deciduous forest areas, among bushes. Large numbers gather for mud-puddling. They are more common in summer months.

Locally common

75-90 mm

*Militusa tomentosum*





**Common Mime - வேஷக்காரன்**

*Papilio clytia* is a large butterfly. They dwell more commonly in lower elevations of forests. The basic colour of Mime is dark-brown or black; it has many yellowish stripes and spots on the wings. As its name suggests, this butterfly is known for its mimicking. There are two forms of this butterfly - one which resembles Blue Tiger species and another mimicking Crow species.

Not rare, Locally common  
90-100 mm

*Alseodaphne semicarpifolia*

Common Mormon - கறிவேப்பிரிவை அழகன்

*Papilio polytes* is common and widely distributed. The female comes in three forms, first one resembling the male (cyrus form). Females mimic Common Rose (stichius form) and also resembling Crimson Rose (romulus form). Cyrus is rarer than other forms in Tamil Nadu. Female can be easily distinguished by its black abdomen. A Large numbers of males are found mud - puddling on damp grounds. Indian Curry Leaf is a favorite larval food plant.

Very common

90-100 mm

*Aegle marmelos*





Common Mormon - forms

Cyrus form

Stichius form

Romulus form

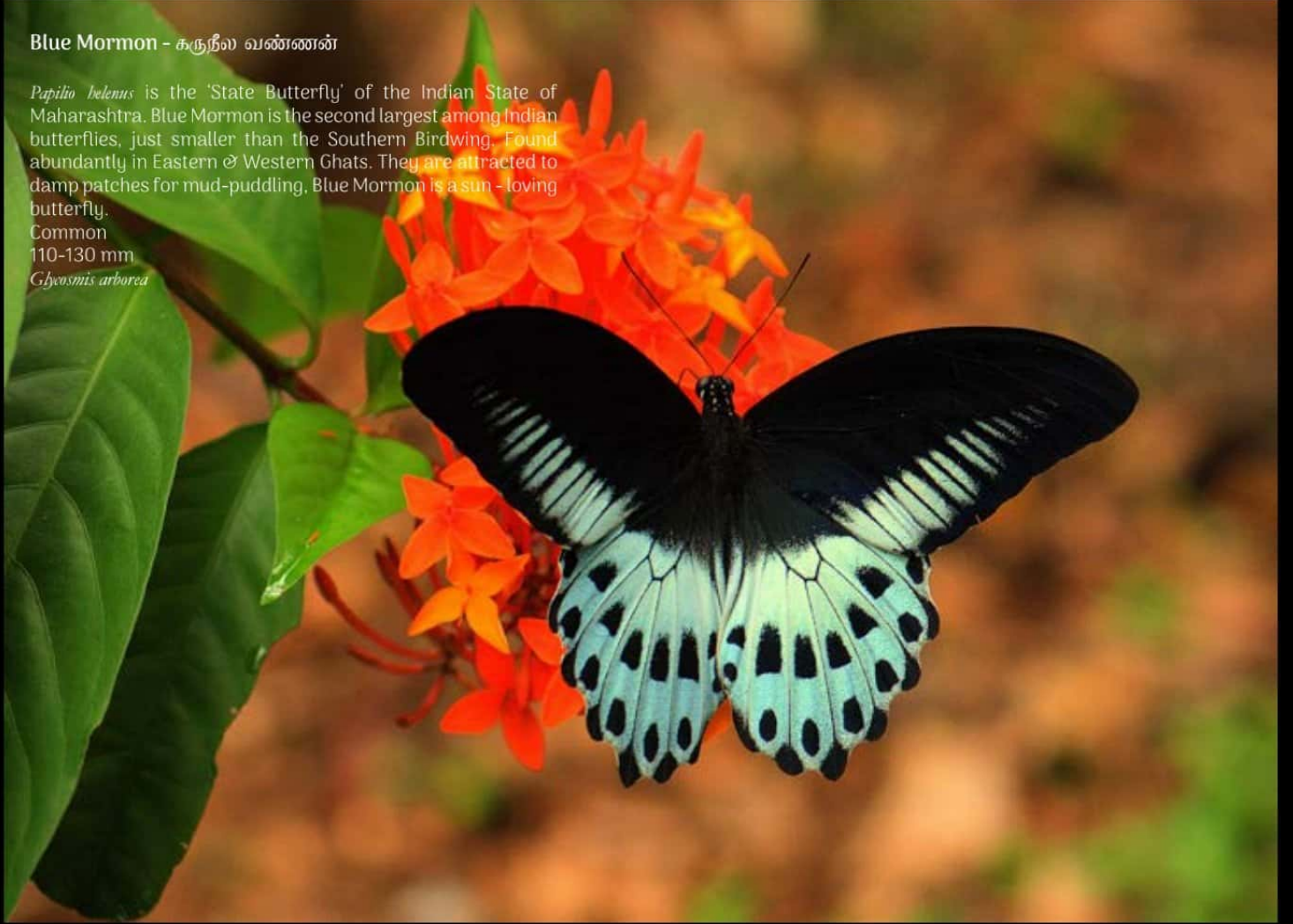
## Blue Mormon - கருநீல வண்ணன்

*Papilio belenus* is the 'State Butterfly' of the Indian State of Maharashtra. Blue Mormon is the second largest among Indian butterflies, just smaller than the Southern Birdwing. Found abundantly in Eastern & Western Ghats. They are attracted to damp patches for mud-puddling. Blue Mormon is a sun-loving butterfly.

Common

110-130 mm

*Glycosmis arborea*





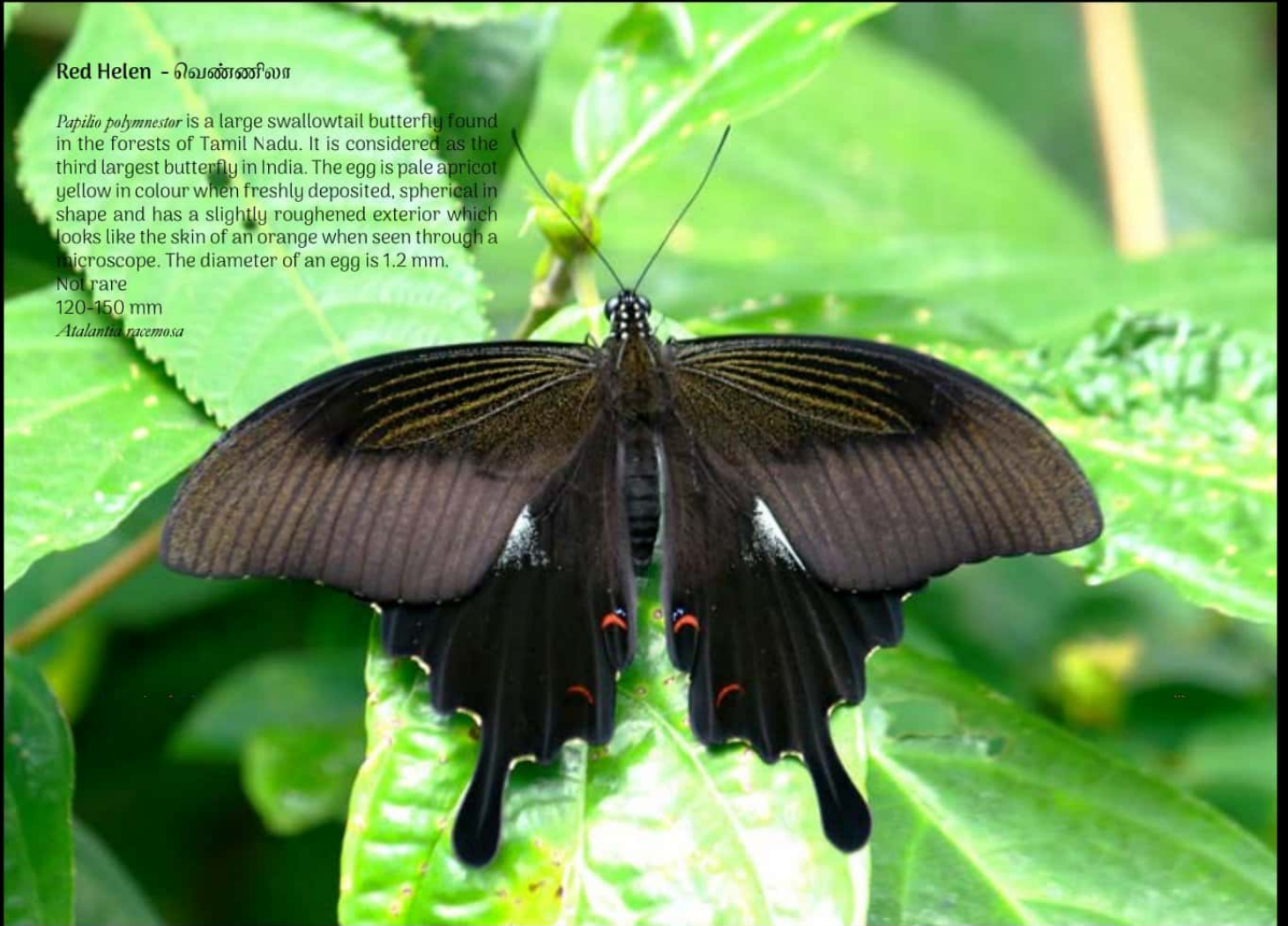
**Red Helen - வெண்ணிலா**

*Papilio polymnestor* is a large swallowtail butterfly found in the forests of Tamil Nadu. It is considered as the third largest butterfly in India. The egg is pale apricot yellow in colour when freshly deposited, spherical in shape and has a slightly roughened exterior which looks like the skin of an orange when seen through a microscope. The diameter of an egg is 1.2 mm.

Not rare

120-150 mm

*Atalanta racemosa*



### Malabar Raven - பொதிகை கருப்பன்

*Papilio dravidarum* is endemic to Western Ghats. The Malabar Raven is a blackish-brown tailless swallowtail; both the sexes are similar and are mimics of the unpalatable Common Crow (*Euploea core*). It loves shady places and is often found drinking at wet patches, especially during dry pre-monsoon days.

Uncommon

80-120 mm

*Glycosmis arborea* (Rutaceae)





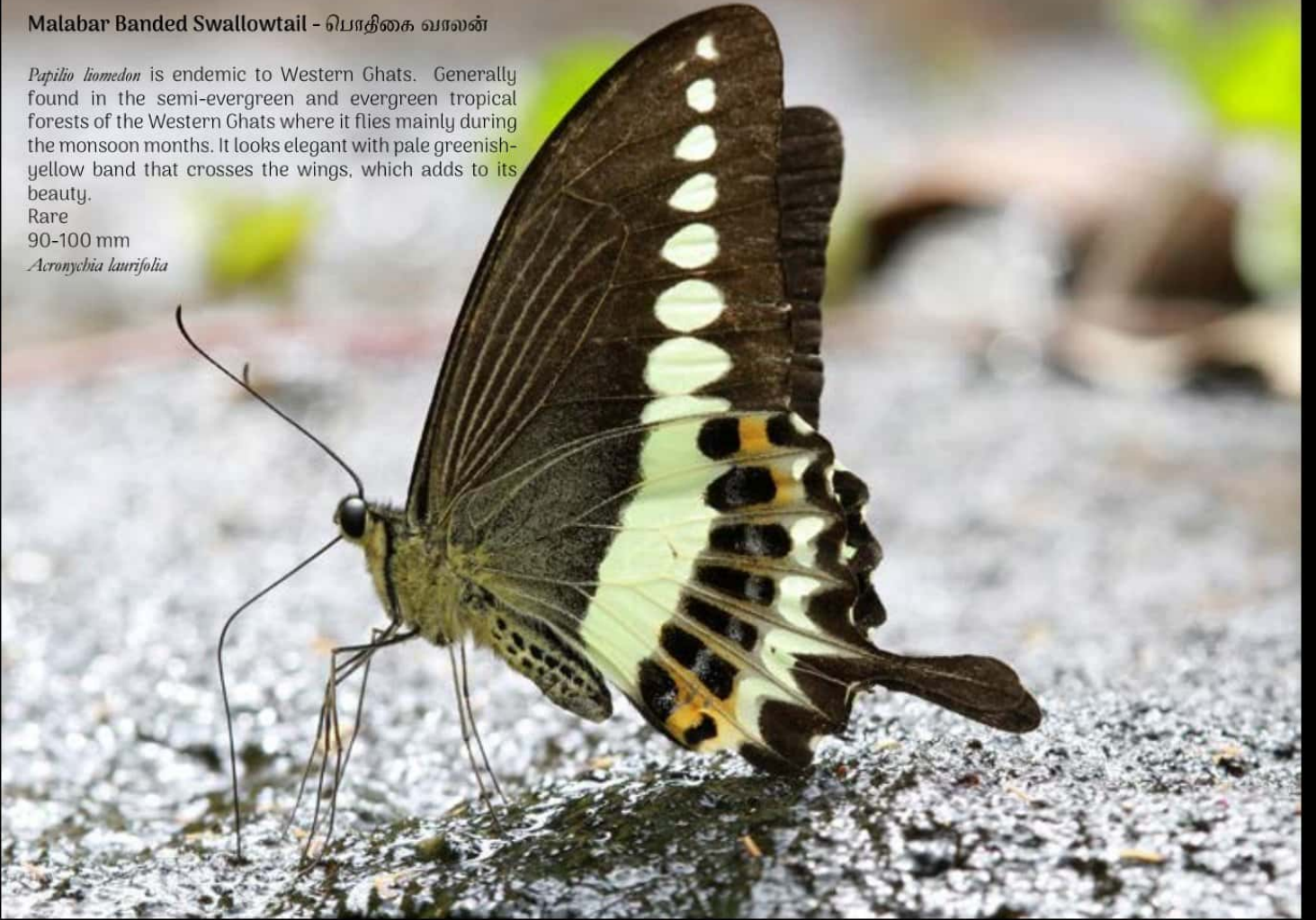
**Malabar Banded Swallowtail - പൊതുകൈ വാലൻ**

*Papilio liomedon* is endemic to Western Ghats. Generally found in the semi-evergreen and evergreen tropical forests of the Western Ghats where it flies mainly during the monsoon months. It looks elegant with pale greenish-yellow band that crosses the wings, which adds to its beauty.

Rare

90-100 mm

*Acronychia laurifolia*



### Lime Butterfly - எலுமிச்சை அழகன்

*Papilio demoleus* is a common and widespread swallowtail butterfly. The butterfly is also known as the Common Lime Butterfly, Lemon Butterfly and Lime Swallowtail. Unlike most swallowtail butterflies, it does not have a prominent tail.

It is considered a pest of Citrus fruits; it is palatable and doesn't mimic.

Very common

80-100 mm

*Aegle marmelos*







Paris Peacock - கருநீல மயில் அழகன்

*Papilio paris* is found in both Eastern and Western Ghats. The attractive emerald green colour and the shining blue patch in between the fore wing and hind wing is strikingly beautiful. It loves to mud-puddle alone and in groups. This species is found in rainforest and humid deciduous forest.

Not rare  
90-140 mm

*Erodia roxburghiana*





### Common Banded Peacock

- நீலமயில் அழகன்

*Papilio crino* is one of the most beautiful swallowtails in India; quite common in TN and rare in other States. They are the fast flier with wavering flight, and abundant mostly during south-west monsoon periods. It has a brownish black upper side, with green scales; both wings have a bluish green discal band. The hind wing is marked with a green or blue-tipped tail.

Not common

80-100 mm

*Chloracylon swietenia*

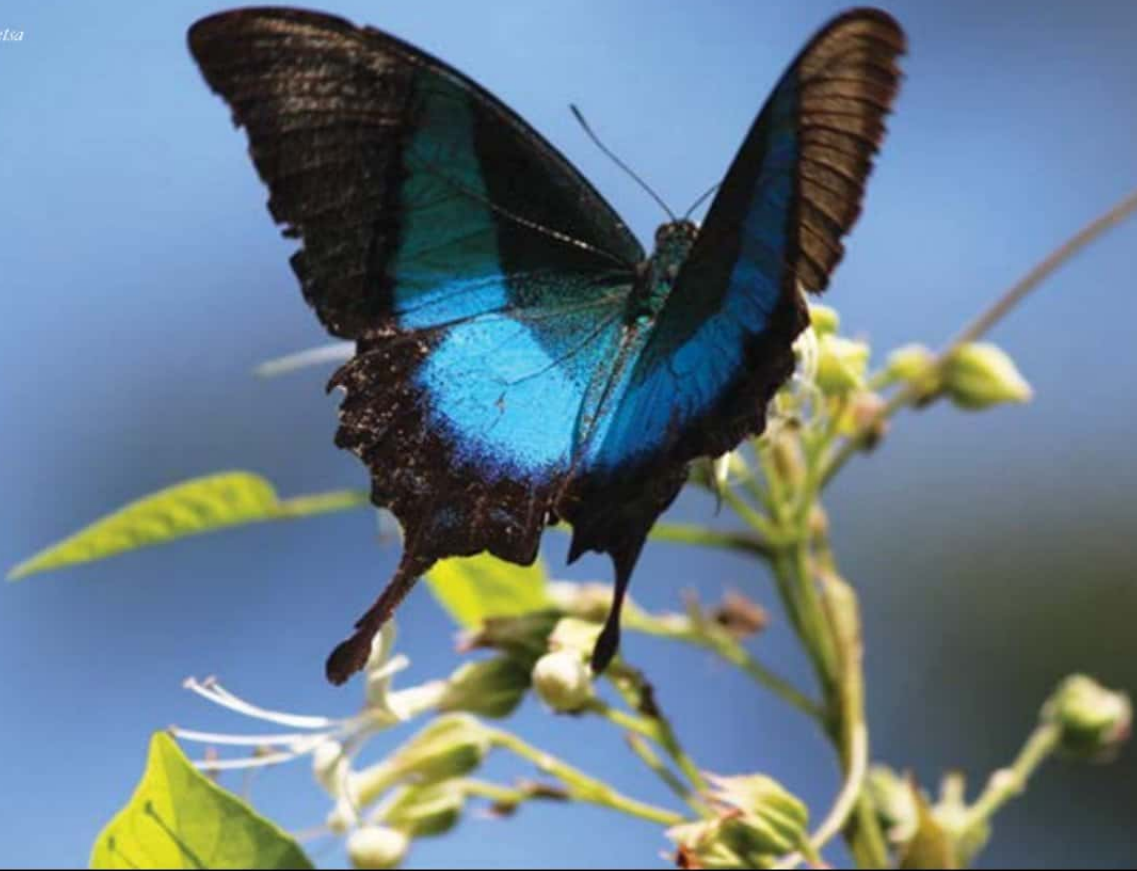
### Malabar Banded Peacock - பொதிகை மயில் அழகன்

*Papilio buddha* is endemic to Western Ghats. A charismatic butterfly, TN has very few records of P.buddha in recent times. The wing has a black with dazzling greenish colour and thick blue bands.

Rare, locally common

90-100 mm

*Zanthoxylum rhetsa*





### Common Rose - ராணி

*Pachliopta aristolochiae* is a red - bodied swallowtail with black wings, common and widely distributed in Tamil Nadu. *P. aristolochiae* can be found everywhere - flowering gardens, crowded cities, open country and dense forests. The scientific name derived from its host plant; *Aristolochiae indica*. It is a climber medicinal plant known for curative properties for poisonous bites.

Common

80-110 mm

*Aristolochia bracteolata*





**Malabar Rose - பெர்திதைக அரசி**

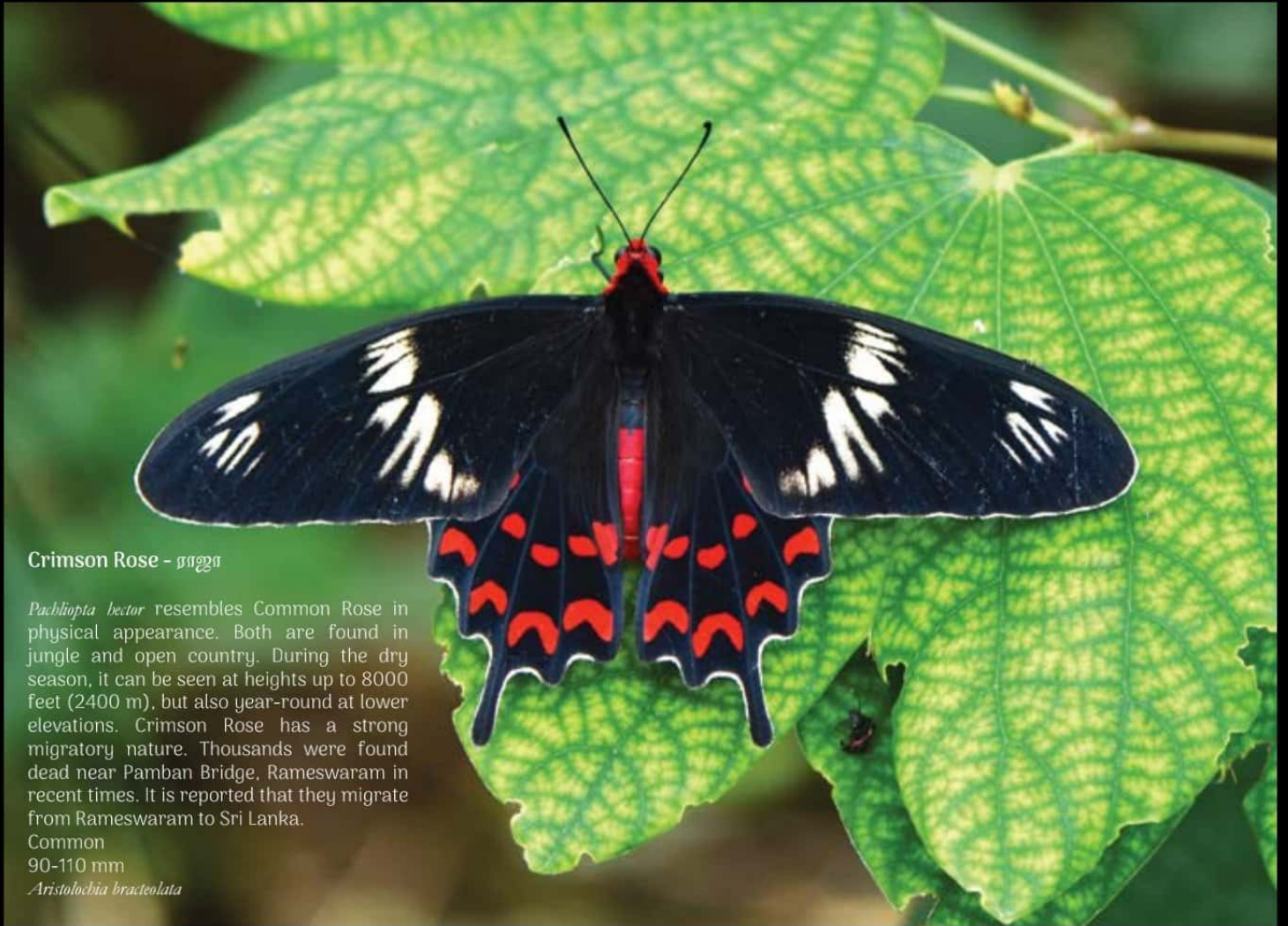
*Pachliopta pandiyana* is a red-bodied swallowtail and endemic to South India. It resembles the Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*) from which it can be differentiated by the much larger white patch on its hind wings. Slow flier. Found only in evergreen forests.

Locally common

100-130 mm

*Thottea siliquosa* (*Aristolochiaceae*)





**Crimson Rose - பரத்தா**

*Pachliopta hector* resembles Common Rose in physical appearance. Both are found in jungle and open country. During the dry season, it can be seen at heights up to 8000 feet (2400 m), but also year-round at lower elevations. Crimson Rose has a strong migratory nature. Thousands were found dead near Pamban Bridge, Rameswaram in recent times. It is reported that they migrate from Rameswaram to Sri Lanka.

Common  
90-110 mm

*Aristolochia bracteolata*



## Southern Birdwing - பெண்ணழகன்

*Troides minos* is endemic to Western Ghats. It is the largest butterfly in India as well as the 'State Butterfly' of the Indian State of Karnataka. They fly around jungles in good heights; flight is slow and leisurely, but covers long distances. The male has attractive golden yellow colour; black wings with thin white veins and attractive yellow spots in the hind wing. Tailless. The females are comparatively larger than the males but duller in colour.

Not rare

140-190 mm

*Aristolochia indica*







## WHITES & YELLOWS PIERIDAE

The Pieridae are the largest family of butterflies with approximately 76 genera containing about 1,100 species, mostly from tropical Africa and tropical Asia with some varieties in the more northern regions of North America. 109 species have been reported in India with 32/33 in Tamil Nadu.

Most pierid butterflies are white, yellow, or orange in coloration, often with black spots. The pigments that give the distinct coloring to these butterflies are derived from waste products in the body and are a characteristic of this family. The name "butter-fly" is in fact derived from the Brimstone members of pieridae, due to their yellow or butter-like wing colour. The sexes usually differ, often in the pattern or number of the black markings. The eggs are tall, bottle shaped, ribbed, and colored white to yellow or orange and red. The larvae are smooth and cylindrical, usually covered with hairy ended tubercles. Pieridae are sun loving insects with males can often be found in large congregations on river banks or on damp patches. Males of many species exhibit gregarious, mud-puddling behavior when they imbibe salts from moist soils. And the reward is better reproductive success.

The Pieridae are well known for their large-scale migration. Migrating in millions, the Emigrants, Albatrosses and Cabbage Whites can be seen extensively in Tamil Nadu & Kerala. Some species are more specific to certain areas, such as Nilgiri Clouded Yellow, Nilgiri Grass Yellow and Painted Jezebels.



**1. One-spot Grass Yellow - ஒரு புள்ளி மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema andersoni* is a small butterfly of lowland forests. It is also known as Anderson's Grass Yellow. The name Grass Yellow is derived from the fact that most species are found to fly around grass. They have only one spot in the forewing. Not rare, 38-45 mm, Data deficient

**2. Common Grass Yellow - மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema hecabe* is a small and very common butterfly which is broadly distributed in TN. They are found flying close to the ground, open grass lands and scrub habitats. The female is larger and a paler yellow, with broader black but diffused markings on the upper sides of both wings. The color of body is dull green with white during the larval stage. Common, 40-50 mm, *Cassia fistula*

**3. Three-spot Grass Yellow - முப்புள்ளி மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema blanda* is a small butterfly, found in grasslands. The upper-side of this butterfly is bright yellow in colour; the forewing outer border is black, underside has a reddish brown patch and 3 small black spots in the cell. It resembles the Common Grass Yellow, but the cell spots can be differentiated. Common, 40-45 mm, *Delonix regia*





**1. Small Grass Yellow - சிறு மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema brigitta*, is smaller compared to other Grass Yellows occurring in TN; There are two seasonal variations; the hind wing has a dark grey marking in wet season form and in dry season form they have a pinkish orange border. Common, 30-40 mm, *Cassia kleinii*

**2. Spotless Grass Yellow - புள்ளியில்லா மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema laeta* is a small butterfly of the family Pieridae, which is found in India, Sri Lanka and onwards to Australia. Adults fly closely to the ground and grasslands. Different from other Grass Yellows, their wings are pale yellow with no spots. Common, 30-45 mm, *Cassia pumila*

**3. Nilgiri Grass Yellow - நீலகிரி மஞ்சளாத்தி**

*Eurema nilgiriensis* is a common butterfly, which is found only in specific areas with 800-1200 meter elevations. In 1990 recorded and described by Yata in Nilgris, after which no records for more than 26 years. Rare, locally common, 38-45 mm, Data deficient

### Mottled Emigrant - அவரை வெள்ளையன்

*Catopsilia pyranthe* is a medium sized butterfly that resembles Common Emigrant. The butterfly gets its name due to the presence of wings with greenish white and the forewing has a black apical border and a black cell-end spot, which gives this species a 'mottled' look. They migrate in large numbers along with Common Emigrants. The host plant of both emigrants is Cassia Species.

Common, 50-70 mm

*Cassia auriculata*



### Common Emigrant - கொண்ணை வெள்ளையன்

*Catopsilia pomona* is a very common medium sized butterfly found in TN. They are known for their strong migratory behaviour. The species gets its name from its habit of migration. During these migrations the males, can be observed congregating in large groups on riverbanks where they settle for long periods to drink minerals and salt moisture. Common Emigrants exists in 6 different forms namely f. alcmeone, f. crocale, f. jugurtha, f. hilaria, f. pomona and f. catilla. Identification of Emigrant species requires expertise. Common, 55-80 mm

*Bauhinia racemosa*

Common Emigrant Different Forms - கொண்னை வெள்ளையன்





Nilgiri Clouded Yellow - நீலகிரி மேக மஞ்சளாத்தி

*Colias nilagiriensis* is a rare and beautiful butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats. They are found only in grasslands of hilly areas above 1500 mts. Males have bright yellowish green wings with thin prominent pink borders, females look dull.

Common, 45-55 mm

*Parochetus communis*





**1. Crimson-tip - கருஞ்சிவப்பு நுனிச்சிறகன்**

*Colotis danae* is a small butterfly with crimson tipped wings. Fond of open, sunny and dry habitats. Strong flier. Not rare, 40-50 mm

*Cadaba fruticosa*

**2. Small Orange-tip - சின்ன ஆரஞ்சு நுனிச்சிறகன்**

*Colotis etrida* is a common, widespread butterfly species in South India. The males are unmistakable; white butterflies with bright orange wingtips. Females are white with black wingtips. Both have mottled green under wings. Flight is feeble and close to ground. Common, 25-45 mm

*Cadaba fruticosa*



**1. Plain Orange-tip - ஆரஞ்சு நனிச்சிறகன்**

*Colotis aurora* is also known as the Sulphur Orange Tip. This sun and nectar loving butterfly is found in dry habitats. Locally common, 40-45mm  
*Colotis aurora* (Capparaceae)

**2. White Orange-tip - வெண் ஆரஞ்சு நனிச்சிறகன்**

*Isias Marianne* is a medium sized butterfly, common in Tamil Nadu. They frequently visit gardens and hedgerows, the males are unmistakable; white with orange tips on wings, mostly seen in dry habitats. Common, 40-50mm  
*Isias Marianne* spp. (salvadoraceae)

**3. Yellow Orange-tip - மஞ்சள் ஆரஞ்சு நனிச்சிறகன்**

*Isias pyrene* is a medium sized butterfly of yellows and whites and abundant in South India. Males have orange wingtips and broad dark brown margins, on either a yellow or white ground colour, depending on the species. Females are similar but have more extensive dark markings. Common, 50-70mm  
*Isias pyrene* spp. (Capparis deciduas)





**1. Great Orange-tip - பெருஞ்சீறகன்**

*Hebomoia glaucippe* is a large butterfly belonging to the Pieridae family; it is abundant in forests, hills, and in areas of heavy rainfall and rare in the open plains. Males frequently indulge in mud-puddling activity along with other white and yellow butterflies. Common, 80-100mm

*Capparis moonii*

**2. Small Salmon Arab - சரஸ்மன் அரரப்**

*Colotis amata* is a small pink coloured butterfly, found commonly throughout the hot arid areas including coastal grassland, Acacia scrub, savannah, farmland, and large clearings in dry forests. Seen at altitudes between sea level and about 1200 m. Common, 35-50 mm

*Salvadora persica*

**3. Large Salmon Arab - பெரிய சரஸ்மன் அரரப்**

*Colotis fausta* is a medium sized butterfly; it is commonly seen in hot, arid, dry open areas, valleys, rocky gorges and rarely in forest habitats. They love sunlight, are fond of flowers and frequently settle on them for nectaring. Not rare, 40-50mm

*Maerua oblongifolia*

**Dark Wanderer - கருநீல நரடோடி**

*Pareronia ceylanica* are attractive and confined to higher elevations with heavy rainfall areas. The male of dark wanderer are pale blue in colour with thick black borders.

Common  
65-80mm

*Capparis rheedii* (Capparaceae)



**Common Wanderer - நீல நரடோடி**

*Pareronia valeria* is a beautiful blue coloured butterfly, mostly seen in lower elevations. The female of common wanderer mimics Blue Tiger. Common Wanderer is occasionally seen in a special yellow form named Philomela.

Common  
65-80mm  
*Capparis rheedii*

**Striped Albatross - வரி வெள்ளையன்**

*Appias libythea* is a medium sized butterfly mostly found in dry habitats. The fast flying adults are most active in sunny weather, frequently visiting flowers and indulging in mud-puddling for minerals.

Uncommon

50-60mm

*Capparis cleghornii*





**Chocolate Albatross - சாக்லெட் வெள்ளையன்**

*Appias lycida* is a beautiful butterfly with yellow, white and black colours on its wings. Flight is rapid. They prefer group mud-puddling in riverine damp patches. Locally common  
55-70mm  
*Capparis clegbornii*



**Plain Puffin - பசிபின்**

*Appias indra* is a small pale yellow colour butterfly, seen during monsoons in moist forests. Rare in south India. 60-70mm

*Drypetes oblongifolia*

**Spot Puffin - புள்ளி பசிபின்**

*Appias lalage* is a small butterfly, which is found in moist evergreen forests and hilly regions of TN. They are rare and males are fond of settling on flowers.

Not rare  
55-80mm

*Data deficient*





**Common Albatross - பருபலா வெள்ளையன்**

*Appias albina* is a white coloured butterfly seen in deciduous and evergreen forests. Fast fliers, known to migrate. Males are seen mud-puddling in very large groups. It is seen in two uncommon female forms namely flava and semi-flava.

Common  
60-75mm

*Drypetes oblongifolia*







**1. Lesser Albatross - மங்கிய மஞ்சாடை**

*Appias wardii* is a small butterfly found in hilly regions of TN. Swift and strong flier, the upper side of the male has a dull colour white with upper black border markings. Uncommon, 55-75mm  
*Capparis rheedii*

**2. Common Gull- மஞ்சாடை**

*Cepora nerissa* is the most common butterfly seen throughout the year. It is most active after sunrise; large numbers of Common Gulls are seen mud puddling. The species lives up to 4,000 feet. Common, 40-65mm, *Cadaba fruticosa*

**3. Pioneer - ஹாக்கி மட்டை மஞ்சாடை**

*Belenois aurota* is a small to medium-sized butterfly, commonly seen in open areas. They also called as African Caper White, Hockey Stick Butterfly because of its thick hockey stick like marking on the upper side of the wing. Common, 40-55mm, *Cadaba fruticosa*

**Lesser Gull - மங்கிய வெள்ளையன்**

*Cepora nadina* is found only in evergreen forests. Only two gull species found in India - both gulls occurs in Tamilnadu. Lesser Gull is seen more during post monsoon and winter seasons. Locally common, 55-65mm  
*Capparis cleghornii*







**Common Jezebel - இச்சைமஞ்சள் அழகி**

*Delias eucharis* is a medium-size butterfly found in many parts of South India. It's quite attractive & colorful butterfly. It has a bright coloration to indicate the fact that it is unpalatable due to toxins accumulated by the larvae from the host plants. They spend much of their lives high in the treetops, come down only for nectaring.

Common  
66-83mm

*Dendrophthoe falcata*



**Painted Sawtooth - இச்சைமஞ்சள் வரி அழகி**

*Prioneris sita* is a small butterfly. They mimic common jezebel butterfly because of their unpalatable due to toxins accumulated by the larvae from the host plants. They can be differentiated by the presence of orange red spots and a broader hind wing.

Not rare  
80-90mm

*Cupparis tenera*



**Psyche - சுற்றும் வெள்ளையன்**

*Leptosia nina* is a small butterfly and they flutter around the bushes. They never settle easily; the name may be derived from its restless continuous flight. The upper forewing has black spots with white wings. They love sunny weather and are frequent flower visitors. Common, 35-50mm

*Cleome viscosa*





**Indian Cabbage White - முட்டைக்கோஸ் வெள்ளையன்**

*Pieris canidia* is common in the hills of South India. Weak flier around bushes and shrubs. The species gets the name from cabbage white colour. The butterfly can be distinguished by the white color with small black dots on its wings.

Common

45-60mm

*Rorippa dubia*





## Brush-footed Butterflies Nymphalidae



The Nymphalidae are the largest family of butterflies with about 6,000 species distributed throughout the world. There are 521 species in India of which 95 species are found in Tamil Nadu.

These are usually medium-sized to large, robust-bodied butterflies, occurring in almost every shape and colour. Most species have a reduced pair of forelegs and many hold their colourful wings flat when resting and are poor in walking. They are also called brush-footed butterflies or four-footed butterflies, because they are known to stand on only four legs while the other two are curled up; in some species, these forelegs have a brush-like set of hairs, which gives this family its other common name. Many species are brightly coloured and include popular species such as Rajahs, Admirals and Fritillaries. However, the under wings are, in contrast, often dull and in some species look remarkably like dead leaves, or are much paler, producing a cryptic effect that helps the butterflies blend into their surroundings. They are often coloured in bright brown or orange.

Nymphalid eggs are dome-shaped, eggs and caterpillars are very similar to White and Yellow Butterflies, generally Green or Brown. The body of the caterpillar is covered with short bristles and the shiny brown head is comparatively smaller. Pupae are elongate and angular with gold or silver spots. Adults of most species are strong fliers and love to bask in the sun. Males of species such as Chocolate Pansy engage in territorial fights. Many visit flowers but Rajahs, Nawabs imbibe tree sap and fluid from dead crabs and animal droppings.

Modern taxonomists have classified the Brown and the Milkweed butterflies as sub-families of the Nymphalidae family. Tigers and Crows are Milkweeds known for their migratory nature.



#### Lobed Beak - மூக்கு வண்ணத்தி

*Libythea lains* is the southern subspecies now called as Lobed Beak. Small sized butterfly having a dark chocolate brown with orange-red streak on the Upper forewing. Beaks are characterized by having very long beak-like labial palpi. They are found on relatively higher elevations of the Western Ghats.

Common  
45-50mm

*Gossypium herbaceum*

#### Club Beak - இணைந்த மூக்கு வண்ணத்தி

*Libythea myrrha* is a very active butterfly. They regularly visit flowers and damp patches. Variable in the extent and breadth of the orange-yellow markings and in the mottling and ground colour of the underside.

Common  
45-55mm

*Celtis australis*



**Dark Blue Tiger - கருநீலப்பூச்சி**

*Tirumala septentrionis* is a milkweed butterfly found in TN. Closely resembles Blue Tiger, but can be easily differentiated on the wing. Dark Blue Tigers has narrower and darker markings.

Common

75-95mm

*Vallaris beynei*





**Blue Tiger - நீலப் பூலி**

*Tirumala limniace* belongs to the Milkweed butterflies. They are dark brown in colour with bright blue streaks and markings. They are known for annual migration along with other Crows and Tigers. It is like the Monarch Butterfly migration in U.S.

Common  
90-100mm

*Asclepias curassavica*



Striped Tiger - வரிப்பூச்சி

*Danaus genutia* is similar to Monarch Butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*). They migrate with other species of Milkweeds. This butterfly is mimicked by Common Palmfly female & Tamil Lacewings. The tawny coloured butterfly is decorated with black veins.

Common

72-100mm

*Asclepias curassavica*



Plain Tiger - 1499

*Danaus chrysippus* is visits gardens for flowers but rarely at damp patches. Seen throughout the year. The bright red colour is an indication to its predator that it is unpalatable. Its coloration is mimicked by multiple species.

Common  
70-80mm

*Asclepias currasavica*



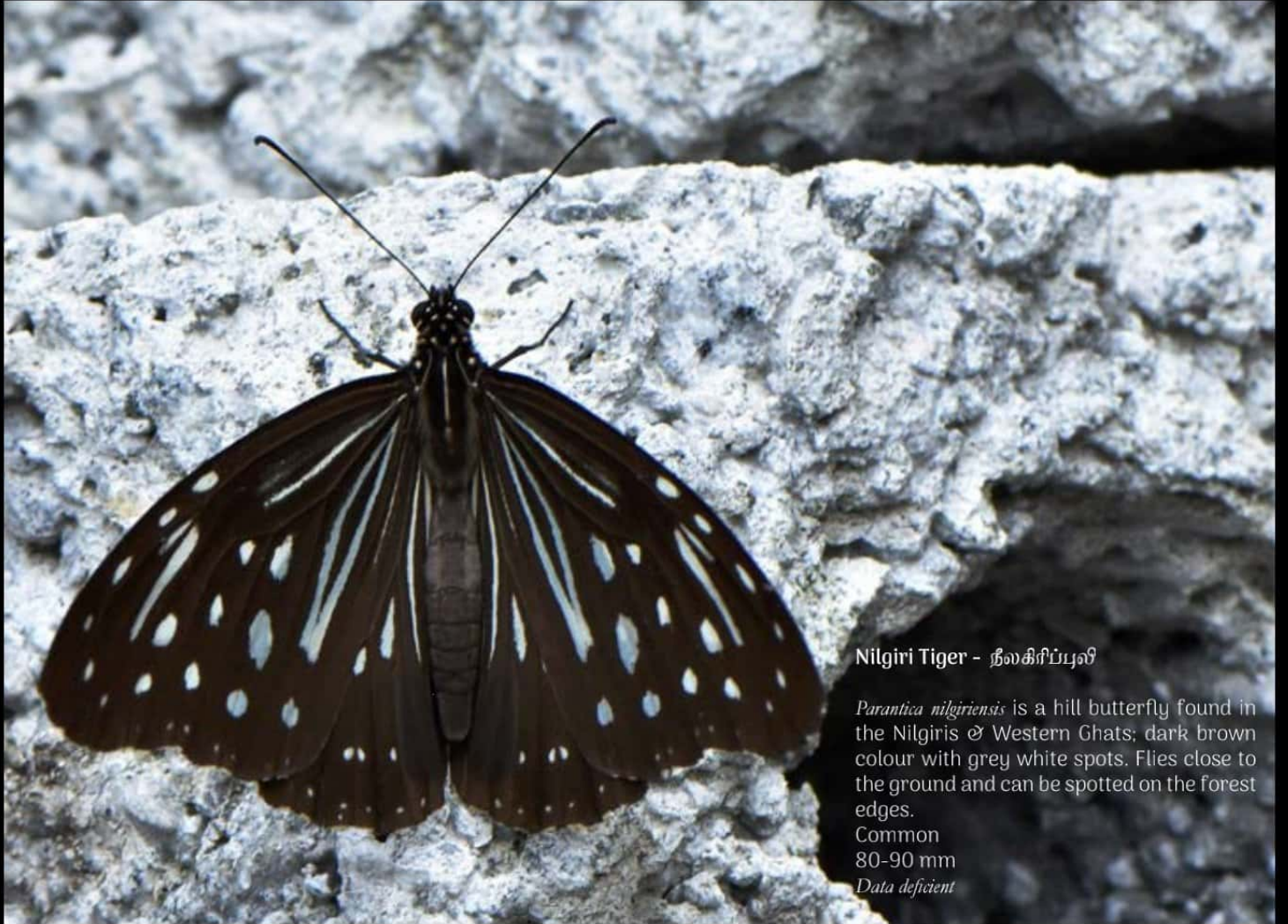


**Glassy Tiger - கண்ணாடிப் பூலி**

*Parantica aglea* is a medium sized butterfly flies up to 2100m height in hills. The dark brown butterfly is marked with bluish white semi-transparent streaks and dots. This butterfly is mimicked by Courtesan male and Common Wanderer female.

Common  
70-85mm

*Crypholepis buchanani*



Nilgiri Tiger - நீலகிரிப்பூலி

*Parantica nilgiriensis* is a hill butterfly found in the Nilgiris & Western Ghats; dark brown colour with grey white spots. Flies close to the ground and can be spotted on the forest edges.

Common  
80-90 mm

*Data deficient*

**Double-Branded Crow- இருப்பட்டை கருப்பன்**

*Euploea Sylvester* is a danaid group butterfly found in TN. Medium to large sized butterfly flies up to 2000m. They are dark brown in colour which is similar to Common Crow but differentiated by two parallel and longer brands on the forewing.

Locally common  
95-105 mm

*Ichnocarpus frutescens*





**Brown King Crow - பழுங்கருப்பன்**

*Euploea core* is a medium to large sized butterfly, flies up to 1500 m. Rarely sighted near forest habitats. The butterfly is differentiated from other Crows by having no spots on the under-wing cell. Common, 85-95 mm  
*Holarribena pubescens*



**Common Crow- வெண்புலி கருப்பன்**

*Euploea klugii* is very common in TN. They are found in all habitats and seen throughout the year. It visits flowers and damp patches and they migrate along with other butterflies. The colour of the butterfly is dark velvety brown/ black with white spots and mimicked by Great Eggfly female.

Locally common

85-100 mm

*Ficus bispida*



### Malabar Tree Nymph - வனதேவதை

*Idea malabarica* is a large beautiful black & white butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats. Found in only forest habitats. They fly like a paper floating in the air; unforgettable experience to watch. IUCN Red List assigns Near Threatened status for *Idea malabarica* as its population is on the decline. Locally common

110-160 mm

*Aganosoma cymosa*







**Common Nawab - நவாப்**

*Polyura athamas* is a species of fast flying butterfly found in TN. Common Nawab is now Indian Nawab (*Polyura athamas* - *Charaxes athamas*). Found in tree canopy in Eastern Ghats & Western Ghats. They sip liquid from tree saps, animal droppings and carcasses of animals.

Locally common

60-75 mm

*Caesalpinia bonduc*

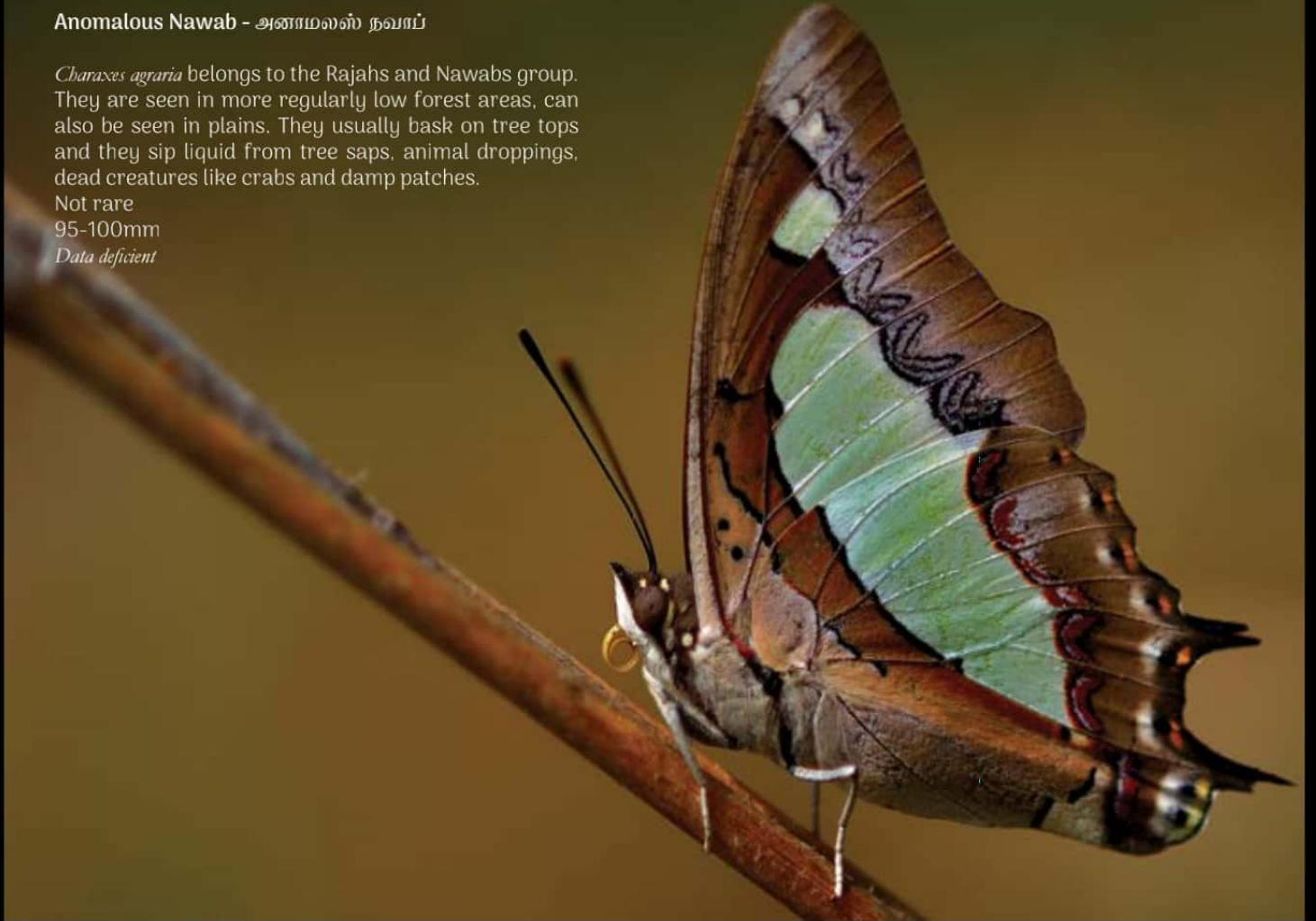
**Anomalous Nawab - அனாமலஸ் நவாப்**

*Charaxes agraria* belongs to the Rajahs and Nawabs group. They are seen in more regularly low forest areas, can also be seen in plains. They usually bask on tree tops and they sip liquid from tree saps, animal droppings, dead creatures like crabs and damp patches.

Not rare

95-100mm

*Data deficient*





**Blue Nawab - நீலநவாப்**

*Polyura Schreiber* is a beautiful butterfly species found in tropical Asia. It occurs very rarely; countable records from TN but more records in Kerala.

Rare

90-100mm

*Monllava spicata*



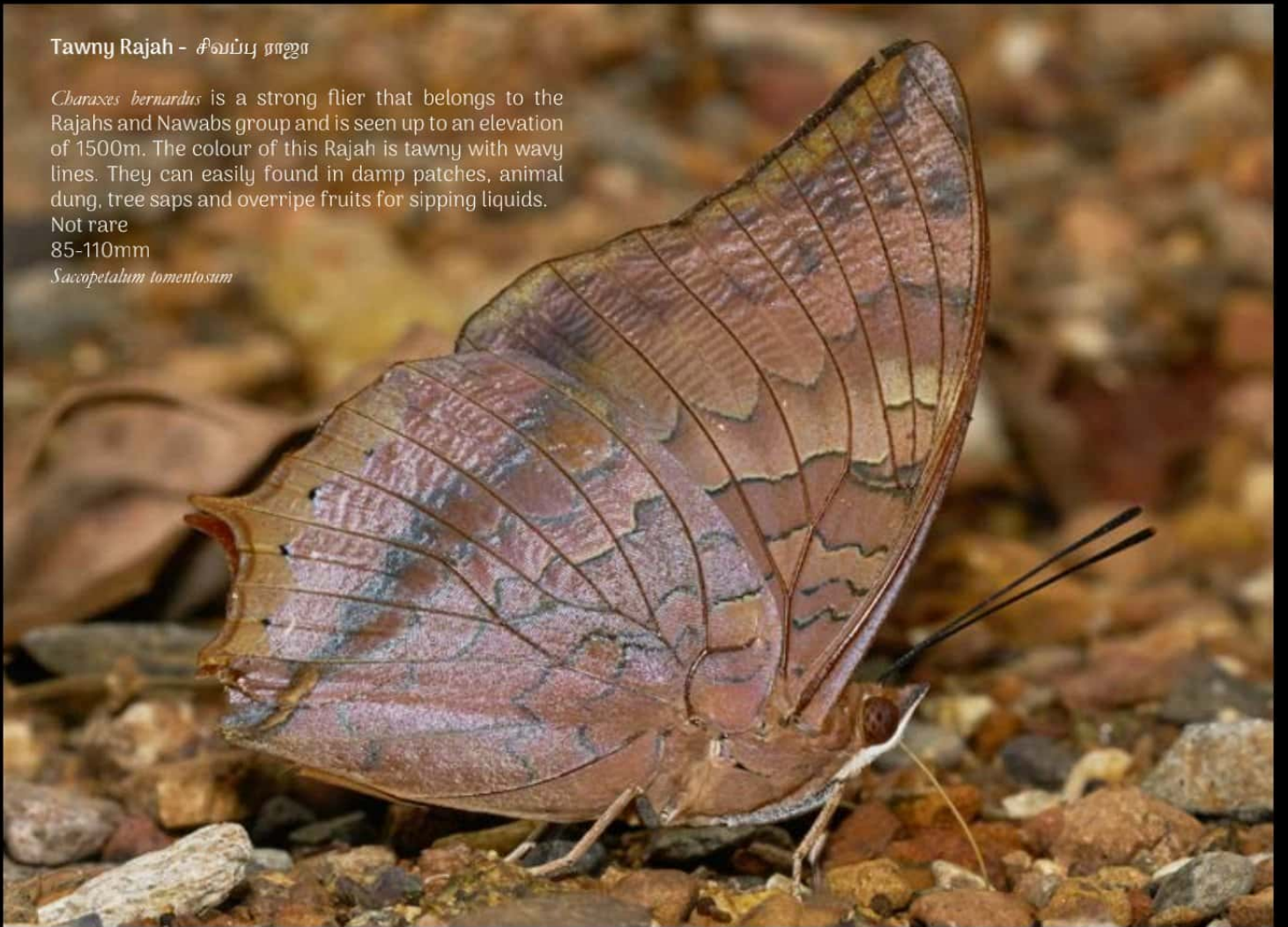
**Tawny Rajah - சிவப்பு ராஜா**

*Charaxes bernardus* is a strong flier that belongs to the Rajahs and Nawabs group and is seen up to an elevation of 1500m. The colour of this Rajah is tawny with wavy lines. They can easily found in damp patches, animal dung, tree saps and overripe fruits for sipping liquids.

Not rare

85-110mm

*Sacopetalum tomentosum*





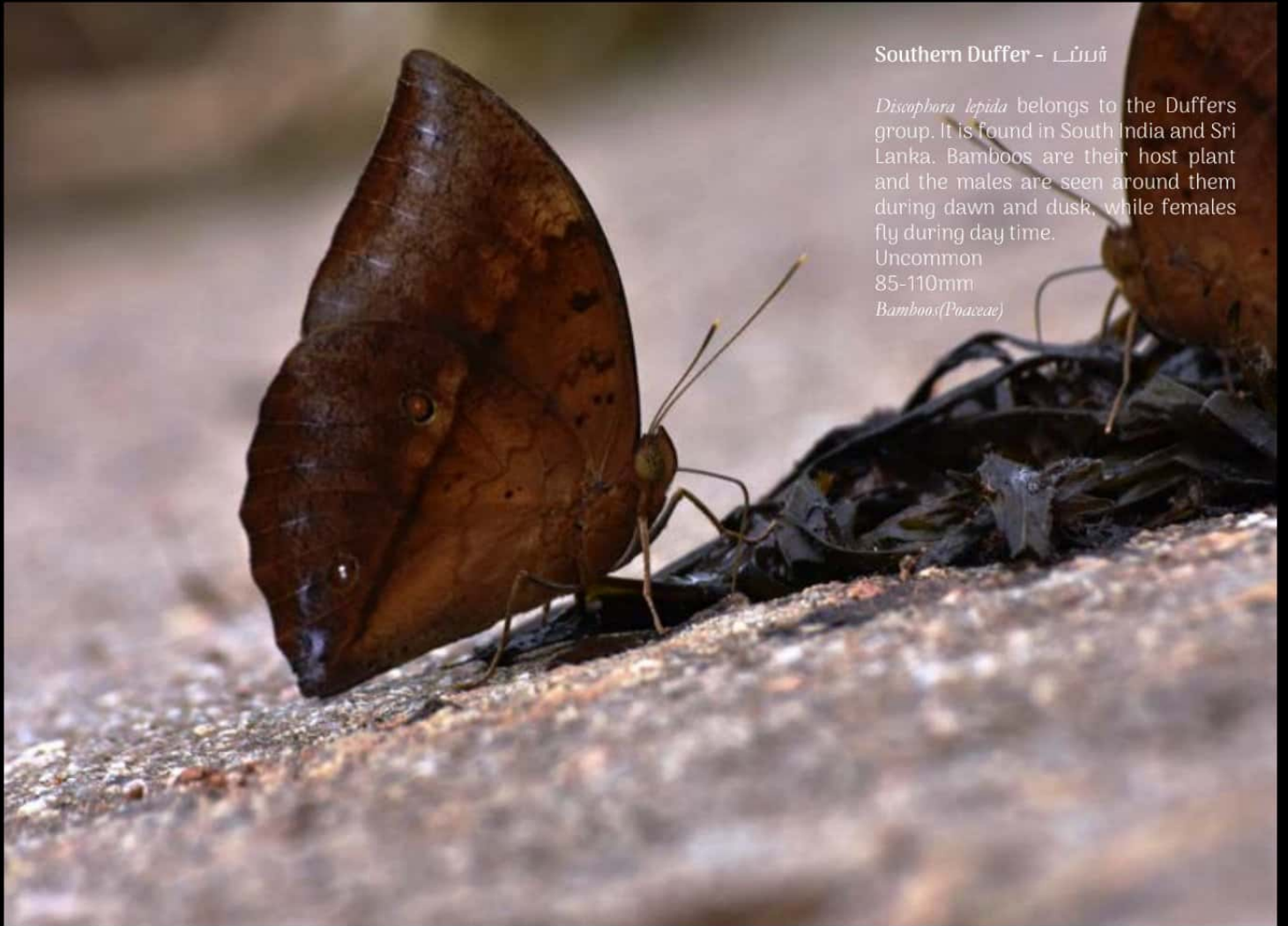
**Black Rajah - கருப்பு ராஜா**

*Charaxes solon* is an active butterfly can be found easily in Tamarind tree canopies where they busily lay eggs on tender leaves even on busy roadside. They visit overripe fruits, bird droppings, animal dung, tree saps and rarely flowers. The colour of the underwing is silver grey with wavy markings.

Not common

70-80mm

*Bauhinia racemosa*



**Southern Duffer - ஸ்டீ**

*Discophora lepida* belongs to the Duffers group. It is found in South India and Sri Lanka. Bamboos are their host plant and the males are seen around them during dawn and dusk, while females fly during day time.  
Uncommon  
85-110mm  
*Bamboos (Poaceae)*



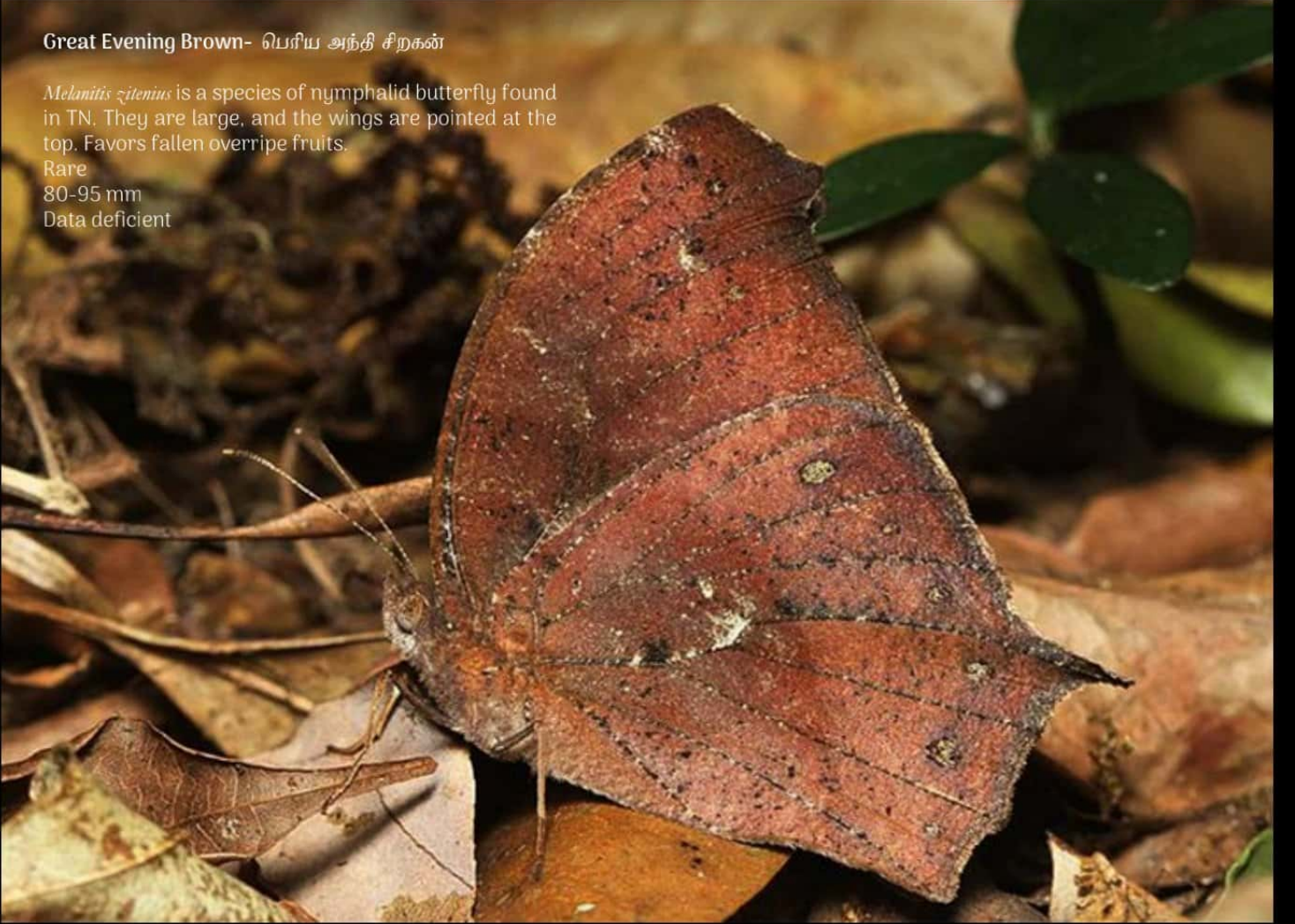
Great Evening Brown- பெரிய அந்தி சிறகன்

*Melanitis zitenius* is a species of nymphalid butterfly found in TN. They are large, and the wings are pointed at the top. Favors fallen overripe fruits.

Rare

80-95 mm

Data deficient



Common Evening Brown - dry and wet season form







**Common Evening Brown - அந்தி சிறகன்**

*Melanitis leda* is a common species of butterfly found flying at dusk, they are known for its various Dry Season Forms (DSF). They fly erratically and are found in settled among dry leaves, with perfect natural camouflage. They are fond of sipping liquids from tree saps and ripe fruits.

Common  
60-80 mm  
*Apluda spp*





**Dark Evening Brown- அடர் அந்தி சிறகன்**

*Melanitis phedima* is a rare brown butterfly found in hilly forest areas. They are twilight sagas and usually found resting in leaf litters. Fond of sipping liquids from tree saps and ripen fruits. Known to be present where Bamboos are abundant.

Not rare  
60-85mm

*Microstegium ciliatum*



**1. Bamboo Treebrown - முங்கில் மர பழுப்பன்**

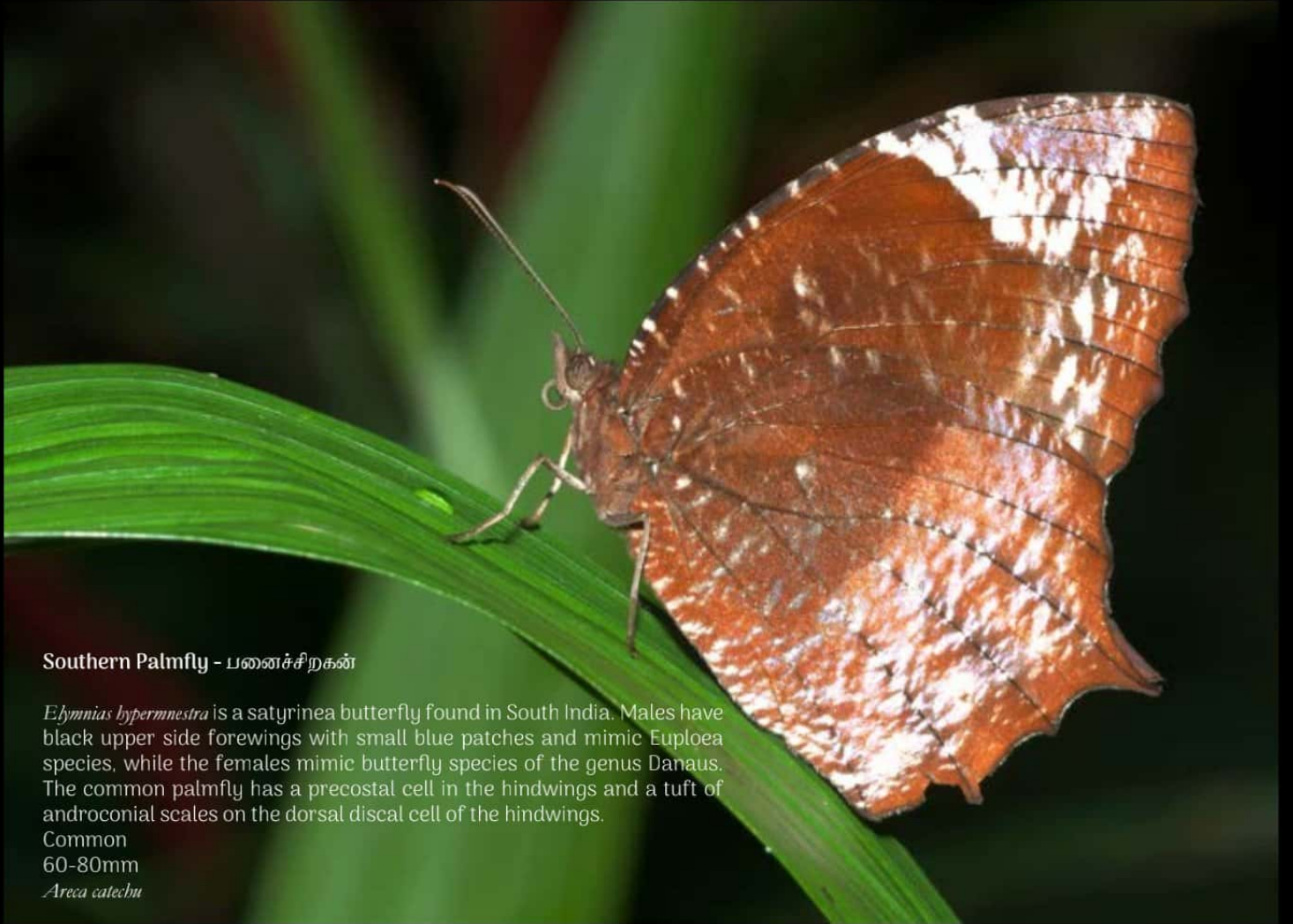
*Lethe europa* is a brown butterfly found in forest hills where bamboo is present. The colour of the butterfly is blackish brown with white bar and series of eyespots on the wings. Common, 65-75 mm, *Bambusa sp.*

**2. Common Treebrown - மர பழுப்பன்**

*Lethe robria* is a common Satyrinae butterfly found in Bamboo forests. The colour of the butterfly is light brown with white bar and series of eyespots on the wings. Weak flier. Partial to overripe fruit, tree sap and animal droppings. Common, 58-70 mm, *Apluda sp.*

**3. Tamil Treebrown - தமிழ் மர பழுப்பன்**

*Lethe drypetis* is a species of Satyrinae butterfly found in moist deciduous forests where bamboo is abundant. On the hindwing the brown transverse discal band very pronounced between veins 4 and 5. They are similar to Common Tree brown but differ by two big eye spots in wings of the same size. Common, 65-70mm, *Bambusa arundinacea*



**Southern Palmfly - பனைச்சிறகம்**

*Elymnias hypermnestra* is a satyrinea butterfly found in South India. Males have black upper side forewings with small blue patches and mimic *Euploea* species, while the females mimic butterfly species of the genus *Danaus*. The common palmfly has a precostal cell in the hindwings and a tuft of androconial scales on the dorsal discal cell of the hindwings.

Common  
60-80mm  
*Areca catechu*





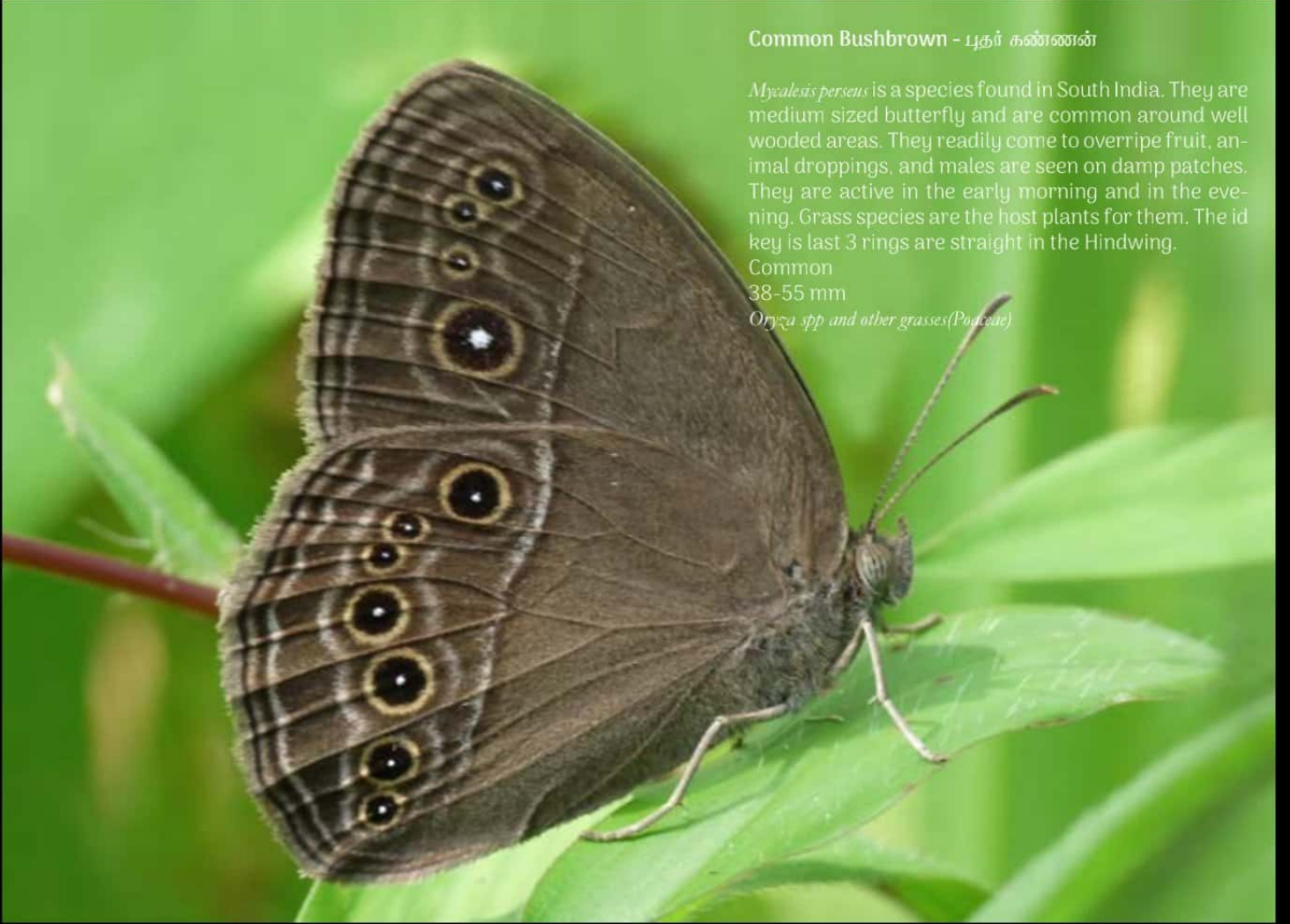
**White-Bar Bushbrown - வெண்கோடு புதர் கண்ணன்**

*Mycalesis anaxias* is found in evergreen forests and they can be noticed up to a height of 1800m. They are very easy to differentiate; white bar is clearly visible in the forewing.

Not rare(locally common)

48-55 mm

*Data deficient*



**Common Bushbrown - பூதர் கண்ணன்**

*Mycalesis persens* is a species found in South India. They are medium sized butterfly and are common around well wooded areas. They readily come to overripe fruit, animal droppings, and males are seen on damp patches. They are active in the early morning and in the evening. Grass species are the host plants for them. The id key is last 3 rings are straight in the Hindwing.

Common

38-55 mm

*Oryza spp and other grasses(Poaceae)*



**Dark-Brand Bushbrown - அடர் கோட்டு புதர் கண்ணன்**

*Mycalesis mineus* is a species found in Tamiladu. Forewing with a single white-centred, fulvous-ringed, black ocellus, generally set in a square pale area. It is similar to Common Bushbrown but the ocelli in the under wing and last four in straight line can be differentiated.

Common  
40-50 mm

*Oryza sativa* and other grasses





Long-Brand Bushbrown - பெரிய கோட்டு புதர்

கண்ணன்

*Mycalesis risala* is a medium sized satyrine butterfly found in South India. They look similar to Dark-branded Bushbrown but bigger in size. However, the fore wing apex is sharply pointed and the termen is straight. In the Wet Season Form, they are more rounded.

Common

45-55 mm

*Data deficient*



**Tamil Bushbrown - தமிழ் புதர் கண்ணன்**

*Mycalesis subdita* is a subspecies of Long-Brand Bushbrown, they are found in Eastern Ghats and Western Ghats. It can be easily differentiated from other Bush browns. Underwing is brown with thick white bands.  
Common  
45-55 mm  
Data deficient



**Palni Bushbrown - பழனி புதர் கண்ணன்**

*Heteropsis darisoni* is a found in Chinnar Wildlife sanctuary and limited areas in the Western Ghats. Underwing is dark brown, with white central bands.  
Uncommon  
45-50 mm  
Data deficient



**1. Red-Disc Bushbrown - சிவப்பு வட்ட கண்ணன்**

*Telanga oculatus* is endemic to Western Ghats. It is similar in markings to red-eye bushbrown but distinguished by the reddish band around the large apical spots on the upper forewings. They are fond of sun basking & sip liquids from over-ripe fruits & animal droppings.

Common, 45-60 mm, *Data deficient*

**2. Red-eye Bushbrown- சிவப்பு கண்ணன்**

*Telanga adolphfei* is endemic to Western Ghats and found in TN. The butterfly is generally seen in the hilly regions, shola forests, especially very common in Lamb's Rock and Longwood shola of Nilgiris. They are known for sun-basking; the red-eyes are quite distinctive.

Locally common, 50-55 mm, *Data deficient*

**3. Glad-eye Bushbrown - பெருங்கண்ணன்**

*Mycalesis patina* is endemic to Western Ghats. Preferred habitats include deciduous forests with bamboo groves.

Common, 40-45 mm, *Data deficient*





**Medus Brown - கருஞ்சிவப்பு சிறகன்**

*Orsotriaena medus* is a butterfly found in wetlands and forest fringes of Western Ghats. Weak flight close to ground. The previous common name 'Nigger' has been changed to Medus Brown.

Locally Common

45-55 mm

*Oryza sativa*, *Imperata* spp.



Tamil Catseye - தமிழ் பூனைக்கண்ணன்

*Zipaetis saitis* is a nymphalid butterfly found in hilly regions, and bamboo forests of Western Ghats. Endemic to Western Ghats. The colour of the butterfly is velvet black with white bands and eyespots. Conspicuous in flight due to the markings. They have an attractive fluttering flight.

Locally common  
60-65 mm

*Data deficient*





**1. Common Three-ring - 3 வட்டன்**

*Ypthima asterope* is found in most dry areas, grass lands of TN. It has a weak flight and flies close to the ground. The butterfly has small brown striations and three eyespots on the wings.

Common, 30-37mm *Cynodon spp*

**2. Common Four-ring - 4 வட்டன்**

*Ypthima avanta* is found in most of the places, wetlands, and grass lands forest clearings of TN. It flies close to the ground. The butterfly has small brown striations and four eyespots on the wings. Locally common, 30-45mm *Data deficient*

**3. Common Five-ring - 5 வட்டன்**

*Ypthima baldus* is a small sized butterfly; they have a very strong flight. They have 6 rings on the wings, but the last two rings are considered as one, they have two seasonal forms.

Common, 32-48mm *Data deficient*





**1. Striated Five-ring - நீலகிரி 5 வட்டன்**  
*Ypthima striata* is a very rare butterfly; they are reported in Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary and Anamalai Tiger Reserve. Under wing has whitish colour with dark long streaks, besides eyespots with broad yellow rings. Uncommon, 33-45 mm

**2. Southern Baby Five-Ring - குட்டி 5 வட்டன்**  
*Ypthima tabella* is a species of Satyrinae butterfly found in South India. Usually no bands along under margin, and double eyespot with broad yellow ring on underforewing. Uncommon, 23-25 mm, Data deficient

**3. Palni Four-Ring - பழனி 4 வட்டன்**  
*Ypthima ypthimoides* is a rare butterfly; Under forewing has one double-pupilled eyespot. Underside of wing has one small apical eyespot and four rings, out of which two smaller eyespots are together at lower tip. Uncommon, 33-45mm



**1. White Four-ring - வெண் வட்டன்**

*Ypthima ceylonica* is a small butterfly, abundantly found in dense forests of Western Ghats. They can be easily differentiated by the white colour on the hind wing. Locally common, 30-35mm, *Data deficient*

**2. Small Jewel Five-ring - நகை வட்டன்**

*Ypthima Singala* is a very rare satyrinae butterfly found in TN. The specimen is recorded only in of Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary. Rare, 30-45 mm, *Data deficient*

**3. Nilgiri Four-ring - பழனி 4 வட்டன்**

*Ypthima chenui* is endemic to Western Ghats, but recently recorded in Eastern Ghats. The butterfly has shining dark bands with whitish background on the wing. They are confined to high altitude grasslands of 1200 -1800 meters. Common, 36-46 mm, *Data deficient*



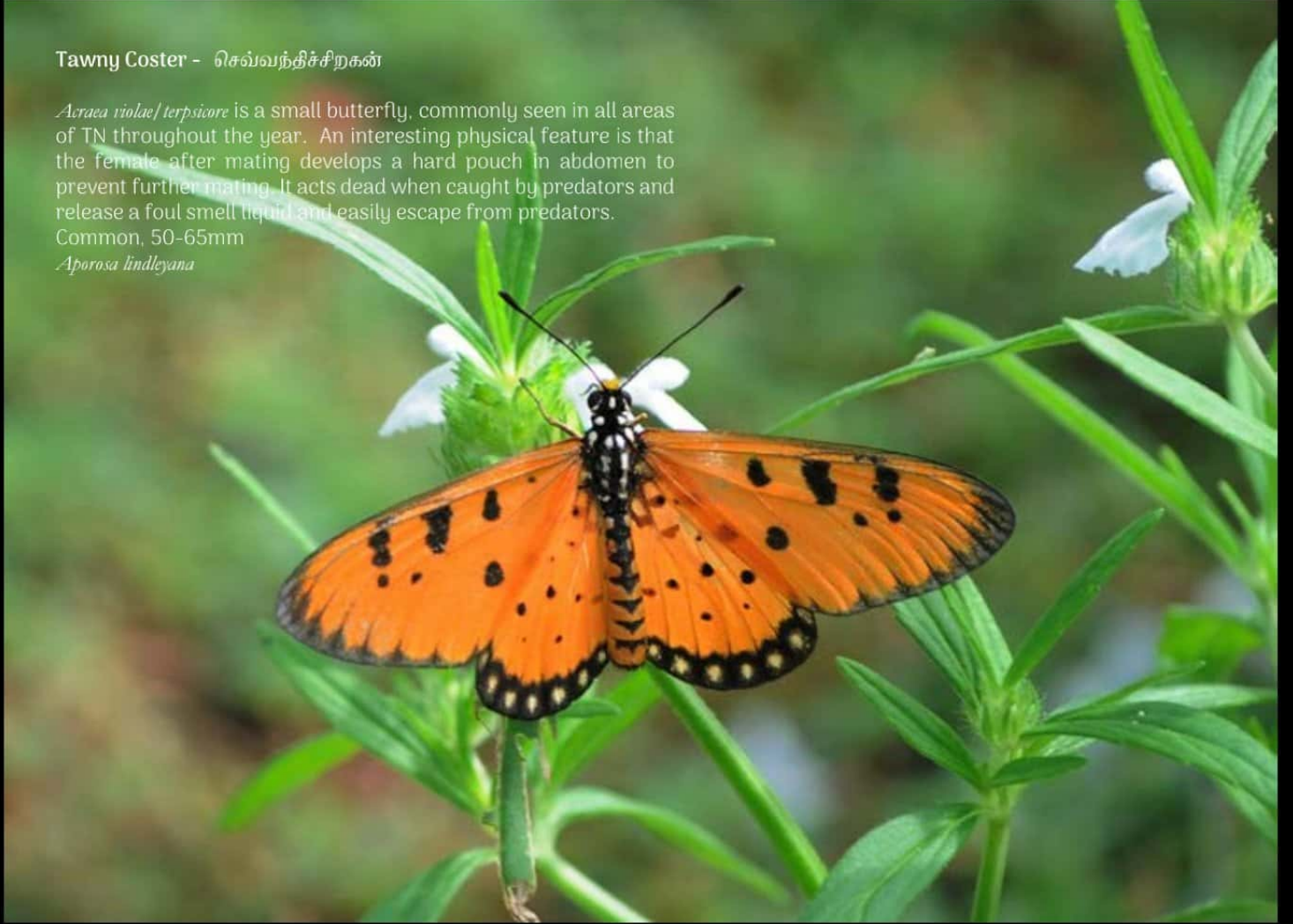


**Tawny Coster - செவ்வந்திச்சீறகன்**

*Acraea violae/terpsicore* is a small butterfly, commonly seen in all areas of TN throughout the year. An interesting physical feature is that the female after mating develops a hard pouch in abdomen to prevent further mating. It acts dead when caught by predators and release a foul smell liquid and easily escape from predators.

Common, 50-65mm

*Aporosa lindleyana*







### Tamil Lacewing- தமிழ் அழகி

*Celbosia nietneri* is a beautiful butterfly endemic to Western Ghats. It is seen only in moist deciduous, evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, just before monsoons. They resemble Striped Tiger. Like other distasteful species, emits strong unpleasant odor and acts dead when caught by predators. They are more abundant in Anamalai Tiger Reserve.

Locally common  
80-95 mm

*Modacca palmate*





**Nilgiri Fritillary - நீலகிரி ப்ரிட்டிலெரி**

*Argynnis hybrida* is rare butterfly locally common in Nilgiri Hills of TN. These fritillary butterflies were earlier treated as sub-species to Indian Fritillary (*Argynnis hyperbius*) and are now treated as separate species.  
Rare, Locally common  
65-85mm

**Palni Fritillary - பழனி ப்ரிட்டிலெரி**

*Argynnis castetsi* is found in the hills beyond Palghat gaps and especially in Palni Hills in Tamil Nadu. They are fond of flowers. Sexually dimorphic (Male ♂ female are different). Male mimic Common Leopard and the females look similar to Plain Tiger.  
Rare, Locally common  
65-85mm





### 1. Cruiser - க்ருசர்

*Vindula erota* is seen in moist deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests. The male is tawny yellow, and the female is bigger with bluish green. They are fond of sipping fluids from dead crabs. Not rare, 72-110 mm, *Adenia bondala* (Passifloraceae)



### 2. Tamil Yeoman - தமிழ் மறவன்

*Cirrochroa thais* is endemic to Western Ghats. They occur in moist deciduous, evergreen forests and streams. They lay eggs one above the other. Locally common, 60-75 mm, *Hydnocarpus nighiana* (Flacourtiaceae)



### 3. Rustic - செம்மண் சிறகன்

*Cupha erymanthis* is a medium sized widespread butterfly, it occurs only in heavy rainfall areas. They fly around water streams in fringe forest and on tree tops. Male is territorial. They have short life span of 3 weeks. Common, 50-60 mm, *Flacourtia indica*





**Small Leopard - குட்டி சிறத்தை**

*Phalanta alippe* is a small butterfly and found only in dense forests of Western Ghats. It is fond of flowers and visits damp patches.

Locally common, 35-50 mm

*Alsodeia zeylanica*

**Common Leopard - சிறத்தை**

*Phalanta phalantha* is a medium sized widespread butterfly; the colour of the butterfly is tawny colour with black spots. It is a fast flier, nectar and sun loving.

Common, 50-60 mm

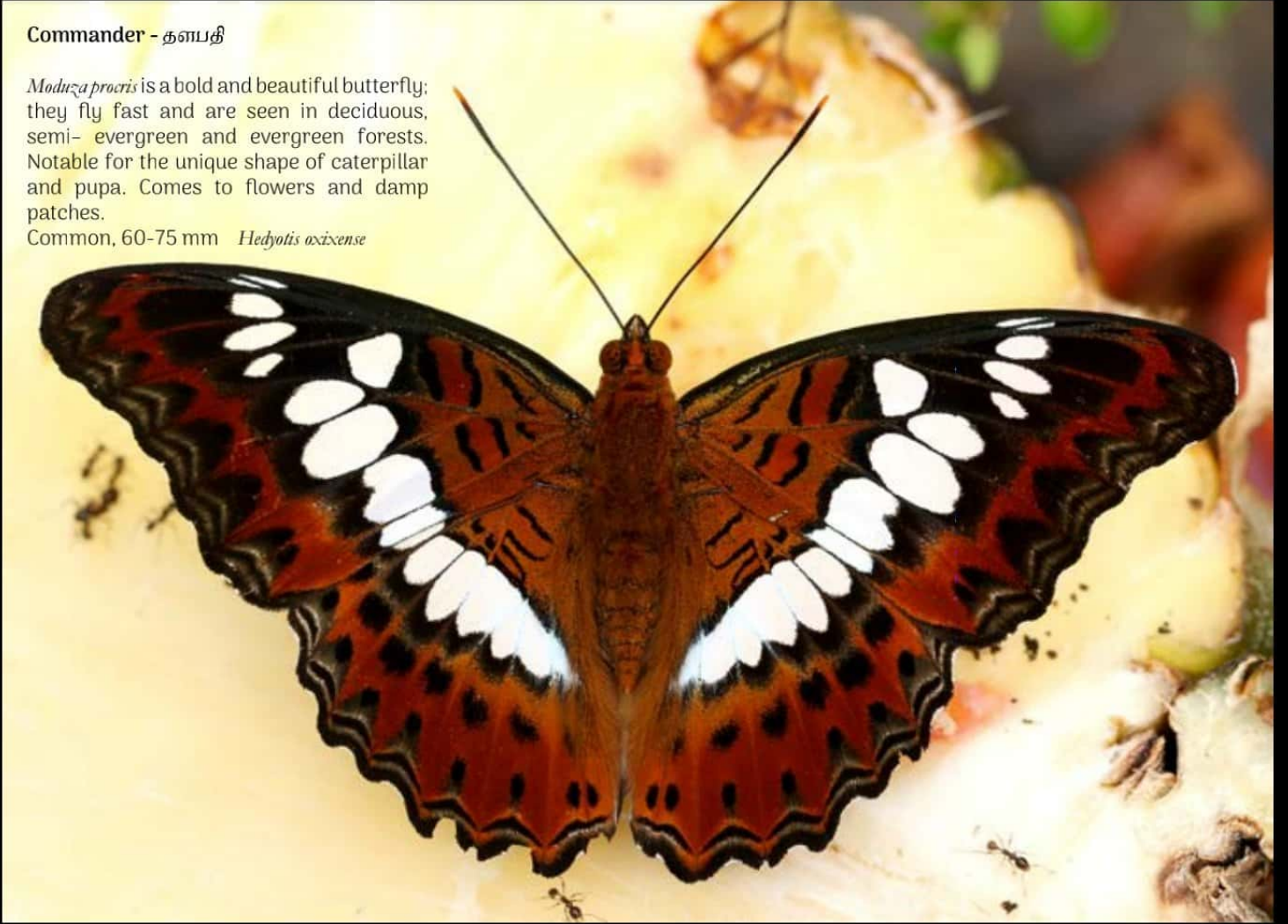
*Flacourtia Montana*



**Commander - தளபதி**

*Moduza procris* is a bold and beautiful butterfly; they fly fast and are seen in deciduous, semi- evergreen and evergreen forests. Notable for the unique shape of caterpillar and pupa. Comes to flowers and damp patches.

Common, 60-75 mm *Hedyotis oxixense*







**1. Common Sergeant - சார்ஜண்ட்**

*Athyma perius* is a butterfly found occasionally in TN. They have powerful sailing flight close to ground. Occur in the forest edges. The colours of the wings are black with series of white markings.

Locally common, 60-70 mm

*Glochidion lanceolarum*

**2. Blackvein Sergeant - கருஞ்சீரை சார்ஜண்ட்**

*Athyma ranga* is a butterfly found in moist deciduous and evergreen forests of TN. The colour of the wings is white bands prominently crossed by black veins.

Not common, 60-70 mm

*Linociera malabarica*

**3. Staff Sergeant - பணிக்கார சார்ஜண்ட்**

*Athyma selenophora* is a butterfly found occasionally in TN, usually in evergreen forests. The male has a black base with prominent white band on the upper. The female upper has velvety brownish black with white and pale markings.

Not common, 55-75 mm

*Haldina cordifolia*(Rubiaceae)





**1. Colour Sergeant - வர்ண சரர்ஜண்ட்**

*Athyma nestor inara* is found occasionally in TN. They love visiting flowers and damp patches. The colour of the butterfly is black with white band and orange markings.  
Not rare, 55-70 mm

**2. Common Lascar - லஸ்கர்**

*Pantoporia bordonis* is widespread in TN. The flight pattern is similar to sailers but weaker. The colour of yellow and orange bands looks so elegant.  
Common, 45-50 mm  
*Acacia concinna*

**3. Extra Lascar - எக்ஸ்ட்ரா லஸ்கர்**

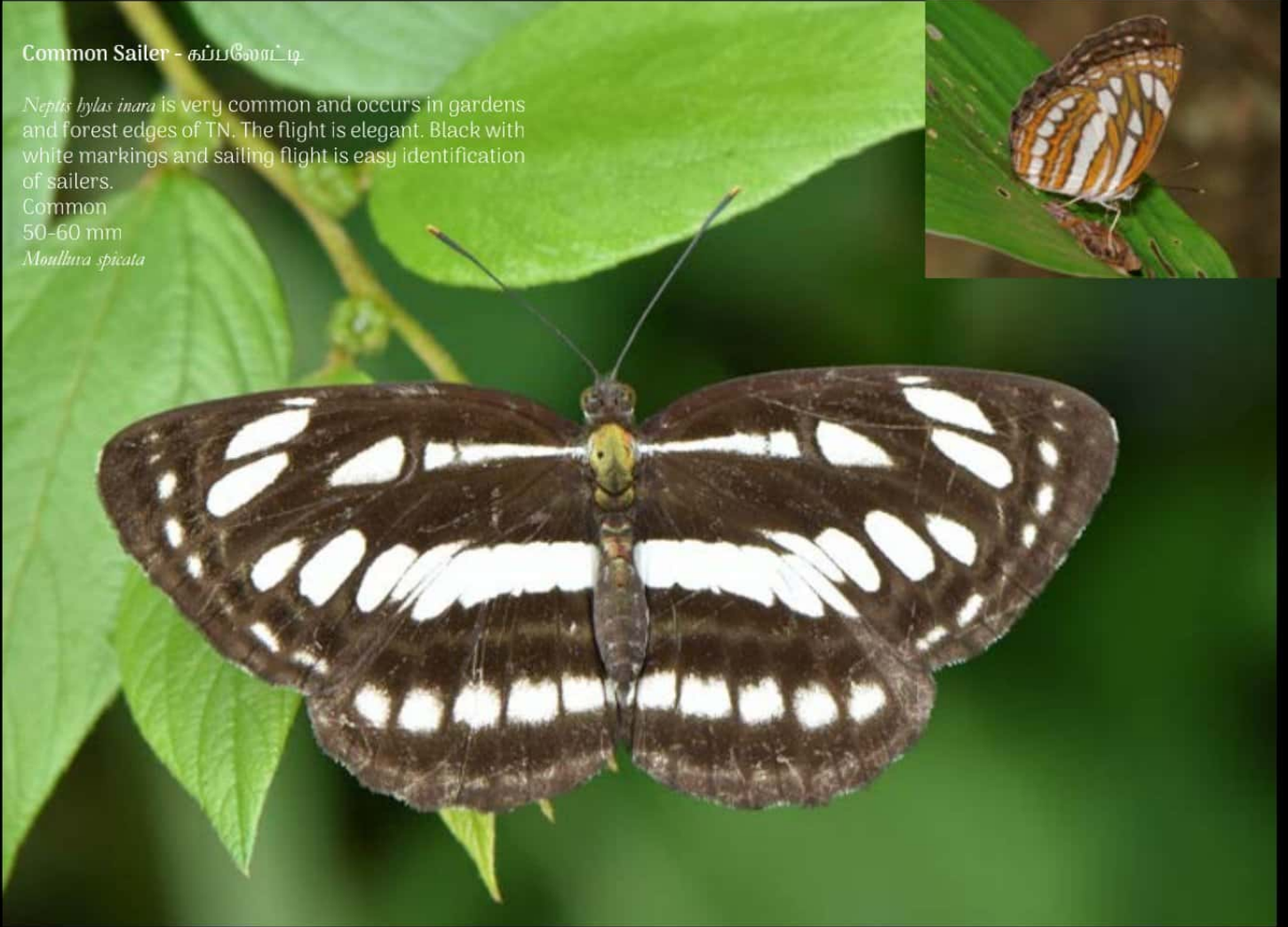
*Pantoporia sandaka inara* is very common in Kallar, TN. The species looks similar to Common Lascar but the white patch on the hindwing which is normally covered by the forewing is the clear key.  
Uncommon, 45-50 mm  
*Acacia concinna*

**Common Sailer - கப்பலேரட்டி**

*Neptis hylas inara* is very common and occurs in gardens and forest edges of TN. The flight is elegant. Black with white markings and sailing flight is easy identification of sailers.

Common  
50-60 mm

*Moullava spicata*







**1. Clear Sailer - க்ளீயர் கப்பலோட்டி**

*Neptis jumbah* is a medium sized butterfly found in evergreen and deciduous forests. They look similar to other sailers but smaller than a Common Sailer and markings are different. Upper hindwing bands are broad and prominent.

Common, 60-70 mm, *Bombax ceiba*

**2. Yellow Jack Sailer- எல்லோ ஜாக் கப்பலோட்டி**

*Lasippa viraja* is a rare butterfly found in South India. They feed on dalbergia species.

Common, 60-70 mm

**3. Short Banded Sailer - குறுகிய பட்டை கப்பலோட்டி**

*Phaedyma columella* is a butterfly found in evergreen and deciduous forests. They look similar to other sailers but bigger than a common sailer and markings are different.

Not rare, 60-70 mm, *Dalbergia spp*





**Chestnut Streaked Sailer - வெண்கருப்பு கம்பலேரட்டி**

*Neptis jumbah* is found very common and occurs in gardens and forest edges of TN. It is bigger than the Common Sailer and the upper is black with white markings and bands.

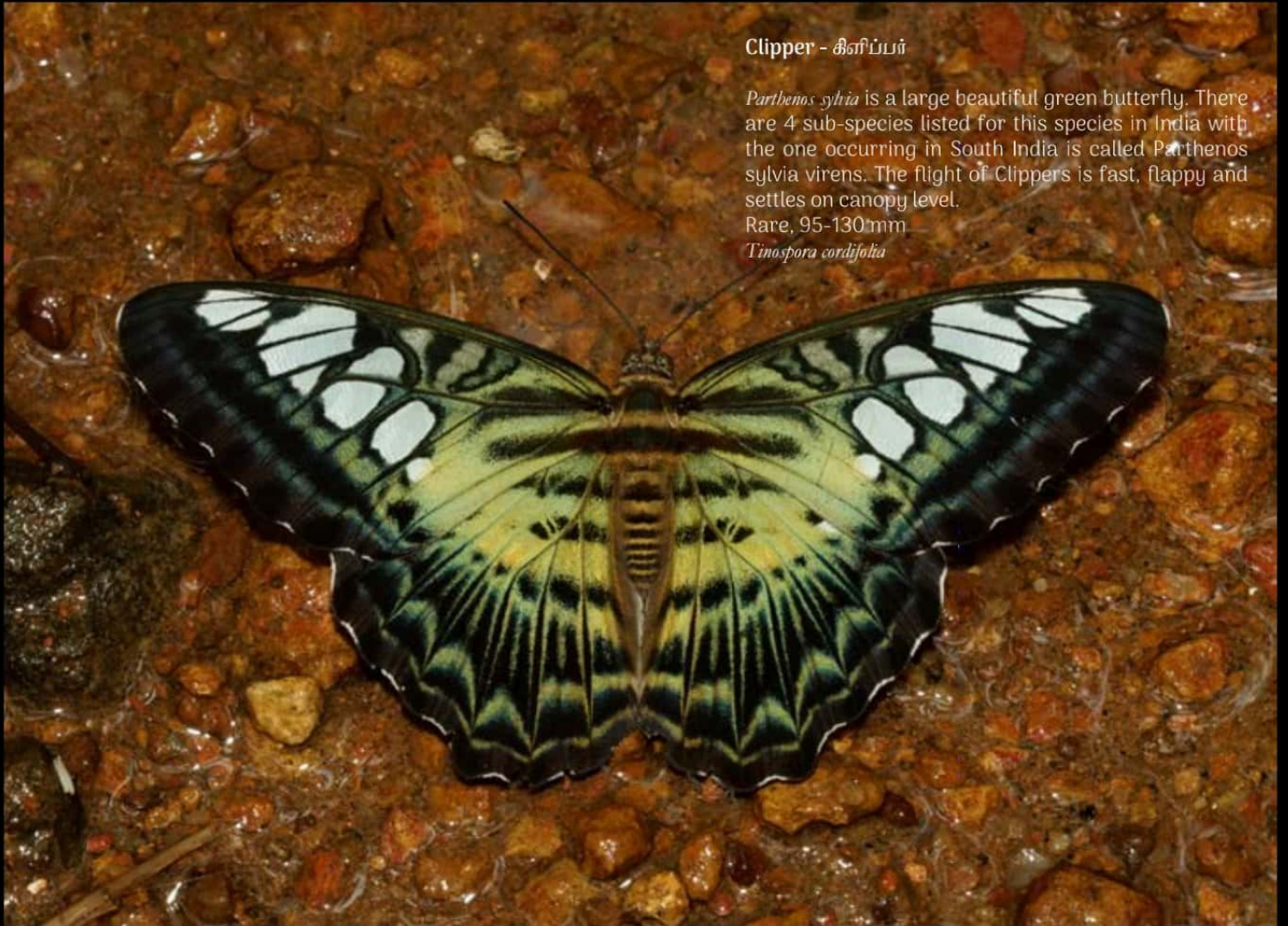
Common  
60-70 mm  
*Bombax Ceiba*

**Palni Sullied Sailer - கறை கம்பலேரட்டி**

*Neptis nata* found in evergreen and deciduous forests. They look similar to other sailers but smaller than a Common Sailer and markings are different. Upper forewings twospots below cell streak outwardly rounded.

Uncommon  
45-60 mm





Clipper - கிளிப்பர்

*Parthenos sylvia* is a large beautiful green butterfly. There are 4 sub-species listed for this species in India with the one occurring in South India is called *Parthenos sylvia virens*. The flight of Clippers is fast, flappy and settles on canopy level.

Rare, 95-130 mm

*Tinospora cordifolia*

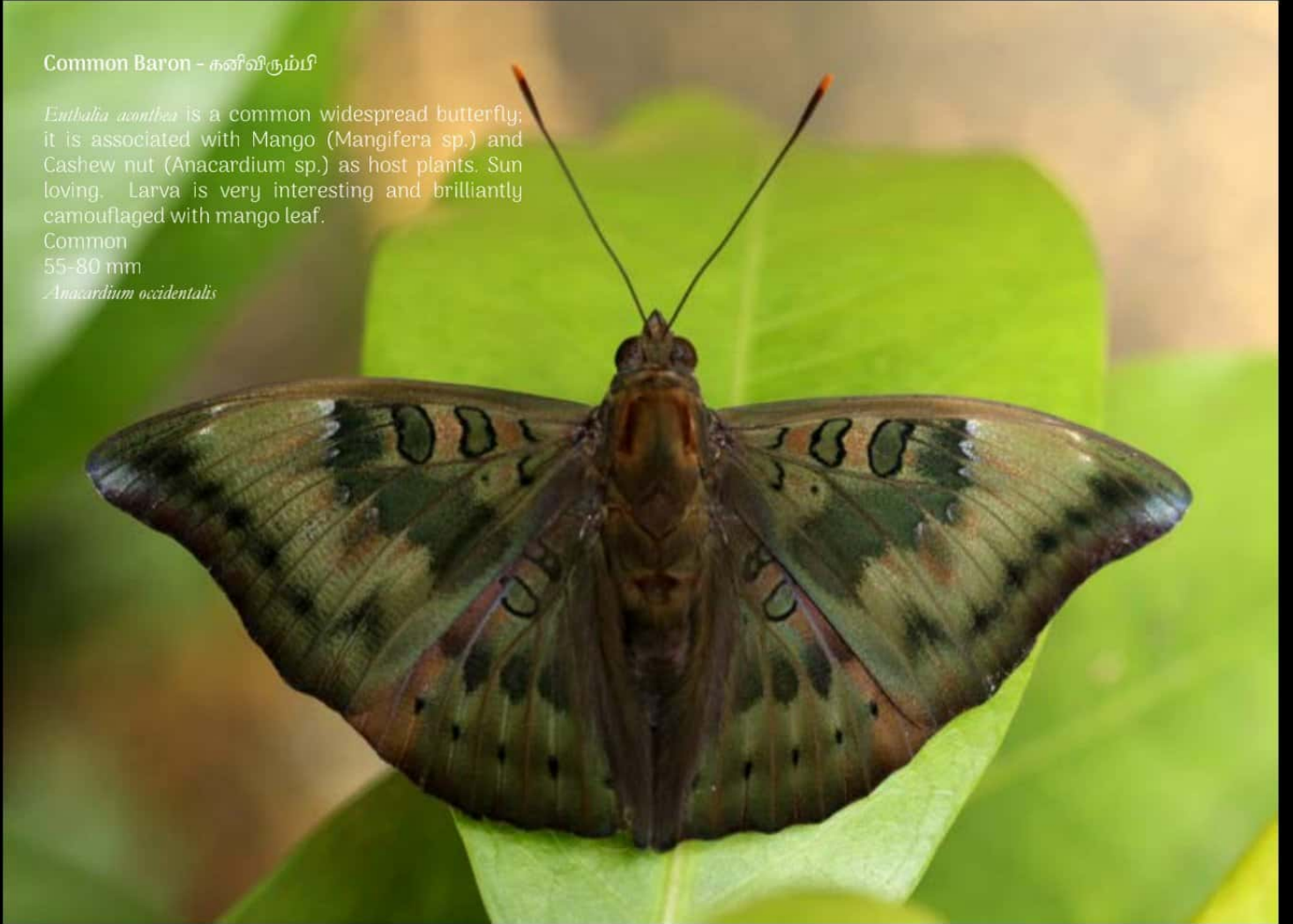


**Common Baron - கனீவீரும்பி**

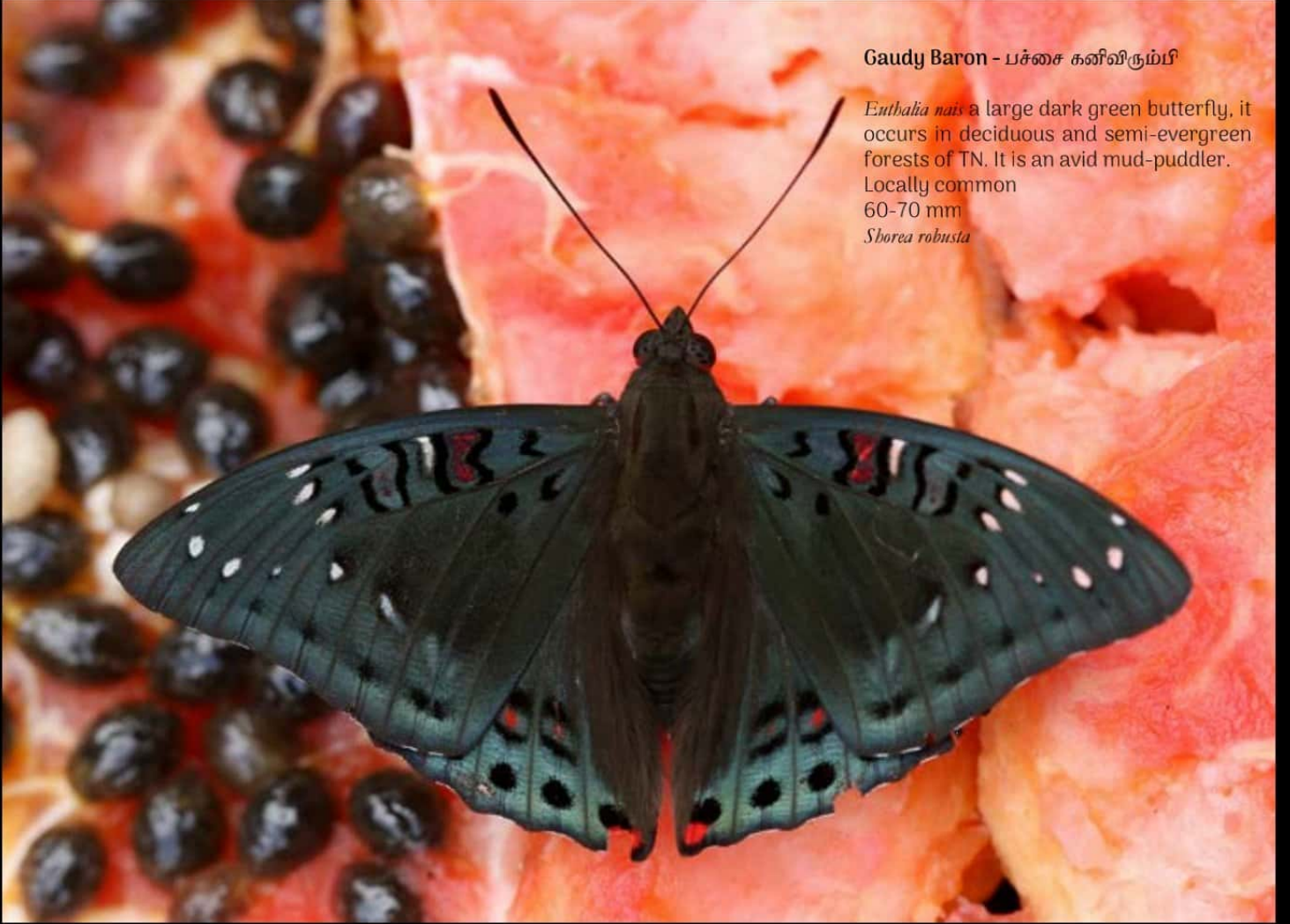
*Enthalia asonthea* is a common widespread butterfly; it is associated with Mango (*Mangifera* sp.) and Cashew nut (*Anacardium* sp.) as host plants. Sun loving. Larva is very interesting and brilliantly camouflaged with mango leaf.

Common  
55-80 mm

*Anacardium occidentale*

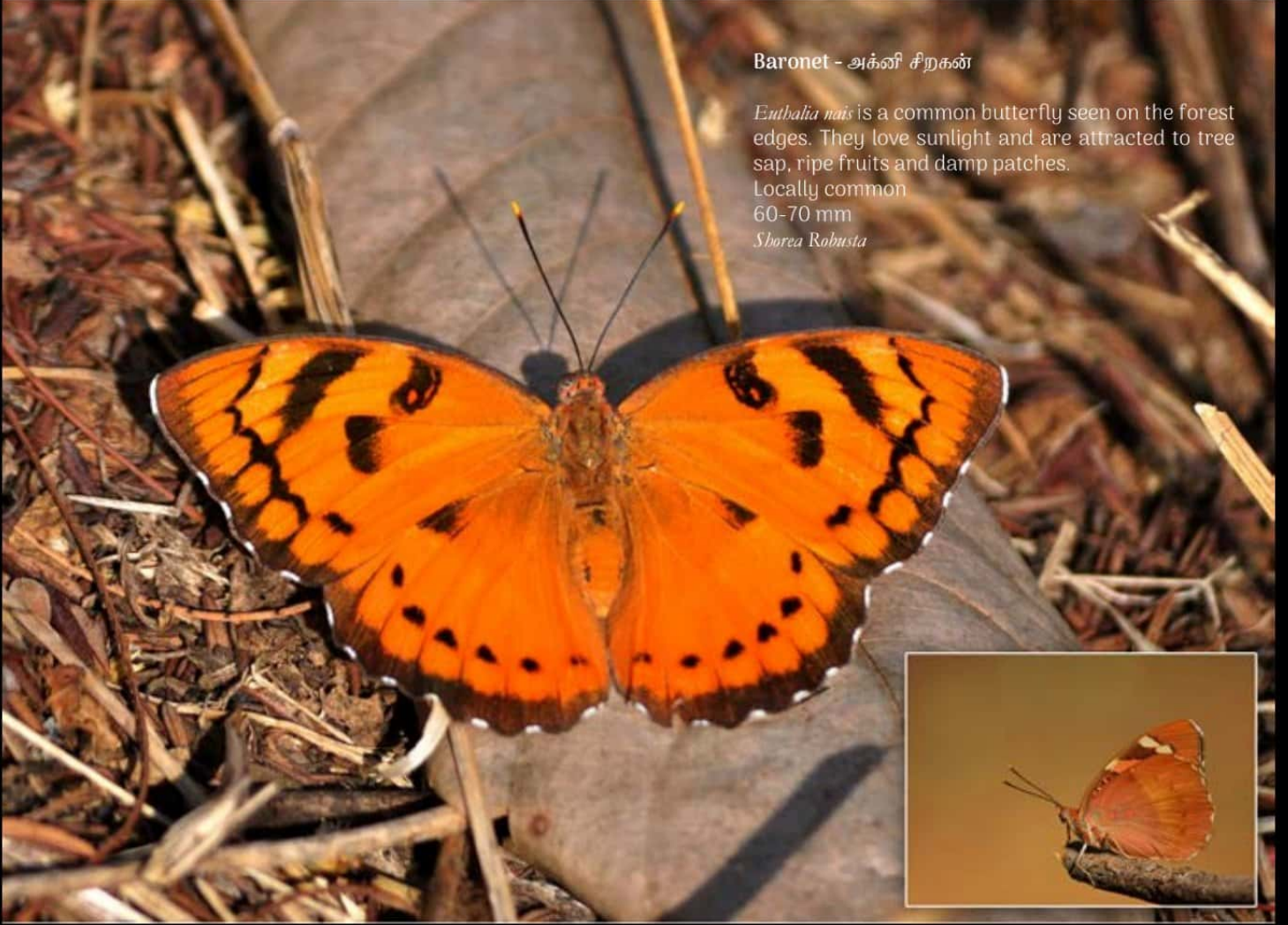






**Gaudy Baron - பச்சை கனிவிரும்பி**

*Euthalia nais* is a large dark green butterfly, it occurs in deciduous and semi-evergreen forests of TN. It is an avid mud-puddler. Locally common  
60-70 mm  
*Shorea robusta*



**Baronet - அக்னி சிறகன்**

*Eubalia nais* is a common butterfly seen on the forest edges. They love sunlight and are attracted to tree sap, ripe fruits and damp patches. Locally common  
60-70 mm  
*Shorea Robusta*



**Grey Count - கிரே கவுண்ட்**

*Tanaecia lepidea* is a rare butterfly, found in forest regions. This medium sized butterfly is a fast flier and is attracted to overripe fruit and tree sap. The butterfly is dark brown in colour with grey/white border, broader in HW and narrows in fore wing.  
Rare, 65-80 mm

*Careya arborea*







**Redspot Duke - மீயூக்**

*Daphbla evelina* is a medium to large sized butterfly is found in dense forests of TN. They have rapid flight and rest on tree canopies. The sub-species *laudabilis* occurs in south India.

Not common

81-113 mm

*Anacardium occidentale*



**Common Map - வரைபடம்**

*Cyrestis thyodamas* is found in evergreen forests of hilly region. The jerky flight with map-like patterns on the wings is easily noticeable.

Not common

50-60 mm

*Ficus benghalensis*



**1. Common Castor- ஆமணக்குச்சீறகன்**

*Ariadne merione* is of medium size. They can be seen in the vicinity of Castor plant (*Ricinus communis*). Wing colour is orange brown colour with irregular wavy lines.

Common, 45-60 mm, *Ricinus communis*

**2. Angled Castor - வரி ஆமணக்குச்சீறகன்**

*Ariadne ariadne* is a medium size common butterfly wherever the Castor plant *Ricinus communis* is abundant. The colour of this butterfly is orange brown colour with uniform wavy lines.

Uncommon, 45-60mm, *Ricinus communis*

**3. Joker- கோமாளி**

*Byblia ilithyia* is medium sized. The name is derived from its upper portion. The colour is bright tawny colour with black spots. They are nectar loving. Weak, fluttering, sailing flight. Short life span.

Locally common, 45-55 mm, *Tragia involucrata*





2



**1. Black Prince - கருப்பு இளவரசன்**

*Rohana parisatis* is a smaller to medium size butterfly, the name derived from the colour; velvet black wing and occurs only in evergreen jungles. The male is a fast and strong flier. Not rare, 45-50 mm, *Celtis cinnamomea*

**2. Painted Courtesan - வண்ண கோர்ட்டரசியன்**

*Euripus consimilis* is a medium size rare butterfly, it occurs only in heavy rainfall areas and evergreen forests and keeps to treetops except when feeding near the ground. Rare, 60-85mm, *Trema orientalis*

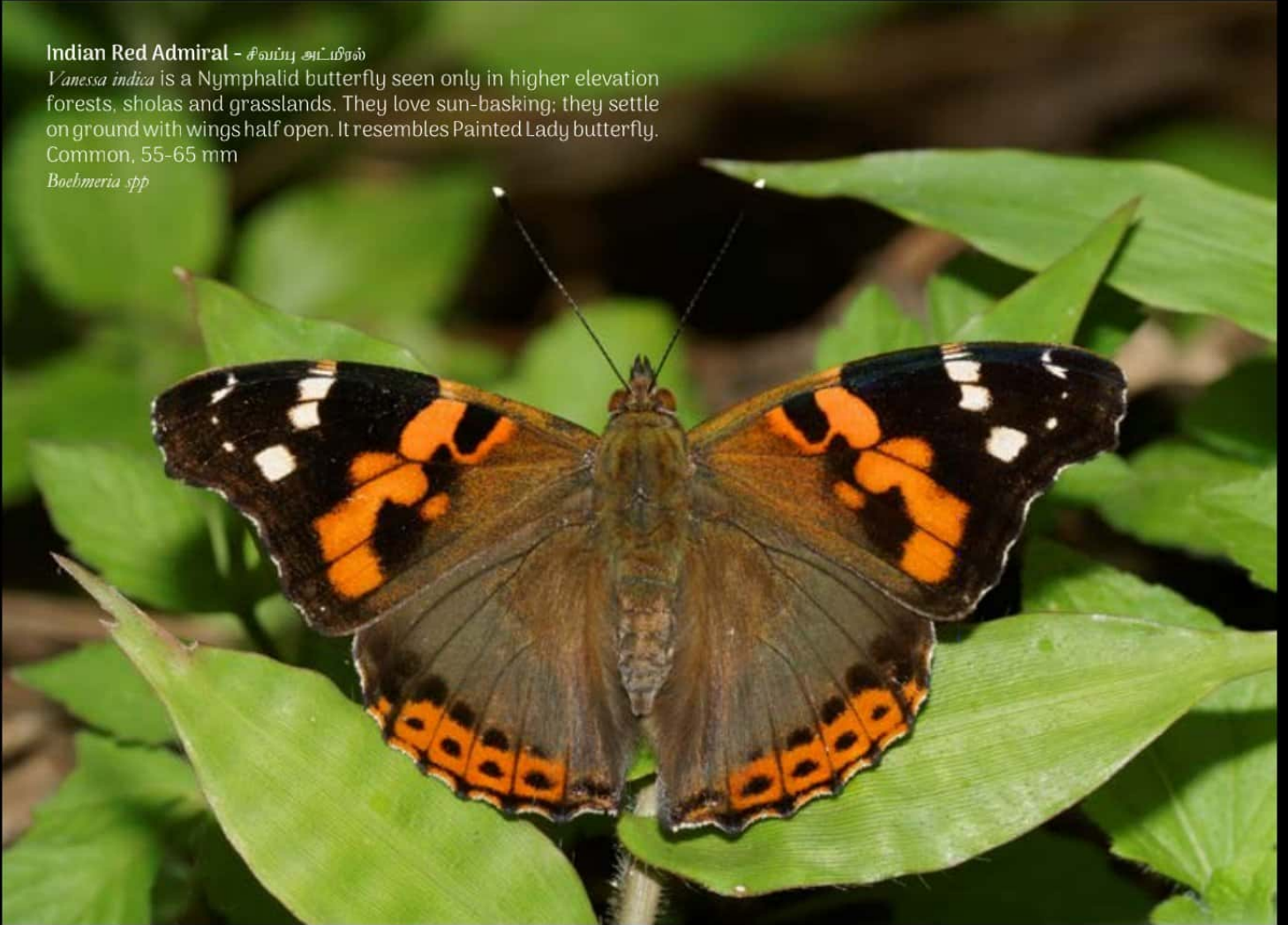
**3. Painted Lady - ஓவிய அழகி**

*Vanessa cardui* is widespread in the world. They migrate long distance - Africa to Europe. They can be seen in all elevations and open grass lands. The colour of the butterfly is orange with black and white spots. Common, 55-70 mm, *Artemisia spp*

**Indian Red Admiral - சிவப்பு அட்மிரல்**

*Vanessa indica* is a Nymphalid butterfly seen only in higher elevation forests, sholas and grasslands. They love sun-basking; they settle on ground with wings half open. It resembles Painted Lady butterfly. Common, 55-65 mm

*Boehmeria spp*



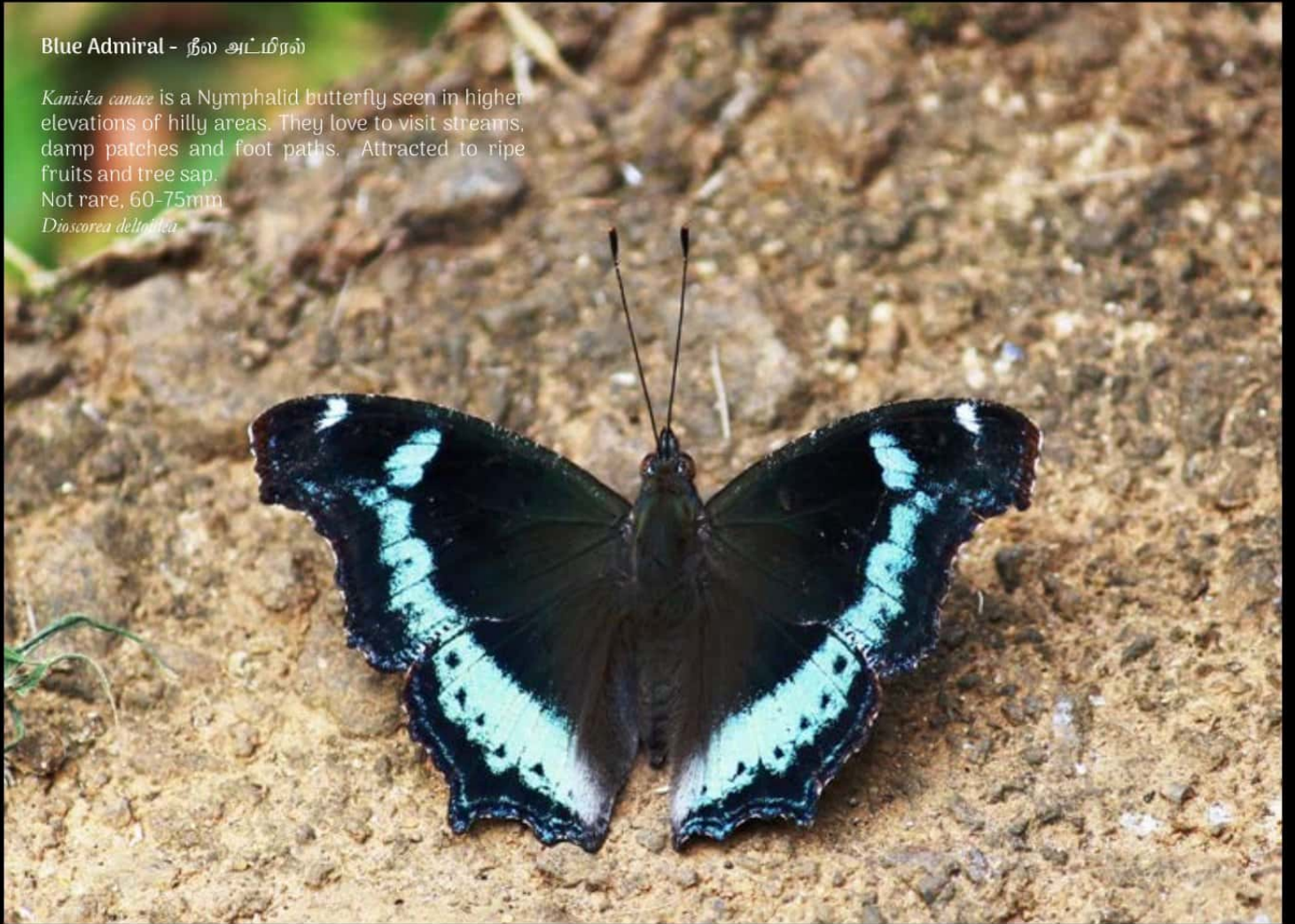


Blue Admiral - நீல அட்மிரல்

*Kaniska canace* is a Nymphalid butterfly seen in higher elevations of hilly areas. They love to visit streams, damp patches and foot paths. Attracted to ripe fruits and tree sap.

Not rare, 60-75mm

*Dioscorea deltoidea*





Blue Pansy - நீல வசீகரன்

*Junonia orithya* is a small to medium size. Seen in dry open grasslands and forest fringes. It has a rapid flight, flies close to the ground. The colour of this butterfly is brilliant blue, black with eyespots. Common, 45-60 mm

*Justicia procumbens*





**Yellow Pansy - மஞ்சள் வசீகரன்**

*Junonia hierta* is an active butterfly; flies close to the ground. They occur open scrub land, forest fringes and grasslands. The colour of the butterfly is yellow with brilliant blue spots.

Common

45-60 mm

*Hygrophila auriculata*



Chocolate Pansy - சாக்லேட் வசீகரன்

*Junonia iphita* is a medium size chocolate coloured butterfly; it occurs in well-wooded areas and forests fringes. Highly territorial. It will chase away any butterfly that comes near.

Common, 55-80mm

*Carvia callosa*





**Grey Pansy - சாம்பல் வசீகரன்**

*Junonia atlites* is a medium size butterfly found in deciduous and evergreen forests. Sailing flight. Often visits flowers. Creamy grey in colour with dark brown lines.

Locally common

55-65 mm

*Barleria spp*





Peacock Pansy - மயில் வசீகரன்

*Junonia almana* is a medium size beautiful butterfly. The colour of this is bright beauty is filled with tawny and large eye spots. They are more near waterbodies, where host plant *Hygrophila auriculata* is abundant. Found in gardens as well as unto 2100 mts. Common, 60-65mm  
*Barleria spp*



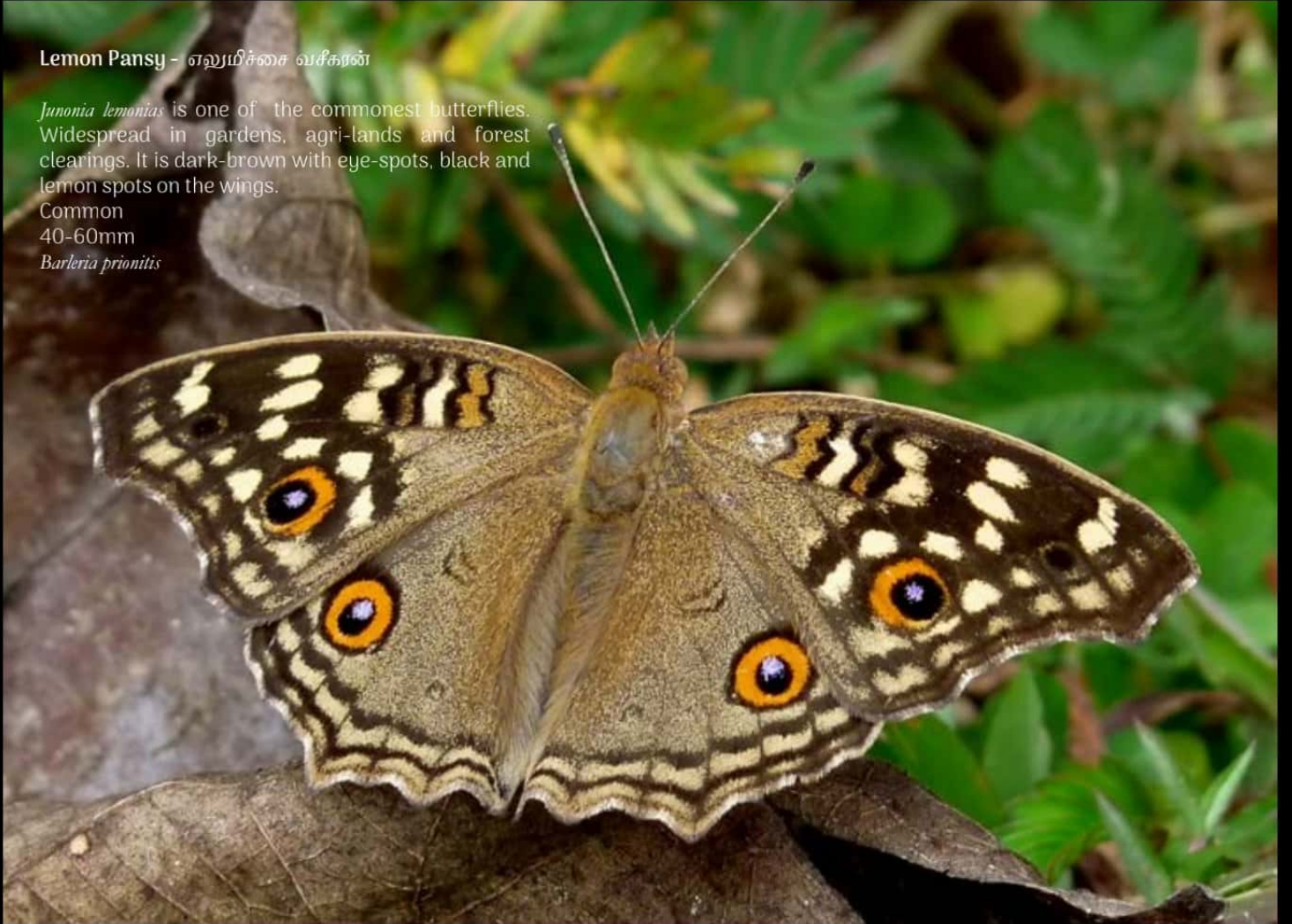
Lemon Pansy - எலுமிச்சை வச்சீகரன்

*Junonia lemonias* is one of the commonest butterflies. Widespread in gardens, agri-lands and forest clearings. It is dark-brown with eye-spots, black and lemon spots on the wings.

Common

40-60mm

*Barleria prionitis*







#### Great Eggfly - பெரிய பசலைச்சிறகன்

*Hypolimnas bolina* is a widespread butterfly; it is seen in both moist forest areas as well as plains. The male looks similar to Danaid Eggfly Males but distinguishable by the white rings with purple colour, and the female mimics Common Crow Butterfly.

Common

70-110 mm

*Sida rhombifolia*

#### Danaid Eggfly - பசலைச்சிறகன்

*Hypolimnas misippus* is a medium sized butterfly occurring in plains & forest fringes of TN. Males are territorial and sexually dimorphic. Female exhibits polymorphism with majority of them mimicking Plain Tigers. Two more female forms namely inaria and alcippoides exist but are rare.

Common

70-85 mm

*Aystasia laviana*



**Blue Oakleaf - நீல இலைச்சிறகன்**

*Kallima borsfieldii* is a large leaf shaped beautiful butterfly, seen in evergreen, wooded and moist deciduous forests. The upper with brilliant blue is a visual treat; Highly camouflaged among dry leaves. Locally common  
85-110mm  
*Carria callosa*





**Autumn Leaf - வசந்தகரல இலை**

*Doleschallia bisaltide* is a large leaf shaped beautiful butterfly, seen in evergreen, wooded and moist deciduous forests. It has more markings, Upper rich tawny colours with two eyespots on basal area. They looks leaf shaped beautiful butterfly.

Rare  
75-85mm

*Eranthemum malabaricum*





## BLUES LYCAENIDAE

Lycaenidae is the second-largest family of butterflies with over 6000 species worldwide. These are also called Blues. Blues make up about 30% of the known butterfly species. There are 443 species in India and Tamil Nadu has 96 species. A majority of these butterflies have blue upper-sides, and few have other colours. Few species have long tails at their hind wings that also support their flight patterns.

Eggs are almost spherical, but flattened at both ends to appear turban shaped. The caterpillars have a flattened shape rather than cylindrical. The most remarkable fact about the caterpillars of Blues is their association with ants. Certain glands secrete a sugary solution that ants like. In return, the ants constantly surround the caterpillars and protect them from other predators. Larvae are capable of producing vibrations and low sounds that are transmitted through the substrates they inhabit. They use these sounds to communicate with ants. Most of the larvae are herbivorous and few feed on aphids, scaly insects and ant larvae. Adult individuals often have hairy antenna-like tails complete with black and white ringed appearance. Many species also have a spot at the base of the tail and some turn around upon landing to confuse potential predators from recognizing the true head orientation. This causes predators to approach from the true head end resulting in early visual detection.

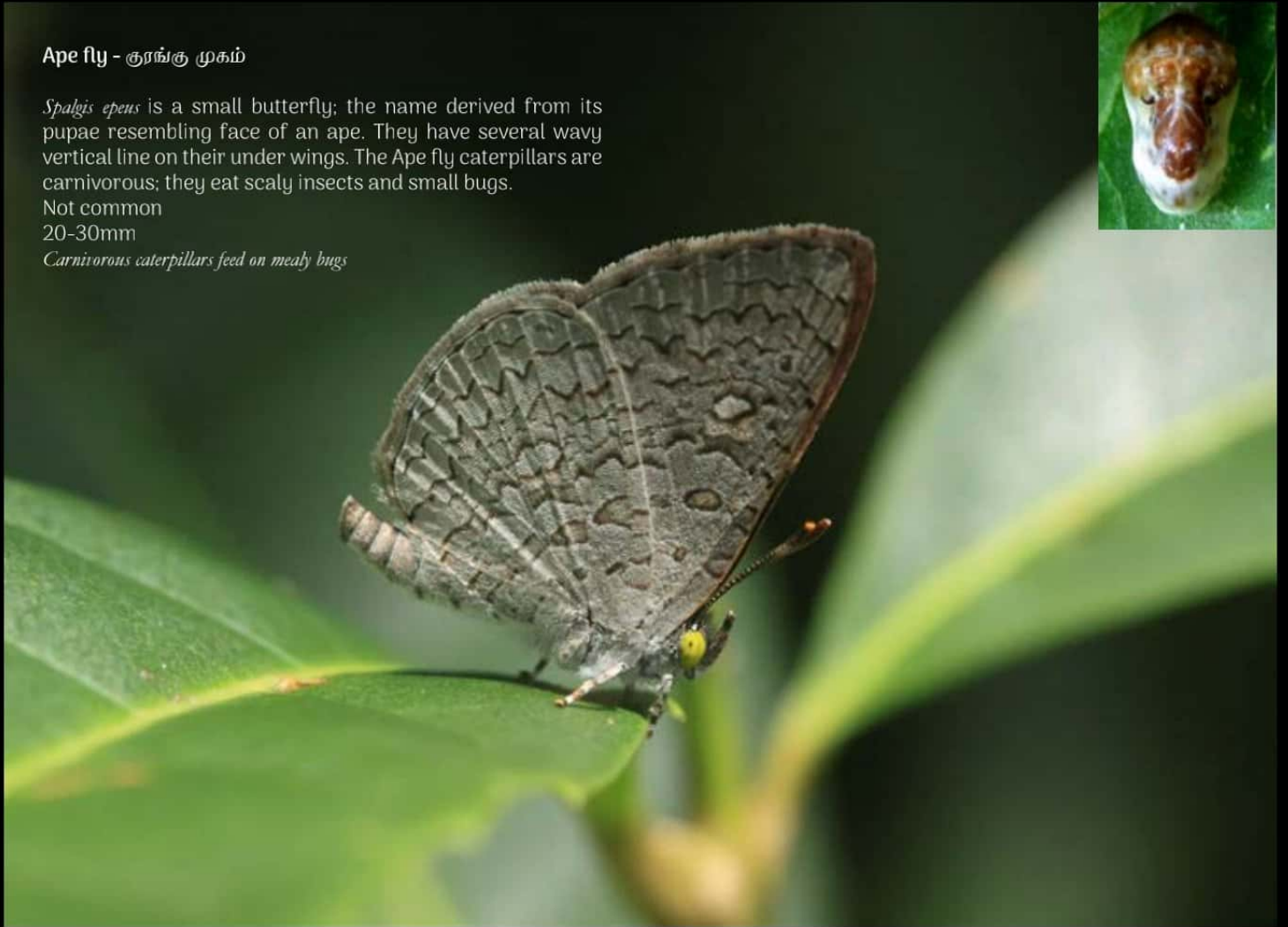
Blues are found in open meadows, grasslands, bushes and forest clearings.

**Ape fly - குரங்கு முகம்**

*Spalgis epus* is a small butterfly; the name derived from its pupae resembling face of an ape. They have several wavy vertical line on their under wings. The Ape fly caterpillars are carnivorous; they eat scaly insects and small bugs.

Not common  
20-30mm

*Carnivorous caterpillars feed on mealy bugs*





**Indian Sunbeam - கதிரவன்**

*Caretis thetis* is a small beautiful butterfly found at forest fringes. The butterfly has shining silver white wings and the upper is orange with black borders.

Not rare

40-48mm

*Abrus precatorius*



Angled Sunbeam - கொக்கிக்கதிரவன்

*Curetis acuta* is a small beautiful butterfly and occurs in forests. They have continuous discal bands. They love to visit damp patches, animal droppings.

Not rare

35-42mm

*Data deficient*





**Shiva Sunbeam - சிவக்கதிரவன்**

*Caretis siva* a small rare beautiful butterfly and occurs in forests. They are endemic to South-India. They can be easily differentiated by the small black dots on the wings.

Rare

35-40mm

*Ongenia oojeiensis* (Fabaceae)





**1. Western Centaur Oak Blue - மேற்கு கலப்பு கருவாலி நீலன்**  
*Arhopala centaurus* is a large blue butterfly in TN found in tree canopies of forests. They occasionally come down to settle on shrubs and low bushes and lay eggs in Oak trees.  
 Not common, 53-62 mm, *Terminalia paniculata*

**2. Many Tailed Oak Blue - பலவால் கருவாலி நீலன்**  
*Thaduka multicaudata* is a medium sized butterfly; it has many tails, and even though it was given rare status but very commonly seen in TN and its host plant surroundings.  
 Rare, 40-48 mm, *Trewia nudifolia (Euphorbiaceae)*

**3. Large Oakblue - பெரிய கருவாலி நீலன்**  
*Arhopala amantes* is a large Lycaenidae butterfly found in forest. The bright brilliant metallic blue marking on its upper side is very easy to differentiate with other oakblues. The eggs are laid on the leaves of *Syzygium* sp. The larvae and pupae are always attended by red ants. Locally common, 45-57 mm, *Terminalia alata*





**1. Kanara Oakblue** - இந்திய கருவாஸி நீலன்  
*Arhopala alea* also called as Rosy Oakblue is seen in hilly forest areas. The underwing is purplish in colour. The male upper wing is dark shining violet-blue with black borders. Locally common, 44-45 mm, *Data deficient*

**2. Tamil Oak Blue** - தமிழ் கருவாஸி நீலன்  
*Arhopala bazaloides* is a medium sized butterfly with many tails; under wing has wavy marginal line overlaid with white scales. The upper wing has dark purple-blue colour with dark border. Very rare, 44-47 mm, *Data deficient*

**3. Aberrant Oak Blue** - பிறழும் கருவாஸி நீலன்  
*Arhopala absens* is a medium sized butterfly with two short spikes under wing has two round spots in the cell. The upper wing has dull purple-blue colour with broad border. Not rare, 32-35 mm, *Shorea robusta (Dipterocarpaceae)*



2



**1. Common Acacia Blue - கருவேல் நீலன்**

*Surendra quercetorum* is a small sized common butterfly, found in hilly forests. The under wing is brown with thin silver markings; and the upper wing dark brown, purple blue in central area. Locally common, 30-40 mm, *Acacia torta*

**2. Silver Streak Acacia Blue - வெள்ளிக்கோட்டு கருவேல்நீலன்**

*Zinaspia todara* is a striking butterfly with silver lines on under wing, seen in hilly forests. They always share their space with ants and they rests in Bamboos, and their food plant is Acacia species. Rare, 34-38 mm, *Acacia pennata*

**3. Silver Streak Blue - வெள்ளிக்கோட்டு நீலன்**

*Iraota timoleon* is a small brown colour butterfly with irregular silver streak in wings. Found in woody regions. They love wet patches and visits flowers, male has one tail and female has two with reddish brown upper wings. Locally not rare, 40-48 mm, *Ficus benghalensis*



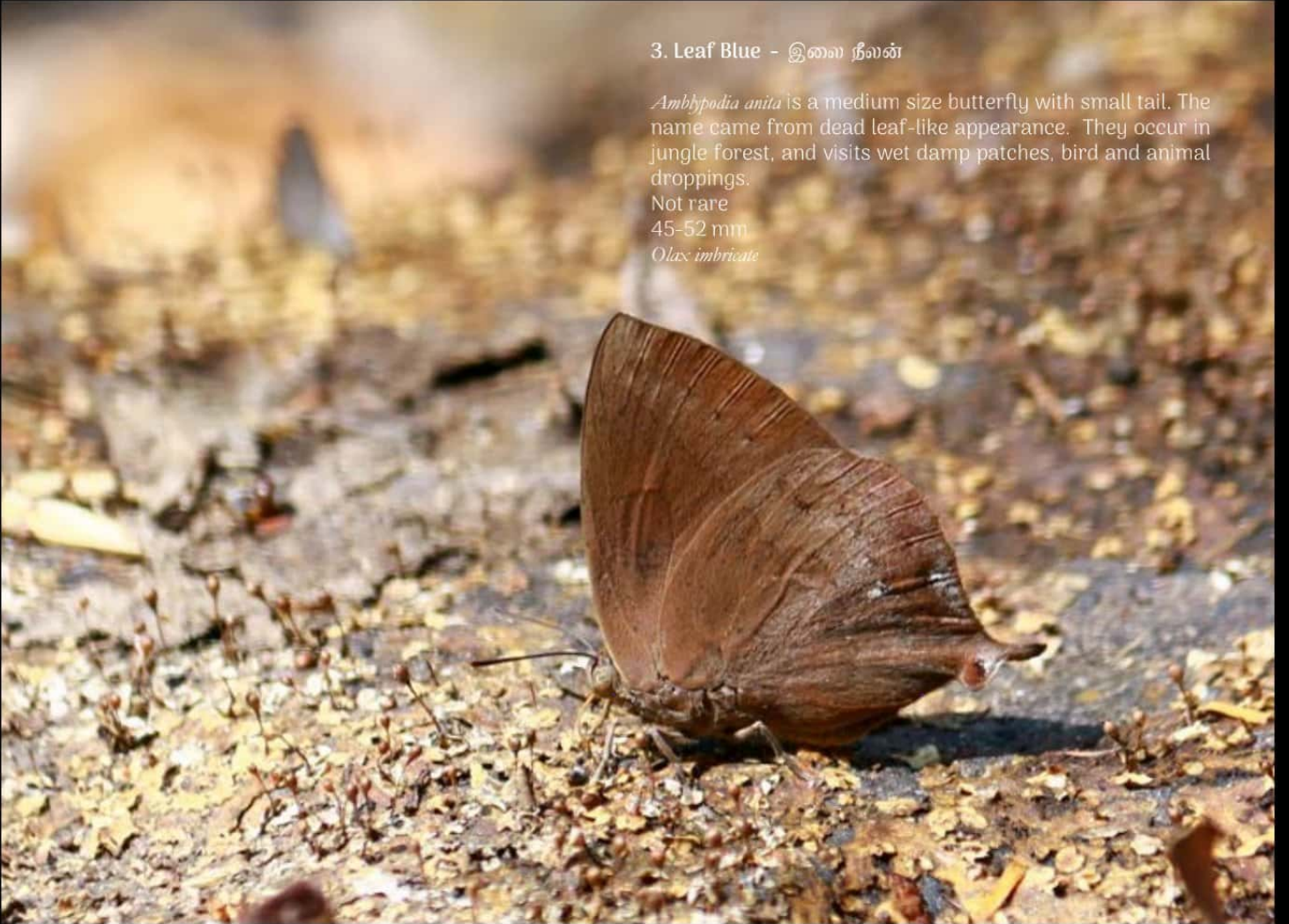
### 3. Leaf Blue - இலை நீலன்

*Amblypodia anita* is a medium size butterfly with small tail. The name came from dead leaf-like appearance. They occur in jungle forest, and visits wet damp patches, bird and animal droppings.

Not rare

45-52 mm

*Olex imbricate*





**Red Spot - சிவப்பு புள்ளி நீலன்**

*Zesius chrysomallus* is a small blue butterfly, found in Almond trees in forest fringes. Red spots are very clearly seen on their wings. Male has two tails and copper red colour in upperwing, female has 3 tails and powdery blue on its upper wing.

Locally not rare

38-44 mm

*Caterpillars probably feed on antlarvae*



**Yamfly - யாம் பிளை**

*Lasura atymnus* is a small beautiful butterfly with extended tipped white tails which add more to its beauty. It is found in hilly regions of TN and its name derived from its host plant Yam. The colour of yamfly is orange-yellow and reddish orange with a black border on the upper wing.

Common  
36-40 mm

*Dioscorea pentaphylla*



**Common Onyx - ஓனிக்ஸ்**

*Horaga onyx* is a rare and small charming butterfly with striking irregular white band in the under wings. The larval host plant is wild mango trees. Common onyx adorns the cover of this book.

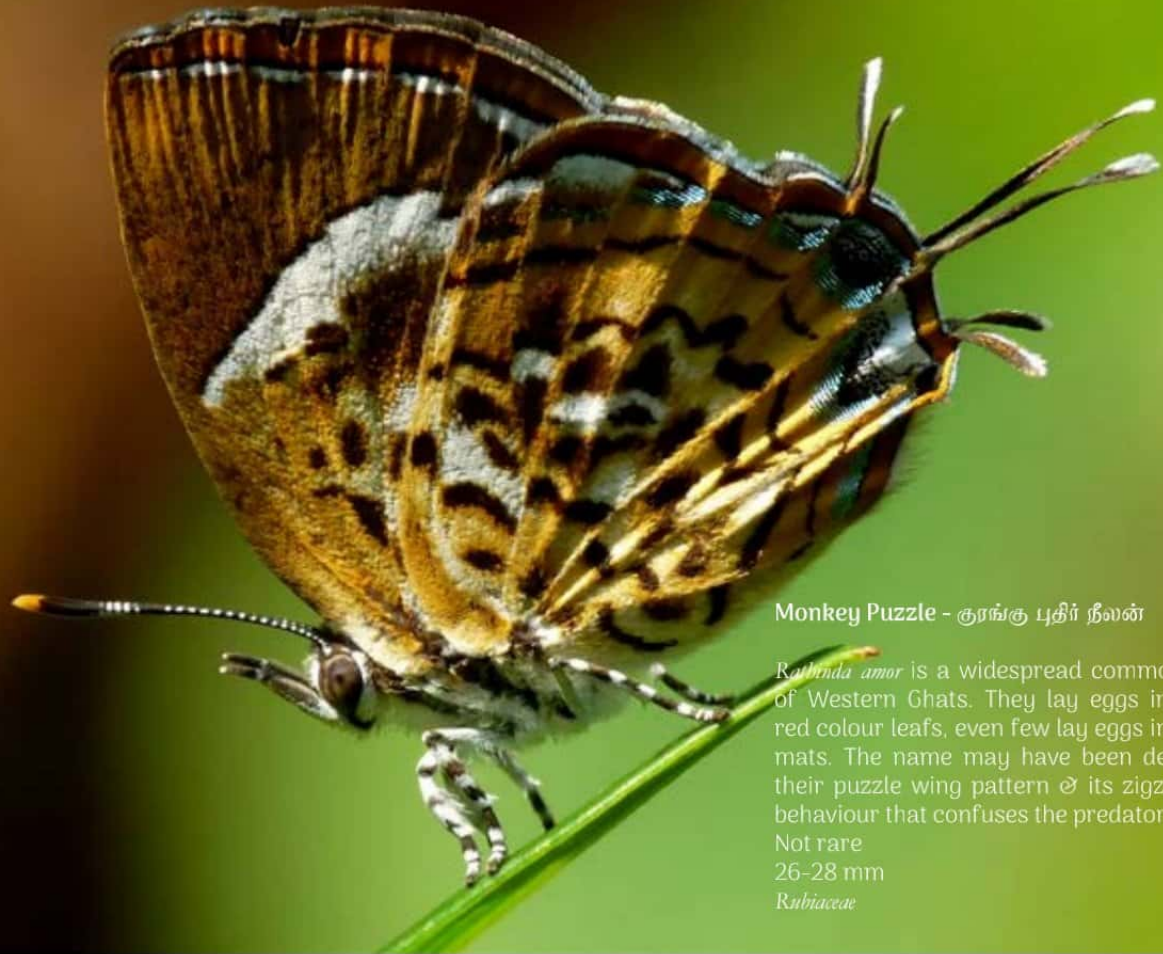
Locally common

27-33 mm

*Coriaria nepalensis* (Coriariaceae)







**Monkey Puzzle - குரங்கு புதிர் நீலன்**

*Rathinda amor* is a widespread common butterfly of Western Ghats. They lay eggs in Ixora and red colour leafs, even few lay eggs in red colour mats. The name may have been derived from their puzzle wing pattern & its zigzag jumping behaviour that confuses the predators.

Not rare

26-28 mm

*Rubiaceae*

Common Imperial - பேரரசு

*Cheritra freja* is a small attractive butterfly found in evergreen and hilly regions. The under wing colour of this butterfly is pale white/yellow with black margins and upper wing has brown colour. It has two long tails like a kite.

Locally common

38-42 mm

*Cinnamomum* spp

**Peacock Royal - மயில் ராஜல்**

*Tajuria cippus* is a small and common attractive butterfly, found on hilly regions and forest fringes. The upper wing is brilliant metallic blue and under wing is pale grey white with black eyes, which is the identity key.

Uncommon

31-45 mm

*Dendrophthoe falcate*





**Plains Blue Royal - ശ്യാമൻ**

*Tajuria jebana* is a small beautiful butterfly; they can be seen in plains and hills. They are usually seen around their food plant, which is a parasitic plant. The Wing has blue on the upper and pale grey on the under wing with pale white/brown colour eyes.

Not rare

30-37 mm

*Dendrophthoe spp (Loranthaceae)*



**Broadtail Royal - அகண்டவால் ராயல்**

*Creon cleobis* is a rare beautiful butterfly. The under wing has two tails with creamy brown with two orange bordered black spots and the upper, blue with broad black edge in upper forewing.

Not rare

27-38 mm

*Dendrophthoe elastic*





**1. Tufted White Royal - வெண்ணிற ராயல்**

*Pradapa deva* is an attractive butterfly; seen in hilly regions wing has shining sky blue on the upper and greyish blue on under with pale white green colour eyes.

Not rare, 30-37 mm, *Dendrophthoe spp (Loranthaceae)*

**2. Broadtail Royal - அகலவால் ராயல்**

*Creon cleobis* is a rare beautiful butterfly. The under wing has two tails with creamy brown with two orange bordered black spots and the upper, blue with broad black edge in upper forewing.

Not rare, 27-38 mm, *Dendrophthoe elastic*

**3. Branded Royal - அகண்ட பட்டை ராயல்**

*Rachana jalindra* is a rare butterfly found on tree tops and hilly regions. The wing has a broad chocolate brown band on the under and deep violet blue/dark brown on the upper.

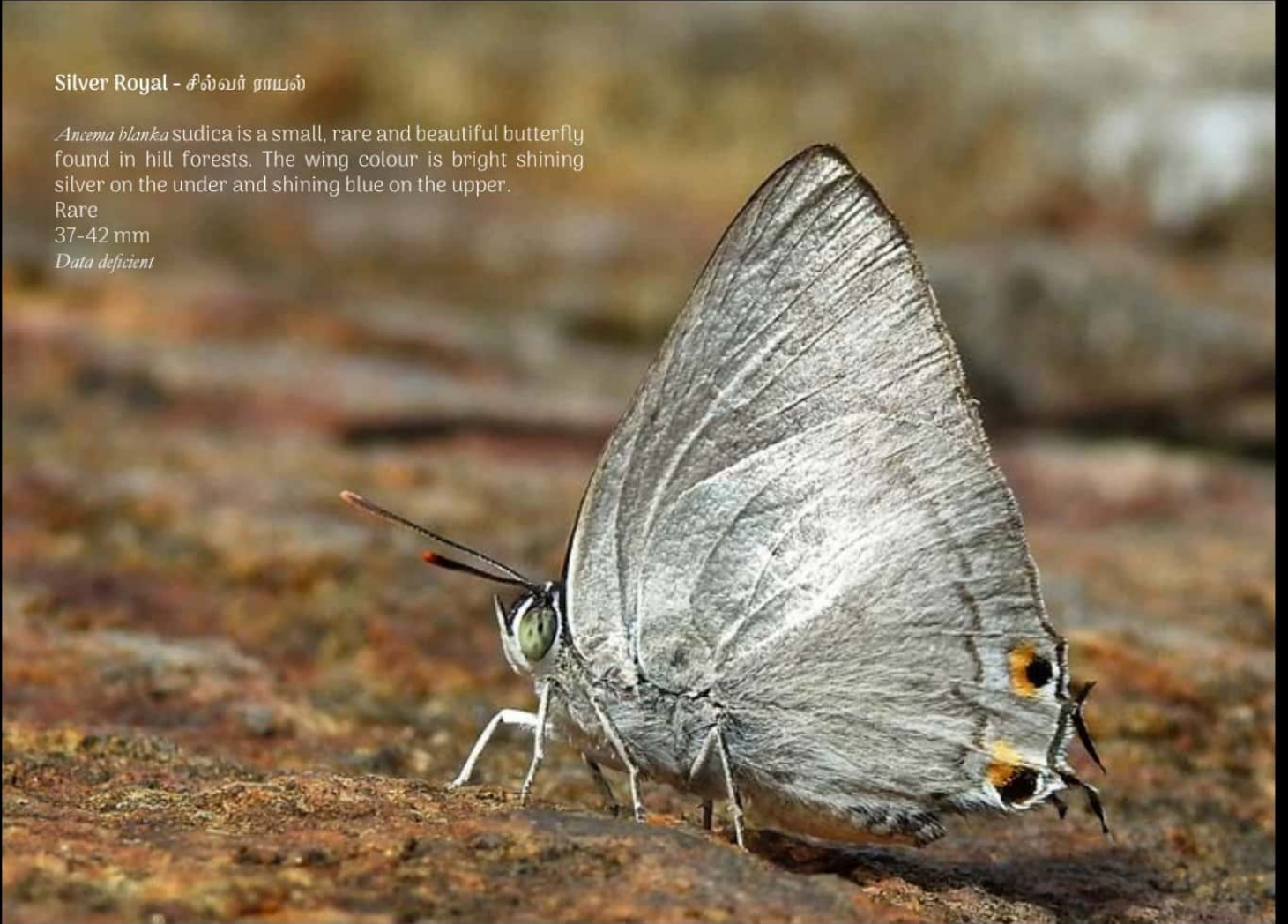
Rare to very rare, 36-44 mm, *Dendrophthoe elastica*



**Silver Royal - சில்வர் ராயல்**

*Ancema blanka sudica* is a small, rare and beautiful butterfly found in hill forests. The wing colour is bright shining silver on the under and shining blue on the upper.

Rare  
37-42 mm  
*Data deficient*





Nilgiri Tit - நீலகிரி மீட்டர்

*Hypolycaena nilgirica* is a very rare attractive butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats. The upper wing colour of the male is reddish brown and the female is dark brown. The under wing has white and indistinct black spots with two tails.

Very rare  
28-32mm

*Data deficient*

Fluffy Tit - மீளப்பி டிட்

*Zelus amasa* is a beautiful butterfly with two long fluffy tails; seen in forests and hills. Wings are bluish white on the upper and white & brown on under.

Not rare

30-37mm

*Dendrophthoe spp* (Loranthaceae)





**Orchid Tit - ஆர்க்கிட் டிட்**

*Chilaria othona* is a rare butterfly that can be found in forests. The underwing is white with black edged markings and the upper wing is pale blue with broad black outer margin, with two tails. Very interestingly Orchid Tit has a swimming behaviour even without any threats.

Rare

24-27 mm

*Epiphytic orchids*



**Guava Blue - கொடியா நீலன்**

*Virachola isocrates* is a small common butterfly. The upper wing brown with dull orange patches and under wing has white bordered straight central bands. The caterpillars of this species bore into fruits and they are considered as a pest to Guava.

Common  
34-50 mm

*Tamarindus indica*



**Large Guava Blue -பெரிய கொய்யா நீலன்**

*Virachola perse* is a small blue butterfly found in forest. The under wing is brown with dark purple bands and the upperwing is shining blue with broad dark brown outer edge.

Not rare

48-52mm

*Catunaregam spinarum*





**Blue-Edged plane - விமாணம்**

*Bindahara moorei* is a small attractive butterfly found in evergreen jungles and forest edges. They visit specific flower plants such as Jamaica Cherry. The long fluffy tail is distinctive. Under wing has glossy black and yellowish brown and the upper has glossy black.

Not rare

36-42 mm

Fruit of *Salacia spp*





**1. Cornelian - கார்னீலியன்**

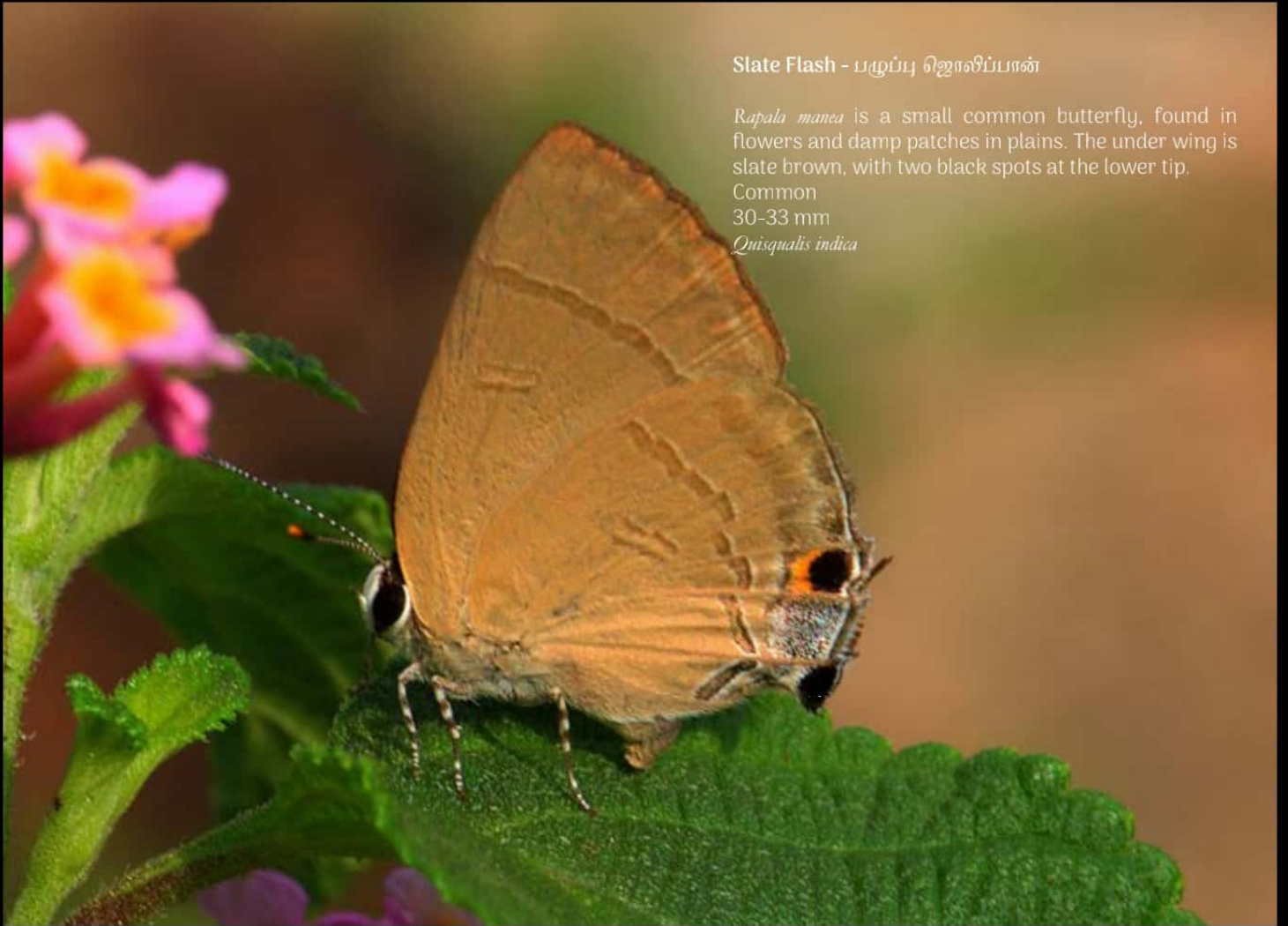
*Deudorix epijarbas* is a small butterfly. They are found in forests and plains of TN. The underside is brown with dark brown discal bands. Sometime confused with Red flash, but the under wing is dark brown with broad white bands easy to differentiate. Not common, 34-44 mm, *Connarus wightii*

**2. Indian Red Flash - சீவப்பு ஜெரனிப்பரன்**

*Rapala iarbus* is a small common butterfly seen in plains and forests. The name comes from their red flashy bright wings on upper. Common, 33-41 mm, *Ougeinia dalbergioides*

**3. Indigo Flash - அடர் நீல ஜெரனிப்பரன்**

*Rapala raruna* is a small butterfly seen in plains and forests. Fast flier and seen among flowers and damp patches. The under wing colour is dark/pale shining blue. Not rare, 28-29 mm, *Quisqualis indica*



**Slate Flash - பழுப்படி விஜ்ஜலிப்பாண்**

*Rapala manca* is a small common butterfly, found in flowers and damp patches in plains. The under wing is slate brown, with two black spots at the lower tip.

Common  
30-33 mm

*Quisqualis indica*



**Malabar Flash - മലബാർ ജിജാശിപ്താൻ**

*Rapala lankana* is a very rare butterfly. They occur only in moist deciduous forests. The underside is dark/dull reddish brown with broad brown discal band.

Rare

38-41 mm

*Data deficient*



Common Tinsel - மீன்கீழ்

*Catapoeilma majors* is a small and very rare butterfly found in hilly forests of TN. The under wing colour is grey brown with irregular black, silvery yellowish band.

Not rare locally

28-32mm

*Terminalia paniculata*





**1. Common Silverline - வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis vulcanus* is a small, common dry habitat species occurs in plains and forest edges of TN. The name is derived from silver marking on their wings.

Common, 26-34 mm, *Cadaba fruticosa*

**2. Long-Banded Silverline - நீலப்பட்டை வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis lobita* is a forest species found in heavy rain fall jungles. The long bands are easy to differentiate, the under wing bands touches the wing base.

Common, 30-42 mm, *Dioscorea spp*

**3. Abnormal Silverline - அடர்மழுப்பு வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis abnormis* is a very rare species, found only in evergreen and dense forests, the under wing is dull brown with very narrow markings. They regularly visit on damp patches and wet areas for mud-puddling.

Rare, 40-45 mm





**Common Shot Silverline - அட்பழுப்பு வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis ictis* is a small butterfly found more in the drier and open areas. The upper wing colour is dark brown with purple-blue and under wing has khaki silver bands without black edges.

Locally common  
27-35 mm

*Dendrophthoe sp*



**Scarce Silverline - அரைகுறை வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis elima* is a similar to the common shot silverline. Found in plains, hills and forest habitats. The colour of the butterfly is Reddish brown with silver stripes.

Not common  
28-42 mm  
Data deficient



**Plumbeous Silverline - அடர்நீல வெள்ளிக்கம்பி**

*Spindasis schistacea* is a beautiful blue butterfly occurring in TN. They are fond of flowers, bird droppings and damp patches. The upper wing colour is blue.

Not rare

28-37 mm

*Data deficient*

**Common Pierrot - கரும்புள்ளி நீலன்**

*Castalius rosimon* is a very common black and white beautiful butterfly, found in plains, scrub lands and forests. They visit flowers, bird droppings and damp patches.

Common  
24-34 mm

*Zizyphus jujube*







**1. Angled Pierrot - கொக்கி நீலன்**

*Caleta caleta* is a small butterfly seen in evergreen forest and deciduous forests. They are fond of mud-puddling and visit flowers and bird droppings.

Not rare, 26-32 mm, *Zizyphus rugosa*

**2. Banded Blue Pierrot - பட்டை நீலன்**

*Discolampa ethion* is a small butterfly occurring in dense, evergreen forests. They are generally seen around forest clearings and streams. Their flight is weak and close to the ground.

Locally common, 26-30 mm, *Zizyphus spp*

**3. Rounded Pierrot - வரி நீலன்**

*Tarucus nara* is a small butterfly, and they occur in grasses, dry areas and shrubs in TN. The colour of this pierrot is cream yellow with black spots.

Not rare, 23-28 mm, *Zizyphus sp*



**Dark Pierrot - அடர் நீலன்**

*Tarucus ananda* is a small, attractive butterfly found in wet areas and hilly forest regions. The larval stage of the butterfly is in association with Acrobat ants and they lay eggs in Indian jujube plant.

Not common

22-28 mm

*Dendrophthoe sp*



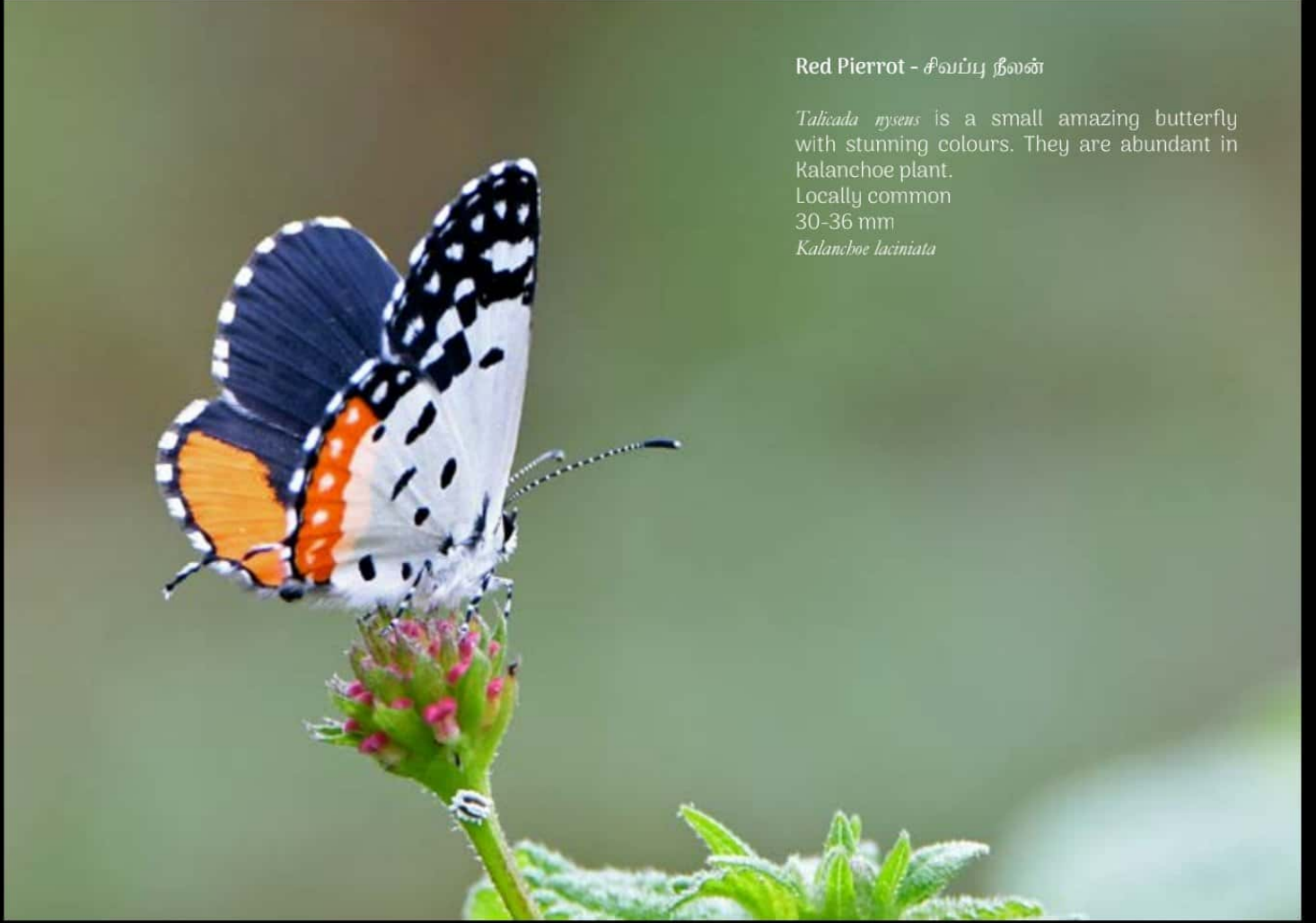
**Black-Spotted Pierrot / Balkan - பஸ்கான் நீலன்**

*Tarucus balkanicus* is a small attractive butterfly and they found in wet areas and wetland habitats. They resemble Striped Pierrot that can be easily differentiated by their dark black-spots on under hind-wing.

Rare

16-28 mm

*Zizyphus sp*



**Red Pierrot - சிவப்பு நீலன்**

*Talicada nysens* is a small amazing butterfly with stunning colours. They are abundant in Kalanchoe plant.

Locally common

30-36 mm

*Kalanchoe laciniata*



### Zebra Blue - வரிக்குதிரை நீலன்

*Leptotes plinius* is a small common butterfly seen in dry regions and forest edges. The zebra-like markings gave its name. It is fond of visiting flowers and seen large numbers in mud-puddling along with other blue species.

Common

22-30 mm

*Albizia lebbek*





**1. Common Lineblue - வரி நீலன்**

*Prosotas nora* is a small butterfly and found in forest regions. They can be seen in large numbers assembled during mud-puddling and animal droppings.

Common, 18-25 mm, *Acacia catechu*

**2. Tailless Lineblue - வாஸில்லா வரி நீலன்**

*Prosotas dubiosa* is a small common butterfly and found in forest regions. They look very similar to common line blue but they don't have tail. They visit flowers, bird droppings and damp patches.

Common, 22-26 mm, *Acacia spp*

**3. Dingy Lineblue - வாஸில்லா வரி நீலன்**

*Petrelaea dana* is a small common butterfly and found in forest regions. They look very similar to tailless line blue but they don't have tail. The under wing white lines are dull and faint; the upper wing has dull violet blue.

Common, 24-28 mm



**1. Large Four Lineblue - பெரிய 4 வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba pactolus* is a small and rare butterfly, found in rain forest. The colour of the butterfly is dark blue in upper and dark brown in female. The under fore-wing has two pairs of yellowish lines. Rare, 27-38 mm, *Data deficient*

**2. Pale Four Lineblue - வெளிர் 4 வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba bermus* is a small and rare butterfly, found in rain forests. The colour of upper is greyish blue violet in upper and in the female is pale blue with dark border. The under fore-wing has two pairs of white conjoined lines. Rare, 30-35 mm, *Data deficient*

**3. Rounded Six Line Blue - வட்டவடிவ 6 வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba berenice* are found in deciduous forests and the forewing is rounded. The markings on under wing are not zigzagged in outer central crescents. The upper is frosted violet blue for males and pale purple blue with no white in females. Not rare, 22-30 mm, *Data deficient*





**1. Opaque Six-Lineblue - ஒளி புகா 6வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba beroe* is a small butterfly. There are three pairs of lines on under fore wing. They are tailless and can be seen along with other lineblues. The under wing colour is brownish grey and upper wing is darker violet blue. Not rare, 28-34 mm, *Moullava spicata*

**2. Dark Ceylon Six-Lineblue - இலங்கை 6 வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba calauria* is a very rare and the males have dark shining upper blue and the female have purple bases wing marginal lines are zig-zagged and the markings, narrow and well-defined. Rare, 30 mm, *External appearance*

**3. Transparent Six-Lineblue - ஒளிபுகும் 6 வரி நீலன்**

*Nacaduba kurava* is a fast flier. The marking on under wing is regular and transparent. Male upper is pale shining violet-blue. Three pairs of lines on under fore wing. Not rare, 30-38 mm, *Ardisia humilis*



**Pointed Lineblue - கூரான வரி நீலன்**

*Lonolyce helicon* is a small, rare butterfly can found in thick forests. They have very pointed forewing and the upper wing is dark violet blue and female has brown.

Rare

22-25mm

*Data deficient*



**White Tipped Lineblue - வெண் ஓர வரி நீலன்**

*Prosotas noreia* is a small common butterfly and found in forest regions and scrub jungles. It flies fast and is seen with other lineblues during mud-puddling. The name came from its forewing tip; it's pointed with white colour.

Rare

22-28mm

*Data deficient*



**Common Ciliate Blue - மிச்சிருயிர் நீலன்**

*Anthene emolus* is a small rare butterfly occurring in hilly forests of TN. The hind wing has 3 small tufts and dark spots near the inner edge. The colour is dark purple with thin black borders on the upper and brown with thick white bands on the under wing.

Rare  
28-35mm



**Pointed Ciliate Blue - கூரான மிச்சிருயிர் நீலன்**

*Anthene hycaenina* is a small butterfly occurring in hilly forests. They are fond of mud-puddling and visits flowers and bird droppings. The name comes from the pointed tip in the forewing, and the hind wing has 3 small tufts.

Uncommon  
24-29mm





**1. Common Cerulean - புங்க நீலன்**

*Jamides celeno* is a small common attractive butterfly; they lay eggs in Pongamia species. The colour is pale blue upper and under wings greyish brown. Common, 27-40 mm, *Saraca asoca*

**2. Dark Cerulean - அடர் புங்க நீலன்**

*Jamides bochus* is a small blue butterfly found in both plains and forests. The butterfly has a dark iridescent blue on the upper wing and the under wing has dark plain brown. Common, 25-34 mm, *Butea monosperma*

**3. Metallic Cerulean - உலோக புங்க நீலன்**

*Jamides alecto* is an attractive blue butterfly, they found in hilly forest regions of TN. The upper wing colour is metallic violet blue and under wing colour is pale yellowish brown. Locally common, 30-44 mm, *Elettaria cardamomum*



**Forget-Me-Not - பருப்பு நீலன்**

*Catochrypsis strabo* is a common butterfly found in plains and forest edges. The colour of this butterfly is pale blue with thin black line borders in the upper and is dull brown with white edge and white spots.

Common  
25-35mm

*Ougeinia dalbergiodes*



**Pea Blue - பட்டாணி நீலன்**

*Lampides boeticus* is a small common butterfly, found among peas and beans family. They visit flowers and damp patches. The upper colour is dark violet blue with two black spots at lower tip and under wing are yellowish, orange black spots.

Common  
24-36mm

*Butea monosperma*

**1. Pale Grass Blue - பழுப்பு புல் நீலன்**

*Pseudozizeeria maha* is a largest of all grass blues and the colour of upper wing is silvery blue with broad dark border and under wing with rounded black spots.

Common, 26-30 mm, *Oxalis corniculata*

**2. Tiny Grass Blue - சிறு புல் நீலன்**

*Zizula hylax* is the smallest grass blue. They keep on dancing while nectaring and resting; They are very attractive with dull violet blue colour on the upper wing.

Common, 16-24 mm, *Hygrophila auriculata*

**3. Dark Grass Blue - அடர் புல் நீலன்**

*Zizeeria karsandra* is a small butterfly with more dark brown colour on the under and upper with dark blue and dark brown on under wings.

Common, 18-24 mm, *Amaranthus spinosus*

**4. Lesser Grass Blue - புல் நீலன்**

*Zizina otis* lays eggs inside flower buds and they can found in plains, scrubs, and grasslands. The colour of the under wing is dark brown.

Common, 19-26 mm, *Lathyrus sp*

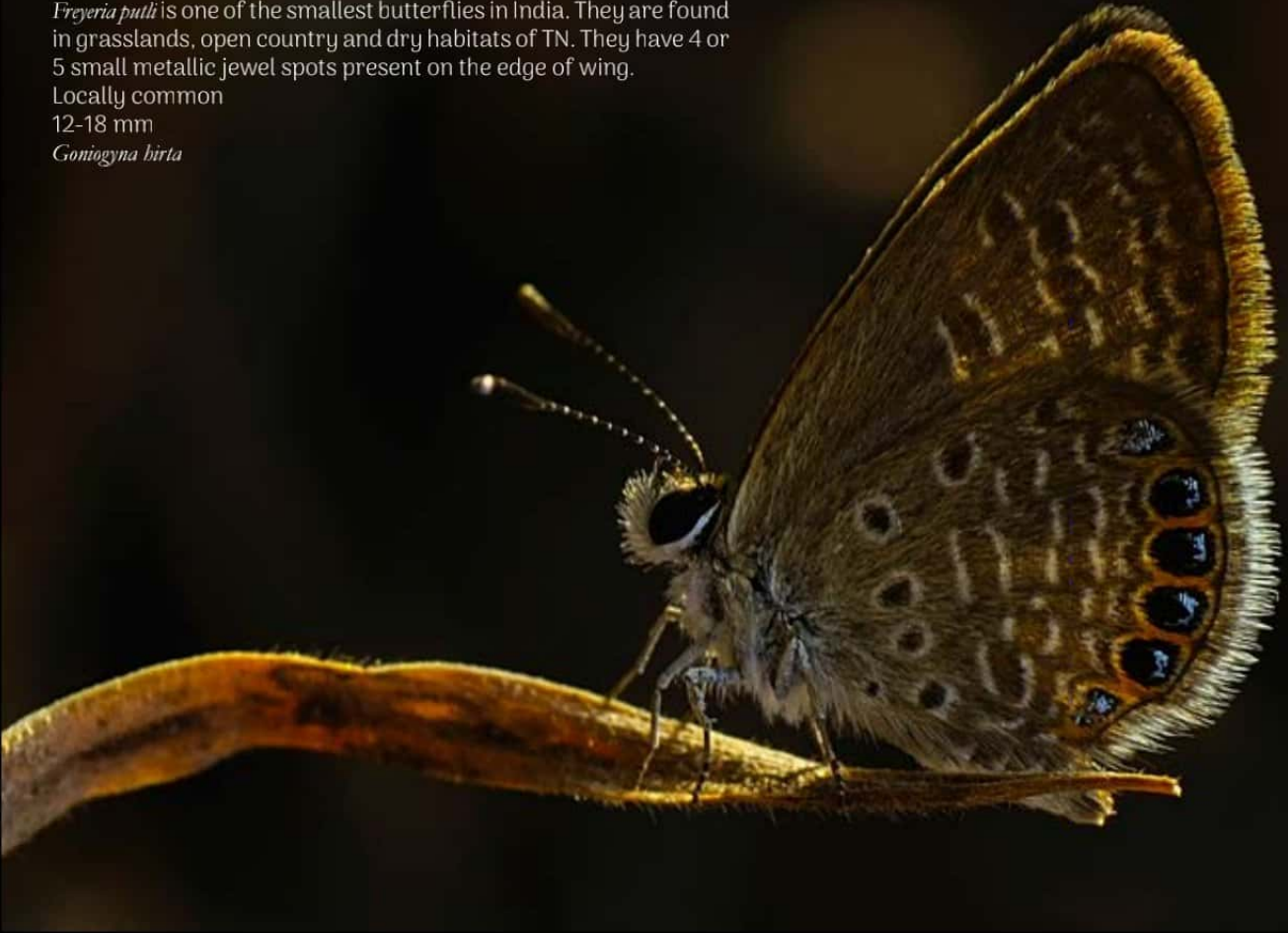






**Small Grass Jewel - சிறு ரத்ன நீலன்**

*Freyeria putli* is one of the smallest butterflies in India. They are found in grasslands, open country and dry habitats of TN. They have 4 or 5 small metallic jewel spots present on the edge of wing.  
Locally common  
12-18 mm  
*Goniogyna hirta*



**Grass Jewel - ரத்ன நீலன்**

*Freyeria trochylus* is a small beautiful butterfly found in TN. They are found in grasslands and hills of TN. They have 3 or 4 smaller metallic jewel spots present on the edge of the wing.

Locally common

20-22mm

*Goniogyna hirta*







Bright Babul Blue - அடர் பபுல் நீலன் (*Acanthina ubaldus*)  
 African Babul Blue - கருவேல் பபுல் நீலன் (*Acanthina jesus*)  
 Dull Babul Blue - பபுல் நீலன் (*Acanthina uranus*)

Babul Blue is a tiny tailless active beautiful butterfly. They are very common in plains, scrubs and grasslands. Their host plants are Acacia species, which is called Babul. They lay eggs on Acacia flowers.

Common 20-25mm, Common 21-26mm, Rare 20-25mm

*Acacia Arabica*



**Indian Cupid - இந்தியன் குப்பிட்**

*Eyes lacturnus* is a small beautiful butterfly, found in both plains and forests. The wing is white with black and grey markings and two bright orange-crowned black on the edge of the wing.

Not rare  
22-28mm

*Desmodium spp*



**1. Plains Cupid - நாட்டு குழிட்டு**

*Chilades pandava* is a small butterfly, found in plains and jungle fringes. The upper wing is lavender-blue in colour and under wing is brown with four dark spots near under wing base. Locally common, 25-35 mm, *Cycas revolute*

**2. Small Cupid - சிறு குழிட்டு**

*Chilades parrhasius* is a small beautiful butterfly found in forest edges. They look similar to plains cupid, but only 3 spots near the under hind wing base; and they fly close to the ground. Common, 20-25 mm

**3. Lime Blue - ஏலமிச்சை நாட்டு நீலன்**

*Chilades lajus* is a small blue butterfly, seen more in open and drier habitats. Visit flowers and damp patches. The wing is brownish grey in colour. Common, 26-30 mm, *Atalantia racemosa*



**Quaker - குவாக்கர்**

*Neopithecops zalmora* is a tiny butterfly found in evergreen forests. It is very attractive while flying; the colour of this butterfly is dark brown with white patches and dark black spot on underside hind wing.

Common  
16-30mm

*Glycosmis pentaphylla*





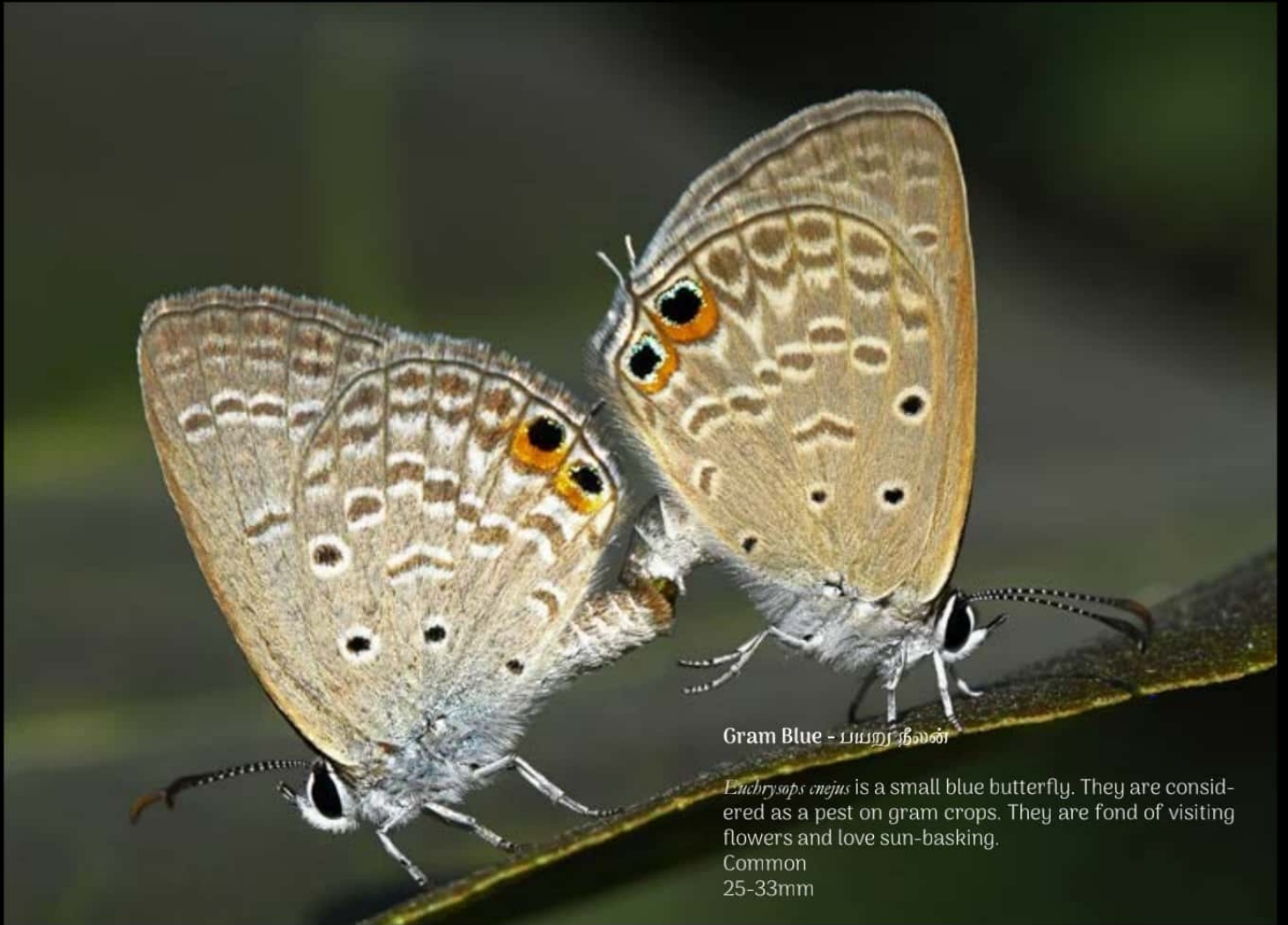
**Malayan - மலையன்**

*Megisba malaya* is a small beautiful blue butterfly; they fly close to the ground on forest edges. They love mud-puddling and sip liquid from bird and animal droppings.

Not rare

19-30mm

*Allophylus cobbe*



Gram Blue - பயறு நீலன்

*Euchrysops cnejus* is a small blue butterfly. They are considered as a pest on gram crops. They are fond of visiting flowers and love sun-basking.

Common  
25-33mm





1. **Plain Hedge Blue** - மங்கிய புதர் நீலன்  
*Celastrina lavendular* is a small butterfly regularly seen on the forest edges. The male has a dark blue and the female similar with dull colour and no big marginal spots like Common Hedge Blue. Common, 28-34 mm, Data deficient

2. **Hampson Hedge Blue** - ஹம்ப்ஸன் புதர் நீலன்  
*Aytalepis bilava* is small and very rare and they found in forest edges. Similar to common hedge blue but differs from common by the arc formation of inner edges in the under fore wing. Rare, 29-32 mm

3. **White Hedge Blue** - வெண் புதர் நீலன்  
*Udara akasa* is a small butterfly seen on the higher elevation of forest and the forest clearings. They don't have marginal series of black spots as in the Common Hedge Blue. Locally common, 26-30 mm, Data deficient

4. **White-Disc Hedge Blue** - வெண் தட்டு புதர் நீலன்  
*Celatoxia albidisca* is endemic to Western Ghats; small blue butterfly seen only above 1500m elevation in shola forests. The bright white colour is striking and disk is clearly visible. Locally common, 32-38 mm, Data deficient

5. **Common Hedge Blue** - புதர் நீலன்  
*Aytalepis puspa* is a small blue very common butterfly, they are seen regularly in forest fringes and visit damp patches. The upper colour is pale blue, black margins and under wing is white with black marginal spots. Common, 28-35 mm, *Paruahyc sarosa*





**Suffused Double-Banded Judy -**

இரு பட்டை ஜூடி

*Abisara bifasciata* is a small, striking Riodinae butterfly. The common name "metalmarks" refers to the small metallic-looking spots commonly found on their wings. The wing is purple brown in male and brown in female. Only 2 species are found in Tamil Nadu.

Common

40-50mm

*Embelia robusta*

**Straight Plum Judy - டிளம் ஜூடி**

*Abisara echerius* is a small, striking Riodinae butterfly found in forests and gardens; the colour is reddish brown with green eyes on the under, and the upper is purple brown. They are found abundantly in jungles, where the host plant *Maesa Indica* is available. Central band on the under fore wing is straight.

Common

40-50mm

*Embelia robusta*



## SKIPPERS HESPERIIDAE



The Skippers are small, dark brown in colour and generally spotted with white or yellow, or orange and green, the markings very often being semi-transparent. Skippers earned their common name from the characteristic way they dart from flower to flower, in quick, rapid flight. They were previously placed in a separate super family, Hesperioidea; however, the most recent taxonomy places the family in the super family Papilionoidea. Skippers are a large, primitive group.

All the six legs are perfect and the antenna tip modified into a narrow hook like projection. They frequently lack butterfly style clubs on the antennae. Skippers can be recognized by their large head, stout bodies, and short triangular shaped forewings. Eggs are dome shaped and are laid singly or in small batches. The caterpillars are cylindrical in shape, narrow at the neck and tail and have a flat belly. They roll leaves or bind grass stems with silk to live concealed within them. In some species pupa is covered with white powder, possibly to repel moisture. They feed on seeds with 1 or 2 embryonic leaves, grasses, palms, ginger and bamboos. Most caterpillars feed at night. Pupation may take place in new or old cell. This group has more spectacular species such as pale Green Awlet, Orange Awlet, Awlking and other species. They are forest insects and some maybe found on open plains especially in grassy meadows.

Worldwide, more than 3500 species of skippers are recognized with the greatest diversity in the Neo-tropical regions of Central and South America. Majority of the 300 skippers found in India are located in the hills of North-east India. Tamilnadu has an estimated number of 80 species.





**1. Orange Striped Awlet - ஆரஞ்சு நாமத்தாவி**

*Burara jaina* is an orange coloured butterfly, the southern sub species is *fergusonii*. The colour of the upper wing is pale brown and orange stripes under wing. Locally not rare, 40-50 mm, *Hiptage benghalensis*

**2. Orange Tail Awlet - ஆரஞ்சு வால் நாமத்தாவி**

*Bibasis sena* is a most attractive butterfly with yellowish orange legs, strong flight, nocturnal in nature. The orange colour is visible in the hind wing tail. Not common, 42-50 mm, *Combretum latifolium*

**3. Pale Geen Awlet - பச்சை நாமத்தாவி**

*Burara gomata* is a rare butterfly found only in the thick rain forests of Western Ghats. Abdomen has dark yellowish bands and white streaks at the base through cell on under wing. Rare, 50-65 mm, *Heptaphuron venulosum*



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**1. Common Banded Awl - பட்டை நரமத்தரவி**

*Hasora chromus* is a very common Awl. They feed nectar in small flowers especially Pungamia sp. The white band is very thin on the under hind wing.

Common, 45-50 mm, *Ricinus communis*

**2. White Banded Awl - வெண் பட்டை நரமத்தரவி**

*Hasora taminatus* is a forest butterfly and has a fast flight, like other Awls. The white band is thicker on hind wings and basal are dull indigo colour is present.

Not rare, 45-55 mm, *Derris scandens*

**3. Common Awl - நரமத்தரவி**

*Hasora badra* is a uncommon Awl. They feed on nectar of small flowers especially Pungamia sp. The colour is bluish white spot in the under hind wing cell.

Uncommon, 45-50 mm, *Ricinus communis*



**1. Plain Banded Awl - சீரிய நாமத்தாவி**

*Hasora vitta* is a uncommon Awl. They feed on nectar of small flowers especially Pungamia sp. The under hind wing has bluish white band and outwardly diffused.  
Uncommon, 45-50 mm, *Ricinus communis*

**2. Brown Awl - பழுப்பு நாமத்தாவி**

*Badamia exclamatoris* is a very common species in the thick forests of Tamilnadu. Long narrow wings with brown colour is unmistakable.  
Not rare, 50-55 mm, *Combretum albidum*

**3. Indian Awlking - ராஜ நாமத்தாவி**

*Choraspes benjaminii* is an attractive butterfly found only in jungles. They are fond of visiting flowers, animals and bird droppings.  
Not rare, 50-60 mm, *Meliosma pungens*







- 1. Malabar Spotted Flat - மலபர் இலையாட்டி.**  
*Celaenorrhinus ambareesa* is commonly found in moist deciduous & semi evergreen forests. The upper hind wings with more spots are clearly visible. Not rare, 45-55 mm, *Carvia callosa*
- 2. Tamil / Dusky Spotted Flat - தமிழ் இலையாட்டி.**  
*Celaenorrhinus ruficornis* is a very common butterfly species and resembles the Common Spotted Flat. The upper wing has separated semi-transparent. Locally common, 45-50 mm, *Carvia callosa*
- 3. Common Spotted Flat - வெண்புள்ளி இலையாட்டி.**  
*Celaenorrhinus leucocera* is a common butterfly rest under leaves, they found in the river streams and forest fringes. The upper wing has semi-transparent joined together. Common, 45-55 mm, *Asystasia gangetica*



**1. Indian Skipper - இந்திய புல் தாவி**

*Spialia galba* is a very common butterfly, they visits small flowers for nectar especially *Tridax* Species and other small flowers. Black and white patterns are present in the wing.  
Common, 20-27 mm, *Hibiscus sp*

**2. African Marbled Skipper - குத்தித்தாவி**

*Gomalia elma* is a small butterfly, resembling Indian Grizzled Skipper, but can be easily differentiated on the basis of upper wing. White spot at the cell base with narrow dark central bands across the wing. Uncommon, 25-30 mm, *Abutilon indicum*

**3. Fulvous Pied Flat - சிறு பழுப்பு இலையாட்டி**

*Pseudocoladenia dan* is a common butterfly is found in forest habitats, fond of visiting flowers and bird droppings. Upper wing has dark brown, overlaid with rufous scales and large central spots not conjoined. Common, 40-46 mm, *Achyranthes aspera*



**1. Angled Flat - கோணவடிவ இலையாட்டி**

*Tapena twaitesi* is very rare butterfly. Regular visitor to mud-puddling. Breed on *Dalbergia* plant species. The upper pale brown with dark brown spots. Rare, 40 mm, Data deficient

**2. Water Snow Flat- நீர்ப்பனி இலையாட்டி**

*Tagiades litigiosa* is a common butterfly found in forest paths and water streams. The upper hind wing has white with dark marginal spots. Not rare, 37-44 mm, *Dioscorea oppositifolia*

**3. Tricolour Pied Flat - மூவண்ண இலையாட்டி**

*Coladenia indrani* is a common butterfly is found in forest habitats. Rapid flight. Resembles Fulvous Pied Flat. The wing colour is yellow in male and white in female ; dark upper wing with central spots more conjoined.

Common, 40-46 mm, *Mallotus philippinensis*





**1. Common Yellow Breasted Flat-** மஞ்சள் மார்பு இலையாட்டி  
*Gerosis bhagara* is a very rare butterfly, 3 semi-transparent white spots on wings, two of them large. Yellow breast and broad white bands are very clearly visible.  
 Not rare, 35-45 mm, *Dalbergia lanceolaria*

**2. Spotted Small Flat -** சிறுபுள்ளி இலையாட்டி  
*Sarangesa purendra* is a small butterfly, prefers drier habitats, and seen regularly with horizontal wings during basking. Forewing has small semi-transparent white spot in central area.  
 Not rare, 25-35 mm, *Asystasia spp*

**3. Alida Angle -** அலிடா கோணத்தாவி  
*Caprona alida* is a very rare beautiful butterfly, regularly seen in Saptur village, Tirunelveli. Reddish brown with transparent markings with yellow orange spots.



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**1. Common Small Flat - சிறிய இலையொட்டி**

*Sarangesa dasahara* is a small butterfly found in forest and water rich habitats. Fond of bird droppings and flowers. 2 cell spots separated or joined, outwardly concave. 3 spots in straight line. Common, 26-35 mm, *Aystasia spp*

**2. Common Snow Flat - வெண்பனி இலையொட்டி**

*Tagiades japedus* is a hesperid butterfly. Highly territorial. Two central spots in the middle are out of line. Not rare, 45-50 mm, *Dioscorea oppositifolia*

**3. Suffused Snow Flat - தெளிந்த இலையொட்டி**

*Tagiades gana* is a brown coloured butterfly. Sun loving; often basks on tall shrubs and trees at the forest edges. Suffused outer edges. Not rare, 45-50 mm, *Dioscorea oppositifolia*





### 1. Spotted Angle - புள்ளிகோணத்தரவி

*Caprona agama* is a beautiful brown butterfly with white spots, visits damp patches, bird droppings and fond of Sun. Another form *mettasuta* is very commonly seen in Tamilnadu.

Rare, 30-50 mm, Data deficient

### 2. Chestnut Angle - பட்டை கோணத்தரவி

*Odontoptilum angulata* is a beautiful butterfly, visits damp patches, bird droppings. Fond of sunlight. The upper of the wing has pale brown with chestnut colour.

Not rare, 40-45 mm, *Ceiba sp*

### 3. Golden Angle - தங்க கோணத்தரவி

*Odontoptilum ransonneti* is a medium sized butterfly found in thick dry habitat and jungle forests. This is an uncommon species. Their two different forms are seen throughout TN. Dry season form has paler wings with more yellow brown markings, and Wet season form has tawny golden yellow wings with white semi-transparent markings.

Not rare, 35-45 mm, *Helicteres isora*







**1. Tamil Grass Dart - தமிழ் புல் தள்ளி**

*Taractropera ceramas* is a small skipper found in open grassland of Western Ghats. They feed on grass. Wings are dark brown marked with yellow orange spots. Locally abundant, 23-30 mm, *Rice*

**2. Common Grass Dart - புல் தள்ளி**

*Taractropera maevius* is a small skipper found in open areas and hills of Western Ghats. Continuous white spots in the both wings cell spots. Locally common, 22-28 mm, *Grasses*

**3. Hampsons Hedge Hopper - ஹேம்சன் கமை தாங்கி**

*Barucus hampsoni* is seen in heavy rainfall areas. They fly close to the ground. Common during rainy season. Not rare, 26-32 mm, Data deficient



**1. Smaller/Indian Dartlet - டார்ட் லைட்**

*Oriens goloides* is a small skipper confined to heavy rainfall areas. Dark brown with tawny yellow markings. Common, 24-28 mm, Data deficient

**2. Tamil Dartlet - டார்ட் லைட்**

*Oriens concinna* is a small forest skipper, endemic to Western Ghats. Orange coloured wings with black markings. Under hind wing overlaid with dark green scales, central bands not distinct. Not common, 30-33 mm, Data deficient

**3. Yellow Stripped Hedge Hopper - மஞ்சள் கமை தாங்கி**

*Baracus subditus* is a small distinct skipper, seen in evergreen forests. Easy to differentiate with other species due to their yellow stripes. Rare, 26-30 mm





**1. Dark Palm Dart - அடர் பனைத்துள்ளி**

*Telicota aneilla* is a very common small skipper found in plains, woody regions, hills and dry areas of TN. The colour is yellow with suffused black markings.

Common, 33-36 mm, *Calamus spp*

**2. Pale Palm Dart - வெள்ளிறிய பனைத்துள்ளி**

*Telicota colon* is a small skipper found in dry and open areas; fast flier. Dark brown in colour similar to dark palm dart, but yellow colour extends through the dark border of the wing edges. The under wing with pale green and defined band in WSF.

Not rare, 32-36 mm, *Saccharum officinarum*

**3. Plain Palm Dart - பனைத்துள்ளி**

*Cephrenes acalle* is a small forest habitat butterfly. Visit flowers and are active in early morning and evening. The yellow or orange markings with black spots on under wing and upper looks similar to dark palm dart.



1



2



3



**1. Oriental Straight Swift - பனரா வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Parnara bada* is a small brown butterfly. The white dots in the wings and short antennae make it easy to identify. Upper spots are small, irregular, often one or two spots are absent. Common, 32-38 mm, *Saccharum officinarum*

**2. Rice Swift - அரிசி வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Borbo cinnara* occurs in grasslands, scrubs, deciduous and semi evergreen forests. Wing colour is grey brown with white spots. Common, 30-36 mm, *Andropogon spp*

**3. Bevan's Swift - பேவான் வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Borbo bevani* is a small butterfly widely distributed in plains and hills, golden brown wings broader than Rice Swift. Hind wing outer edge is rounded. Locally common, 32-36 mm, *Imperata cylindrical*



**1. Conjoined Swift - இணைந்த புள்ளி வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Pelopidas conjuncta* are confined to moist forests and hills; strong flier, often seen basking in sunshine and grasslands. Five white spots and purple gloss in the under wing is present.

Not rare, 45-52 mm, *Oryza sativa*

**2. Large Branded Swift - பெரிய பட்டை வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Pelopidas subochracea* is a large skipper, confined to forest hills, strong fliers, and regular visitor of flowers. The under wing has prominent white spots and one in cell.

Not common, 38-42 mm, Data deficient

**3. Small Branded Swift - சிறு வயல் துள்ளி**

*Pelopidas mathias* is a common butterfly found in plains to hills, frequently settles on ground to bask and nectaring flowers. Five small spots usually present in the hind wing.

Common, 32-38 mm, *Cymbopogon nardus*



**Paintbrush swift - வர்ண தாரிகை துள்ளி**

*Baoris farri* is a skipper prefers moist ever green forests. The under wing has pale silky brown and upper wing and the name derived from black paintbrush-like tuft of androconial scales on upper hindwing.

Not rare  
43-48 mm  
Data deficient



**Contiguous Swift - தொடர் வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Polytremis lubricans* is a forest butterfly, often seen in forest clearings; the colour of the butterfly is golden brown. Two cell spots on upper fore wing is almost merged, transparent pale yellowish spots in the central area.

Not common  
36-42 mm  
*Imperata spp*





**1. Blank Swift - வெற்றிட வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Caltoris kumara* is a common butterfly, prefers moist forested hills only. They have a rapid flight and feed on grasses. The upper wing has no cell spot and is unmarked.  
Common, 42-46 mm, *Grasses*

**2. Kanara Swift - கனரா வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Caltoris Canaraica* is a rare skipper butterfly, the wing colour is paler brown with dull white spots. Dry season A broad bluish white central band and two white spots near the lower end of the band.  
Rare, 41 mm

**3. Wax Dart - மெழுக்குத்தாவி**

*Cupitha purreea* is a small forest butterfly; the wing has thick wax like yellow in color.  
Rare, 28-33 mm, *Combretum spp*



1



2



3



### 1. Vindhyan Bob - வீந்தியன் வேகத்தாவி

*Arnetta vindhiana* is a rare butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats. The preferred habitat is wetlands. Fond of visiting flowers, damp patches and bird droppings. The upper wing has dark brown with yellowish brown edge. Not rare, 25-32 mm, Data deficient

### 2. Indian Palm Bob - இந்திய வேகத்தாவி

*Suastus gremius* is a common butterfly found in lower elevation. Fond of visiting flowers, damp patches and bird droppings. Grey brown with semi-transparent white spots in fore wing. Common, 32-45 mm, *Caryota urens*

### 3. Small Palm Bob - சிறிய வேகத்தாவி

*Suastus minutus* gets its name from its fast dipping flight. The south-Indian subspecies *bipunctus* has two spots in the lower central area. Under wing has a dark brown faint marking with dull small black cell spots. Not uncommon, 30-32 mm, *Palms*



**1. Tree Flitter - வர்ண தரரிகை துள்ளி**

*Hyarotis adrastus* is a rare butterfly confined to hills and forests where their food plant, the palm, grows. The wing has dark chocolate brown with yellow.

Not common, 38-48 mm, *Phoenice acualis*

**2. Golden Tree Flitter - தங்க மரப்பிளிட்டர்**

*Quedara basiflora* is a rare skipper endemic to south India confined to wet evergreen forests. The wing under base has yellow with dark brown.

Not common, 38-48 mm

**3. Maculate Lancer - மரக்குலேட் லேன்சர்**

*Salaoemia sala* is a rare skipper, confined to forested hills and Endemic to Western Ghats. The wing has pale yellowish brown with purple wash, black spots.

Rare, 38-48 mm, *Calamus sp*



**Giant Red Eye - பெரிய சிவப்பு கண்**

*Gangara thyrasis* is a largest skipper with red eyes, known as coconut skipper. Found mostly around palm trees. They lay eggs on Coconut and Date leaves.

Not rare  
70-76mm

*Calamus rotang*



**Rounded Palm Redeye/Banana Skipper - வரைய செங்கண்**

*Erionota lorus* is a medium sized red eyed butterfly found in higher elevation, banana plantations and hills.



**Common Red Eye - செங்கண்**

*Mincops aris* is a medium sized red eyed butterfly, found in bamboo forests. Active during early morning and late evening.

Common, 40-55mm  
*Bambusa arundinacea*





**1. Madras Ace - மெட்ராஸ் ஏஸ்**

*Thoressa honorei* is a rare butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats; found in thick rainy forests. The wing has yellow with central apical spots. Not common, 30-38 mm, *Bamboo*

**2. Philippine Swift - பிலிப்பைன்ஸ் வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Calloris philippina* is a small butterfly, prefers evergreen forests, dense bamboo forest. The caterpillars feed on bamboo spp. and live in folded leaf shelters. Wings elongated, outer edge of fore wing is slightly curved and under fore wing with two spots near inner edge. Not rare, 43-44 mm, *Bamboo*

**3. Obscure/Dark/Little Branded Swift - அடர் வேகத்துள்ளி**

*Pelopidas agna* is a skipper butterfly; the colour is olive brown with very smaller white spots. An imaginary straight line through two cell spots touches lower end brand in male and female has 4 diffused spots on upper.



**1. Bush Hopper - புதர் சுமை தாங்கி**

*Ampittia dioscorides* is a very common small butterfly and they prefer grassy lands in the wet forest areas.

Locally common, 22-28 mm,

*Rice*

**2. Dingy Scrub-Hopper - மங்கிய சுமை தாங்கி**

*Aeromachus dubius* is a smallest dark brown butterfly; it is restricted to grasslands and hills.

Not rare, 22-28 mm, Data deficient

**3. Pygmy Scrub Hopper - மிக்மி சுமை தாங்கி**

*Aeromachus pygmaeus* is the smallest skipper found in Tamil Nadu; it occurs mainly in open grasslands and forest edges.

Common, 20-22 mm, Data deficient





**1. Chestnut Bob - கருஞ்சிவப்பு தாவி**

*Lambrix salsala* is a common small butterfly with chestnut color. They are found in hills and forests. Common, 26-30 mm, *Grasses*

**2. Coon / Dusty Partwing - கரும் பழுப்பு தாவி**

*Psolos fuligo* is a small common butterfly, abundant in the evergreen regions during and after Monsoon. Common, 36-46 mm, *Stachyphrynium spicatum*

**3. Grass Demon - புல் தாவி**

*Udaspes folus* is a small to medium size butterfly. Prefers forest edges. Wing colour is black with white spots. Not uncommon, 40-48 mm, *Curcuma aromatic*



**Common Banded Demon - பட்டை தாவி**

*Notocrypta paralyzosa* is a common butterfly. Prefers dense, moist evergreen forests. Black with white band.

Locally common

33-40 mm

*Plants related to ginger*



**Restricted Demon - கருப்பு தாவி**

*Notocrypta curvifascia* is a common skipper, found in moist, evergreen forests; visits damp patches and flowers.

Common

38-50 mm

*Costus speciosus*



**1. Indian Ace - இந்தியன் ஏஸ்**

*Halpe hindu* is a common bamboo butterfly, seen in both lower and higher altitude. They are regular visitors of damp patches and bird droppings.

Common, 30-36 mm, *Bamboo*

**2. Moore's Ace - மூர் ஏஸ்**

*Halpe porus* is a small forest butterfly, flies very fast, confined only to thick evergreen bamboo forests. The wing is dark brown with irregular white bands continuous to the apex.

Not rare, 32 mm, *Bamboo*

**3. Evershed's Ace - எவர் செட் ஏஸ்**

*Thoressa Evershedii* is a small butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats, found only in bamboo forests. The upper wing with two white central spots and two cell spots are separate.

Rare, 37 mm







**1. Southern Spotted Ace - பட்டையில்லா ஏஸ்**

*Thoressa astigmata* is a small skipper confined to wet ever green forest of South India. Endemic to Western Ghats, swift flier, comes to animal dung. Dark brown with greenish yellow scales, and cell spots are conjoined. Not rare, 39 mm, Data deficient

**2. Sitala Ace - சீத்தலா ஏஸ்**

*Thoressa sitala* is a small butterfly, Endemic to Western Ghats, found in moist evergreen forest. The male upper has two white cell spots on cell, with dark brown colour and the under wing is yellowish and reddish with semi-transparent white spots. Rare, 37 mm, Data deficient

**3. Bicolour Ace - இருவண்ண ஏஸ்**

*Soria hyrtacus* is a rare butterfly, endemic to Western Ghats; the butterfly was recently sighted in Siruvani forests of TN. Rare, 36 mm, *Bamboo*



#### Dart Species (*Potanthus*) - துள்ளிகள்

There are 19 species of *Potanthus* in India. Their species-level identification is based largely on structures of the male genitalia. Hence, they cannot be identified easily based on external traits such as wing patterns. In Tamil Nadu previous studies mentioned about these 5 species may be still exist. They are Pallid Dart (*Potanthus pallida*), Pseudonaesa/Indian Dart (*Potanthus psedomaesa*), Confucian Dart (*Potanthus Confucius*), Pava Dart (*Potanthus pava*) and Palni Dart (*Potanthus palnia*).

## BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

A core value of most butterfly enthusiasts is the desire for butterflies, continue to fly.

Butterflies conjure up images of colour, warmth and nature teaming up with activities. They are not just beautiful insects, but excellent indicators of a good environment and indicators of biodiversity. Their fragile nature makes them quick to react to environmental changes. They are threatened by unprecedented environmental changes, habitat destruction in massive scale to the needy human and unpredictable pattern of climate and weather due to pollution levels. Conserving butterflies will improve the whole environment. The values that butterfly bring in are enormous. The eco-system value of butterflies can best be understood by the pollination, and an important element of food chain to the prey of bird, and other insectivorous animals. Butterflies are part of life on Earth and they have been around at least for 65 million years and they have every right to fly forever!

- ★ The foremost thing of conservation is creating awareness to the young kids and common public.
- ★ Watch butterflies regularly and get involved with local and state butterfly conservation agencies.
- ★ Start your own small butterfly garden in your home, school, work place and public parks.
- ★ Learn more about butterfly Host plants and Nectar plants.
- ★ Educate farmers to use of more native trees and non-use of pesticides.
- ★ Participate in butterfly walks, surveys and support Forest Department Activities.

When we see more wings on the air, it is an indication that our environment has good eco systems. Butterflies are the excellent indicators a Healthy Environment & healthy Eco-systems.

Let them fly!





## TN BUTTERFLY HOTSPOTS



1. Agasthiyar Malai Biosphere, Kanyakumari
2. Alagar Hills, Madurai
3. Amirthi Forest, Vellore
4. Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Pollachi
5. Aringar Anna Zoological Park, Chennai
6. Berijam Lake, Kodaikkanal
7. Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Tiruppur
8. Connor, Nilgiris
9. Courtallam, Tirunelveli
10. Devala Butterfly Park, Gudalur
11. Guindy National Park, Chennai
12. Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Tirunelveli
13. Kallar, Coimbatore
14. Kolli Hills, Salem
15. Kolukkumalai, Theni
16. Kotagiri, Nilgiris
17. Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Theni
18. Melagiri Hills, Dharmapuri
19. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Nilgiris
20. Pachamalai, Trichy,
21. Palani Hills, Dindigul
22. Saptur, Tirunelveli
23. Sathuragiri, Madurai
24. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, Erode
25. Sirumalai Reserve Forest, Dindigul
26. Srivilliputtur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary, Tirunelveli
27. Tirupuli Vanam, Kanchipuram
28. Tropical Butterfly Conservatory, Trichy
29. Vandaloor Zoo, Chennai
30. Vellingiri Hills, Coimbatore
31. Walayar Reserve Forest, Coimbatore
32. Yercaud, Selam

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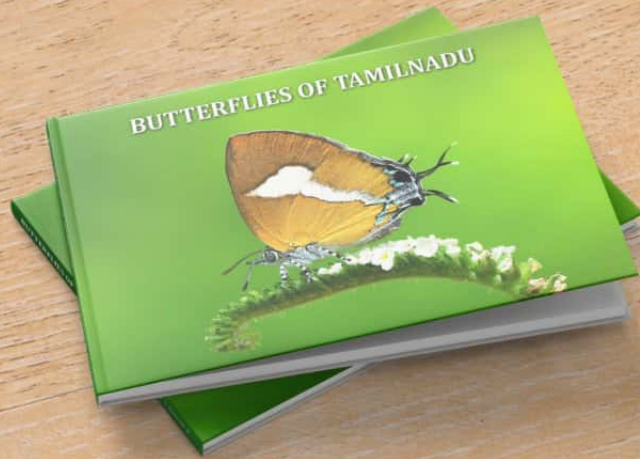




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