

# 75 *Winged Queens* OF HARYANA



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This book is planned as a Wildlife Conservation and awareness initiative by **Forest And Wildlife Department, Haryana**

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# 75 *Winged Queens* OF HARYANA

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**FOREST & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA**



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# Acknowledgment

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It is a matter of great privilege to compile a publication on 75 Winged Queens of Haryana, a reflection of the State's rich lepidopteran diversity. Though Haryana has limited forest cover, it harbours a fascinating variety of butterflies across its fields, gardens, wetlands, and forests. Unlike birds, documentation on butterflies of Haryana is minimal, and no single consolidated reference for the common butterfly species of the state was previously available.

Efforts have been made to compile information on 75 commonly seen butterflies, along with photographs and brief notes, which may serve as a useful resource for the general public, students, nature enthusiasts, researchers, and officers of the Forest & Wildlife Department.

We are grateful to Conceptz and Beyond for designing the publication in this shape. We acknowledge the valuable contributions of Sh. Sunil Harshana and Ms. Nitesh Kaushik in compilation of this document. Special gratitude is due to the design and editorial team for presenting this publication in its present form.

We hope this book will serve as both a scientific reference and a medium of awareness, encouraging collective responsibility in conserving the delicate yet vital butterfly diversity of Haryana for future generations.

**Dr. Subhash Yadav, IFS**  
**Dr. Vivek Saxena, IFS**





# Preface

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Haryana is blessed with a colourful wealth of butterflies that enliven its landscapes and ecosystems. Found in gardens, agricultural lands, wetlands, scrub forests, and even urban spaces, butterflies not only add beauty but also play a vital role as pollinators and indicators of ecological health. Their presence reflects the vibrancy and balance of our natural environment.

Recognizing the importance of butterflies in biodiversity and environmental awareness, the Forests & Wildlife Department, Haryana has prepared this publication titled 75 Rainbow Wings of Haryana. It brings together valuable information on the state's butterfly diversity, highlighting their ecological role, habitat distribution, and significance.

This publication is intended to act as a reference for researchers, students, and field officers, as well as an inspiring guide for nature lovers and citizens. We hope it instills appreciation, pride, and a collective spirit of responsibility towards conserving Haryana's natural heritage, ensuring that these delicate rainbow wings continue to flutter across our skies for generations to come.

**Dr. Subhash Yadav, IFS**

**Dr. Vivek Saxena, IFS**

# Message



**NAYAB SINGH SAINI**

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana

I am happy to learn that the Forest & Wildlife Department has prepared a publication titled **"75 Winged Queens of Haryana"**, dedicated to the rich diversity of butterflies in the State, for release during Wildlife Week (October 1-7, 2025) and Sewa Pakhwada (September 17 -October 2, 2025). This work is a fitting tribute to the natural beauty and biodiversity of Haryana.

Butterflies symbolize transformation, resilience, and harmony with nature. They remind us of the delicate balance that sustains life and our responsibility to protect it. I am confident that this publication will inspire citizens, especially the youth, to take pride in Haryana's natural wealth and actively participate in its conservation.

I congratulate the Forest & Wildlife Department for this commendable initiative and sincerely appreciate the dedicated efforts of the officers who have meticulously compiled and edited this important work.

**Nayab Singh Saini**

# Message



**BHUPENDER YADAV**

Hon'ble Union Minister

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, GoI

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I am pleased to learn about the publication of **"75 Winged Queens of Haryana"** on butterflies by the Haryana Forest & Wildlife Department. Butterflies are vital indicators of environmental health and play a key role in pollination and biodiversity. Their conservation is essential to ensure ecological sustainability.

This publication is a significant step in documenting Haryana's butterfly diversity and raising awareness about their importance. I congratulate the Department for this initiative, which will serve as an educational tool for students, nature enthusiasts, and conservationists, while inspiring collective efforts to safeguard our country's rich biodiversity. I also congratulate the authors of the document for editing in a simple manner for understanding of general public.

**Bhupender Yadav**

# Message



**RAO NARBIR SINGH**

Hon'ble Forest Minister of Haryana

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The publication of **"75 Winged Queens of Haryana"** beautifully captures the diversity and vibrance of butterfly's wealth in our State. Butterflies are among nature's finest creations, symbolizing joy, hope, and harmony. Their presence in our gardens and landscapes is a reminder of the ecological balance we must preserve.

This book will serve as a valuable guide for students, citizens, and nature lovers, encouraging them to admire, study, and protect these winged jewels of our state. I commend the Forest & Wildlife Department for this remarkable initiative that strengthens Haryana's commitment to biodiversity conservation. The work done by authors is commendable.

**Rao Narbir Singh**

# Message



## **SUDHIR RAJPAL, IAS**

Additional Chief Secretary (ACS),  
Environment, Forest & Wildlife

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The publication of **"75 Winged Queens of Haryana"** is a celebration of the state's vibrant diversity and natural heritage of butterflies. Butterflies represent freedom, transformation, and ecological balance, values that inspire us in our pursuit of sustainable development.

This book will raise awareness about the importance of butterflies and motivate citizens- especially the younger generation to appreciate and conserve the beauty of nature around them. I commend the Forest & Wildlife Department for this inspiring effort and hope it strengthens collective action for protecting Haryana's biodiversity. I appreciate the authors for compiling and editing the document.

**Sudhir Rajpal, IAS**





## Common Rose

*Pachliopta aristolochiae*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pachliopta aristolochiae* (Fabricius, 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Pachliopta* comes from Greek *pachlys* (thick) and *opta* (wing), referring to the broad wings of these swallowtails. The species epithet *aristolochiae* denotes its larval host plants (*Aristolochia* spp.), on which the butterfly depends.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout India, Pakistan, Taiwan etc.

**DESCRIPTION:** In common rose butterfly sexes are similar, but female usually has duller red markings than male and is often larger. The upper side is velvety black. Red thorax and abdomen on underside are distinctive.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Common at low elevation but stragglers are found as high as 2000m in western Himalayas. Distasteful to birds, since abdomen contains aristolochic acid. The common rose is active much earlier in the morning than most butterflies and remains so throughout the day until dusk. Both sexes fond of flowers.



## Peacock Pansy

*Junonia almana*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia almana* (Linnaeus, 1758)

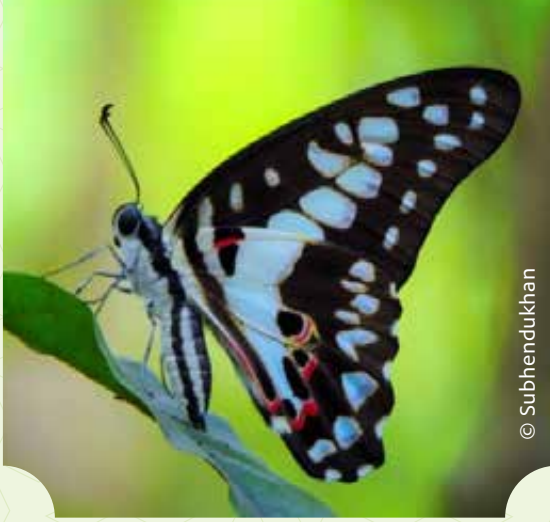
**ETYMOLOGY:** Widespread in South and Southeast Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, and extending eastwards to China and Indonesia. In India, it occurs throughout the plains and lower Himalayan foothills, and is also reported from Haryana in open lands, scrub, and agricultural fields.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout India, Pakistan, Taiwan etc.

**DESCRIPTION:** Sexes similar. Upperside is singular. Wet season form underside has eyespots; dry form has angular wings and underside resembles a dry leaf.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** : Common in sunny, open places near forests. Generally found at low elevation, but stragglers ascend hills to more than 2,000m. Flight swift, consisting of a flap and glide. Usually occurs singly, though males do not appear to be strongly territorial. Both sexes fond of flowers.



## Common Jay

*Graphium doson*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Graphium doson* C. & R. Felder, 1864

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name "Graphium" is believed to derive from the Greek word "grapho," meaning "to write," likely referring to the butterfly's distinctive wing markings that resemble writing.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Most of India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka. Has recently colonized Delhi and Aravalli hills.

**DESCRIPTION:** Sexes are similar. On forewing, black border has row of blue spots. Costal black bar on underside hindwing does not connect with basal black band (vertical red arrow).

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** It is common in thick, riparian, moist, deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests. The common jay is active throughout the day and constantly on the move; it rarely settles down. Its flight is swift and straight. When feeding from flowers, it never settles down and keeps its wings vibrating.



# Lemon Pansy

*Junonia lemonias*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia lemonias* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Junonia*, meaning "peacock" for the eye-spots on its wings, and the species name *lemonias*, derived from "lemon" due to the lemon-yellow spots on its wings.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across South Asia including India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Myanmar. In India, it occurs throughout the plains and lower elevations of the Himalaya, including records from Haryana in garden, open fields and Aravalli's scrublands.

**DESCRIPTION:** This butterfly has brown wings with numerous eyespots, black and lemon-yellow markings. Wet-season form is vivid with rounded wings; dry-season form is pale, angular, aiding camouflage in dried leaf litter.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** It inhabits open fields, scrub, gardens, wastelands; sun-loving, basking on ground with wings spread. Flight is low, short, erratic, often returning to perch. Adults nectar at flowers, showing territorial behavior.





## Danaid eggfly

*Hypolimnastis misippus*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Hypolimnastis misippus* (Linnaeus, 1764)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The specific epithet, *misippus*, is thought to refer to the Amazon Hippolyte, drawing a connection to the butterfly's mimicry, particularly its resemblance to the poisonous *Danaus chrysippus* (Plain Tiger).

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** I & II

**DISTRIBUTION:** They are found across Africa, Asia, and Australia. In the Americas, they are found in the West Indies, with strays in Central and North America

**DESCRIPTION:** *Hypolimnastis misippus* shows striking dimorphism. Males are velvety black with white patches and bluish-purple iridescence, while females mimic the Plain Tiger's tawny-orange, black, and white pattern, a Batesian mimicry defense.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** It inhabits open country, gardens, scrublands, and roadsides, often with *Danaus* species. Males are territorial, basking or chasing rivals. Adults nectar at flowers and frequently engage in mud-puddling behavior.





# Common Bluebottle

*Graphium sarpedon*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Graphium sarpedon* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name *Graphium sarpedon* derives from Greek: "Graphium" refers to its kite-like shape or pencil-like wing structure, while "sarpedon" honors Sarpedon, son of Zeus, famed for strength and valor.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found across East, South, Southeast Asia, eastern Australia, Oceania; India: Haryana to Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast, South; Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar.

**DESCRIPTION:** Both sexes look alike, with unmarked black forewing borders and opaque black upperside. A semi-hyaline pale blue band, greenish and macular anteriorly, crosses from hindwing tornus to forewing apex.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** *Graphium sarpedon* inhabits moist lowland rainforests below 1600 m, often flying above the canopy. Known for swift flight and sharp reactions, the Common Bluebottle is agile and difficult to capture.



## Common Mime

*Papilio clytia*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Papilio clytia* Linnaeus, 1758

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name *Papilio clytia* derives from the Latin word *papilio*, meaning "butterfly," and the Greek myth of Clytie, an ocean nymph who fell in love with Apollo.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:**

**DISTRIBUTION:** Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. India: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh, South, Central and Eastern India).

**DESCRIPTION:** Both males and females have the upperside velvety black or soft dark brown. Forewing: a subterminal series of outwardly truncate or emarginate white spots.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** This butterfly inhabits hills and lower areas, abundant during pre-monsoon and monsoon. Its flight mimics the model, fluttering variably; it basks with wings open while feeding on flower nectar.



## Lime Butterfly

*Papilio demoleus*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Papilio demoleus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name Papilio is the Latin word for "butterfly".

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout India, common in Haryana. Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Myanmar, etc.

**DESCRIPTION:** The butterfly is tailless and has a wingspan 80–100 mm. Above, the background colour is black. A broad, irregular yellow band is found on the wings above, which is broken in the case of the forewing. Besides this, the butterfly has a large number of irregular spots on the wing. The upper hindwing has a red tornal spot with blue edging around it.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Ascends to 1600 m in Himalaya. Flight swift, near the ground. Males congregate by the hundred on damp mud after south-west monsoon. Both sexes fond of flowers.



## Common mormon

*Papilio polytes*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Papilio polytes* Linnaeus, 1758

**ETYMOLOGY:** Latin word for butterfly (papilio) and the Greek word for "many" (poly).

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Distributed across Asia: Pakistan, India, southern China, Southeast Asia, Philippines; common in Haryana, Delhi.

**DESCRIPTION:** One male and three female forms. Form cyrus looks like male (both sometimes with red spots on upper side hind wing); stichius resembles Common Rose ; romulus resembles Crimson Rose. All forms distinguished from their models by black abdomen (blue circle right). Males sometimes have yellow marks on hindwing instead of red ones.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Mormon thrives in lightly wooded areas, gardens, orchards; abundant during monsoon, feeding from long-tubed flowers like *Lantana*, *Jatropha*, *Ixora*, *Mussaenda*.



## Common Peacock

*Papilio polyctor*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Papilio polyctor* Boisduval, 1836

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Papilio polyctor*, is derived from the Latin word papilio (butterfly) and the Greek word poly meaning "many," referencing the numerous distinct patterns or the complexity of the species

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** II

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana. The subspecies is common from Chitral (Pakistan) to Kumaon from low elevation to about 7,500 feet

**DESCRIPTION:** The sexes are very nearly alike, and the difference slight between the dry-season and wet-season broods. Upperside dull black thickly irrorated (sprinkled) with golden-green scales Forewing: a broad subterminal golden-green band that varies in length.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Inhabiting Himalayas and Indian subcontinent, 1,200–2,500m, this butterfly shows dry- and wet-season forms with fast, erratic, mesmerizing flight.





## Great Blackvein

*Aporia agathon*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Aporia agathon* (Gray, 1832)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Aporia, is a Greek word referring to "a place of difficulty" or "doubt" and the name 'agathon' is a Greek word meaning "good" or "noble".

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** IV

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh.  
Elsewhere: Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar.

**DESCRIPTION:** *Aporia agathon*, the Great Blackvein, is a white butterfly with black veins, dusky grey head and thorax, white abdomen, 84–98 mm wingspan, Himalayas–Southeast Asia.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** It inhabits hilly regions, often at elevations of 1500-3050m. It is known for its distinctive, slow, and hopping flight pattern. The butterfly favors flying in shaded, damp areas within its forest habitats.



# Large cabbage white

*Pieris brassicae*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name *Pieris* honors the Muses of Pieria; *brassicae* is Latin, from mustard family.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** It is common throughout Europe, north Africa, and Asia to the Himalayas. India: Haryana: Commonly seen in Rewari district and Sonipat district, Himalaya to Assam and Plains adjoining the Himalayas.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium to large white butterfly, 50–70 mm wingspan; black-tipped forewings, females with spots; hindwings pale yellowish with faint speckling.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Inhabits gardens, farmlands, meadows, and hills with cruciferous plants. Females lay clustered eggs; larvae feed gregariously, damaging crops. Adults are strong fliers, frequently visiting flowers for nectar in sunny conditions.



# Indian White Cabbage

*Pieris canidia*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pieris canidia* (Sparrman, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Pieris* comes from Greek Muses Pierís; *canidia* is Latin, meaning white or gray-white, describing its color.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found across South and Southeast Asia, including India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, southern China; common in Himalayan and northern plains.

**DESCRIPTION:** A medium-sized butterfly with a wingspan of about 45–55 mm. Upperside is white with dark tips on forewings; females show additional black spots. Underside of hindwings is pale yellowish-white with fine speckling, giving camouflage when resting on vegetation.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** This butterfly inhabits gardens, fields, meadows, farmland, and scrublands with cruciferous plants. Eggs are laid singly, caterpillars feed on cabbages and mustards, while adults flutter in sunlight, visiting flowers for nectar.



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# Bath White Butterfly

*Pontia daplidice*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pontia daplidice* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "Pontia" likely refers to the Greek word for "bridge" or "path," while "daplidice"'s etymology is uncertain, though some sources suggest it could be from the Greek daphne (laurel).

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Common in Europe, Asia Minor, Persia, Afghanistan; migrates north in summer. Found in Central Asia, Himalayas, Baluchistan, Kashmir, Darjeeling.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Bath White is a small butterfly (45–50 mm) with greenish hindwing blotches; males plain white, females show dusky outer markings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Open fields, cultivated areas, gardens, and wastelands. Prefers sunny areas with abundant flowers. Exhibits rapid, fluttering flight. Adults are often seen feeding on flowers and are active during the day.



## Striped Albatross

*Appias libythea* (Fabricius)

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Appias libythea* (Fabricius, 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Genus name from Latin and Greek, resembles Libythea leaf-wing butterflies.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** IV

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout South and Southeast Asia—India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia; in India, recorded in Aravallis, Delhi.

**DESCRIPTION:** Male is white with black toothed wing margins; female resembles male but has extra black markings and yellowish hindwings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers open areas such as gardens, roadsides, and wastelands, often in urban and semi-urban environments. Exhibits rapid, fluttering flight and is commonly seen feeding on nectar from various flowers. Males are known to puddle on damp surfaces to obtain minerals.





## Common Jezebel

*Delias eucharis*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Delias eucharis* (Drury, 1773)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Delias eucharis*, is likely descriptive of the butterfly's beautiful, the word "eucharis" can mean "charming" or "graceful" in Greek.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found widely in South and Southeast Asia, especially in non-arid regions of India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Thailand.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Jezebel, is a medium-sized, brightly colored pierid butterfly found across South and Southeast Asia, notable for its white and black forewings and distinctive orange-red spots on its hindwings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Common Jezebel is nomadic, inhabiting diverse forests and woodlands; males visit flowers, females seek food, resting with colorful closed wings.



# Himalayan blackvein

*Aporia leucodice*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Aporia leucodice* (Eversmann, 1843)

**ETYMOLOGY:** : Leucodice comes from the Greek words leukos (λευκός) meaning "white" and dike (δίκη) meaning "justice" or "right," likely referring to the butterfly's white wings and prominent black veins.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana and Kashmir to Kumaon. Common at Mussoorie in May and June. Elsewhere: Baluchistan to Ladhak.

**DESCRIPTION:** Sexes are similar. It is a medium to large white butterfly with prominent black veins running across its wings, which gives it the name Blackvein. The upperside is white with distinct black venation, while the underside has paler veins with a slight yellowish or greenish tinge.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** This butterfly inhabits Himalayan alpine and subalpine zones, favoring mustard-family flowers in open fields, active primarily during spring and early summer.



# Pioneer

*Belenois aurota*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Belenois aurota* (Fabricius, 1793)

**ETYMOLOGY:** : Leucodice comes from the Greek words leukos (λευκός) meaning "white" and dike (δίκη) meaning "justice" or "right," likely referring to the butterfly's white wings and prominent black veins.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found across South and Southeast Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia.

**DESCRIPTION:** Pioneer is a medium pierid butterfly; males white with black borders, females more marked, hindwings yellowish, underside marbled for camouflage.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers open areas—gardens, roadsides, wastelands—fluttering rapidly, feeding on nectar; males puddle on damp surfaces to obtain essential minerals.



# Great Eggfly

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Hypolimnnae bolina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The specific epithet bolina from Greek mythology. In the myth, Bolina was a nymph who drowned after attempting to flee Apollo.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across tropical Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and Pacific islands. In India, it is found throughout the plains and lower hills, including Haryana.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Great Eggfly shows strong sexual dimorphism: males black with iridescent blue and white spots, females brown, mimicking *Danaus* butterflies.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Common in open areas, gardens, forest clearings, and roadsides; males display territorially, adults feed on nectar, females stay near host plants, larvae feed on Acanthaceae (*Asystasia*, *Ruellia*), Portulacaceae (*Portulaca*), and *Convolvulaceae*.



# Yellow Pansy

*Junonia hierta*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia hierta* (Fabricius, 1798)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Junonia, derived from the Roman goddess Juno, and the specific epithet hierta, which likely refers to the Latin word for "yellow" or "pale," referencing the butterfly's wing color.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely found across tropical Asia and Africa; in India, common in plains, peninsular regions, sub-Himalayan tracts, including many areas of Haryana.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Yellow Pansy is a medium yellow butterfly with black-bordered forewings, eyespots on hindwings, seasonal color variation, and camouflaged undersides.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers open, sunny areas—grasslands, scrub, gardens; rests low with wings open, flies swiftly near ground, males territorial, adults feed on nectar.





# Indian tortoiseshell butterfly

*Aglais cashmerensis*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Aglais cashmerensis* (Kollar, 1848)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Aglais* comes from the Greek word "aglaos," meaning "splendid" or "beautiful". The species epithet *cashmirensis* is a Latinization referring to Kashmir.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Western Himalaya – from Kashmir through Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand, extending into Nepal; occurs between 2,000–4,000 m elevation. Has been seen in Haryana too.

**DESCRIPTION:** Indian Tortoiseshell, is a medium-sized nymphalid butterfly . The upperside is orange to reddish-brown, with three to four prominent black spots on the forewing and a broad blackish border enclosing a series of blue lunules along both wings. The underside is cryptically patterned in mottled browns and greys

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers sunny grassy slopes and scrub in Himalayan temperate to subalpine zones; strong fliers, visit flowers, mud-puddle, some overwinter, reappear in spring.





## Grey Pansy

*Junonia atlites*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia atlites* (Linnaeus, 1763)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Junonia, derived from the Roman goddess Juno, and the specific epithet hiarta, which likely refers to the Latin word for "yellow" or "pale," referencing the butterfly's wing color.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout South and Southeast Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

**DESCRIPTION:** The butterfly's upperside is grey with a reddish hue; distal spots include two eyespots per wing, red and black, white-outlined, with one hindwing spot often hidden by the forewing.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Grey Pansy inhabits open areas, fields, scrub, gardens, and fallow land at low to moderate elevations; sun-loving, rests with wings spread, flies low and gently, visits flowers, occasionally mud-puddles.



# Chocolate Pansy

*Junonia iphita*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia iphita* (Cramer, 1779)

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed in India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar, and Southeast Asia. The subspecies *siccata* occurs commonly in the plains and peninsular India, including Haryana, while the nominate form *iphita* is found in the Himalayan region.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Chocolate Pansy, *Junonia iphita*, has chocolate-brown upper wings with dark markings, 5–6 cm wingspan; underside resembles a dried leaf, females often show variable white hindwing patches.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Generally found at low elevation, but ascends to Himalaya to more than 2400m. More of a forest species than other members of the genus, rarely being found in open country. Both sexes fond of flowers, and sometimes attracted to animal dung.



# Blue Pansy

*Junonia orithya*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Junonia orithya* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name orithya is thought to come from the Greek word oritheia, which means "mountain" or "high-dwelling".

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widespread in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, and Australia; in India, common in plains, peninsular regions, Himalayan foothills, including many areas of Haryana.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Blue Pansy, wingspan 55–65 mm, has males with black forewings, orange-ringed ocelli, blue hindwing patches; females duller, underside cryptic; wet-season brighter, dry-season paler.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Inhabits open sunny areas such as scrublands, gardens, and roadsides. It perches close to the ground, often with wings open. The flight is low, rapid, and interrupted by frequent basking. Males defend territories aggressively. Adults feed on nectar from many flowers and sometimes mud-puddle.



## Painted Lady

*Vanessa cardui*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The cardui is derived from Latin "carduus" meaning thistle, referring to its larval host plants.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Cosmopolitan in distribution, found on all continents except Antarctica and South America. In India, it occurs widely across the Himalaya, plains, and peninsular regions.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Painted Lady, wingspan 5–9 cm, has deep orange, black-spotted wings, black-and-white forewing tips, five white forewing spots, hindwings with four submarginal eyespots, sometimes blue-pupilled in summer.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** A strong migrant, appearing in large numbers during seasonal movements; prefers open areas—fields, scrub, roadsides, gardens—basks with wings spread, flies swiftly over long distances, adults feed on diverse flower nectar.





## Common Castor

*Ariadne merione*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Ariadne merione* (Cramer, 1777)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Ariadne merione tapestrina* names reference Greek mythology and tapestry-like wings.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found across India up to 1,500 m, Sri Lanka, Southeast Asia; subspecies *tapestrina* occurs widely in peninsular and northern India, including Haryana.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Castor, wingspan 45–55 mm, is bright rusty-orange with wavy dark lines on upper and rounded hindwings; paler underside enhances camouflage when wings are closed.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Inhabits open scrublands, wastelands, gardens, and roadsides near host plants; flies low with weak fluttery flight, adults feed on nectar, caterpillars primarily on *Ricinus communis*, occasionally other Euphorbiaceae.





## Common Sailor

*Neptis hylas*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Neptis hylas* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Neptis hylas astola* names derive from Fabricius and Greek mythology, referencing locality.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout continental India; Sri Lanka; Assam; Nepal; Myanmar, extending to China and Indomalaya.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Sailer, wingspan 50–60 mm, has blackish-brown upper wings with broad white forewing band, apex spots, hindwing median band; underside lighter brown with similar bands and fine lines.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers lightly wooded areas, scrub, gardens, and roadsides; exhibits distinctive gliding “sailing” flight, basks in sun, feeds on nectar, and mud-puddles on damp soil.



## Common Lascar

*Pantoporia hordonia*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pantoporia hordonia* (Stoll, 1790)

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Continental India, from the Himalayas to the Western Ghats; Assam; Burma; Tenasserim, extending into the Malayan sub-region.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Lascar, wingspan 45–55 mm, has brownish-black upper wings with white or pale yellow transverse bands and spots; lighter underside provides camouflage; sexes similar, males slightly smaller.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in forest edges, open woodlands, gardens, and scrubby areas. It prefers sunny patches but often rests on shaded leaves. The flight is swift and low, with characteristic gliding interspersed with short flaps. Adults frequently visit flowers for nectar, and males are known to mud-puddle.



## Baronet

*Symphaedra nais*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Symphaedra nais* (Forster, 1771)

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Endemic to Indian subcontinent and Sri Lanka.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Baronet is a medium-sized butterfly (wingspan 55–65 mm) with bright orange-red upperside forewings marked with broad black margins and white spots near the apex. The hindwings are predominantly orange with black spots near the margin. The underside is pale yellowish to light brown with a complex network of brown lines and spots, providing camouflage when the butterfly rests with wings closed. Males and females are similar, though females tend to be slightly larger and paler. Seasonal forms are not strongly marked.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Common in low elevation deciduous and *Shorea robusta* forests. Flight powerful, near the ground. Adults feed on nectar from a wide variety of flowering plants and occasionally mud-puddle.



# Gaudy Baron

*Euthalia lubentina*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Euthalia lubentina* (Cramer, 1777)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology of Euthalia comes from the Ancient Greek word Euthalia (Ευθαλία), meaning "flower" or "bloom".

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** IV

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely found in South and Southeast Asia; in India, inhabits plains, sub-Himalayan tracts, peninsular forests, including Haryana's forested and tree-lined areas.

**DESCRIPTION:** Gaudy Barons are large, broad-winged butterflies with brown to black uppersides, metallic sheen, white, yellow, or orange spots; iridescent hindwings; brownish undersides provide effective camouflage.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, gardens, and wooded patches; strong, rapid flight; basks in sun; adults feed on nectar and rotting fruits; males mud-puddle; larvae feed on Euphorbiaceae, occasionally Moraceae.





## Common Baron

*Euthalia aconthea*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Euthalia aconthea* (Cramer, 1777)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Euthalia aconthea* name derives from Greek “flower” and Latin, referencing its flourishing and mango-based diet.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely found across tropical Asia and Africa; in India, common in plains, peninsular regions, sub-Himalayan tracts, including many areas of Haryana.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-to-large butterfly, wingspan 65–75 mm; dark brown forewings with orange bands, white apex spots; hindwings with orange patches, black submarginal spots; lighter underside for camouflage; sexes similar, subtle seasonal variation.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers deciduous and semi-evergreen forests, gardens, and tree-lined areas. Flight is strong and rapid; males are territorial, frequently bask on sunlit leaves. Adults feed on nectar, rotting fruits, and sap; males occasionally mud-puddle.





# Common Evening Brown

*Melanitis leda*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Melanitis leda* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Melanitis, derived from Greek meaning "darkness" or "blackness," and the specific epithet leda, which likely refers to the Greek goddess Leda.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia, including India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and Indo-China.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized butterfly, wingspan 50–65 mm; dark brown forewings with faint apex eyespots, hindwings with submarginal ocelli; paler, cryptic underside; wet-season darker, dry-season paler; females larger and paler than males.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Crepuscular and strongly shade-loving; usually active at dusk and early morning. Prefers lightly wooded areas, forest edges, gardens, and scrublands. Flight is weak and fluttering, staying close to the ground. Adults feed on nectar, tree sap, and rotting fruits.



## Plain Tiger

*Danaus chrysippus*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Danaus chrysippus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Danaus chrysippus* name derives from Greek mythology, meaning "golden horse."

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** I

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across Africa, the Middle East, South and Southeast Asia, and Australia. Recorded from Haryana in both urban and rural landscapes, including agricultural fields and wastelands.

**DESCRIPTION:** *D. chrysippus*, medium butterfly, wingspan 7–8 cm; orange-brown wings with black and white markings, hindwing spots; males have scent glands, females lack them.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Plain Tiger prefers arid, open habitats—deserts, mountains, forests, gardens—up to 1,500 m; adults are unpalatable, sequestering toxic alkaloids from larval host plants.



## Common Tiger / Striped Tiger

*Danaus genutia*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Danaus genutia* (Cramer, 1779)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus *Danaus* is rooted in Greek mythology (King Danaus of Argos). The species epithet *genutia* is less clear but has been linked to the Latin *genutio* ("bent/knee-like")

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed in South and Southeast Asia, including the Malay Archipelago; in India, common in plains, lower hills, open habitats, gardens, and rural areas.

**DESCRIPTION:** Both sexes appear similar; males have a black-and-white hindwing spot underside, females lack it; belongs to brush-footed butterflies, "crows and tigers" group.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Highly adaptable; common in open fields, gardens, scrub, forest edges, and along roadsides. Adults have a slow, gliding flight, frequently visiting flowers for nectar, especially lantana, cosmos, and calotropis. They are distasteful to predators, having sequestered toxic compounds from larval host plants.



## Common Crow

*Euploea core*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Euploea core* (Cramer, 1780)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Euploea* likely derives from Greek roots, possibly meaning "true".

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** I

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia, extending to Australia. In India, it is one of the most abundant butterflies, occurring from the plains to about 1,500 m in the Himalaya.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Crow, wingspan 8–9 cm, glossy black with brown undersides, white spots; males have forewing brand, both sexes show hidden underside white streak.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Extremely common in open habitats—gardens, roadsides, fields, forest edges; unhurried gliding flight; adults feed on flowers, fruits, sap, carrion; unpalatable due to toxins; caterpillars feed on Apocynaceae and Asclepiadaceae hosts.



## Pea Blue

*Lampides boeticus*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus, 1767)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Boeticus refers to Baetica; common name notes tails, blue males, pea hosts.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** II

**DISTRIBUTION:** A widespread species, found across Africa, Europe, South and Southeast Asia, and Australia. In India, it is widely distributed including the Himalayas, Western Ghats, central and peninsular India. In Haryana, it has been reported from Gurugram, Faridabad, and adjoining Aravalli foothills.

**DESCRIPTION:** A small lycaenid butterfly; males violet-blue, females brownish with bluish sheen; both sexes show hindwing tails, black-orange eyespots, pale brown underside with white striations.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** This species inhabits the edge of forests, mountain meadows and hot flowery places at an elevation up to 2,700 metres (8,900 ft) above sea level.





## Zebra Blue

*Leptotes plinius*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Leptotes plinius* (Fabricius, 1793)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Leptotes* is derived from Greek *leptos* (delicate/slender), referring to the delicate build of the butterfly. The species name *plinius* is believed to honor the Roman naturalist Pliny (Gaius Plinius Secundus).

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across South Asia, Southeast Asia, China, Australia, Pacific islands; in India common in plains, low hills, urban, rural areas, recorded in Haryana's Aravalli foothills.

**DESCRIPTION:** Males bluish-purple with brown margins; females brownish with bluish bases; underside pale grey-brown with zebra-like striations; hindwings have tails, black-orange terminal spots.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers scrublands, gardens, cultivated areas near host plants; often around *Plumbago*; weak, restless fliers, bask with closed wings showing zebra-like cryptic undersides.



## Tiny Grass Blue

*Zizula hylax*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Zizula hylax* (Fabricius, 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** hylax derives from Greek, meaning “one who barks or cries”.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The Tiny Grass Blue occurs across tropical Africa, Asia, Oceania, including India, Japan, Australia; in Haryana, recorded from Gurugram, Faridabad, and Aravalli regions.

**DESCRIPTION:** Very small butterfly, wingspan 15–22 mm; males bluish, females brownish with basal blue; underside pale grey with striations, black spots, submarginal dots, tail-less hindwings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Tiny Grass Blue, among India’s smallest butterflies, inhabits grasslands, scrub, gardens; weak fliers close to ground; larvae feed on Fabaceae; adults visit flowers, mud-puddle, rest closed-winged, showing cryptic camouflage.



## Grass Jewel

*Freyeria trochylus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Freyeria trochylus* (Freyer, 1845)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology of *Freyeria trochylus* comes from the genus name *Freyeria*, honoring its describer, Ludwig Georg Courvoisier, and the specific epithet *trochylus*, a Greek word meaning "swift" or "small"

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** *F. trochylus*, India's smallest butterfly, occurs in Africa, Middle East, South and Southeast Asia; inhabits dry, open plains and low hills; recorded in Haryana's Gurugram, Faridabad, Aravalli foothills.

**DESCRIPTION:** Extremely small, wingspan 12–18 mm, Grass Jewel; greyish-brown upperside, males with bluish base; underside pale with black-white spots, orange-crowned hindwing submarginal spots, two tails with eyespots.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers dry grasslands and scrub; weak, low flight; visits flowers for nectar, occasionally mud-puddles.



## Small Orange Tip

*Anthocharis cardamines*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Anthocharis cardamines* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Anthocharis cardamines* name derives from Greek "flower, bright" and Latin "cuckoo flower," referencing its appearance and larval host plant.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Distribution: India: Throughout. Elsewhere: Pakistan and Sri Lanka. has recently colonized Delhi and Aravalli hills .

**DESCRIPTION:** The Orange-tip butterfly is a medium-sized white butterfly of the family Pieridae, named for the distinctive bright orange tips on the forewings of the male

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Orange-tip inhabits temperate Asia and Europe; males occupy forest edges, females open meadows. Found in hedgerows, gardens, riverbanks; females lay eggs on crucifers and signal mating status to deter males.



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## Small salmon arab

*Colotis amata*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colotis amata* (Fabricius, 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** "Small Salmon Arab" refers to a Pieridae butterfly, salmon-orange, flying low; "Arab" reflects distribution in Africa and Asia.

**IUCN STATUS:** Near Threatened | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: throughout India. except Northeast. Elsewhere: Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Has recently colonized Delhi and Aravalli hills.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Small Salmon Arab is a butterfly characterized by its pinkish-salmon or white coloration, broad black borders with spots, and a prominent black spot in the forewing cell.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Small Salmon Arab (*Colotis amata*) inhabits Africa and Asia, favoring arid scrublands; adults feed on nectar flying low, larvae feed on *Salvadora* and *Maerua* apetala; widespread in South Asia.





## Common Seargent

*Colotis vestalis*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colotis vestalis* (Butler, 1876)

**ETYMOLOGY:** *Colotis vestalis*, the White Arab, is named for its distinct white color, contrasting other orange or yellow *Colotis* butterflies.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, And Uttar Pradesh. Elsewhere: Pakistan.

**DESCRIPTION:** "*Colitis vestalis*" is likely a typo for *Colotis vestalis*, the White Arab butterfly; colitis, by contrast, is a medical colon inflammation causing pain, diarrhea, fever, and bleeding.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** *Colotis vestalis*, the White Arab, inhabits semi-arid scrub forests in India, Pakistan, Iran, and Africa; larvae feed on *Salvadora persica* leaves, adults pollinate flowers in desert ecosystems.



## Crimson tip

*Colotis danae*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colotis danae* Fabricius, 1775

**ETYMOLOGY:** The word "crimson" comes from the Arabic word qermez or qirmiz meaning "red" and referring to the dye made from the Kermes scale insect.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Peninsular India up to Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh Gujarat to Punjab. Elsewhere: Pakistan & Sri Lanka.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium pierid, wingspan 45–60 mm; upperside white with crimson forewing apex, black border, hindwings narrow black margin; underside pinkish forewing, yellow-green hindwing with striations; females larger, darker markings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Crimson Tip inhabits dry scrub, open woodlands, wastelands; flies fast near ground, visits small flowers; larvae feed on Capparis species in semi-arid habitats.



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## Common GULL

*Cepora nerissa*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Cepora nerissa* (Fabricius 1775)

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Peninsular India to Northwest India.  
Elsewhere: Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

**DESCRIPTION:** Male upperside white with greyish-blue base and veins from underside markings; forewing veins black, apex and termen black with irregular curved inner margin extending from costa to tornal angle, interspaces 6 and 9 short.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** *Cepora nerissa*, the Common Gull butterfly, inhabits diverse regions of India and Southeast Asia, favoring dry scrublands, forest clearings, open grassy areas, and cultivated fields. Adults feed on nectar from various flowers and exhibit a rapid, erratic flight pattern, often settling with closed wings.



## White orange tip

*Ixias marianne*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Ixias marianne* (Cramer, 1779)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name, *Ixias*, is not explained in the search results, but the specific epithet *marianne* likely honors a person or a place, as is common in scientific nomenclature.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout India. Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Southeast Asia.

**DESCRIPTION:** Common medium-sized butterfly found in gardens and hedgerows; males white with orange wingtips, females white with black wingtips, both have green-mottled undersides.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers bright, sunlit but marshy meadows, woodlands, forest edges, hedgerows, and stream banks, but also frequents gardens. Survives up to 4 weeks. Cuckooflower (*Cardamine pratensis*) and Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) serve as primary food sources. Primarily feeds on flower nectar.



## Ladakh Clouded Yellow

*Colotis vestalis*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colias ladakensis* C. Felder 1865

**ETYMOLOGY:** "Ladakh Clouded Yellow" refers to its Indian region and yellow, clouded wing markings.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** : India: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand Elsewhere: Pakistan and Nepal.

**DESCRIPTION:** *Colias ladakensis*, the Ladakh clouded yellow, is a small butterfly of the family Pieridae, that is, the whites and yellows, that is found in India.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Ladakh Clouded Yellow (*Colias ladakensis*) lives in high-altitude cold desert habitats in Ladakh, India, such as alpine meadows and grasslands between 3,000m and 5,500m, primarily from May to September.





## Pale Clouded Yellow

*Colias hyale*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colias hyale* (Linnaeus 1758)

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir to Uttarakhand.  
Elsewhere: Pakistan and Afghanistan.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Pale Clouded Yellow (*Colias hyale*) is a medium-sized butterfly with a wingspan of about 5.2–6.2 cm. Males are pale yellow, while females are white or have a yellow hue, with a black blotch on the forewing and small dark spots on the wing edges.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Pale Clouded Yellows inhabit open country, such as meadows, farmlands, and coastal areas, congregating in flowery locations where their larval food plants, like clovers, grow. Adults, active in warm, sunny weather, feed on nectar from various flowers and are fast, direct flyers. Caterpillars are found on their host plants, while eggs are laid on the undersides of leaves, and pupae attach to stems or leaves.



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## Dark Clouded Yellow

*Colias croceus*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Colias croceus* (Geoffroy1785)

**ETYMOLOGY:** "Dark Clouded Yellow" (*Colias fieldii*) is named for dark wing markings and golden-yellow color, typical of Clouded Yellow butterflies.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh.

**DESCRIPTION:** *Colias croceus* has a wingspan of 45–54 millimetres (1.8–2.1 in).[ The upperside of the wings is golden to orange yellow with a broad black margin on all four wings and a black spot near the centre forewing. Usually these butterflies settle with their wings closed, so the black margin of the uppersides of the wings is hard to see.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** These butterflies inhabit open countryside, including downland, coastal cliffs, and fields with host plants, at elevations up to 1,600 m above sea level.



## Small Grass Yellow

*Eurema brigitta*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Eurema brigitta* (Cramer 1780)

**ETYMOLOGY:** Common Grass Yellow larvae feed on Fabaceae plants like Cassia, Acacia, Albizia, Sesbania, and Pithecellobium.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DESCRIPTION:** Wet-season form: Male. Upper-side somewhat paler yellow. Fore-wing with the outer marginal black band; the apical edge of costa and the cilia rosy-red. Hind-wing with the black outer band somewhat narrower, macular, the decreasing portions each with a more prolonged inner-tooth, and the yellow ground-colour between each extending to the outer edge.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The common grass yellow (*Eurema hecabe*) is a small, bright yellow butterfly found in open grassy or scrubby habitats across Asia, Africa, and Australia. Its habitats include forest clearings, riverbanks, roadsides, parks, and gardens.



## Common Grass Yellow

*Eurema hecabe*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Eurema hecabe* (Linnaeus 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** "Common Grass Yellow" reflects abundance, yellow wings, and grassy habitats, genus *Eurema*.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Grass Yellow shows seasonal polyphenism: darker summer morph occurs with days over 13 hours, lighter post-monsoon morph forms under shorter 12-hour or less day lengths.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Grass Yellow butterfly (*Eurema hecabe*) thrives in open, grassy, and bushy habitats, including parks, gardens, and roadsides, at low to mid-elevations.



## Spotless grass Yellow

*Eurema laeta*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Eurema laeta* Boisduval, 1836

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** I Throughout peninsular India, ascending to about 8,000 feet in North-West Himalayas. Elsewhere: Sri Lanka.

**DESCRIPTION:** Wet form: Male. Upper-side pale yellow, basal areas slightly irrorated with grey-black scales. Fore-wing with a broad vinescent-black outer marginal band, which curves from middle of the costa to upper median, below which it is sinuated to lower median, its posterior end being deeply excavated to the angle.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Spotless Grass Yellow (*Eurema laeta*) is a butterfly found in diverse habitats across India, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia, preferring open areas like grasslands, clearings, and agricultural lands, as well as urban spaces.





# Common Brimstone

*Gonepteryx rhamni*

**FAMILY:** Pieridae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Gonepteryx rhamni* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "brimstone" for the butterfly *Gonepteryx rhamni* comes from the bright yellow color of the males' wings, which resembles the color of brimstone (elemental sulfur), from which the English word "butterfly" may also have originated

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** One specimen, Coll. P.C. Tak & party; subspecies ranges from Chitral, Pakistan, to northern Myanmar, at 2,000–10,500 ft in the Northwest Himalayas.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Brimstone, *Gonepteryx rhamni*, is a large, long-lived butterfly; males bright yellow, females pale greenish-white with leaf-shaped wings, frost-tolerant, hibernates as adults in winter.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Brimstone inhabits woodlands, hedgerows, and gardens near buckthorn; adults hibernate in sheltered areas and emerge in spring to mate and lay eggs on host plants.



## Club Beak

*Libythea myrrha*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Libythea myrrha* Godart 1819

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "club beak" in "club beak butterfly" is a descriptive name for *Libythea myrrha*, a species of butterfly known for its unusually long, elongated palpi, which resemble a club or beak-like projection from its face.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh, North East and south India.

**DESCRIPTION:** Variable butterfly; upperside dark brown with orange-yellow markings: forewing streak along median vein, preapical double spots; hindwing uniform with oblique medial band from vein 1 to 5.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Club Beak, *Libythea myrrha*, inhabits subtropical and tropical moist forests near streams; adults fly strongly, feeding on nectar, sap, minerals from mud, decaying fruit, in dense and mixed forests.



## Common beak

*Libythea*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Libythea Fabricius, 1807*

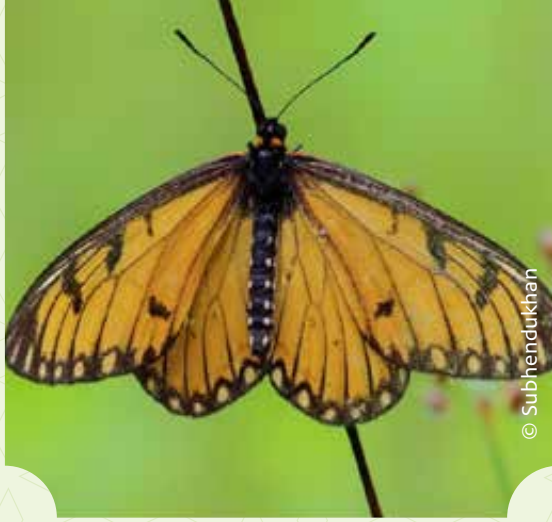
**ETYMOLOGY:** The common beak butterfly gets its name from its two distinct, elongated labial palpi (parts of its mouth) that project forward from its head, resembling a bird's beak

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir to Assam and South India. Elsewhere: Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Myanmar.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Beak, *Libythea lepita*, has brown-orange wings with hooked forewing tips, leaf-like camouflage; adults feed on sap, fruit, nectar; larvae eat *Celtis* and *Trema* leaves.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Beak, *Libythea lepita*, inhabits subtropical and tropical moist montane forests at 2,000–3,600 m, migrating lower in winter; feeds on tree sap, overripe fruit, and decaying organic matter.



## Yellow Coster

*Acraea issoria*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Acraea issoria* (Hübner, 1819)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "yellow coster " comes from its scientific name ,acraca issoria, which is a species of butterfly known for its pale yellow to leathery –orange wings.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana, Himachal Pradesh to Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar. Elsewhere: Nepal.

**DESCRIPTION:** Male yellow above, forewings with broad black veins, curved discocellular mark, and spotted terminal margin; hindwings with black apical veins, zigzag subterminal, and slender terminal lines.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Yellow Coster (*Acraea issoria*) inhabits Asian forests and valleys from 500–1400m, with weak fluttering flight, chemical defense, colony living, basking in sun, nectar-feeding adults, and leaf-eating larvae.





## Tawny Coster

*Acraea terpsicore*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Acraea terpsicore* (Linnaeus 1758)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology of "tawny" describes the butterfly's dull yellow or yellowish-brown color, while "coster" likely refers to its leathery wings and perhaps its slow, "costly" or cumbersome flight, though this is not explicitly defined in the search results

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout India. Elsewhere: Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar

**DESCRIPTION:** The Tawny Coster (*Acraea terpsicore*), wingspan 53–64 mm, has reddish-orange wings with dark spots, weak fluttery flight, and secretes a foul liquid as defense.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in open grasslands, scrub, forest edges, and gardens up to hill ranges, usually near *Passiflora*. Adults nectar-feed, larvae eat *Passiflora* leaves, and butterflies avoid dense shade.





## Indian Fritillary

*Argynnis hyperbius*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Argynnis hyperbius* (Linnaeus 1763)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "Indian fritillary" is so named because "fritillary" refers to the checkerboard-like pattern on the wings, derived from the Latin word *fritillus* meaning "dice-box".

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** II

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana. The subspecies is distributed from Chitral (Pakistan) to Assam,

**DESCRIPTION:** The Indian Fritillary (*Argynnis hyperbius*) is a large butterfly with a vivid orange-and-black checkered pattern on its wings, though males are typically more brightly colored than females

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Indian Fritillary butterfly (*Argynnis hyperbius*) thrives in woodlands, grasslands, and parks, particularly in high-altitude regions with tropical montane wet evergreen forests. Adults are active in bright sunlight, feeding on nectar from various flowers and engaging in mud-puddling for minerals



## Rustic

*Cupha erymanthis*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Cupha erymanthis* (Drury 1773)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology of "rustic" comes from its characteristic appearance, resembling the simple, rural style associated with the word "rustic" itself, rather than any direct linguistic origin of the name

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern

**DISTRIBUTION:** Distributed across tropical South and Southeast Asia, with four subspecies found in India

**DESCRIPTION:** The Rustic (*Cupha erymanthis*) is an ochraceous light brown butterfly with a yellow discal band on forewings, black apical area with yellow spots, and slender black markings on hindwings.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in India and Southeast Asia, inhabiting forest edges, open woodlands, and gardens. Adults nectar-feed, bask in sun, and mineral-suck near streams, while larvae feed on Flacourtiaceae leaves.



## Common Leopard

*Phalanta phalantha*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Phalanta phalantha* (Drury [1773])

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "Common Leopard" for *Phalanta phalantha* likely comes from the spotted pattern on its wings, which resembles a leopard's coat

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** India: Haryana: Yamuna Nagar Distt.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Common Leopard butterfly is a medium-sized, medium-speed butterfly with bright orange-brown wings marked with numerous black spots and streaks, resembling a leopard's coat, giving it its name.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Leopard butterfly (*Phalanta phalantha*) thrives in sunny, open habitats like grasslands, forest edges, and gardens across Africa and Asia. These sun-loving butterflies are characterized by their quick, fluttering flight, regular nectaring behavior on various flowers, and mud-puddling for moisture



## Plain cupid

*Luthrodes pandava*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** Luthrodes pandava (Horsfield, 1829)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "Plains Cupid" is an English common name for Luthrodes pandava (formerly Chilades pandava), derived from the genus Chilades, and the specific epithet "pandava" referring to the Pandava brothers from the Hindu epic Mahabharata.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The species resides in peninsular India south of the outer ranges of the Himalayas, but not in the desert tracts and somewhat local; Ceylon: Assam: Burma; extending into the Malayan subregion.

**DESCRIPTION:** The male Plains Cupid (Luthrodes pandava) has lavender-blue upperside, forewings with brown costa and margins, black anteciliary line, and light brown cilia marked with a dark line.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in grasslands, scrublands, and forests across India and Southeast Asia, closely linked to cycads. Adults nectar-feed, while larvae depend on cycad plants as their primary host.



## Gram Blue

*Euchrysops cnejus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Euchrysops cnejus* (Fabricius 1798)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The term "Gram Blue" for the butterfly *Euchrysops cnejus* comes from its scientific name, *cnejus*, and common name for this butterfly.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The species is spread from the Arabian Peninsula throughout India except at very high elevations and is widely distributed in the Malayan subregion; extending to Australia and the South Sea Islands.

**DESCRIPTION:** The male Gram Blue has pale purplish upperside with bluish sheen in certain lights, forewings marked by a slender black anteciliary line edged with dark brown, broader at apex.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Sun-loving with weak fluttering flight near ground, Gram Blues frequent dry open areas, feeding on tiny flowers. Active on warm sunny days, females lay eggs singly on suitable host plants.





## Rounded Pierrot

*Tarucus extricatus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Tarucus extricatus* (Butler 1886)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "Rounded Pierrot" for *Tarucus extricatus* is derived from the general term "Pierrot" for the butterfly genus *Tarucus* known for its distinct pattern and markings reminiscent of a traditional Pierrot character

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DESCRIPTION:** Violet-blue with a narrow black border. The rounded pierrot butterfly, scientifically known as *Tarucus naraor* *Tarucus extricatus*, is a small butterfly (24-28mm wingspan) from the Lycaenidae (blues) family, found in open and thinly wooded areas of Asia

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in open areas and thinly wooded areas. Frequents flowers, damp patches, and enjoys sunny spots, particularly after rains.



## Red Pierrot

*Talicada nyseus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Talicada nyseus* (Guerin 1843)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The “Red pierrot” is named for the distinctive red marking on its wings and a common stage costume called a “pierrot”, which is a harlequin clown known for its black – and white patched or solid – colored tunic.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DESCRIPTION:** On the underside, the forewing is white with black spots more toward the margin. The hindwing is very striking, it is white with black spots toward the base and the margin has a wide band of orange with white spots.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** They are found in semi-arid plains, degraded patches of evergreen patches, and semi-evergreen forest, gardens, hill stations and forests—in fact, wherever its food plant, *Kalanchoe*, is abundant. It is found from the plains up to 8,000 feet. The red Pierrot is a weak flier, and flutters about close to the ground. It flies in short bursts and settles often but not for very long. It basks with its wings half open, but prefers shade to sun, and jungle or undergrowth to open areas.



## Common Pierrot

*Castalius rosimon*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Castalius rosimon* (Fabricius 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "Common Pierrot" is the English common name for the butterfly species *Castalius rosimon*, which is named after the French pantomime character Pierrot

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The species is found in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India Myanmar; Tenasserim extending into the Malayan subregion.

**DESCRIPTION:** The upperside of its wings is mainly white. Forewing has the costa, apex and termen edged with black, the edging much broader on apex and termen; base outwards for a short distance more or less densely overlaid Similar to the male but with the black markings on the upper and undersides broader.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** The Common Pierrot is a butterfly species (*Castalius rosimon*) that inhabits open areas, scrublands, and lightly wooded regions across South and Southeast Asia, flying in the vicinity of its larval food plants, like the Ber (*Ziziphus mauritiana*)



## Forget-Me-Not

*Catochrysops strabo*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Catochrysops strabo* Fabricius, 1793

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology comes from a legend where a knight fell into a river while picking flowers for his beloved and shouted, "Forget-me-not!" before drowning, a story also associated with the forget-me-not flower

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** This species resides in Peninsular India south of the outer ranges of the Himalayas; Ceylon; Assam; Burma; Tenasserim; the Andamans; Nicobars; extending through the Malayan subregion down to Australia

**DESCRIPTION:** Pale violet with silvery-blue sheen, forewings bearing slender dark anteciliary line. Hindwings show brown subterminal bar, black spot with bluish lunule, faint dark spots, and white cilia crossed by a brown line.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in herbaceous and dry open zones, preferring sunny spots. They fly low to the ground in short bursts with sudden changes in direction to evade predators.



## Common Silverline

*Cigaritis vulcanus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** Cigaritis vulcanus (Fabricius 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The etymology of "Common Silverline" comes from the butterfly's appearance: "silverline" refers to the prominent silver or white lines on its underside, while "common" indicates its widespread distribution

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DESCRIPTION:** Upperside dark brown with violet tinge, forewings marked by three short orange-red transverse bands of varying length, sometimes with additional orange-red basal, costal, or submarginal markings depending on specimen.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Numbers peak in monsoons; found in scrubland, hedgerows, secondary forests. They nectar on flowers undisturbed, fly fast and erratically when disturbed, yet often return to the same spot near host plants.





## Pale Grass Blue

*Pseudozizeeria maha*

**FAMILY:** Papilionidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** Pseudozizeeria maha (Kollar 1844)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "pale grass blue" describes the physical characteristics of the butterfly (*Pseudozizeeria maha*), referring to its light blue color and its habitat in grasslands

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The pale grass blue butterfly (*Pseudozizeeria maha*) is widely distributed across Asia, from Iran and Pakistan to China and Japan, though it is absent from Hokkaido, Japan

**DESCRIPTION:** Upperside silvery light blue with satiny sheen; forewings edged with fuscous black costa and terminal margin, hindwings similarly bordered with diffuse darker subterminal spots, all markings variable in width and intensity.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found across Asia in grasslands, gardens, and urban areas. Active on sunny days, adults nectar on flowers, while eggs are laid on *Oxalis corniculata*, the sole host plant for monophagous larvae.



## Indian Skipper

*Spialia galba*

**FAMILY:** Hesperiiidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Spialia galba* (Fabricius 1793)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "Indian skipper" refers to species of skipper butterflies found in India, such as *Spialia galba* (the Indian Grizzled Skipper), named for their characteristic quick and darting flight.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** The butterfly ranges from Sri Lanka, India to the Shan states in northern Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Hainan.

**DESCRIPTION:** Upperside black with olive tint and white spots; forewings with three cell spots, sub-median spot, and a discal series of eight spots, including sub-apical, conjugated, and inward spots. Hindwing spots less prominent.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** In sunny weather, flies close to ground, basking with forewings partly closed, hindwings open. Flight is short, swift, and twisting; rests with wings closed.



## Brown awl

*Badamia exclamationis*

**FAMILY:** HesperIIDae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Badamia exclamationis* (Fabricius, 1775)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The "Brown Awl" is named for its nondescript brown color and its exceptionally long, narrow wings, which give it the appearance of an awl. It belongs to the HesperIIDae family, which includes other "skippers" and "awls".

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** A common woodland owl in the UK with a familiar hooting call.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Brown Awl is a plain brown butterfly, darker above and lighter below. Sexes are similar, with three to four semi-transparent forewing spots not easily distinguished in the field.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in forest openings and edges of deciduous and evergreen forests. Caterpillars prefer moist deciduous and semi-evergreen areas. Adults also occur in open country, farmland, and urban areas, roosting in barns, tree hollows, or cliffs.



## Banded awl

*Hasora chromus*

**FAMILY:** HesperIIDae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Hasora chromus* (Cramer 1782)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The name "Banded awl" comes from the butterfly's common name, "Banded Awl," which refers to a group of butterflies in the family HesperIIDae that have visible bands on their wings, resembling an awl's shape

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Wide distribution across the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, South China, and Australia.

**DESCRIPTION:** Wingspan 45–50 mm.

The male and female are dark vinaceous (colour of red wine) brown. The cilia is greyish brown while the head and thorax are greenish brown.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** In India, the common banded awl is the most common of the awls or Coeliadinae subfamily of skippers. It has a rapid and whirring flight which is audible at close quarters.



## Dark Blue Tiger

*Tirumala septentrionis*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** Tirumala septentrionis (Butler, 1874)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The species name septentrionis means “northern,” referring to its distribution in the northern parts of its range.

**IUCN STATUS:** NL | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely distributed across India and Sri Lanka, extending into Southeast Asia. In India, it is commonly found in southern and central regions, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Maharashtra.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized butterfly (wingspan 80–95 mm) with dark brown to black wings, pale bluish-white streaks and spots forming tiger-like patterns. Both sexes similar; females slightly paler. Underside mirrors upper patterns for camouflage.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in forests, gardens, and open woodlands. Strong fliers, often in large migratory groups. Dominant in southern India during migration, with males and females migrating equally.





## Great Swift

*Pelopidas assamensis*

**FAMILY:** HesperIIDae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Pelopidas assamensis* (de Nicéville, 1882)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Pelopidas* is derived from Greek, historically a proper name, while *assamensis* refers to Assam, the region in India where the species was first described.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** IV

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found across northeastern India, particularly in Assam and neighboring states, and extends into Southeast Asia including Myanmar and Thailand.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium-sized skipper (wingspan 35–45 mm) with dark brown upper wings and pale forewing spots. Underside lighter with faint markings. Robust body and hooked antennae; sexes similar, males slightly smaller and slenderer.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in grasslands, forest edges, and paddy fields. Adults fly fast and erratically, visit flowers, and puddle for minerals. Larvae feed on grasses, including rice and other Poaceae. Active mainly in warmer months.



## Indian Palm Bob

*Suastus gremius*

**FAMILY:** HesperIIDae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Suastus gremius* (Fabricius, 1798)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Pachliopta* comes from Greek *pachlys* (thick) and *opta* (wing), referring to the broad wings of these swallowtails. The species epithet *aristolochiae* denotes its larval host plants (*Aristolochia* spp.), on which the butterfly depends.

**IUCN STATUS:** Least Concern | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout India, from the Himalayan foothills to southern India, extending into Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Southeast Asia.

**DESCRIPTION:** Small to medium skipper (wingspan 35–40 mm) with dark brown upper wings, pale forewing spots, plain hindwings, and lighter brown underside. Robust body and hooked antennae; sexes similar, males slightly smaller.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in palm plantations, gardens, forest edges, and grasslands. Adults fly rapidly and low, feeding on nectar or puddling. Larvae feed on palms like coconut and date palm. Active mainly in sunny periods.



## Common Three-Ring

*Ypthima asterope*

**FAMILY:** Nymphalidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Ypthima asterope* (Klug, 1832)

**ETYMOLOGY:** The genus name *Ypthima* is classical, likely derived from Greek, meaning related to “arched” or “curved,” referring to wing patterns. The species name *asterope* comes from Greek mythology, meaning “lightning” or “bright star,” referring to the prominent eye-rings on the wings.

**IUCN STATUS:** NE | **SCHEDULE:** NL

**DISTRIBUTION:** Widely found in India’s plains, fields, and scrublands; also in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Southeast Asia. Nadu.

**DESCRIPTION:** Small butterfly (wingspan 35–45 mm) with brown upper wings and black eye-spots (ocelli) surrounded by pale rings, usually three on hindwings. Underside paler with faint rings and streaks; sexes similar, females slightly larger.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Found in grasslands, open scrub, fields, and roadside vegetation. Adults fly slowly and low, often basking on bare ground. Larvae feed on grasses like *Cynodon*, *Paspalum*, and *Oryza*. Active throughout the year in suitable areas.



## Dull Babul Blue

*Azanus uranus*

**FAMILY:** Lycaenidae

**BIONOMIAL NAME:** *Azanus uranus* (Butler, 1886)

**IUCN STATUS:** NE | **SCHEDULE:** II

**DISTRIBUTION:** Found throughout India, particularly in dry and semi-arid regions, scrublands, and gardens. Also occurs in Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and parts of Southeast Asia. Recorded from Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu.

**DESCRIPTION:** A small butterfly with a wingspan of 20–25 mm. The upper side of the wings is dark bluish-brown, darker than *Azanus ubaldus*. The underside is pale grey with small black spots arranged in characteristic patterns. Males and females are similar, though females are slightly paler and may have more distinct markings on the underside. Hindwings have small tails typical of Lycaenids.

**HABITAT AND HABITS:** Prefers dry scrub, gardens, and areas with Babul (*Acacia*) trees. Adults feed on nectar and are often seen basking on bare ground. Larvae feed on *Acacia* and related leguminous plants and are occasionally tended by ants. Adults exhibit a rapid, low, and erratic flight and are active during sunny hours.



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