

About Department of Forests and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi

The Department is responsible for the improvement of the overall environment quality, development of Forests including the Ridge, protection of wildlife, their habitats and preservation of trees in the National Capital Territory of Delhi in accordance with the provisions made in the Acts and also the directions of the Honorable Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court.

For further information visit <http://forest.delhigovt.nic.in> or contact Principal Chief Conservator of Forests at 011 23379629.

About The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)

BNHS is one of the largest non-governmental organisations (NGO) in the Indian sub-continent. It has been actively engaged in conservation of nature and natural resources through research, education and awareness. For further information visit www.bnhs.org or contact: 022 2282 1811.

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Concept: Sh. Mandeep Mittal (IFS), Sh. Vishal Singh (IFS)

Editorial Support and Photo Credit: Sh. Sohail Madan, Sh. Rajender Singh Smt. Geeta Yadav

PCCF GNCTD: Sh. C.D. Singh, IFS

CWLW GNCTD: Sh. Nisheeth Saxena, IFS

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Butterflies of Delhi





Common name : ***Banded Azel***
Family : ***Hesperiidae (Skippers)***
Scientific Name : ***Hasora cromus***

Rapid Skipping flight. Common in forest as well as open country and in the hills up to 2,000 m. Visits flowers and damp patches.



Common name : ***Dingy Swift***
Family : ***Hesperiidae (Skippers)***
Scientific Name : ***Gegenes nostradamus***

Inhabits dry river beds, wetlands and other grassy and hot places. Adults seen humid agricultural area.



Common name : ***Indian Palm Bob***
Family : ***Hesperiidae (Skippers)***
Scientific Name : ***Suastus gremius***

One of the most common among this group, this sun loving skipper is seen on flowers, damp patches and its favorite bird dropping. Flight fast keeps skipping from one patch to another. Seen at lower elevations up to 1,200m.



Common name : ***Indian Skipper***
Family : ***Hesperiidae (Skippers)***
Scientific Name : ***Spialia galba***

Keeps near the ground, settling on the grasses and herbs. Flight low, swift and often swinging.



Common name : **Common Jay**
 Family : **Papilionidae (Swallowtail)**
 Scientific Name : **Graphium doson**
 Active flier, seen at wooded elevations up to 1,525 m. Fond of flowers, males assemble for mudpuddling. On the wing in March and September.



Common name : **Common Rose**
 Family : **Papilionidae (Swallowtail)**
 Scientific Name : **Pachliopta aristolochiae**
 Occurs commonly in open, cultivated areas, scrub and deciduous forests. In the south, found up to 2,400m, in the northeast up to 1,500m and in the northwest up to 900m in the hills. Slow but straight fluttering flight, usually not more than 3 to 4m above the ground, but at time does fly higher.



Common name : **Common Mime**
 Family : **Papilionidae (Swallowtail)**
 Scientific Name : **Papilio clytia**
 Often seen on flowers in well wooded plains.



Common name : **Common Mormon**
 Family : **Papilionidae (Swallowtail)**
 Scientific Name : **Papilio polytes**
 Males have fast flight, while females fly slowly in a leisurely manner just like common Rose and Crimson Rose whom they mimic. Fond of flowers, meals visit damp patches and dung.



Common name : ***Common Lime***
Family : ***Hesperiidae (Skippers)***
Scientific Name : ***Papilio demoleus***
Commonest among the Swallowtails, and also the most widely distributed. Swift, but, rather jerky flight at eye level.



Common name : ***Spotless Grass Yellow***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Eurema laeta***
Common on hills as well as in plains. Prefers forest clearing and paths. Distinct seasonal dimorphism. Egg laid singly.



Common name : ***Common Grass Yellow***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Eurema hecabe***
One of the most common among Indian butterflies. Visit flower and dump patches. Known to migrate in large numbers. Egg laid singly.



Common name : ***Common Emigrant***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Catopsilia pomona***
Common species of garden and city areas. Seen on flowers in gardens throughout the year. Hot day bring these butterflies to dump patches. Flight rapid with erratic up to and down swoops. On the hills up to 4,000m. Eggs laid singly.



Common name : ***Mottled Emigrant***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Catopsilia pyranthe***
Fairly strong, jerky, erratic flight. Common visitors to gardens and city roads.



Common name : ***Small Salman Arab***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Colotis amata***
Prefers drier and coastal habitats where its food plants grow. Rarely found in forests. Never on high hills. Likes sunny situations. On the wings almost throughout the year. Weak fluttering, but directional flight close to the ground. Comes to flowers. Eggs laid in batches.



Common name : ***Small Orange Tip***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Colotis etrida***
Prefers drier open places, known to occur at 2,900m in Himalaya and 2,300m in southern hills. Mainly seen in Indian plains. Fluttering feeble flight, close to the ground. Very fond of flowers, but does not come to damp patches. On the wing almost throughout the year in suitable habitats. Eggs laid singly.



Common name : ***Large Salman Arab***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Colotis fausta fausta***
Prefers dry open spaces, rocky gorges and valleys. Flight rapid and dancing. Feeds on flowers but not seen on damp patches.



Common name : ***White Orange Tip***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Ixias marianne***
Mixed deciduous forest, thorn forest as well as open plains.



Common name : ***Yellow Orange Tip***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Ixias pyrene***
Prefers mixed deciduous, thorny scrub forest. Not seen in open country.



Common name : ***Common Gull***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Cepora nerissa***
Seen mainly in drier plains, around ill-kept farmlands and scrub forests. Known to migrate. Comes to flowers. Large numbers seen mudpuddling in hot weather.



Common name : ***Common Jezebel***
Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***
Scientific Name : ***Delias eucharis***
Conspicuous butterfly, seen on the tree, along city roads to forest.



Common name : ***Pioneer***

Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***

Scientific Name : ***Belenois aurota***

This species is found primarily in fairly arid habitats including deserts, steppes and thorn scrub, at altitudes between sea level and about 1200m.



Common name : ***Psyche***

Family : ***Pieridae (White & Yellows)***

Scientific Name : ***Leptosia nina***

Keep to scrub and jungle, flies almost incessantly. Close to the ground with feeble wing beats, never rising about knee level.



Common name : ***Common Silverline***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Spindasis vulcanus***

Flight extremely fast, but never far, keeps to low bushes. Prefers open lightly wooded area as well as gardens. Fond of flowers, bird dropping and damp patches. Besides the plains, it flies in the Himalaya as high as 2,700m. Seen on the wing in March, May and June to October. Caterpillars attended by ants.



Common name : ***Forget-me-Not***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Catochrysops strabo***

Fast flight, prefers open dry habitats of scrub and dry deciduous forest.



Common name : **Pea Blue**
 Family : **Lycaenidae (Blues)**
 Scientific Name : **Lampides boeticus**
 Strong flight, close to the ground, common in agriculture and cultivated area.



Common name : **Common Pierrot**
 Family : **Lycaenidae (Blues)**
 Scientific Name : **Castalius rosimon**
 Flight fluttering, close to the ground. Fond of sunshine, mudpuddling. Visit flowers dead insects and bird dropping.



Common name : **Zebra Blue**
 Family : **Lycaenidae (Blues)**
 Scientific Name : **Leptotes plinius**
 Prefers open, drier regions, but also seen at the edges of evergreen forests. Flight rapid and sustained for long periods. More often seen around food plants bushes. Males territorial and pugnacious, often seen chasing each other. Visits flowers, seen on damp patches and mudpuddling with other lycaenidae.



Common name : **Bright Babul Blue**
 Family : **Lycaenidae (Blues)**
 Scientific Name : **Azanus ubaldus**
 Tailless. Male up bright violet-blue, with black border. Female up pale blue, with broad brown border. Differ from African Babul blue in not having a spot in the cell on UNF.



Common name : ***African Babul Blue***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Azanus jesous***

The male upperside is a paler and much brighter purple than in Bright babul blue. Dark blue tint at the base of the wings is more pronounced. Forewing without the clothing of specialized hair-like scales so conspicuous.



Common name : ***Gram Blue***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Euchrysops cnejus***

A strong and rapid flier. The species is spread throughout India except at very high elevations. Seen in and around cultivations, fond of flowers and damp areas.



Common name : ***Red Pierrot***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Talicauda nyseus***

Slow fluttering flight, usually seen in gardens on low plants not far from the food plant. Prefers moist, sheltered habitats in forests as well as urban gardens where the food plants grow.



Common name : ***Plain Cupid***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Chilades pandava***

Tailed. Central row of spots under forewing unbroken, no cell spot. Under hindwing central band more united near lower tip.



Common name : ***Lime Blue***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Chilades lajus***

Very widespread and common species, found in India. This is a common species, mainly associated with dry forest and acacia scrub on the lowlands.



Common name : ***Small Cupid***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Chilades parrhasius***

This butterfly is mainly associated with Acacia scrub at elevations below about 100m. Both sexes commonly nectar at wild flowers. They usually hold their wings erect when feeding or at rest, but will sometimes bask with them held half open in cloudy weather conditions.



Common name : ***Grass Jewel***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Freyeria trochylus***

Prefers open, drier habitats. More local. Fluttering flight close to the ground. Seen on the wing throughout the year.



Common name : ***Guava Blue***

Family : ***Lycaenidae (Blues)***

Scientific Name : ***Virachola isocrates***

Male upperside violet-brown. Forewing with the colour darkening on the margins in certain lights showing a bright violet gloss on the inner area; an indistinct orangeochreous patch, varying in size.



Common name : **Indian Red Flash**

Family : **Lycaenidae (Blues)**

Scientific Name : **Rapala iarbus**

More common on plains than on hills, seen in the Himalayas up to 2,300m. Rapid and straight flight. Flashes are aptly named, as males perched on the shrub, 'flash' their bright upper sides to signal their presence.



Common name : **Striped Tiger**

Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**

Scientific Name : **Danaus genutia**

Flight slow, close to the ground. Seen in a variety of habitats from wet evergreen forest to scrub, light forest and open country throughout the year.



Common name : **Blue Tiger**

Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**

Scientific Name : **Tirumala limniace**

Slow, flapping at times sailing flight, seen in gardens as well as in forests tracts up to 2,000m in the Himalaya.



Common name : **Plain Tiger**

Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**

Scientific Name : **Danaus chrysippus**

Slow flight close to the ground. Prefers open country, but seen in forests too, and up to 2,500 m in the hills. On the wing throughout the year.



Common name : ***Common Crow***
Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
Scientific Name : ***Euploea core***

Weak, sailing flight, occurs in forest to open country, roosts together in large numbers in sheltered woodlots during dry season. On the wing throughout the year.



Common name : ***Common Evening Brown***
Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
Scientific Name : ***Melanitis leda***

Flight jerky, close to the ground. Common, found in various habitats except desert. Flies in the hills up to 2,100 m. on the wing throughout the year.



Common name : ***Common Three Ring***
Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
Scientific Name : ***Ypthima asterope***

It's slightly uncommon in Delhi, as it prefers lowland areas and agricultural fields. It can be easily distinguished by the one large apical eyespot and two or three small eyespots in the fore and hind wing on the uperside.



Common name : ***Tawny Coster***
Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
Scientific Name : ***Acraea terpsicore***

Flies throughout the year in forest clearing, open country and gardens. Occurs in the Himalayas up to 1,500 m. distasteful to predators, and has a slow fluttering flight, not high above the ground.



Common name : **Common Leopard**
Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**
Scientific Name : **Phalanta phalantha**
Restless butterfly and a swift flyer. Territorial and pugnacious.



Common name : **Common Castor**
Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**
Scientific Name : **Ariadne merione**
Prefers forested to lightly wooded areas but seen in any city garden too.



Common name : **Painted Lady**
Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**
Scientific Name : **Vanessa cardui**
Swift flier, prefers open grassy plains, occurs in the coastal plains, deserts and hills.



Common name : **Blue Pansy**
Family : **Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)**
Scientific Name : **Junonia orithiya**
Flight swift, close to the ground, active during the hottest part of the day.



Common name : ***Yellow Pansy***
 Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
 Scientific Name : ***Junonia hierta***
 Active butterfly, flies close to the ground, prefers sunny places, fond of dry stony places.



Common name : ***Lemon Pansy***
 Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
 Scientific Name : ***Junonia lemonias***
 Low flight, close to the ground, around flowering, shrubs and herbs, probably to commonest among the pansies.



Common name : ***Peacock Pansy***
 Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
 Scientific Name : ***Junonia almana***
 Often seen around fresh water marshes, where the food plant Hygrophila auriculata is abundant.



Common name : ***Danaid Eggfly***
 Family : ***Nymphalidae (Brush Footed)***
 Scientific Name : ***Hypolimnas misippus***
 Prefers open country and forest edges. Fast flier. Flies in the Himalaya up to 3,000 m, and 2,100 m in south India. On the wing almost throughout the year in suitable habitat.