



Leopard Lacewing
(*Cethosia cyane*)



MARRIOTT RESORT
PHUKET
MERLIN BEACH



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MERLIN BEACH

MERLIN BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

Butterflies and moths belong to the order Lepidoptera. The term “Lepidoptera” comes from two Greek root words. “Lepis” means “scale” whereas “pteron” means “wing.” Tiny scales cover their wings, much like tiles on a roof. Their visual patterns are determined by scale arrangement. Their colors originate from pigments created by the animal or from structural color from light reflection. These two factors produce metallic blues, greens, and coppers.

While they have many similarities, butterflies and moths differ in several physical and habitual traits. Butterflies have slender, clubbed antennae which are always erect or extended in the front. Moths’ antennae are more feathery or saw-edged, which can be folded under the wings or back along the body.

A major physical difference is that butterflies will rest their wings spread flat, half-open or closed, while moths can fold them in a roof-like manner over the abdomen. Butterflies are diurnal – meaning they are more active during the day. Moths are nocturnal – they fly at night.



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BUTTERFLY
REDSPOOT DUKE (DOPHLA EVELINA)



MOTH
ATLAS MOTH (ATTACUS ATLAS)



Eggs on Citrus Plant



Caterpillar



Adult



Pupation



Formed Pupae

Great
Mormon
Lifecycle



BUTTERFLY LIFECYCLE

Butterflies have four distinct life phases: the egg, the caterpillar, the chrysalis, and the adult butterfly. Female butterflies will lay their eggs on or under young leaves and twigs of specific host plants, which act as a food source for the newly hatched caterpillars.

The caterpillars consume plant leaves and spend most of their time feeding, increasing their body size exponentially in just a few days. Some species of Tiger and Crow caterpillars will feed on poisonous milkweed plants to protect them from predators.

Upon reaching a certain size, caterpillars will hang from a twig, fastening themselves to the plant and creating a chrysalis. When the butterfly emerges, it will feed on nectar from flowering plants.

In Phuket, most butterflies' life cycles are one month but slightly varies among species. For most species, the butterfly will spend four to five days as an egg, 15-20 days as a larva (caterpillar), seven to 10 days as a chrysalis, and 10-15 days as an adult.

PHUKET AND SOUTHERN THAILAND

The Thai peninsula, a skinny piece of land which divides the Gulf of Thailand and Andaman Sea, is the juncture of two of the planet's most biodiverse regions: the Indo-Burmese region to the north and the Sundaic region to the south. These areas are home to a wide range of plants and animals, making Phuket an ideal area for butterfly sightings. Phuket's tropical plants act as host plants for a variety of butterfly species. However, the development of forests for farming, housing, and tourism reduced the animals' habitat through removal of essential plants butterflies require for survival.

BUTTERFLY IDENTIFICATION

DEGREE OF RARITY

This guide uses a star rating system to indicate the rarity of a species of butterfly in Thailand. One star signifies the most common butterflies while five being extremely rare and even extinct.

- ★ Common
- ★★ Uncommon
- ★★★ Rare

FAMILY: **PAPILIONIDAE**

Common names for this butterfly family include birdwings and swallowtails. The names are derived from the tail-like projection on the hindwing found in many species. This family also includes the most brightly colored and largest butterflies, which makes them the most recognizable.

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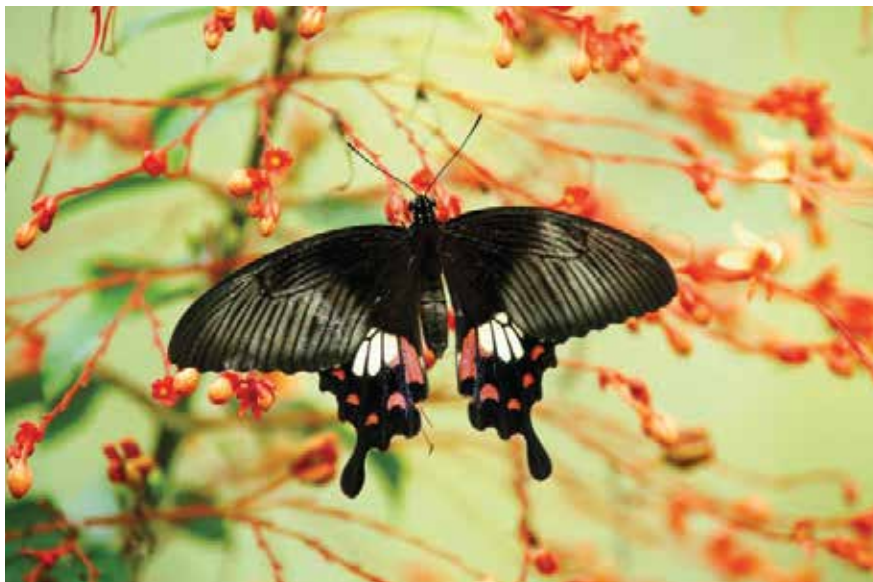
Female



★
GREAT MORMON
(*Papilio memnon*)



Male



Female

★ **COMMON MORMON**
(*Papilio polytes*)



Male



THE TAILED JAY

(Graphium agamemnon)



BIRDWING

(Troides helena)



FAMILY: NYMPHALIDAE

Butterflies in this family are brush-footed or four-legged butterflies.

The brightly-colored Nymphalidae family is characterized by their wide size range and wing shapes. They are the third largest family of butterflies in Thailand.

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LEOPARD LACEWING

(Cethosia cyane)



CLIPPER

(Parthenos sylvia)





Male



GREAT EGGFLY
(Hypolimnys bolina)



Female

Open



ORANGE OAKLEAF

(Kallima inachus)

Closed





★★★

RED SPOT DUKE

(Dophla evelina)



★★★

GREAT MARQUIS

(Euthalia dunya)



COMMON PALMFLY

(Elimnias hypermnestra)



**DARK BANDED
BUSH BROWN**

(Mycalesis mineus)





COMMON SAILOR

(Nepthis hylas)



COMMON ARCHDUKE

(Lexias pardalis)



THE KNIGHT

(Lebadea martha)



FAMILY: NYMPHALIDAE
SUBFAMILY: DANAINAE

Members of this subfamily are often referred to as Tigers and Crows because their markings are similar to tiger stripes and black crows.

All life stages of this family are unpalatable to predators because the caterpillars feed on poisonous milkweeds and keep the toxins in their bodies throughout their life as a defense mechanism.

Many other families of butterflies have evolved to mimic Tigers and Crows as a way to avoid predation.

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COMMON CROW
(Euploea core)





KING CROW

(Euploea phaenareta castelnaui)



BLUE STRIPED CROW

(Euploea mulciber)



COMMON TIGER

(Danaus genutia)



PLAIN TIGER

*(Danaus chrysippus
chrysippus)*



WHITE TIGER

(Danaus melanippus)





BLUE GLASSY TIGER

(Ideopsis vulgaris)



DARK GLASSY TIGER

*(Parantica agleoides
agleoides)*

FAMILY: NYMPHALIDAE
SUBFAMILY: SATYRINAE



PALM KING

(Amathusia phidippus)



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FAMILY: PIERIDAE

Whites and Yellows are two of the common names used for this family. They owe their namesake to their wings, which are white and yellow with black markings. Some species have red or orange colors at the borders or bases of their wings and they do not have a tail on the hindwing.



GIANT ORANGETIP
(*HEBOMOIA GLAUCIPPE*)

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LEMON EMIGRANT

(Catopsilia Pomona)



STRIPED ALBATROSS

(Appias olferna)



FAMILY: LYCAENIDAE



COMMON CERULEAN

(Jamides celeno)



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COMMON PIERROT

(Castalius rosimon)



PLAIN CUPID

(Chilades pandava)



FAMILY: HYSPERIIDAE



CHESTNUT BOB

(Lambrix salsala)



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CONSERVATION

IUCN/MARRIOTT PARTNERSHIP

Phuket Marriott Resort & Spa, Merlin Beach has established the Merlin Butterfly Sanctuary – a unique conservation project in collaboration with partners at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Butterflies are essential pollinators for a wide variety of decorative and wild flower plants as they cross-pollinate flowers separated by large distances. Phuket’s butterfly population decreased due to overdevelopment and widespread pesticide use. As such, the population of these charismatic insects dwindled with negative impacts on flowering plants.

Our goal is to increase the native butterfly population by giving host plants more caterpillars, as well as nectar plants for adult butterflies to feed on. The natural environment surrounding the resort will influence other pollinators from the sanctuary and return the butterflies to their native ecosystem. There is minimal netting within the Sanctuary – the animals are free to leave. However, the presence of their species-specific host and nectar plants encourages them to remain.



The garden's enclosed section serves as a breeding cage for mature adult butterflies. As butterflies live only for about a month, it is important to continue the life cycle by providing a breeding area with host plants required for egg-laying females.



ONLINE RESOURCES



[Instagram.com/
merlinbutterflies](https://www.instagram.com/merlinbutterflies)



[Facebook.com/
MerlinButterflySanctuary](https://www.facebook.com/MerlinButterflySanctuary)



[PhuketMarriott
Merlinbeach.com](https://www.phuketmarriott.com)

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CREDITS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

Mr. Petch Manopawitr (Deputy, Indo-Burma Group) Thailand Program Coordinator

Ms. Kanokwan Homcha-Aim (Field Coordinator South Marriott Project)

Ms. Kathryn Bimson (Coral Reef Conservation Coordinator)

JW MARRIOTT PHUKET RESORT & SPA, CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. Sean Panton (Director of Corporate Social Responsibility)

PHUKET MARRIOTT RESORT & SPA, MERLIN BEACH

Mr. Trevor May (General Manager)

Mr. Jan-Hein Breitschaft (Director of Rooms)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mr. Surajit Jamornman

BUTTERFLY CONSULTANT

Mr. John Calvert



**PHUKET MARRIOTT RESORT
& SPA, MERLIN BEACH**
99 Muen-Ngoen Road, Tri-Trang Beach
Kathu, Patong, Phuket 83150
PhuketMarriottMerlinBeach.com
t: +66 76 335 300 | f: +66 76 335 335



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