



Butterflies of Kabini River Lodge



Nagarhole National Park (Rajiv Gandhi National Park)

Nagarhole National Park (643.39 sq. km.) is part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve together with the Bandipur National Park (874.2 sq. km.), Mudumalai (320.99 sq. km.) and Wayanad (344.44 sq. km.). It is one of the last remaining and best protected habitat not only for endangered and charismatic species like the elephant and the tiger but also for a plethora of other organisms - big and small.

Spread across the districts of Mysore and Kodagu in Karnataka, Nagarhole was originally constituted into a sanctuary in the year 1955 covering an area of 285 sq.km. Subsequently, it was enlarged to include adjoining areas of Mysore district and it now spans an area of 643.39 sq. km. It was given the status of a National Park in 1983.

The gently undulating terrain is well drained by rivers and streams. Kabini, a tributary of Kaveri, is the largest river draining the park. An irrigation dam was built across Kabini in the year 1974 creating the picturesque backwaters that separates Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks. The other main rivers flowing through the park are Taaraka, Nagarhole and Laxmanteertha.

Moist and dry deciduous forest dominate the landscape. Valuable timber trees like teak, rosewood, mathi, honne, and nandi can be seen. When in bloom, trees like the Flame of the forest, Red Silk Cotton and Indian Laburnum add colour to the forest.



Kabini River Lodge

The story of Jungle Lodges and Resorts Ltd. began with its operations at Kabini. Kabini River Lodge is the erstwhile hunting lodge of the Maharaja of Mysore and his favorite guests. This lodge is located in Kharapura village on the backwaters of Kabini dam. During the late 18th and early 19th century it was common to see Viceroys, Lords, Dukes and other such dignitaries visiting Kabini. About four decades ago, JLR started operations in the same premises and began its path breaking experiment of ecotourism in a wilderness setting. Today, it is among the popular wildlife resorts. It showcases the wealth of Nagarhole and indeed the wilderness of Karnataka.

The backwaters of Kabini, along with the adjoining Nagarhole National Park, is a visual treat. The forest extends as far as the eye can see; a Mecca for wildlife, big and small. Sambar, chital, gaurs, wild pigs, elephants, leopards and tigers - it is widely considered to be among the best for wildlife viewing.

And that's not all! The sprawling campus of Kabini River Lodge, the flagship of JLR, supports a plethora of interesting life that can delight the eye. A stroll on the property is sure to spring a few surprises. Besides the many species of trees, there are over 50 species of grasses on the property! Also seen are a variety of birds, a few mammals, many species of butterflies and spiders. This booklet depicts some 50 species of these colourful butterflies that have been recorded on the premises of the Kabini River Lodge. Go for a walk and enjoy these delicate beauties.



About Butterflies

Butterflies symbolize a spirit of freedom, hope and transformation amongst other things. Many are characterized by their bright vivid colours and interesting patterns. They also have varied shapes and sizes. Thanks to these factors, butterflies have drawn much attention and have been a subject of great interest.

Butterflies (along with moths) are unique in the world of insects. They possess scales on their wings (scales are the powdery substance left behind when a butterfly is caught by the wings). In fact, Lepidoptera, the order to which they belong, literally means 'scale-wings'.

The life cycle of butterflies is very familiar to all of us. The eggs laid by the female on selected plants hatch into caterpillars (also called larva; plural larvae). The larva is nothing more than an eating-machine. Its first meal usually is the egg case from which it emerged. It goes on to devour the leaves on which the egg was laid. It grows in size very fast and as it does, sheds (moult) its skin a few times before becoming a pupa, which is a dormant phase.

During this period, drastic changes occur within the pupa. The caterpillar loses its form and transforms into a butterfly. When the changes are complete, the butterfly emerges with wet, crumpled wings. The butterfly hangs and pumps blood into its wings until it is stretched completely. Once the wings are dry, the butterfly flies away to start the cycle all over again. This drama of an egg changing into a butterfly through the intermediate stages of larva and pupa is fascinating to watch and very few of us have been lucky to witness it.

Butterflies are generally useful insects. They pollinate various species of flowers. Their larvae that feed on leaves become food for a plethora of other organisms, making them an important part of the food-chain. However, butterfly populations have declined particularly in urban spaces. You can help support some of these in your area. (Read the note on butterfly gardening).

India is home to some 1300 species of butterflies. The largest among Indian butterflies being the Southern Birdwing (19 cm. wingspan) and the smallest, the Grass Jewel (1.5cm. wingspan). The premises of the Kabini River Lodge plays home to both these butterflies besides over 75 species of these beautiful insects. Here, we present some often seen butterflies of the campus. As you perambulate, we hope that you spot many of them and take back those memories with you.

Butterfly gardening

It is possible to attract butterflies to your vicinity. To be able to do this, it is important for us to understand a few things about butterflies.

Having mated, the female butterflies lay their eggs on the leaves and stems of specific plants. The females use the sensory capabilities of their antennae and legs to detect the correct host plant. Upon emerging from the egg, the larvae proceed to eat the leaves of the host plants. The relationship between any given butterfly species and its host plant(s) is very specific.

That said, if we have to attract butterflies, one of the first things to do would be to identify butterflies that are seen in the general area. Then do a little homework to find out what plants those butterflies lay eggs on. Growing these plants around will draw the butterflies to lay eggs on. (Be prepared to have some of the leaves of the plants eaten!) Butterflies, as adults, survive on a liquid diet. This means, that some plants that bear flowers that attract butterflies for nectaring will also help. Such selective planting will ensure that the butterflies have all the resources needed - both as larvae and as adults.

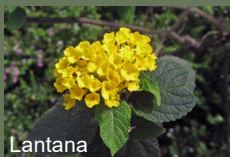
Milkweeds <i>Calotropis & Asclepias</i>	Plain Tiger
Mast Tree <i>Polyalthia longifolia</i>	Tailed Jay & Common Jay
Curry leaf plant <i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Common Mormon & Common Lime
Lemon plant <i>Citrus sp.</i>	Common Mormon, Blue Mormon & Common Lime
Castor plant <i>Ricinis communis</i>	Common Castor
Indian Laburnum <i>Cassia fistula & other Cassia Sp.</i>	Common Emigrant & Grassyellow
Indian Beech Tree <i>Pongamia pinnata</i>	Common Banded Awl & Common Cerulean
<i>Kalanchoe sp.</i>	Red Pierrot

(Some examples of host plants that attract common butterflies)

This done, you can expect butterflies to visit your garden and spend time there. You will also have a good chance of observing the entire life-cycle of butterflies. It can be fascinating indeed. The flowers that attract butterflies will also draw other insects that seek nectar and consequently their predators. So, your efforts will help support pollinators and also enhance the biodiversity of your locality.

One could also consider planting some of the following as they attract adult butterflies for nectaring.

- * Ageratum
- * Lantana (garden varieties)
- * Buddleia
- * Marigold
- * Celosia
- * Pentas
- * Cosmos
- * Periwinkle
- * Ixora
- * Zinnia



More importantly, if there are some plants like Tridax and Heliotropium that grow on their own, they should be allowed to thrive and not considered as weeds as they attract butterflies for nectaring as well.

The process of planting and nurturing the plants and eventually seeing butterflies visiting them can be very satisfying and enjoyable!

Papilionidae (Swallowtails)

Some of the largest butterflies in the world belong to the family Papilionidae. This includes all the birdwings and the Southern Birdwing too - the largest Indian butterfly. Many of them are characterized by having a protrusion on their hind wings giving them a tail-like appearance. This gives them their popular name - Swallowtail butterflies. Many members of this family are also very colourful.



Tailed Jay
Graphium agamemnon



Common Jay
Graphium doson



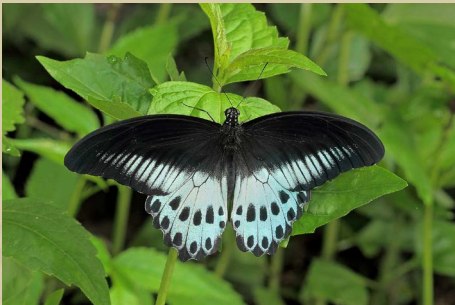
Common Bluebottle
Graphium sarpedon



Common Lime
Papilio demoleus



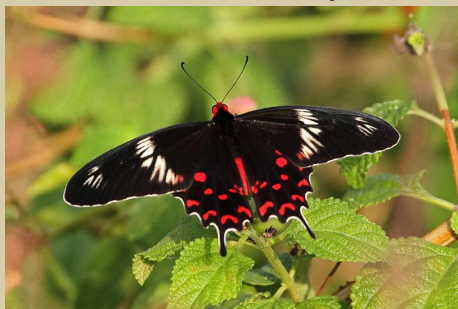
Blue Mormon
Papilio polymnestor



Common Mormon
Papilio polytes



Crimson Rose
Pachliopta hector



Southern Birdwing
Troides minos



Hesperiidae (Skippers)

A rapid and darting flight is the reason why butterflies of the family Hesperiidae are called Skippers. Most of these butterflies are shades of brown with a few having brighter colours. They are also characterized by the presence of noticeably large eyes.



Common Banded Awl *Hasora chromus*



Fulvous Pied Flat *Pseudocoladenia dan*



Indian Skipper
Spialia galba



Chestnut Bob
Iambrix salsala



Grass Demon
Udaspes folus



Pieridae

(Whites And Yellows)

Most butterflies of the family Pieridae are predominantly coloured white, yellow and orange. Hence, they are often referred to as the whites and yellows. Many members of this family are known to congregate on wet mud in large numbers to mud-puddle while some species can be seen visiting animal excreta too. Some migrate in large numbers.



Common Emigrant

Catopsilia pomona



Mottled Emigrant

Catopsilia pyranthe



Three spot Grassyellow
Eurema blanda



Common Grassyellow
Eurema hecabe



Great Orange Tip
Hebomoia glaucippe



Psyche
Leptosia nina



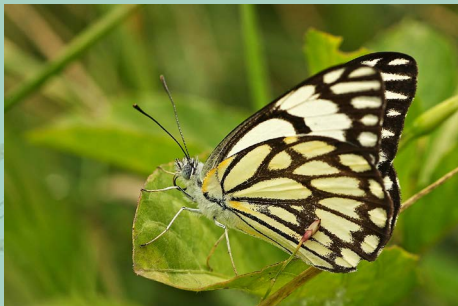
Common Wanderer
Pareronia hippia



Common Albatross
Appias albina



The Pioneer
Belenois aurota



Common Gull
Cepora nerissa



Common Jezebel
Delias eucharis



Nymphalidae (Brush-footed)

The family Nymphalidae is the largest butterfly family. Popularly referred to as Brush-footed butterflies, many butterflies of this family are brightly coloured and handsome insects. Nymphalids have only 4 functional legs. Some butterflies of this family are also known for their long distance migration.



Plain Tiger
Danaus chrysippus



Striped Tiger
Danaus genutia



Blue Tiger
Tirumala limniace



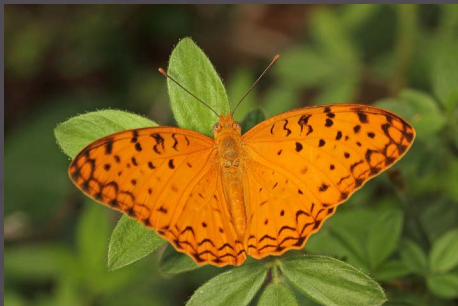
Common Crow
Euploea core



Tawny Coster
Acraea terpsicore



Common Leopard
Phalanta phalantha



Common Sailer
Neptis hylas



Staff Sergeant
Athyma selenophora



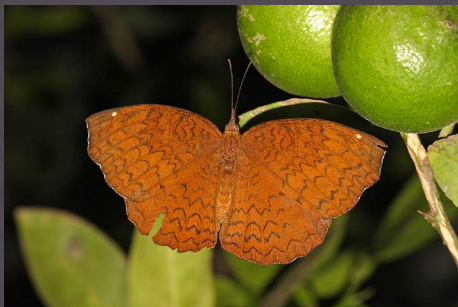
Commander
Moduza procris



Common Baron
Euthalia aconthea



Common Castor
Ariadne merione



Great Eggfly
Hypolimnna bolina



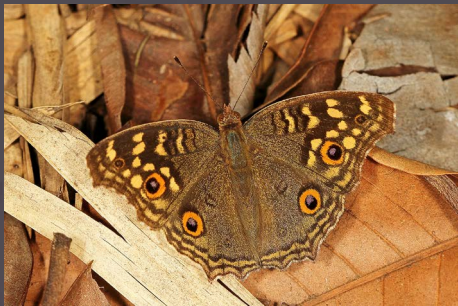
Danaid Eggfly
Hypolimnna misippus



Chocolate Pansy
Junonia iphita



Lemon Pansy
Junonia lemonias



Common Evening Brown
Melanitis leda



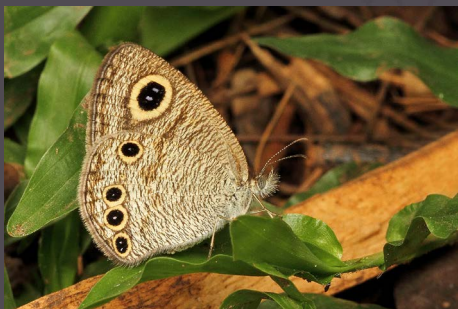
Glad-eye Bushbrown
Mycalesis patnia



Tamil Treebrown
Lethe drypetis



Common Four-ring
Ypthima huebneri



Common Five-ring
Ypthima baldus



Lycaenidae (Blues)

Family Lycaenidae consists of small butterflies. Blue (ranging from pale blue to dark metallic shades) is a predominant colour of butterflies belonging to this family. Some species are also have shades of orange. Hence, the family is referred to by the common name – Blues and Coppers. Larvae of some members of this family have interesting association with ants.



Common Silverline
Spindasis vulcanus



Red Pierrot
Talica niseus



Common Pierrot
Castalius rosimon



Plains Cupid
Chilades pandava



Pea Blue
Lampides boeticus



Grass Jewel
Freyeria trochylus



Tiny Grass Blue
Zizula hylax



Common Cerulean
Jamides celeno



Jungle Lodges and Resorts

Kabini River Lodge	9449599754
JLR Kings Sanctuary	9449599796
Bandipur Safari Lodge	9449597880
K Gudi Wilderness Camp	9449599790
Dubare Elephant Camp	9449597876
Bannerghatta Nature Camp	9449599756
Bheemeshwari Adventure & Nature Camp	9449597885
Galibore Nature Camp	9449599768
River Tern Lodge, Bhadra	9449599780
Sharavathi Adventure Camp	9449599784
Om Beach Resort, Gokarna	9480885307
Devbagh Beach Resort, Karwar	9449599778
Kali Adventure Camp, Dandeli	9449597871
Old Magazine House, Ganeshgudi	9480885303
Hampi Heritage and Wilderness Resort	9449597874
Black Buck Resort, Bidar	9740880119
Bhimgad Adventure Camp	9449599782
Sadashivgad Sea View Resort	9449599778
Anejhari Butterfly Camp	9480887187
Bhagawathi Nature Camp	9449597875
Sakrebyle Elephant Camp	9480887180
Seethanadi Nature Camp	9449599758
Kemmannugundi Hill Resort	9449597883
Gopinatham Mystery Trails	9480885300
Hemmadaga Nature Camp	9880464303
Chigarimala Nature Camp	9880464303

MY ROUTE TO JLR



Activities

-  Heritage
-  Bird Watching
-  Boating
-  Nature Walk
-  Beach
-  Water Sports
-  Rafting
-  Jeep Safari



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