

Fireflies warming up

Fireflies of the species *Abscondita terminalis* perch on large leaves during the day, avoiding sunlight. We were curious how they prepare for a night of synchronous displays. In 2023 at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, as the sun went down, the birds went to roost and the bees started buzzing, the fireflies, perched on the leaves, began flashing with slow pulses. Their light frequency and intensity kept increasing after every break. Then, one firefly moved around, touching the others, seemingly waking them up. The ones that were touched started flashing in quick, bright bursts. This lasted for about thirty minutes and when the place was dark enough and it was time for the synchronous displays, they flew away to the leaves high up in the canopy.

*Click this link
to watch video*