

Butterflies of Northeastern Police Academy, Umiam, Meghalaya

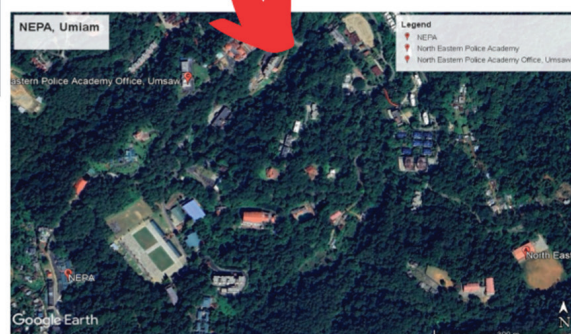
There are approximately 28,000 known butterfly species worldwide, belonging to various families, some of which are endemic or rare. Additionally, certain species exhibit migratory behaviour.

The study was conducted at the Northeastern Police Academy (25.679° N, 91.895° E) situated in the Ri-Bhoi District of Umiam, Meghalaya. The campus is located a few kilometres from Umiam Lake, an artificial reservoir whose waters are utilized for the generation and distribution of electricity. This region is characterized by a rich diversity of flora and fauna, with its lush green landscapes dominated by various tree species, particularly pine trees. The area is also interspersed with streams that provide habitats for an array of butterflies. These butterflies are not only key pollinators within the ecosystem but also serve as a vital food source for various organisms, including lizards, spiders, and birds.

The present study was conducted through systematic field surveys along trails

and roads within the campus and its vicinity. Observations focused on activity patterns, preferred habitats, and optimal periods for butterfly occurrence. Morphological features were carefully examined to aid identification. Species were identified using Kehimkar (2016).

A total of 25 butterfly species, categorized into two superfamilies and five families—Papilionidae, Pieridae, Lycaenidae, Riodinidae, and Nymphalidae—were observed during the study. Specifically, nine species from the family Nymphalidae were identified, comprising 36% of the total, while eight species from the family Lycaenidae accounted for 32%. Additionally, five species from the family Pieridae represented



Study sites of Northeastern Police Academy, Umiam, East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, India. Source: Maps of India and Google Earth.

Butterfly species observed at Umiam, Meghalaya.

	Family	Scientific name	Common name	IUCN Red List status
1	Papilionidae	<i>Papilio chaon</i>	Yellow Helen	NE
2		<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	Common Rose	LC
3	Pieridae	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	Indian Cabbage White	NE
4		<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large cabbage White	LC
5		<i>Eurema brigitta</i>	Small Grass Yellow	LC
6		<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	Common Grass Yellow	LC
7		<i>Eurema andersoni</i>	One-spot Grass Yellow	LC
8		Lycaenidae	<i>Mahathala ameria</i>	Falcate Oakblue
9	<i>Niphanda asialis</i>		White-banded Pierrot	NE
10	<i>Catochrysops panormus</i>		Silver Forget-me-not	NE
11	<i>Everes lacturnus</i>		Orange-crowned Cupid	NE
12	<i>Nacaduba pavana</i>		Small Four- Lineblue	NE
13	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>		Pale Grass Blue	NE
14	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>		Blue Tiger	NE
15	<i>Jamides elpis</i>		Glistening Cerulean	NE
16	Riodinidae	<i>Cethosia cyane</i>	Leopard Lacewing	NE
17	Nymphalidae	<i>Lethe verma</i>	Straight-banded Treebrown	NE
18		<i>Ypthima baldus</i>	Common Five- ring	NE
19		<i>Parantica aglea</i>	Glassy Tiger	NE
20		<i>Neptis Zaida manipurensis</i>	Manipur Pale Green Sailor	NE
21		<i>Junonia iphita</i>	Chocolate Pansy	NE
22		<i>Mycalesis mineus</i>	Dark-branded Bushbrown	NE
23		<i>Pantaporia bieti</i>	Tytler's Lascar	NE
24		<i>Parantica aglea</i>	Glassy Tiger	NE
25		<i>Pantoporia hordonia</i>	Common Lascar	NE

LC—Least Concern | NE—Not Evaluated.

20%, two species from the family Papilionidae made up 8%, and one species from the family Riodinidae contributed 4%. Collectively, these families accounted for 100% of the species observed.

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Citation: Anisha, G., A. Mishra, V. Mahesh & M. Jayashankar (2025). Butterflies of Northeastern Police Academy, Umiam, Meghalaya. *Bugs R All* #296, In: *Zoo's Print* 40(11): 23–24.

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Bugs R All is a newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

