

ON A COLLECTION OF BUTTERFLIES FROM PADDY FIELD ECOSYSTEM OF PALAKKAD DISTRICT, KERALA

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The district of Palakkad is popularly known as the rice bowl of Kerala. The present study area Nanniode (10°42'N and 76°47'E) is a small village in Perumatty Panchayat of Chittur Taluk that lies about 25km south east of Palakkad Town. The area supports about 60 acres of extensive paddy cultivation. Traditionally two crops are taken in a year (June to September and October to March). Due to the proximity of Palakkad gap of Western Ghats, the area experiences an oppressive hot season during April and May and plentiful fairly well seasonal rainfall. The rainfall is mainly in south-west monsoon during June to September and sparingly in north-east monsoon. Temperature varies from 19°-42°C. The area is well irrigated with artificial irrigation canals, tanks, etc.

The present report is based on a collection made during August-September, 1999 (harvesting stage of paddy) and December 1999 to January 2000 (early stage) from paddy fields and associated area of the village. Only adults were collected using insect nets and later identified with the help of field guides (Wynter-Blyth, 1957; Gay *et al.*, 1992).

A total of 43 species of butterflies belonging to five families were recovered from the paddy fields of Nanniode Village. The family Nymphalidae dominated with 16 species followed by Papilionidae (8), Pieridae and Lycaenidae (7 each) and Hesperidae (5). *Spialia galba* and *Barbo cinnara* dominated during the early stage of paddy. Lesser number of species were recorded in the harvesting stage. *Junonia lemonias*, *Leptosa nina*, *Catopsilia pomona*, *Eurema hecabe*, *Jamides celeno* and *Melanitis leda* were found throughout the study. Nomenclature and systematics followed are after Gaonkar (1996). The systematic list is given in Table 1.

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References

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Table 1. List of butterflies of Nanniode, Kerala

Scientific Name	Common Name
Papilionidae	
<i>Graphium agamemnon menides</i> (Felder & Felder)	Tailed Jay
<i>Graphium sarpedon teredon</i> (Felder & Felder)	Common Blue Bottle
<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i> (Fabricius)	Common Rose
<i>Pachliopta demoleus demoleus</i> Linnaeus	Lime Butterfly
<i>Pachliopta hector</i> (Linnaeus)	Crimson Rose
<i>Pachliopta polytes polytes</i> (Linnaeus)	Common Mormon
<i>Pachliopta polymnestor polymnestor</i> Cramer	Blue Mormon
<i>Troides minos</i> Cramer	Southern Birwing
Pieridae	
<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius)	Common Emigrant
<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> (Linnaeus)	Mottled Emigrant
<i>Delias eucharis</i> (Drury)	Common Jezebel
<i>Eurema blanda silhetana</i> (Wallace)	Three-spot Grass Yellow
<i>Eurema hecabe simultata</i> (Moore)	Common Grass Yellow
<i>Leptosia nina nina</i> (Fabricius)	Psyche
<i>Pareronia valeria hippia</i> (Fabricius)	Common Wanderer
Nymphalidae	
<i>Acraea violae</i> (Fabricius)	Tawny Coaster
<i>Ariadne merione merione</i> Cramer	Common Coaster
<i>Danaus chrysippus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus)	Plain or Common Tiger
<i>Danaus genutia genutia</i> (Cramer)	Striped Tiger
<i>Euploea core core</i> (Cramer)	Common Crow
<i>Euthalia aconthea meridionalis</i> Fruhstorfer	Common Baron
<i>Junonia almana almana</i> (Linnaeus)	Peacock Pansy
<i>Junonia atlites atlites</i> (Linnaeus)	Grey Pansy
<i>Junonia iphita pluvialis</i> Fruhstorfer	Chocolate Pansy
<i>Junonia lemonias</i> (Linnaeus)	Lemon Pansy
<i>Melanitis leda leda</i> (Drury)	Common Evening Brown
<i>Mucalesis mineus polydecta</i> (Cramer)	Dark-brand Bush Brown
<i>Mucalesis perseus typhlus</i> Fruhstorfer	Common Bush Brown
<i>Orsotrioena medus mandata</i> (Moore)	Nigger
<i>Phalanta phalanta phalanta</i> (Drury)	Leopard Butterfly
<i>Tirumala limniace exoticus</i> Gmelin	Blue Tiger
Lycaenidae	
<i>Castalius rosimon rosimon</i> (Fabricius)	Common Pierrot
<i>Euchrysops cnejus cnejus</i> (Fabricius)	Gram Blue
<i>Everes lacturnus syntala</i> Cantille	Indian Cupid
<i>Freyeria trochylus putli</i> (Kollar)	Grass Jewel
<i>Jamides celeno aellanus</i> (Fabricius)	Common Cerulean
<i>Pseudozizeeria maha ossa</i> (Seinhoe)	Pale grass Blue
<i>Rathinda amor</i> (Fabricius)	Monkey Puzzle
Hesperidae	
<i>Ampitta discorides discorides</i> (Fabricius)	The Bush Hopper
<i>Barbo cinnara</i> (Wallace)	The Rice Swift
<i>Pelopidas mathias mathias</i> (Fabricius)	The Small Branded Swift
<i>Spialia galba galba</i> (Fabricius)	The Rice Skipper
<i>Suastus gremius gremius</i> (Fabricius)	The Indian Palm Bob