

Common name	Scientific name	Occur.	
		Mar.	Oct.
Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta rebella</i> (Wallace)	-	+
<u>Hesperiidae</u>			
Indian Skipper	<i>Spialia galba</i> (Fabricius)	-	+
Indian Dart	<i>Potanthus pseudomaesa</i>	+	-

## BUTTERFLIES OF NARAYAN SAROVAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, GUJARAT

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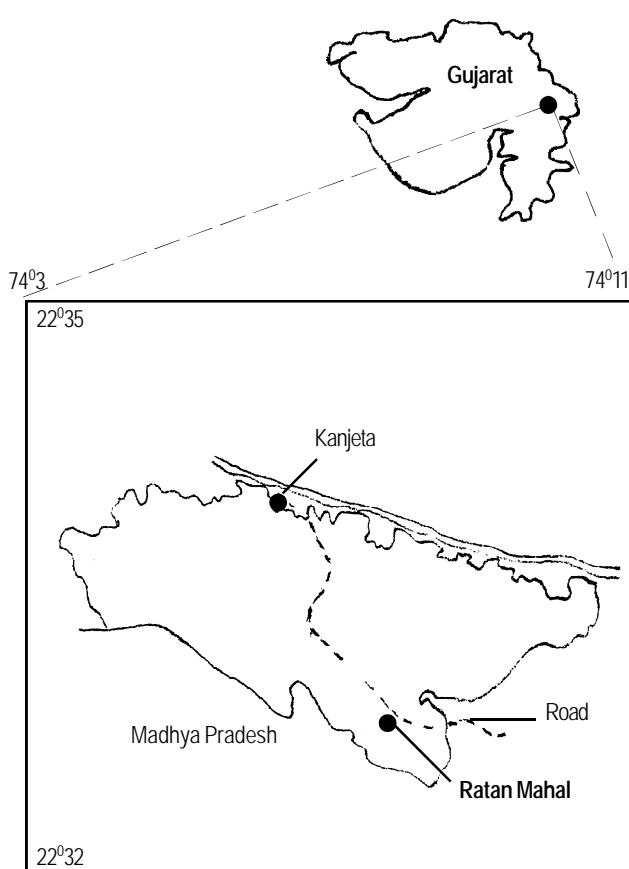


Figure 1. Map showing Ratanmahal Wildlife Sanctuary

*Natural History Society* 82(2): 309-321.

**Varshney, R.K. (1990).** Revised nomenclature for taxa in Wynter-Blyth's book on the butterflies of Indian region III. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 87(1): 53-61.

**Wynter-Blyth, M.A. (1957).** *Butterflies of the Indian Region*. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, 523pp.+72pls.

Although a few species of butterflies were recorded by Wynter-Blyth (1957) from Kutch located adjacent to the Sanctuary, there exists no report on the butterflies of Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary. This note is an attempt to fill the gap.

The Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary is known mainly due to its role in the conservation of Chinkara, *Gazella benneti*, and its habitat. The Sanctuary encompasses 444.23km<sup>2</sup> and is situated between 23°24' to 23°44'N and 68°30' to 68°56'E in Kutch District of Gujarat. The altitude ranges from about 3-187m. The average annual rainfall of the area is 349mm. However, the area is drought-prone and variation in rainfall from year to year is considerable. Average temperature ranges from 4-48°C. Vegetation cover in the Sanctuary as per satellite data of 1997 indicates 2.8% dense forest, 25% sparse tree cover, 62.2% herbaceous cover, 3.8% cultivation, 0.5% water bodies and 5.2% other categories (Singh, 1998).

A survey of butterflies of the Sanctuary was conducted from 6-10 November 2000. Nearly 20% of area of the Sanctuary surrounding Narayan Sarovar Village was surveyed and butterflies were collected. Nets were used for collecting specimens. Collected specimens were narcotized with menthol crystals and were air-dried for identification. All the specimens were examined carefully and identified using various references such as Talbot (1939, 1947), Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Gay *et al.* (1992). All the scientific names follow Varshney (1979, 1985, 1990) and classification and common English names are after Wynter-Blyth (1957).

During the survey, we found low butterfly diversity due to unsuitable habitat. Most parts of the Sanctuary are characterized by the prevalence of dry conditions. A total of 34 species of butterflies were recorded in the survey, of which one species belonged to the family Danaidae, five to Nymphalidae, 13 to Lycaenidae, two to Papilionidae, 12 to Pieridae and one to Hesperiidae (Table 1).

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Among Lycaenidae, the Rounded Pierrot (*Tarucus nara*), the Tawny Silverline (*Apharitis acamas*) and the Gram Blue (*Euchrysops cnejus*) were common in the Sanctuary. Among the Pieridae, the Small Salmon Arab (*Colotis amata*), the White Arab (*C. vestalis*), the Little Orange Tip (*C. etrida*) and the Plain Orange Tip (*C. eucharis*) were seen in large numbers at several locations. The nymphalids, lycaenids and pierids are designated as 'common' as compared to the danaiids, papilionids and hesperiids, which are designated as 'scarce'.

Since no earlier records on the occurrence of butterflies in the Sanctuary or of their population status are available in literature, it is not possible to make any comparative assessment of their present population status.

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**Table 1. List of butterflies of the Narayan Sarovar Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Common name	Scientific name
<u>Danaidae</u>	
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus)
<u>Nymphalidae</u>	
Yellow Pansy	<i>Precis hierta</i> (Fabricius)
Blue Pansy	<i>Precis orithya</i> (Linnaeus)
Peacock Pansy	<i>Precis almana</i> (Linnaeus)
Joker	<i>Byblia ilithya</i> (Drury)
Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i> (Linnaeus)
<u>Lycaenidae</u>	
Rounded Pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i> (Kollar)
Zebra Blue	<i>Syntarucus plinius</i> (Fabricius)
African Babul Blue	<i>Syntarucus jesous gamra</i> (Lederer)
Bright Babul Blue	<i>Azonus ubaldus</i> (Cramer)
Tiny grass Blue	<i>Zizula gaika hylax</i> (Trimen)
Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i> (Fabricius)
Plain Cupid	<i>Euchrysops parrhasius minuta</i> Evans
Small Cupid	<i>Euchrysops parrhasius</i> (Fabricius)
Common Silverline	<i>Spindasis vulcanus</i>
Tawny Silverline	<i>Apharitis acamas</i> (Klug)
Indian Red Flash	<i>Rapal iabus sorya</i> (Kollar)
Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria</i> sp.
Forget-Me-Not	<i>Catochrysops strabo</i> (Fabricius)
<u>Papilionidae</u>	
Common Rose	<i>Atrophaneura aristolochiae</i> (Fabricius)
Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i> Linnaeus
<u>Pieridae</u>	
Pioneer	<i>Anaphaeis aurota</i> (Fabricius)
White Orange Tip	<i>Ixias marianne</i> (Cramer)
Yellow Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i> (Linnaeus)
Small Salmon Arab	<i>Colotis amata</i> (Fabricius)
White Arab	<i>Colotis vestalis</i> (Butler)
Little Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i> (Boisduval)
Plain Orange Tip	<i>Colotis eucharis</i> (Fabricius)
Crimson Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i> (Fabricius)
Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia crocale</i> (Cramer)
Lemon Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius)
Spotless Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema laeta</i> Boisduval
Common Grass yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i> (Linnaeus)
<u>Hesperiidae</u>	
Indian Skipper	<i>Spialia galba</i> (Fabricius)