

BUTTERFLIES OF MADURAI CITY, TAMIL NADU

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Madurai (9°37'-10°11'N & 77°26'-78°40'E) is situated at 101m and covers 22km² area. The average rainfall of the region is 85cm. Mam-made park, riverine, urban and open land are the four distinct habitats of the study area.

The study was carried out for nine months from August 2000 to April 2001. The butterflies were observed between 0800 hours and 1400hr and were identified following Wynter-Blyth (1957) and Varshney (1997). A list of butterflies found in different habitats is given in Table 1.

Altogether 33 species of butterflies belonging to seven families (Tables 1 & 2) have been recorded from Madurai City. Among the families, Nymphalidae was found to be dominant followed by Pieridae, Papilionidae, Lycaenidae and Danaidae.

The parks were found to have plants like *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Tamarindus indicus*, *Cynodon dactylon* and *Gardenia resinifera* etc.

River Vaigai flows through Madurai. The vegetation found along the banks of Vaigai includes *Calotropis gigantea*, *Ficus hispida*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Jatropha* spp., *Leucas aspera*, *Dalbergia* sp. and *Terminalia* spp.

In the urban layout, the housing areas of Doak Nagar, Anna Nagar, H.M.S. Colony, KK. Nagar, Chokkikulam, Pykara, Duraisamy Nagar, S.S. Colony and Railway colony were studied. The vegetation found on the streets, and grown in houses included *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, *Pongamia pinnata*, *Citrus limon*, *Jasminum officinalis*, *Lycopersicon esculentum* and *Crotalaria* spp.

To study the openland habitat, lands left for construction, road side lands and some of the cultivated lands were visited. The vegetation of this area includes *Caesalpinia* spp., *Calotropis gigantea*, *Cocos nucifera*, *Acacia* spp., *Ficus religiosa*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Tridax procumbens*, *Jatropha glandulifera*, *Leucas aspera*, *Oryza sativa*, *Ixora coccinea* and *Tribulus*

Table 1. Systematic list of butterflies of Madurai City.

Common name	Scientific name
<u>Danaidae</u>	
Striped Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>
Dark Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala septentrionis</i>
Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus chrysippus</i>
Common Crow	<i>Euploea core core</i>
Blue tiger	<i>Danaus limniace leopardus</i>
<u>Acraeidae</u>	
Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i>
<u>Satyridae</u>	
Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda leda</i>
<u>Lycaenidae</u>	
Zebra Blue	<i>Syntarucus plinius</i>
Common Cerulean	<i>Jamides celeno celeno</i>
Indian Cupid	<i>Everes lacturnus</i>
Pale Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria maha ossa</i>
Plain Cupid	<i>Euchrysops pandava</i>
<u>Pieridae</u>	
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Terias hecabe</i>
Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>
Lemon Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona f. florella</i>
Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>
Psyche	<i>Leptosis nina nina</i>
The Crimson Tip	<i>Colotis danae</i>
<u>Papilionidae</u>	
Common Blue Bottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon teredon</i>
Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium agamemnon menides</i>
Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes polytes</i>
Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes romulus</i>
Common rose	<i>Pachilocta aristolochiae</i>
Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>
<u>Nymphalidae</u>	
Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orythia</i>
Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita iphita</i>
Common Castor	<i>Ergolis morione</i>
Danaid Egg fly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>
Great Egg fly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>
Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>
Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>
Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha phalantha</i>
Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hylas varmona</i>

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Table 2. Relative abundance of butterfly families in Madurai City.

Family	No. of species and relative abundance
Danaidae	5 (15.15%)
Acraeidae	1 (3.03%)
Satyridae	1 (3.03%)
Lycaenidae	5 (15.15%)
Pieridae	6 (18.18%)
Papilionidae	5 (15.15%)
Nymphalidae	10 (30.31%)
Total	33

terrestris.

References

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ADDITIONS TO THE ODONATA (INSECTA) OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DISTRICT, KERALA

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Peters (1981) reported 26 species of Odonata from Thiruvananthapuram District of Kerala State, southern India. The present study is based on the Odonata collections made from this district, during the faunistic surveys conducted by Zoological Survey of India (Western Ghats Field Research Station, Calicut and Southern Regional Station, Chennai) in 1997, 1998 and 2001. As a result of these surveys, 27 species and subspecies of Odonata belonging to 17 genera and seven families could be collected and identified. Of these, 17 species and subspecies are new additions to the Odonata fauna of Thiruvananthapuram District. Accordingly, till date a total of 43 species and subspecies of Odonata are known from this district. A systematic list of all the 43 species recorded from the district and a systematic account of the species collected during the current surveys are provided below. The specimens studied are deposited in the faunal depository of the Zoological Survey of India, Kozhikode.

The nomenclature followed here is after Fraser (1933, 1934, 1936) and Tyagi (1997).

Systematic list

Order: Odonata

Suborder: Zygoptera

Superfamily: Coenagrionoidea

Coenagrionidae

1. * *Aciagrion occidentale* Laidlaw
2. *Agriocnemis keralensis* Peters
3. *Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Rambur)
4. *Agriocnemis splendidissima* Laidlaw
5. *Ceriagrion cerinorubellum* (Brauer)
6. *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* (Fabricius)
7. * *Ischnura aurora aurora* Brauer
8. * *Ischnura senegalensis* (Rambur)
9. *Mortonagrion varralli* Fraser

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