Butterflies Identification – Part X

by Himesh Jayasinghe

227, Tree Flitter (Hyarotis adrastus)



- 1. Diffused patches in white & various brown colors on median of both wings & FW apex
- 2. White patches on FW has a hyaline look.
- 3. Varying white spots on FW upper side, usually with a large patch at the cell.
- 4. Spots are larger in female.
- 5. No spots on HW upper side.
- 6. Partially white antennae tip.



228, Common Red Eye (Matapa aria)



- 1. Red eyes.
- 2. Reddish brown wings on under side, body and legs.
- 3. Purplish brown upper side.
- 4. No spots on either sides.
- 5. Bright cilia on fresh individuals.



229, Erionota sp.



- 1. Red eyes, very long proboscis.
- 2. Basally white antennae tips.
- 3. Dull brown under side, sometimes with a whitish wash towards the apex.
- 4. Three hyaline-orange patches on both sides of fore wing.
- 5. More elongated patch at IS 2 than *Gangara* sp.
- 6. No sub apical spots.
- 7. Grey hue on male's FW upper side.



230, Common Grass Dart (Taractrocera maevius)



- 1. Spots at IS 4 & 5 of the distal band of FW stay behind others.
- 2. Spots at FW median.
- 3. Variable spots at HW post median.
- 4. Always lighter background on underside, some times with a yellowish hue.
- 5. Abdomen is ringed in white lines.



231, Bush Hopper (Ampittia dioscorides)



- 1. Apical series of FW distal markings touches with the basal orange patch.
- 2. Orange FW cell.
- 3. No patches at inter space 4 & 5 of FW, on its distal series.
- 4. Orange patch at HW is divided along the dark veins.
- 5. Mostly orange colored under side with sporadic dark patches.



231, Bush Hopper (Ampittia dioscorides)



- 1. No orange patch at FW upper margin.
- 2. Reduced FW cell patch than the male.
- 3. No patches at inter space 4 & 5 of FW, on its distal series, as in the male.
- 4. Reduced distal patches on both wings, than the male.
- 5. Extensive dark area on under side than the male.



232, Common Dartlet (Oriens goloides)



- 1. FW distal band stay inwards than Potanthus spp. & Bush Hopper.
- 2. IS 4 has a spot aligned with others, but IS 5 lacks the spot. (Distinct in female)
- 3. Apical series of the distal band is not touching with the basal band.
- 4. Basal band is reduced in female.
- 5. Patch on HW is not divided by dark lines along the veins.
- 6. Dark patches beside the indistinct distal markings on under side.



233, Pallid Dart (Potanthus pallida)



- 1. Patches at IS 4 & 5 of the distal band are well separated from both the apical series and distal series.
- 2. These patches are larger in male, resembling the female of Common Dart.
- 3. Orange patch at HW is divided along the veins by dark lines in female, but not so in the male.
- 4. Under side of both sexes has a greenish hue.



234, Common Dart (Potanthus pseudomaesa)



- 1. Largest Potanthus species.
- 2. Patches at IS 4 & 5 of the distal band are separated from the apical series in both sexes.
- 3. These patches touches the distal series in male, but can be separated in female.
- 4. Orange patch on HW is divided along the veins by dark lines in both sexes.
- 5. Orange patches are smaller in female.
- 6. Markings of the upper side are indistinctly outlined on under side by dark scales.



234, Common Dart (Potanthus pseudomaesa)



1. Background color of the upper side is lighter than the male.



235, Tropic Dart (Potanthus confuscius)



- 1. Smallest Potanthus species.
- 2. Patches at IS 4 & 5 of the distal band are touching both the apical series and distal series in male, but can be separated from the apical series in female.
- 3. Orange patch at HW is not divided by dark lines along the veins, but occasionally veins are obscurely marked in dark scales in female.
- 4. Background color is lighter in female and its markings are smaller.
- 5. Under side is similar to Common Dart.



236, Pale Palm Dart (Telicota colon)



- 1. Palm Darts are larger than *Potanthus* species.
- 2. Patches at IS 4 & 5 of the distal band are not say behind the others except in the female of this species.
- 3. Orange patch on HW is divided along the veins in all Palm Darts.
- 4. Patches of the distal band in this species are extended towards the outer margin along the veins.
- 5. Male has a sex brand.



237, Dark Palm Dart (Telicota bambusae)



- 1. Smallest Palm Dart and has the darkest background color.
- 2. Patches at FW distal band are not extending towards the outer margin.
- 3. Male has a sex brand on FW.
- 4. Under side markings are similar to Pale PD.



238, Yellow Palm Dart (Cephrenes trichopepla)



- 1. Largest Palm Dart.
- 2. Patches of the distal band extend towards the outer margin along the veins.
- 3. Both sexes are similar looking and male has no sex brands.
- 4. Under side is similar to other Palm Darts except the large black patch within the hind wing fold, which is not usually seen in the field.



239, Wallace's Swift (Borbo cinnara)



- 1. No spot on HW cell on under side.
- 2. Variable distal white spots on both wings on under side.
- 3. Always, a white spot on IS 1b on FW upper side.
- 4. Spots on FW cell vary from 0 to 2.
- 5. No spots on HW upper side.
- 6. Longer antennae than Smallest Swift.



240, Little Branded Swift (Pelopidas agna)



- 1. White spot on HW cell on under side as in all *Pelopides* species.
- 2. Varying number of spots on HW distal area, which are larger in females than the males of each *Pelopides* species.
- 3. Size of the spots on HW under side and FW upper side are very much similar in *P. agna* and *P. mathias*.
- 4. Male of *P. agna* has the shortest sex brand.
- 5. No spot at IS 1b on FW upper side.



241, Small Branded Swift (Pelopidas mathias)



- 1. Very much similar to *P. agna*, but under side has more yellowish scales.
- 2. Male's sex brand slightly longer than *P. agna*.
- 3. Females of *P. agna* and *P. mathias* cannot be differentiate in the field.
- 4. Spots in FW cell of both these species are usually smaller than in Wallece's swift.
- 5. No spots on HW upper side as in *P. agna*.



242, Large Branded Swift (Pelopidas subochracea)



- 1. Spots on both sides are larger than *P. agna* and *P. mathias*.
- 2. Male's sex brand is larger and distinct than *P. agna* and *P. mathias*.
- 3. Slightly larger in size than *P. agna* and *P. mathias*.
- 4. No spots on HW & IS 1b of FW on upper side.



243, Conjoined Swift (Pelopidas conjuncta)



- 1. Larger than other *Pelopides* species.
- 2. Spots on upper side are larger than other *Pelopides* species.
- 3. A spot at IS 1b of FW upper side, which is usually yellow colored.
- 4. No sex brand in male.
- 5. Sometimes HW upper side has distal spots.



244, Sri Lankan Paint Brush Swift (Baoris penicillata)



- 1. Dark brown colored on both sides.
- 2. No spots on HW on both sides, spots on FW on both sides.
- 3. No spots on FW cell on upper side.
- 4. Number of spots on FW distal series varies from 2 to 6, but none at IS 1b.
- 5. Male has a large, black sex brand on HW upper side in a shape of a paint brush.



245, Blank Swift (Caltoris kumara)



- 1. Reddish brown wings, which are characteristic in fresh individuals.
- 2. No spots on HW on both sides, no spots on FW cell.
- 3. Similar patches to Paint Brush Swift in male's FW.
- 4. Female has an additional spot at IS 1b on both sides.
- 5. Orangish cilia in fresh individuals.



246, Philippine Swift (Caltoris philippina)



- 1. No spots on HW on both sides, No spots on FW cell.
- 2. Dispersed yellow scales on dark brown under side.
- 3. Male has a very small spot on IS 1b on upper side, which is enlarged on under side.
- 4. Female has a distinct spot on IS 1b on upper side, while two spots on under side.



247, Smallest Swift (Parnara bada)



- 1. No spot on HW cell.
- 2. Variable distal spots on HW under side.
- 3. Usually no spots on FW cell on upper side, but very rarely there are small patches.
- 4. No spot at IS 1b of FW upper side.
- 5. Usually distal spots at HW upper side.



Papilionidae



- 1. Larger butterflies.
- 2. Small labial palps, well developed proboscis, short & stout antennae.
- 3. All six legs well developed, fit for walking. Spur on FW.
- 4. HW usually extends as a broad tail at the tornus.
- 5. Closed cell in both wings.
- 6. Large, exposed abdomen.
- 7. Sexes are similar in many species.
- 8. Fast fliers.
- 9. Beat wings while feeding on flowers and wet soil.



Pieridae



- 1. Small or medium sized butterflies with rounded wings.
- 2. Yellow or white colored wings, without tails.
- 3. Seasonal color pattern variation occur in some species.
- 4. Closed cell in both wings.
- 5. Short labial palps, thin proboscis and antennae.
- 6. All six legs fit to walk, no spur on FW.
- 7. Concealed abdomen.
- 8. Sexes are similar in many species.
- 9. Migrate in large numbers and congregate to mud sip during this flight.
- 10. Usually in closed winged position and keep still while feeding.



Nymphalidae



- 1. Small to large sized butterflies.
- 2. Fore legs reduced to brushes, not fit to walk.
- 3. Various wing shapes and colors.
- There are many sub families. Danainae Tiger, Nymphalinae Pansy, Satyrinae Bush Brown, Biblidinae - Joker, Charaxinae - Nawab, Heliconiinae – Tawny Coster, Libytheinae - Beak, Limenitidinae - Baron



Nymphalidae - Danainae



- 1. Medium sized butterflies.
- 2. Thin, weak antennae.
- 3. White spotted head and thorax.
- 4. Mimic each other in color pattern and serves as models for some butterflies in other families.
- 5. Closed cell in both wings.
- 6. Most males have sex brands on wings and 'hair pencils' at the end of abdomen.
- 7. Poisonous and tough butterflies.
- 8. Casual fliers.
- 9. Equally found in closed winged, open winged as well as partially open winged positions.



Nymphalidae - Nhympalinae



- 1. Medium to large sized butterflies.
- 2. Short, stiff antennae.
- 3. Most species have no sex brands or weakly developed.
- 4. Some species have sexual dimorphism.
- 5. Brighter colored upper side and dull colored under side.
- 6. Opened cells in both wings.
- 7. Quite fast fliers.
- 8. Some species prefer to feed on rotten fruit, tree sap and fecal matter.
- 9. Males of many species wait for females in suitable micro habitats while others look around lfps.



Nymphalidae - Satyrinae



- 1. Small to medium sized butterflies.
- 2. Thin, weak antennae.
- 3. Dull colored butterflies with 'eye spots'
- 4. Most species have rounded wings, while few have short tails.
- 5. Most species have seasonal forms.
- 6. Most males have sex brands on wings.
- 7. Prefers dull habitats and active at mornings and evenings.
- 8. Usually slow fliers.
- 9. Very rarely open the wings.
- 10. Mostly feed on rotten fruits, tree sap and fecal matter.



Lycaenidae



- 1. Tiny to small sized butterflies.
- 2. Shiny metallic colors on upper side of the wings, especially in males.
- 3. Most species have 1 3 hair like tornal tails and tornal spots.
- 4. Males have pointed FW apex than females.
- 5. Slender fore legs with a single terminal claw in male while two in female.
- 6. Distinct eyes and labial palps.
- 7. Some species have sex brands.
- 8. Fast fliers compare to body size and very active under sunlight.
- 9. Bask sunlight in the morning with open wings, otherwise in closed wings.
- 10. Walk on flowers while feeding and rotate hind wings against each other.

Riodinidae



- 1. Small to medium sized butterflies.
- 2. Vibrant colors on wings with metallic colored markings.
- 3. Front pair of male's legs are very short and not fit to walk, female has longer fore legs.
- 4. Indistinct labail palps and proboscis.
- 5. Always keep wings partially open.
- 6. Flies only short distances and the flight looks like a jump from one leaf to another.
- 7. Walk on leaves in a characteristic manner to feed on materials on leaves.



Hesperiidae



- 1. Small to medium sized butterflies.
- 2. Backward hooked antennae tips with broad bases.
- 3. Long proboscis, some have extraordinary long.
- 4. Larger gap between eyes.
- 5. Stockier body and it is distinctly hairy.
- 6. All six legs fit to walk.
- 7. Color pattern of wings not distinctly different in many species, usually females with larger patches.
- 8. Few species have sex brands in male.
- 9. HW has a fold on under side.



Thank You!





