



# Predators of Butterflies

by Tharindu Ranasinghe

Butterfly Conservation Society of Sri Lanka.

photography (DD6A) Nikon SIGMA

# What is a predator ?

- An animal that naturally hunt and preys on others.



# Different Types of Predators

## Predators

Pursuit predators



Ambush predators



# What eats butterflies?

- Monkeys
- Birds
- Lizards
- Frogs
- Spiders
- Dragonflies
- Mantises
- Robber flies
- Ants
- Wasps
- Bugs
- Crickets



# Predators consume butterflies mainly as,

➤ Eggs



➤ Pupae



➤ Larvae



➤ Adult butterflies



# Monkeys



- Toque Macaques (*Macaca sinica*) usually consume butterfly larvae.



# Monkeys



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# Birds

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Yellow-billed Babbler (*Turdoides affinis*) preying on butterfly larva.



Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) catching a larva.

- Babblers, loras, Thrushes, Robins, Warblers and Mynas can be seen preying on butterfly larvae.

# Birds

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Black Drongo (*Dicrurus macrocercus*) preying on a butterfly.



Little Green bee-eater (*Merops orientalis*) preying on Brown Awl (*Badamia exclamationis*)

- Drongos, Bee-eaters , Fly catchers , Swallows, Cuckoos ,  
Bulbuls , Robins hunt adult butterflies.
  
- Birds are pursuit predators.



# Frogs



Common Paddy Field Frog (*Fejervarya limnocharis*) making it's move on mud sipping Plains Cupid (*Chilades pandava*) and Common Pierrot (*Castalius rosimon*)

- Well camouflaged frogs used to capture mud puddling butterflies.



# Lizards

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➤ Skinks ambush mud sipping butterflies.



# Lizards



- Green Garden Lizard (*Calotes calotes*) preying on a dragonfly.
  
- Garden Lizards typically wait for their prey and ambush.



# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



Jumping spider sp. (Family – Salticidae) feeding on Red Pierrot (*Talicada nyseus*) egg.

- Spiders usually consume eggs, larvae and adult butterflies.



# Spiders(Order-Araneae)

1



2



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1. Jumping spider sp. (Family – Salticidae) feeding on Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) larva.
2. Crab Spider sp. (Family – Thomisidae) eats Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*) larva.



# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



- Crab Spiders are well camouflaged and wait for their prey to get close.
- Jumping Spiders and Crab Spiders are ambush predators.

# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



- Pierids and Lycaenids usually tangled in Orb-weavers webs.

# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



- Web of Giant Wood Spider (*Nephila pilipes*) can hold Papilionids too.

# Spiders(Order-Araneae)



# Harvestmen(Order-Opiliones)



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- Most species are omnivorous but occasionally ambush their prey.



# Dragonflies(Order-Odonata)



- Dragonflies are pursuit predators.
- Have very strong, agile flight which helps to hunt down prey.

# Mantises(Order-Mantodea)

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- Well camouflaged ambush predators.



# Mantises(Order-Mantodea)



# Flies(Order-Diptera)



➤ Group of flies attacking a butterfly pupa.

# Robber Flies(Family-Asilidae)



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- Ruthless aggressive predators.
- Wait in ambush and catch their prey in flight.



# Robber Flies(Family-Asilidae)



# Wasps(Suborder-Apocrita)



- Wasp sp. feeding on Monarch(*Danaus plexippus*) butterfly pupa.

# Wasps(Suborder-Apocrita)

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- Predatory wasps attacking butterflies.



# Ants(Family-Formicidae)

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- Ants feeding on butterfly eggs.

# Ants(Family-Formicidae)



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- Ants eating butterfly larvae.



# Ants(Family-Formicidae)



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➤ Ants attacking butterfly pupae.



# Ants(Family-Formicidae)



Ant sp. caught a mud sipping Dark Ceylon Six-line Blue (Nacaduba calauria)

- Ants are ambush predators.

# Assassin bugs(Family-Reduviidae)



- Ambush Predators.
- Sturdy build and formidable curved proboscis

# Assassin bugs(Family-Reduviidae)



- Usually wait for a prey in a vantage point.

# Ambush bugs(Subfamily-Phymatinae)

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- Very well camouflaged.
- Sturdy build and raptorial forelegs.



# Stink/soldier bugs(Family-Pentatomidae)



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➤ Ambush predators.

# Crickets and Katydids(Order –Orthoptera)

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- Only some members are predators.
- Usually wait and ambush.



# Humans



- Larvae of Tequila Giant Skipper (*Aegiale hesperiaris*) , considered a delicacy in some parts of Mexico .
- Larval and pupal stages of some butterflies are consumed as delicacy in Africa.

# Thank You!

