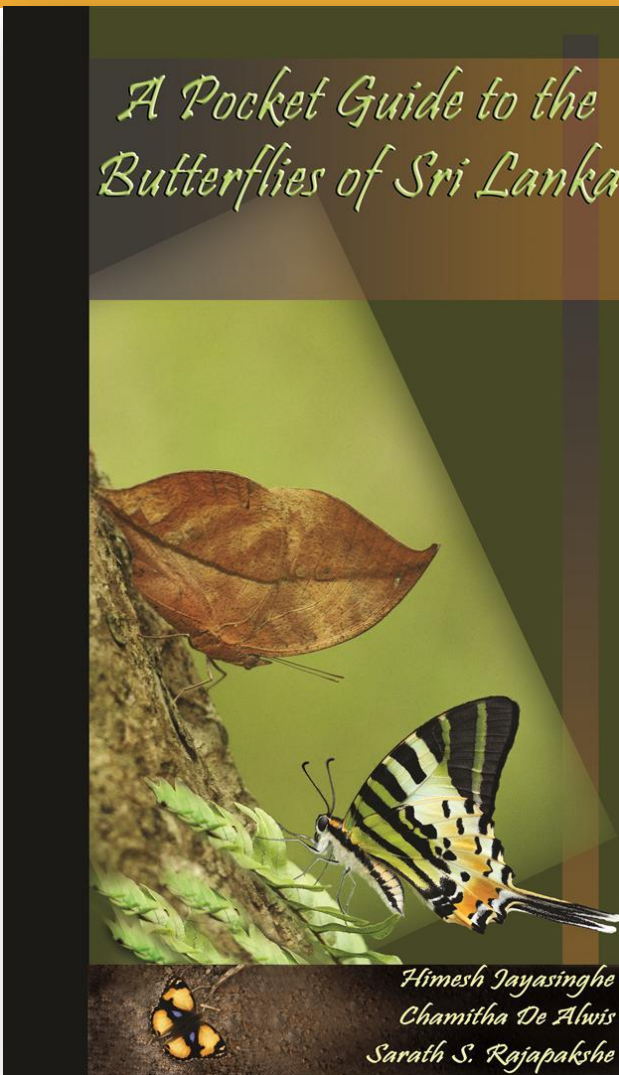


A Pocket Guide to the **Butterflies** of Sri Lanka Second Edition

Himesh Jayasinghe . Sarath Rajapakshe . Chamitha De Alwis



A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka (First Edition)

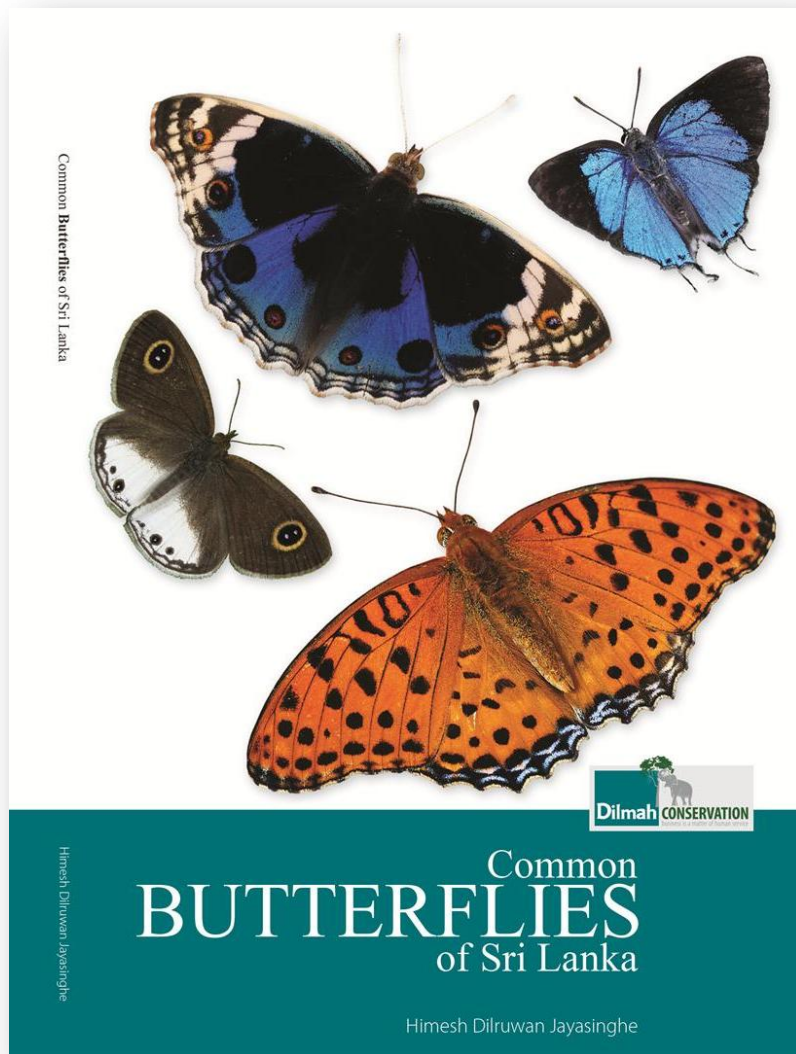


64 pages

1000 copies

Published in 2013 May

Common Butterflies of Sri Lanka

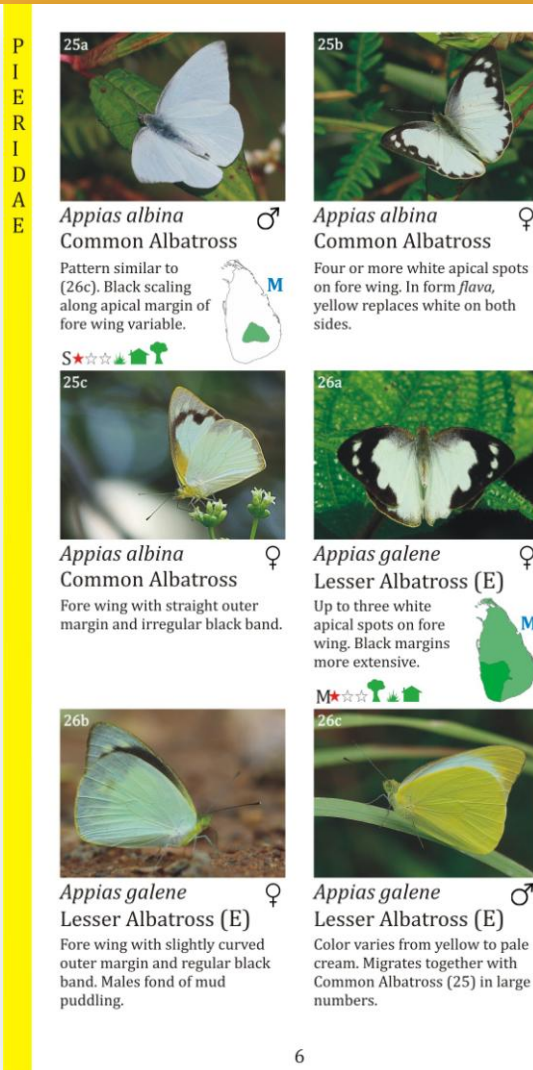


176 pages

Published in 2015
February,
by Dilmah Conservation

Describes 100 species,
with
photographs of their
LFPs.

Short comes of the first edition



Smaller picture size

Brief descriptions

Arrangement of photos

Repetition of names

Arrangement of icons /
maps

A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka (Second Edition)



Himesh Dilruwan Jayasinghe

Founder and the first president of the Butterfly Conservation Society of Sri Lanka, Himesh was an irrigation engineer by profession and graduated from the University of Moratuwa. A nature lover

since his childhood, he founded the "Nature Team" of the University of Moratuwa, a gathering of nature loving students. Himesh has engaged in leading researches in the fields of butterflies, birds, fish and flowering plants and has published research papers in academic journals. He is the author of the book "Common Butterflies of Sri Lanka", published by Dilmah Conservation. Being one of the pioneers in the field of the butterflies, Himesh has been playing a major role in butterfly conservation of Sri Lanka.



Sarath Sanjeeva Rajapakse

An adorer of nature from his childhood, Sarath graduated from the University of Sabaragamuwa in Environmental Sciences & Natural Resources Management and currently working as a science teacher.

His desire to explore the natural world led him to find his position as a scientific researcher at Sri Lanka Wildlife Conservation Society and in many other research programs. His findings with his colleagues have been published in leading journals and presented in various symposiums. Sarath's skills in spotting the butterflies and larvae in the field have been very influential in finding many rare species and revealing unknown aspects of the Lepidopteran life cycles.



Chamitha De Alwis

A graduate of the University of Sabaragamuwa in Environmental Sciences and Natural Resources Management, Chamitha was never apart from being in love with mother nature. Specially having a soft corner in his heart for these winged

beauties he has dedicated most of his time to unravel the mysteries of butterfly life. He has knowledge on plants as well as other faunal groups of the island. Though he has limited free time as a banker it has never been able to stop him from exploring the natural world as a researcher.



A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka

Himesh Dilruwan Jayasinghe · Sarath Sanjeeva Rajapakse · Chamitha De Alwis



A Pocket Guide to the
Butterflies
of Sri Lanka
Second Edition

www.bcssl.org, www.slbutterflies.com



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**Butterfly
Conservation
Society of Sri Lanka**

Butterfly Conservation Society of Sri Lanka is the first organization founded in the country for conservation of moths and butterflies. Our vision is to protect the biodiversity and the balance of the natural environment through conservation of butterflies and moths. Conducting researches and collecting data on this faunal group, building the inter-relationship between the scientists and amateur people who study them, restoring and conserving the Eco-systems in which they survive, making awareness among people on these insects and conserving them through it, assisting the government sector in the conservation efforts, and encouraging the members to study them in depth are the main objectives of our mission.

www.bcssl.org



Special features of the new edition

Photos to depict sexual dimorphism and seasonal forms



Identification clues

Latest information on distribution & abundance of butterflies

New information on behaviors



Information on LFPs

Initial format – 14 items on a single page

245. Sri Lankan Tree Brown
Lethe daretis

io urna, lacinia pellentesque ante vehicula nec. Maecenas vitae justo congue, condimentum mi id, semper nulla. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, Aliquam placerat odio urna, lacinia pellentesque ante vehicula nec. Maecenas vit

245. Sri Lankan Tree Brown
Lethe daretis

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245. Sri Lankan Tree Brown (E)
Lethe daretis

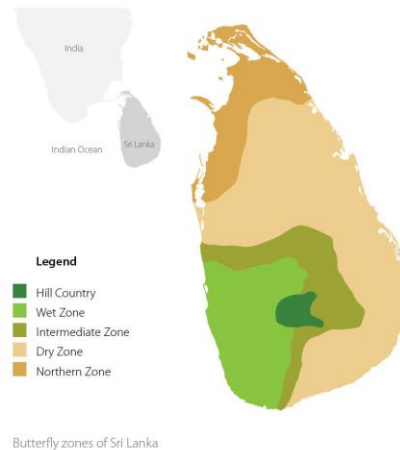
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INTRODUCTION

annual precipitation level of around 2500 mm. 'Arid Zones' are in the North Western and South Eastern corners which registers less than 1250 mm precipitation level annually. The area which receives precipitation up to 2500 mm is called 'Dry Zone'.

All the butterfly families that belongs to Super Family Papilionoidea exist in Sri Lanka except the family Hedyloidae. Among 247 butterfly species that inhabits Sri Lanka, 26 are endemic and 3 species have been introduced accidentally through ornamental plant trade, and now they are maintaining natural populations. Since Sri Lanka is separated from the Indian mainland by the sea, it is hard to think of regular migration of new species from other land masses.

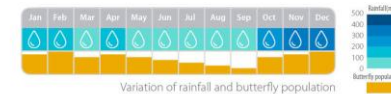
Distribution of butterflies in the country is more or less concurrent with the varied topography and amount of rainfall, since the distribution of their larval food plants are determined by these environmental factors. Variations in Populations of butterflies within a year depends mainly on the rainfall pattern in each zone. The butterfly zones that can be identified within the island are as follows.



Knuckles forest reserve

Intermediate zone

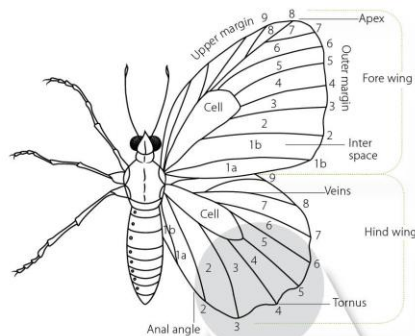
Intermediate zone has confluence characters of the wet and dry zone as well as hill country at the foot hills. It is the butterfly zone that the largest number of butterfly species can be seen, except the species that are habitat specific in other zones. Butterflies are numerous in this zone from the commencement of North East monsoon in late October or early November to June or July.



Knuckles Forest Reserve – This mountain range is separated from the central highlands by the Mahaweli river basin. Its habitats vary into a large extent within a close proximity. One of its main accesses is from Matale. Habitat around Rattota implies low country wet zone vegetation, and gradually changes to mountain forests towards the summit of the road at Riverstone. Then again it gradually changes in to dry forests at the other side of the mountain range up to Pallegama. Other entrance to the reserve via Kandy starts at Hunnasgiriya. It has wet zone forests as well as vast grasslands up to the summit of the road at Corbet's gap and it gradually changes into dry forests at the other slope towards Meemure. Cloud forests such as Kalupahana as well as dry forests beyond Meemure can be accessed by foot paths. More than 160 species of butterflies can be found in this range, and

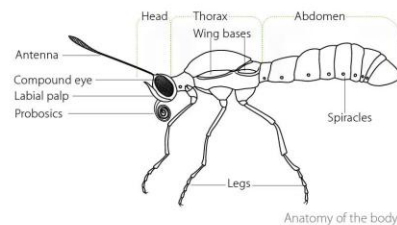
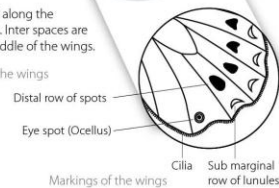
INTRODUCTION

Butterfly Morphology



Veins are numbered along the margin of the wings. Inter spaces are numbered in the middle of the wings.

Typical anatomy of the wings



Things to consider when identifying butterflies

- Markings and patterns may be diffused in old individuals due to shedding of scales and cilia. Yellow color of the scales becomes dull when over exposed to sunlight.
- Shades of metallic colors can vary according to the different viewing angles since the colors being generated due to the structural arrangement of the scales. i.e. Upper side colors of Lycaenids.



Same Silver Streaked Blue at different angles

- Butterflies may fold their fore wings into hind wings at rest. At that time, identification features at basal parts of fore wing under side may not be visible.
- Wing span, shape of the wing, color intensity and color pattern can vary within a certain range even in a single species. i.e. seasonal forms



Variations of color pattern of female Common Albatross

- Both upper and under side features should be observed for identify some Lycaenids and Hesperids.
- Similar looking species may not be identified up to species level in the flight. i.e. Grass Yellows.
- Critical identification features may not be seen in worn out individuals. i.e. Area of tornal spot in Lycaenids are usually damaged due to predator attacks.

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

How this book works

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HESPERIIDAE



Sri Lankan Decorated Ace
Thoressa decorata

Lighter in color and larger in size than other Aces. Yellowish brown patches on upper side. Female lacks the yellowish brown scales at fore wing base and has a smaller spot on the cell. No pale patches on female's hind wing. Duller background color on both sides than in the male. **Habits** A fast flier. Males mud sip alone. Also feeds on bird droppings. Females are very rarely seen. **LFPs** Not yet recorded.

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Rare Ace
Halpe egena

Almost similar to Ceylon Ace. Small white spots on both sides of fore wing, sometimes including a spot at the cell. Uniformly brown hind wing upper side. Darker background color on under side than Ceylon Ace, making the median band on hind wing indistinct. **Habits** Usually flies close to the ground with quick jerks. Feeding habits are similar to Ceylon Ace. **Note** Rare Ace and Ceylon Ace could be color variations of a single species. **LFPs** *Davidsonia attenuata* (Poaceae)

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A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka

Larval Food Plants

Strictly a model page for the graphical guides in the pages of this book

Brown owl - *Badamia exclamationis*

Seasonal form

- DS** Dry Season Form
DSF (in text)
- WS** Wet Season Form
WSF (in text)
- E** Endemic species
- M** Migratory species

Size

- L** Large Wing span > = 100 mm
- M** Medium 100 mm > Wing span < = 60 mm
- S** Small 60 mm > Wing span < = 30 mm
- T** Tiny 30 mm > Wing span

Possibility of seeing a butterfly

- high**
- Above average**
- Below average**
- low**

Habitat

- Dense forests / forests**
- Scrublands / grasslands**
- Home gardens / parks**

Distribution

- More abundant**
- Absent**
- Less abundant**

If the butterfly inhabit in more than one habitat, they are arranged according to the butterfly's preference.

CONTENT – Pictures

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Chestnut Bob

Iambrix salsala



Chestnut color is getting dull with age. Female has a distal band of white patches on fore wing upper side and has more patches than male on under side. No patches on male's upper side. **Habits** Mostly prefers to fly among grasses and herbs, but sometimes go up to scrub level. Feeds only on nectar. Has a bobbing flight, does not fly far away quickly. **LFPs** *Oryza sativa* (Poaceae), *Axonopus compressus* (Poaceae), *Ochlandra stridula* (Poaceae)

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A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka



Iambrix salsala luteipalpus ♂ R



Iambrix salsala luteipalpus ♀ R

Actual posture of the
wings
and real colors of the
body parts



CONTENT – Pictures



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H E S P E R I D A E


Ceylon Ace

Halpe ceylonica






Lighter color on under side than Rare Ace. Yellowish scales on hind wing makes a diffused median band. Prominence of this band varies, but always prominent than in Rare Ace. **Habits** Feeds on wet soil, bird droppings and urine. While feeding, they bend their abdomen towards the food and excretes on it, to dissolve nutrients of the food, again. Flight is similar to Rare Ace. **LFPs** *Bambusa vulgaris* (Poaceae)




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Painted Sawtooth

Prioneris sita






Orange colored rectangular patches at hind wing outer margin, which are more distinct on under side. Patches at fore wing apex are occasionally yellow. Usually, an orange patch at hind wing base on under side. More black on female's upper side along the veins and much clear outer marginal spots on upper side, as of the female Jezebel. **Habits** Males frequently mud sips. Usually doesn't loiter high up among trees, unless to lay eggs when it finds its lfp. **LFPs** *Capparis moonii* (Capparaceae).

A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka

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Behaviors

CONTENT – Drawings




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LYCAENIDAE

Sri Lankan Indigo Royal
Tajuria arida

Both sexes are very similar to Plains Blue R. in wing pattern and color on both sides, but has a much rounded fore wing outer margin. In both these species, female has an indistinct distal row of streaks on hind wing, but the male lacks the same. Color of the eye is not known. This butterfly has not been recorded since 1920's except for the wings of a dead individual at Soragune in 2005. **LFPs** Not yet recorded.



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Banded Red Eye
Gangara lebadea

Red eyes and a very long proboscis as in the Giant RE. Pale, diffused scales on hind wing under side make a band, which continues up to fore wing apex. Patches on fore wing restricts to the female. Upper side is similar to under side, but lacks the pale scales. **Habits** Capable of sucking nectar on flowers that have long corolla tubes, as Giant RE. Especially attracts to these plants since the resource is inaccessible to many other nectar feeders, hence the competition is less. **LFPs** Not yet recorded.

A Pocket Guide to the Butterflies of Sri Lanka

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CONTENT – Names

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LYCAENIDAE

WS

DS

♂

♀

Common Shot Silverline (Ceylon Silverline)
Spindasis ictis



66

NYMPHALIDAE

♂

♂

♀

♀

Tropical Fritillary (Indian Fritillary)
Argynnis hyperbius





CONTENT – Names



Ceylon Ace

Halpe ceylonica



Lighter color on under side than Rare Ace. Yellowish scales on hind wing makes a diffused median band. Prominence of this band varies, but always prominent than in Rare Ace. **Habits** Feeds on wet soil, bird droppings and urine. While feeding, they bend their abdomen towards the food and excretes on it, to dissolve nutrients of the food, again. Flight is similar to Rare Ace. **LFPs** *Bambusa vulgaris* (Poaceae)

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H E S P E R I I D A E



Lace Wing

Cethosia nietneri

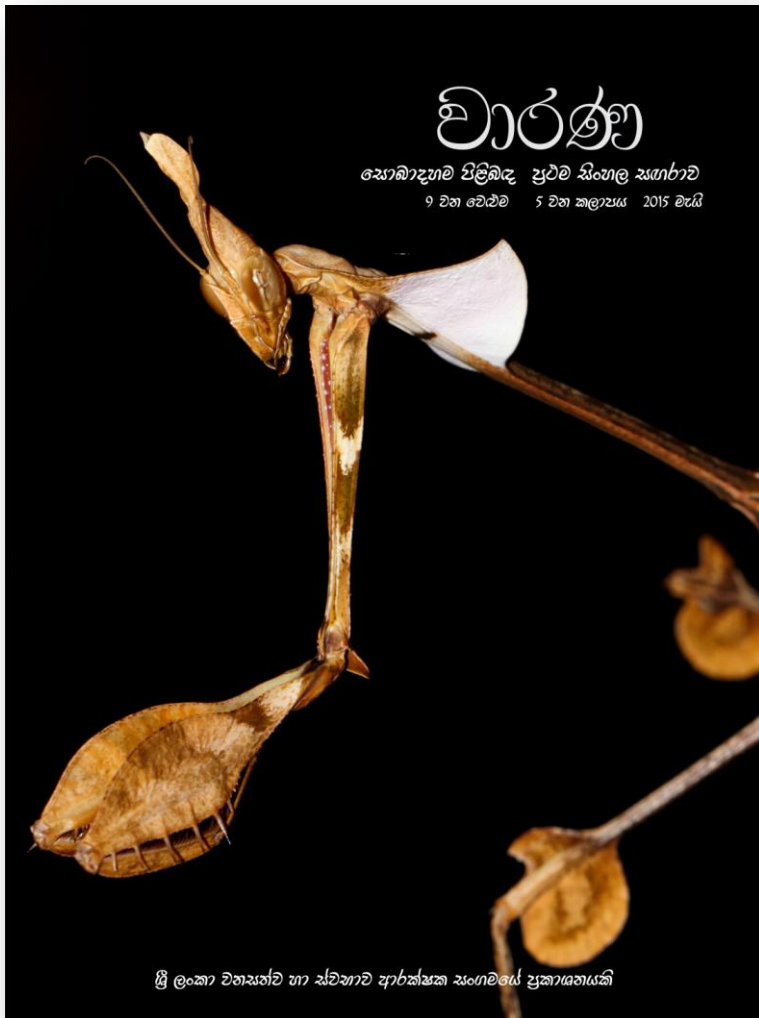


Wavy outer margins are enhanced by the lace pattern. A sub marginal orange band on under side. Pale markings are more extensive on under side than the upper side. Orange colored wing bases on male's upper side. Orange colored abdomen and brown eyes. **Habits** Flies from scrub level to tree level in a dragging like movement. Usually found solitary. Female lays eggs in clusters. **LFPs** *Adenia hondala* (Passifloraceae)

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N Y M P H A L I D A E

Sinhala Names



සිටිලක සමනලුන් සඳහා නම් වැල හා සබැඳි වදන්

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මා කුඩා කල සිටම කොඩා දහම ගැන උනන්දු වීමට හුරු කළේ තාත්තා ය. මා පළමුවැනි පන්ති වල ඉගෙන ගන්නා සමයේ, සරියකට වත් පමණ සිටිබිඳුගොඩ පදික වෙළෙන්දෙකුගෙන් රූප කොළයක් අරන් දීම, ඔහු පුරුද්දක් කරගෙන සිටියේ ය. එම රූප කොළයේ ඇති රූප එකිනෙක කපා පොතක අලවා, රූප කොළයේ යටි පැත්තේ සඳහන් නම රූපයට පහළින් පොතේ ලිවීම මගේ චාපකාරිය විය. දිනක් මට සමනලුන්ගේ රූප කොළයක් ලැබුණි. අනෙක් කොළ වලදී මෙන්ම මම මෙහි ද පළමු රූපය කපා අලවා, එහි යටි පැත්තේ සඳහන් පිටි "සමනලයා" යැයි ලිවෙමි. දෙවැනි රූපය ද කපා අලවා, එහි සඳහන් පිටිදී "සමනලයා" යැයි ලිවෙමි. මෙලෙස, රූප කොළයේ එකිනෙකට වෙනස් සමනලුන් කොපමණක් සිටිය ද, ඒ සෑමයටම "සමනලයා" යන එකම වදන ලිවෙමි. අවුරුදු 25 කට ට වඩා පැරණි මෙම සිදු වීම දැනටත් මගේ මතකයේ පවතින්නේ, එහි යම් සිහි අඩු පාඩුවක් තිබූ බව දැනුනු බැවිනි.

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සමනලුන් පිළිබඳව අප සමග පර්යේෂණ සිදු කරන සරත් චන්ද්‍රසේන අපට හමු වන්නේ විශ්ව විද්‍යාල අවදියේ දී ය. ඔහු නිතරම පවසන කරුණක් වන්නේ, "අප කොළඹ ආසන්නයේ සිටි බැවින්, කුඩා කල සිටම කොඩා දහම ක්‍රමානුකූලව අධ්‍යයන සිටිම පිළිබඳව ඉගෙනීමක් ලැබීමට අවස්ථාවක් ලැබුණු මුත්, කොඩා දහම ගැන දැඩි ඇල්මක් තිබුණු තමාට එවැනි ඉගෙනීමක් කුඩා කල ලැබීමට අවස්ථාවක් නොලැබුණු බව ය." තමාගේ ම ගමේ පාසැල් ගුරුවරයෙකු වන ඔහු තවදුරටත් පවසන්නේ "කොඩා දහම ගැන උනන්දුවක් දක්වන සිසුන් සිටිසත් පාසැලේ සිටියත් ඔවුන්ට ඒ පිළිබඳව සිතා දීමට ඇති මූලික බාධාව වන්නේ ඉංග්‍රීසි ගේරුම් ගැනීමට ඇති අපහසුතාවය බවයි." ඔවුන්ට සමනලුන් පිළිබඳව සිතා දීමට යාමේ දී මතු වන ගැටළුව වන්නේ ඒ සඳහා සුදුසු සිංහල වදන් නොමැති වීමයි.

සමනලුන් පිළිබඳව මව් බසින් ලියන්න යැයි අපගෙන් මුලින්ම ඉල්ලුවේ මහාඥරා සරත් කොටගම ය. ඒ 'A pocket guide to the butterflies of Sri Lanka' පොත දොරට වැඩුණු දිනයේ දී ය. නැවත ද 'Common butterflies of Sri Lanka' පොත ලිවීමේ දී, එහි සමනලුන්ගේ සිංහල නම් ඇතුළත් කරන්න යැයි ඉල්ලීමක් කෙරුණි. ඒ වන විට පැවති නම් වැලේ බොහෝ සඳහන් තැන් තිබූ සිතා එම පොතට සිංහල නම් ඇතුළත් නොකෙරුණු අතර එය ක්‍රමානුකූල නම් වැලක් සකසීම ඉක්මන් කිරීමට මහ පාදන ලදී.

අප රටේ සමනලුන් වර්ග 246 ක් සිටින්න ඔවුන් එකිනෙකා වෙන් කර හැඳින්වීමට, පෙර පටන් පැවත එන සිංහල නම් නොවිණි. ඉංග්‍රීසියෙහි ද මෙම අඩුපාඩුව තිබූ බව සිතිය තැක්කේ සමනලුන්ට නම් යෙදීමේදී වෙනත් සතුන්ගේ (කුරුල්ලන්, ක්ෂීරපායීන් ඇදීන් ගේ) නම් හා පුද්ගල තනතුරු නාම එවාට ඇදා ගැනීමෙනි. එබැවින් මෙලෙස යම් බසකින් මුලුමනින්ම අළුතෙන් නම් යෙදීම ඉතා අපහසු කටයුත්තකි. හමුත් ලක්ෂ්මන් විරූෆාග විසින් 2006 දී මෙම කටයුත්තට මුල පුරන ලදී. එම නම් වැල භරමක් දුරට සිටිපසද කර 2012 ටතු දත්ත වාර්තා පොතේ පළ කෙරුණි. එතෙක් මෙම නම් වැලේ ද අඩුපාඩු රැසක් පවති යි.


පිටිබිඳුගම

මෙම නම් වැල සැකසීමේ දී "ලංකාවේ කුරුල්ලන් සඳහා ක්‍රමානුකූල නාමාවලිය (පෙරේරා ඩී. පී. ඒ. සහ කොටගම, සරත්. 1983)" ගුරු කොට ගත් අතර "සිටිලක ගස්කොළන් අත්පොත (ඇස්ටන්, මාර්ක්. සහ තවත් අය, 2004)" සඳහා යොදා ගත් නම් වැල ද පිටින්සහ ලදී. වදන් තැනීම සඳහා "සිංහලයෙන් සිප්පුරු වදන් (ද. සිල්වා, ටලියන්. 2002)" හා "නාෂාචක නාමිතය හා විගුහය (දිසානායක, ජේ. ඩී. 2007)" ඇසුරු කර ගන්නා ලදී. "සිංහලයෙන් සිප්පුරු වදන්" හි දක්වා ඇති පිටිදී රජයෙන් සම්මත කළ "නාමිකමය ගබ්ද මාලාවේ" ඇති සඳහන් වන සඳහා මෙම ලියමනේ දී හැකි තාක් දුරට අරුත් සහිත වන යොදා ගන්නා ලදී.

ශ්‍රී ලංකා වනාන්තර හා ජීව විද්‍යාත්මක පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ ප්‍රකාශනයකි



CONTENT – Icons and Maps





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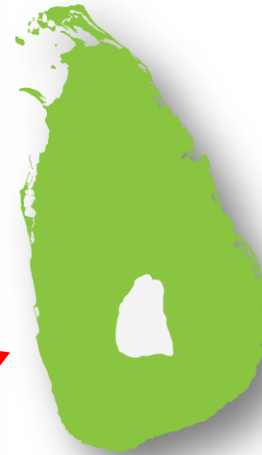
Common Gull

Cepora nerissa





Hind wing patches and fore wing apical patches are in same yellow color. This color is quite brighter in WS individuals than in DS individuals. Black veins are heavily dusted in yellow scales. More black on female's upper side. **Habits** Almost similar to Pioneer, but mud sips in a low frequency and does not make large gatherings. **LFPs** *Capparis brevispina* (Capparaceae), *Capparis zeylanica* (Capparaceae), *Crataeva adansonii* (Capparaceae)



CONTENT – Text



CONTENT – Larval Food Plants



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PIERIDAE

White Orange Tip

Ixias marianne



Enlarged orange apical patch in male and no black spots within. Black borders on all sides of this patch. Black marginal band on hind wing. Brown speckles at each cell and at distal band encircling variable white spots on underside, which are reduced in DSF. **Habits** Opens wings in early morning sun to bask. Female lays eggs on dead twigs of live plants. **LFPs** *Capparis brevispina* (Capparaceae), *C. grandis*, *C. sepiaria*



123

LYCAENIDAE

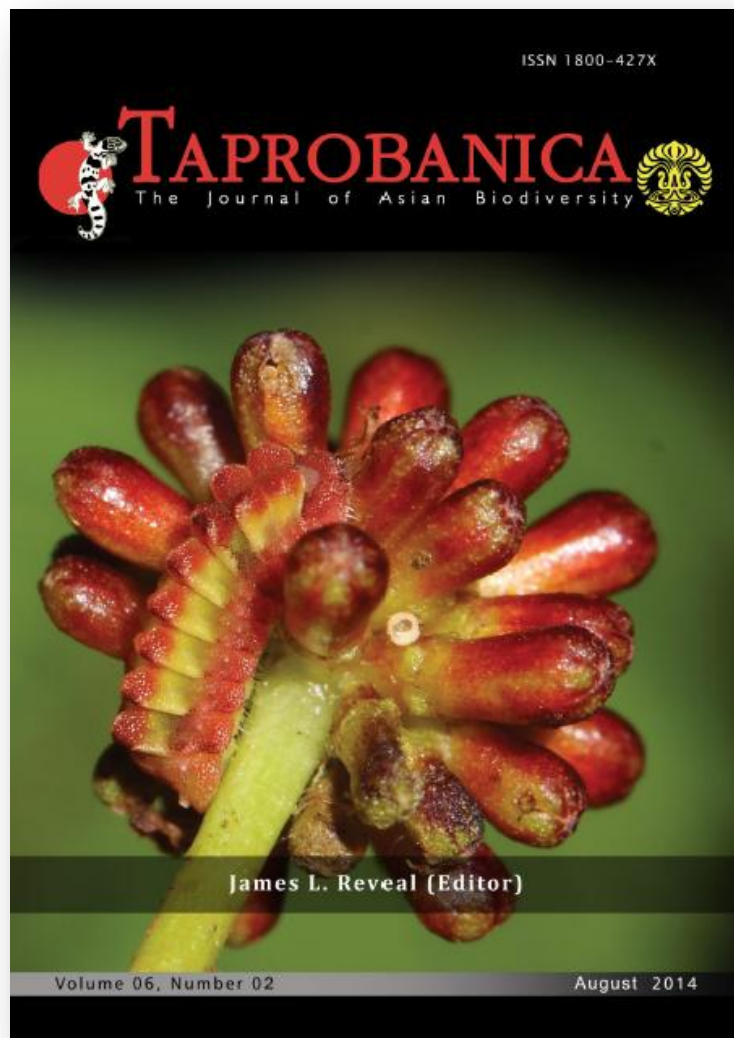
Common Tinsel

Catapaecilma major



Hairy legs. Three tails on hind wing, with a longer middle one. Wavy fore wing outer margin. Shine of the silver markings on under side vary as copper, blue or green according to the angle of light. Darker background color on male's under side. Broad marginal bands on female's upper side and lacks the purplish hue. **LFPs** *Bridelia retusa* (Phyllanthaceae), *Vitex altissima* (Lamiaceae), *Trema orientalis* (Cannabaceae)

Larval Food Plants



MAJOR ARTICLE

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A COMPILATION AND ANALYSIS OF FOOD PLANTS UTILIZATION OF SRI LANKAN BUTTERFLY LARVAE (PAPILIONOIDEA)

Section Editors: Jeffrey Miller & James L. Reveal

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Abstract

Larval food plants (LFPs) of Sri Lankan butterflies are poorly documented in the historical literature and there is a great need to identify LFPs in conservation perspectives. Therefore, the current study was designed and carried out during the past decade. A list of LFPs for 207 butterfly species (Super family Papilionoidea) of Sri Lanka is presented based on local studies and includes 785 plant-butterfly combinations and 480 plant species. Many of these combinations are reported for the first time in Sri Lanka. The impact of introducing new plants on the dynamics of abundance and distribution of butterflies, the possibility of butterflies being pests on crops, and observations of LFPs of rare butterfly species, are discussed. This information is crucial for the conservation management of the butterfly fauna in Sri Lanka.



Rarest species

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Sri Lankan Clouded Silverline

Spindasis nubilus



Dispersed red scales on lighter background of under side make it darker than of any other Silverline. Bands are 'brick red' colored. No outer marginal band on fore wing. Gray on female's upper side with a reddish brown appearance at the center of fore wing. Male is quite similar to Scarce Shot Silverline on upper side, but with a slightly different shade of blue. Bands on the abdomen consist of black scales frontally and red scales posterior. **LFPs** Not yet recorded.

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African Marbled Skipper

Gomalia elma



Hairy wings. A black band on fore wing median on upper side. A broad pale band on hind wing median and a spot near the base. Dark cilia on fore wing and pale cilia on hind wing. Median band and basal spot of the hind wing are slightly visible on under side. Some hyaline spots exist on under side of fore wing.

Habits A very slow flying insect, which flies near to the ground.

LFPs *Abutilon hirtum* (Malvaceae)

New comers....



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Tamil Oakblue

Arhopala bazaloides



A tail at hind wing, no spot above the tail. Distinct black spot at anal angle. White wash limits to the hind wing. Even on the hind wing, it is not prominent as in Ormiston's OB. Basal patches of hind wing not prominent against the surrounding. Markings on fore wing cell appear as thin white bands, but not as dark spots. Male is almost similar to Ormiston's OB on upper side. Female always has blue on upper side. **Habits** A canopy dweller. **LFPs** *Vateria copallifera* (Dipterocarpaceae)

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HESPERIIDAE



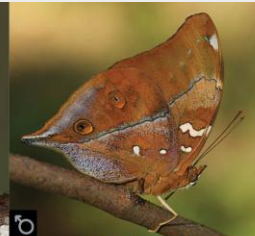
Erionota sp.



FINAL LAYOUT

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N Y M P H A L I D A E



Autumn Leaf

Dolichochallia bisaltide



Concave fore wing outer margin and elongated hind wing tornus enables to resemble a shape of a leaf in close winged position. An orange band at broad black apex on upper side. Hind wing is duller than the fore wing. Color of the under side varies from reddish brown to greenish gray. Thin median band is not curved at the ends, hence does not touches the fore wing apex and hind wing tornus. White patches on both wings towards the base of the male. Frontally pale labial palps and thorax, with pale legs.

Habits Usually holds wings in a closed posture since it provides a camouflaged view of a dead leaf. Attracts to tree sap and rotten fruits, but not found to feed on flowers. Female takes quite a long time to lay eggs, where it lays in clusters of 2 - 5 eggs on under side of leaves. Though the larvae are found in groups, adults are found singly. Prefers to fly in gloomy habitats, especially near streams unless in rainy season.

LFPs *Pseuderanthemum latifolium* (Acanthaceae), *Asystasia chelonoides* (Acanthaceae)

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N Y M P H A L I D A E



Sri Lankan Blue Oak Leaf

Kallima philarchus



Concave fore wing outer margin and elongated hind wing tornus resembles a shape of a leaf when in closed wing position. It is further enhanced by the color pattern of under side. Pattern and color on this surface vary, very much among individuals. Median band is curved towards the ends, hence it touches the fore wing apex as well as the hind wing tornus, resembling the midrib of a leaf. Various patches throughout the wings resemble the fungus patches of a decaying leaf. Brilliant blue color on upper side is brighter in male. Brownish hind wings in female. Whitish dot near the fore wing apex in both sexes. Color of the body is similar to the wings.

Habits Male has the same 'mate seeking' habit which is described under Danaid Eggfly, and it always chooses stream edges within the forests for this behavior. Eagerly feeds on rotting fruits, tree sap and toddy, but not on nectar. Though it has been recorded in considerable numbers in migratory flight in the past, such a spectacle cannot be seen now.

LFPs *Strobilanthes diandra* (Acanthaceae), *S. exserta*, *S. lupulina*

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Await for ...

The Butterfly Fauna of Sri Lanka



GEORGE MICHAEL VAN DER POORTEN
NANCY E. VAN DER POORTEN

of spots on the abdomen, while still others are completely devoid of all markings. For more details, see van der Poorten & van der Poorten (2013b).

■ **Conservation issues:** Loss of habitats through human encroachment and proliferation of invasive *Prosopis juliflora*.

Striped Pierrot (*Tarucus nara*)

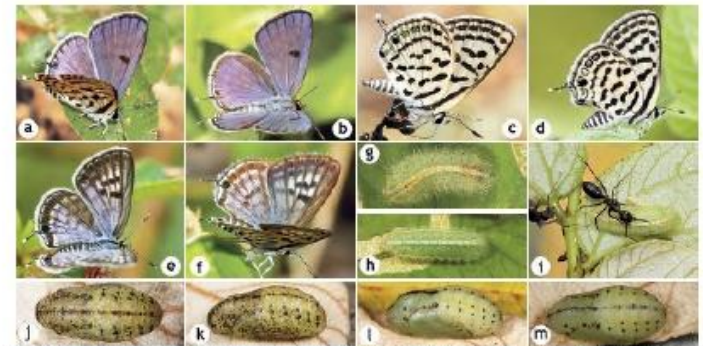


Fig. 6-60. Striped Pierrot (*Tarucus nara*). a) male, upperside; b) male, upperside; c) male feeding on exudate from dead twig of *Ziziphus jujuba*, underside; d) female, underside; e) female, upperside; f) female, upperside; g) larva, final instar, dorsal view; h) larva, final instar, different color variant, dorsal view; i) larva being attended by ant; j) - k) pupa, brownish color variant, dorsal view and dorsolateral view; l) - m) pupa, greenish color variant, dorsolateral view and dorsal view; n) below: Striped Pierrot; o) below: Butler's Spotted Pierrot.

Wingspan: 18–23 mm

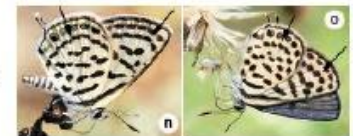
■ **Description** (Fig. 6-60): The ground color of the underside of freshly emerged individuals is white to pale brownish-white. Unlike Butler's Spotted Pierrot, the markings above the marginal spots on the underside of the hindwing are joined at their ends to form a continuous line (Fig. 6-60n).

■ **Similar species:** Butler's Spotted Pierrot—see above and that account.

■ **Status, distribution and habitat:** This species is common (10). Its main flight season is from October to March though a few fly off-season. It is strictly a northern species, being confined to the coastal thorn scrub of the western coast from Mannar north to Pooneryn, and throughout the Jaffna peninsula though it is occasionally seen further inland. Threat status: LC.

■ **Adult behavior:** Its behavior is similar to that of Butler's Spotted Pierrot.

■ **Immature stages:** The immature stages are similar to those of Butler's Spotted Pierrot. The larvae are often attended by ants, but their presence is not required for the successful development of the larva. The mature pale green larva has a broad white dorsal line that has a narrow reddish-brown line within it which tapers posteriorly. The body is covered by numerous setae giving it a fuzzy appearance. The pupa is pale brownish-green and is mottled black along the dorsum, lateral margins and the wing buds to varying extents. The larvae feed on the tender or slightly matured leaves of *Ziziphus jujuba*, its only known larval food plant. For more details, see van der Poorten & van der Poorten (2013b).





Thank You... !