

# Common Butterflies of Singapore

There are over 320 species of butterflies in Singapore. Here are a few common species that can be found in urban areas.



**Grass Blue**  
(Family Lycaenidae)

Grass Blues are among the smallest of butterflies and play an important role in the pollination of wildflowers.



**Grass Yellow**  
(*Eurema* sp.)

Found in Singapore throughout the year, Grass Yellows are small butterflies that have lemon-yellow wings with small black spots.



**Lime Butterfly**  
(*Papilio demoleus malayanus*)

The Lime butterfly gets its name from the citrus host plants its caterpillar feeds on. It flies fast and in erratic patterns.



**Chocolate Pansy**  
(*Junonia hedonia ida*)

The underside of the Chocolate Pansy's wings looks like leaves, which helps it camouflage in leaf litter.



**Tawny Coster**  
(*Acraea terpsicore*)

First discovered in Singapore in 2006, the Tawny Coster is now a common species that can be found throughout the island.



**Painted Jezebel**  
(*Delias hyparete metarete*)

The Painted Jezebel is often spotted high up among the treetops where its host plant, the Malayan Mistletoe (*Dendrophthoe pentandra*), grows.



**Common Palmfly**  
(*Elymnias hypermnestra agina*)

The Common Palmfly feeds on various types of palms and can be found wherever its host plants are present.



**Plain Tiger**  
(*Danaus chrysippus chrysippus*)

The Plain Tiger flies slowly and unhurriedly when feeding amongst its favourite nectar plants.



**Common Mormon (Male)**  
(*Papilio polytes romulus*)

The Common Mormon belongs to a group of butterflies called swallowtails, named for the long tails that extend from their hindwings.



**Common Mormon (Female)**  
(*Papilio polytes romulus*)

Photo credits: Khew Sin Khoon, Horace Tan (Grass Blue), Robin Ngiam (Common Mormon, male), Sabrina Tang (Common Mormon, female)

## Butterfly Watching Tips

- The best time to observe butterflies is when it is sunny, from about 9.30 am to 3 pm.
- Please do not catch or handle any butterflies, as their wings are very fragile.
- To take a photo of a resting butterfly, approach it slowly from behind, from as low an angle as possible, to avoid startling it.

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