

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 Lycaeninae)

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 (Glass Blue), Robin Ngiam (Common Mormon, male), Sabrina Tong (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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Use the SGBioAtlas app to help you identify common species. The app is available for Apple devices (iPhone and iPad) on the App Store, and Android devices on the Google Play Store.



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