

Butterflies inhabiting KVASU, Pookode

Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Pookode campus is situated amidst the lush green of 100 acre land. The campus host a huge verity of flora and fauna within its greenery. About 213 species of birds. 80 species of butterflies have been reported from the campus. Butterflies from six families have been identified. These flying jewels increases the beauty of the campus. Huge diversity of butterflies from small skippers to the second largest butterfly of India are visitors to the campus. Species like Common Grass Yellow, Common Mormon, Common Rose, Common Jezebel, Common Snow Flat, Lemon Pansy, Chocolate Pansy etc are also found.

Sahyadri Birdwing



I noticed this celestial species soaring across the skies. I was immediately drawn to its beauty. Sahyadri Birdwing or Southern Birdwing (*Troides minos*) is the second largest butterfly in India which is endemic to the Western Ghats of India. It belongs to the Papilionidae family. As I was strolling around the university grounds,

Blue Mormon



Suddenly, while I was walking forward through the premises, a big blue fluttering caught my eye. A different stunningly beautiful one that draws everyone in with its glitzy wings. Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*), is a large swallowtail butterfly found in South India and Sri Lanka belonging to the Papilionidea family. With a wingspan of 120–150 mm, it is the fourth largest butterfly of India. her flapping wing made me fall in love at first sight.

Dark Blue Tiger



Tirumala septentrionis, the dark blue tiger, is a butterfly found in South Asia, and Southeast Asia that belongs to the brush-footed butterfly family, Nymphalidae. This butterfly shows gregarious migratory behaviour in southern India. This butterfly can be found in large numbers flying in different parts of the campus during the months of October and November with Common Crow and Double Banded Crow. Species like Plain Tiger, Blue Tiger,

Striped Tiger etc an also be found with this species Blue Tiger butterfly.

Common Grass Yellow



What's that sitting on the hay? I photographed it quietly. Its the common grass yellow, *Eurema hecabe*, a small pierid butterfly species found in Asia, Africa and Australia. It is one of the most common butterfly species in the campus. You will find these yellow butterflies fluttering around at any time while walking through the campus. Similar looking butterflies like Three Spotted Grass Yellow, One Spot Grass Yellow and Small Grass Yellow belonging to the Genus *Eurema* are hard to be differentiated from this species.

Pea Blue



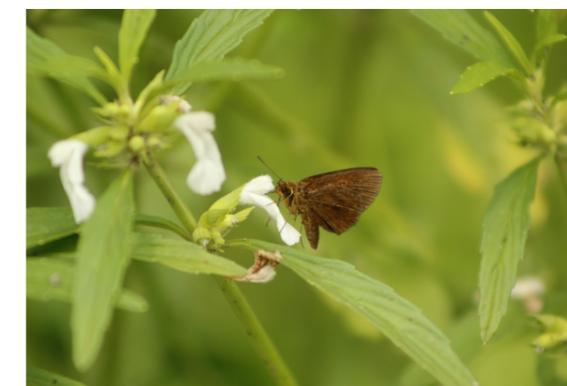
Tiny black and white butterflies that looked like zebras were perched on the bovine manure as I strolled along the road next to the stable Included in the

Lycaenids, or blue family, of butterflies, the Common Pierrot (*Castalius rosimon*) is a small butterfly that can be found throughout India. Anyone will be drawn to these flying gem's exquisite blue wings. The ant species and certain butterflies in this family coexist symbiotically.

Chestnut Bob



Iambrix salsala, the chestnut bob, is a butterfly belonging to the family Hesperidae, that is found in parts of South Asia and Southeast Asia. This is one of many skipper species found in KVASU campus. Two subspecies of *Iambrix salsala* are found in India. This beautiful small butterfly can be seen in areas dominated by grass.



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