

PICTORIAL FIELD GUIDE OF BUTTERFLIES FROM ACHANAKMAR-AMARKANTAK BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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Preface

Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve is spread over an area of 383551.0 ha. between Maikal hill range to Vindhyan and Satpura hill ranges of central India. Due to variability of this area, many species of plants and animals are widely distributed in this area.

Butterflies due to their variety of colors and flying in and around flower and leaves, attract all of us towards them. They are useful in pollination. The adult and larvae of butterflies are the main food of birds, reptiles, amphibians and other wild animals.

Out of about 1501 species of butterflies existing in our country, nearly 50 species are reported from in Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve. A brief description in each of them with colour photographs are presented in this field guide. Hope, this book will be beneficial to all the officials of the Biosphere Reserve.

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1. Common mime, *Papilio (Chilasa) clytia* (Linn.)

Status: Common.

Description: Tail less swallowtail butterfly with wingspan 90-100 mm; colour brown with marginal large yellow spots.

Habits: Flight with continuous fluttering near to ground or some time in canopy.



2. Common Mormon, *Papilio polytes* Cramer

Status: Very common.

Description: Black bodied, prominent tail with wingspan 90-100 mm; has three forms- *stichius*, *romulus* and *polytes*.

Habits: Male is common visitor to gardens during sun.



3. Lime butterfly, *Papilio demoleus* Linn.

Status: Common.

Description: Black ground colour spotted with yellow shades, red, blue and yellow long black lines; wingspan 80-100mm.

Habits: Usually goes on changing the flowers quickly for nectar.

4. Spot Swordtail, *Graphium nomius* (Esper)

Status: Not rare.

Description: White with dark or black markings; wingspan 75-90 mm. Male bears cottony scent wool in dorsal fold.

Habits: Flies fast and straight, suddenly lands on wet soil. Found near streams and wet soil for mud puddling.



5. Pioneer, *Anapheis aurota* (Fabr.)

Status: Common.

Description: Wings are white with black apical markings, distinct "Hockey stick" markings at the front margin; wing span 50-55 mm.

Habits: This is commonly found on flowers of *Lantana camara*, *Tridax procumbens*.



6. Mottled Emigrant, *Catopsilia pyranthe* (Linn.)

Status: Very common.

Description: Chalky white or greenish; wing span 50-70 mm.

Habits: Cover long distances in single flight; continuously visit the flower.





7. Lemon Emigrant, *Catopsilia pomana* (Fabr.)

Status: Common

Description: Sulphur yellow colour; wing span 55-80 mm.

Habits: Found on flowers and leaves of *Cassia*; flight is powerful and rapid.



8. Spotless Grass Yellow, *Eurema laeta* Boisduval

Status: Common.

Description: Yellow with broadly prominent black wing apex; wingspan 32-45,

Habit: Moves around *Cassia*, *Acacia*, *Albizia*, etc.



9. Common Grass Yellow, *Eurema hecabe* Moore

Status: Very common.

Description: Bright yellow colour; wingspan 45-48.

Habits: It feeds on nectar of small, low growing flowers.

10.Striped Tiger, *Danaus (Danais) genutia* (Cramer)

Status: Very common.

Description: Tawny wings with golden brown colour and broad black veins; wing span 70-95 mm.

Habits: Found forested country and scrub jungle.



11.Plain Tiger, *Danaus (Danais) chrysippus* (Linn.)

Status: Very Common.

Description: Golden brown; wingspan 70-82 mm. Male pouch in hindwing.

Habits: Commonest often sitting on flowers in forest areas of BR.



12.Blue Tiger, *Tirumala (Danaus) limniace* (Cramer)

Status: Common.

Description: Black with large irregular white or pale blue markings; wingspan 90-100 mm.

Habits: Flies over hedge rows and roadsides in forest areas.





13. Common Indian Crow, *Euploea core* (Cramer)

Status: Very common.

Description: Glossy brown with marginal and terminal white spots; wingspan 85-95 mm.

Habits: Fond of damp patches, during summer they settle in shady trees and shrubs.



14. Common Evening Brown, *Melanitis leda* (Cramer)

Status: Very common.

Description: Dull dark brown with a large prominent black spot; wing span 60-80mm.

Habits: During daylight it comes out to fly and dances about in the air in a rapid, jerky way in the forest.



15. Dark Branded Bushbrown, *Mycalesis mineus* (Linn.)

Status: Very common.

Description: Dark brown colour. A more or less pale area, outwardly and inwardly with ocellus on upper side of forewing; wingspan 40-50 mm.

Habit: Found on ground and around bushes in sal forests; at low elevation of BR.

**16. Common Sergeant,
Athyma perius (Linn.)**

Status: Common.

Description: Dark brown with black dusting; wingspan 60-70 mm.

Habits: Settles on leaves of small bushes and shrubs of mixed forest.



**17. Staff Sergeant,
Athyma selenophora
(Koller)**

Status: Common.

Description: Dark brown with black dusting, curved white colour band is present on mid region of both FW and HW; wingspan 55-75 mm.

Habits: Occurs near streams of BR.



**18. Black Rajah,
Charaxes solon(fabius)
Fruhstorfer**

Status: Common.

Description: Grey and light grey near basal area, black spots and lines are present on both wings, eries of yellow spots and on both wings; wingspan 55-60 mm.

Habits: Occurs near streams of BR.





19. Great Eggfly,
Hypolimnas bolina
(Linn.)

Status: Common.

Description: Male black iridescent-blue white centered oval patch on the disc of wings. Female dark brown with outer discal row of small pale yellow, wingspan 70-110 mm.

Habits: Found wetter, well-forested parts during rains.



20. Danaid Eggfly,
Hypolimnas misippus
(Linn.)

Status: Locally common.

Description: Male black with a white discal patch. Female golden brown Colour, Mimic to Plain Tiger; wingspan 65-85mm.

Habits: Slow flight and rest on ground, herbs, shrubs.



21. Commander,
Limenitis (Moduza)
procris (Cramer)

Status: Locally common.

Description: Reddish brown with prominent white discal band on both wings; wingspan 60-75 mm.

Habits: Found open glades, clearings and roadsides in forest, visit flowers.

22. Common Sailer, *Neptis hylas* Moore

Status: Common.

Description: Reddish brown, white markings on the upper side; wingspan 50 to 60 mm.

Habits: Wings spread flat and glides without much efforts during flight in dense forest.



23. Chestnut-Streaked Sailer, *Neptis jumbah* Moore

Status: Common

Description: Black with white markings. Cell streak on fore wing always divided into a basal streak and a spot beyond; wingspan 55-64 mm.

Habits: Quick flier and flies most of the time close to ground.



24. Short Banded Sailer, *Neptis (Phaedyra) columella* (Cramer)

Status: Common.

Description: Black with white markings; wingspan 60-70 mm.

Habits: Flies with the wings spread flat and glides without efforts in forest of BR.



28. Yellow Pansy,
Junonia hierta
(Fabricius)

Status: Very common.

Description: Bright yellow, apex black bearing yellow markings, costa and termen narrowly black; wing span 45-60 mm.

Habit: Glides horizontally following another scene of wing beats in forest.



29. Lemon Pansy,
Junonia lemonias (Linn.)

Status: Very Common.

Description: Dark brown with ocelli in 2 and 5 with numerous lemon-yellow spots; wingspan 45-60 mm.

Habits: Found abundant at flowers.



30. Chocolate Pansy,
Junonia (Precis) iphita
(Cramer)

Status: Common.

Description: Brown with rather obscure dark brown bands with obscure row of small ocelli; wingspan 55-80 mm.

Habits: Very fond of settling on damp patches and wet roads, shady places.





25. Grey Pansy, *Junonia atlites* (Linn.)

Status: Common.

Description: Grey with brown lines and a complete row of outer discal ocelli on both wings; wing span 55-65mm.

Habits: Found at low elevations in jungles, come to flowers.



26. Peacock Pansy, *Junonia almana* (Linn.)

Status: Common.

Description: Bright brown, light tawny with ocelli in 2 and 5; wing span 60-65 mm.

Habits: Inhabits gardens and in foothills of BR.



27. Blue Pansy, *Junonia orithya* Butler

Status: Common.

Description: Bright blue, apex pale brown with white bands and basal area two thirds black; wingspan 40-60 mm.

Habits: Found dry riverbeds, stony uncultivated ground and roads; prefer the hottest and sunniest places.



31. Common Leopard, *Phalanta phalantha* (Drury)

Status: Common.

Description: Orange coloured tawny with rows of black spots; wing span 50-60 mm.

Habits: Found at the edges of jungle, attract to flowers of *Lantana*, *Duranta* etc.



32. Baronet, *Euthalia (Symphaedra) nais* (Cramer)

Status: Common.

Description: Tawny orange; black termens and narrow black outer discal line, broken into small spots on HW; wingspan 60-70 mm.

Habits: Found of sunshine and is attracted by sap, over ripe fruits.



33. Plum Judy, *Abisara echerius* (Stoll)

Status: Common.

Description: Purple brown male and brown female; wing span 40-50 mm.

Habits: Shade loving, settles down on leaf with wings half open.

34. Common Pierrot, *Castalius rosimon* (Fabr.)

Status: Common.

Description: White with dark border and black spots with powdered metallic-blue scales, below-white with black spots, streaks and tailed; wingspan 24-32 mm.

Habits: Fond of sunlight. It settles in upper sides of leaves to sun with half opened wings.



35. Gram Blue, *Euchrysops* *cnejus(phasius)* (Fabricius)

Status: Common.

Description: Pale violet-blue; dark outer borders narrow; wing span 23-33.

Habits: Found round bushes and shrubs, visits on flowers damp places/grounds, basking.



36. Large Oakblue, *Arhopala (Narathura,* *Amblypodia) amantes* (Hewitson)

Status: Common.

Description: Large tailed brilliant dark shining blue colour with 1 mm black border; wingspan 45-57 mm.

Habits: Found on leaves of trees and found to shady nallahs in jungle bushes.





**37. Indian Oak Blue,
Arhopala atrax
(Hewitson)**

Status: Common.

Description: Small tailed brilliant dark shining blue colour; wingspan 35-40 mm.

Habits: Found on leaves of trees and shady nallahs.



**38. Indian Red Flash,
Rapala iarbus sorya
Koller**

Status: Common.

Description: Metallic copper red colour, brown on under side and with hairy black spot, white spot at tornus; wingspan 35-40 mm.

Habits: Found on leaves of shrub, fast flight.



**39. Common Silverline,
Spindasis vulcanus Fabr.**

Status: Common.

Description: White with broad orange colour bands, it showed silvery embossed line at the centre; wingspan 30-35 mm.

Habits: Powerful flyer so not easy to follow in flight.

40. Zebra Blue, *Leptotes (Syntarucus) plinius* Fabricius

Status: Common.

Description: Black and white Zebra pattern on wings; wingspan 30-33 mm.

Habits: Powerful flyer so not easy to follow in flight.



41. Brown Awl, *Badamia exclamatoris* (Fabr.)

Status: Common.

Description: light chocolate brown colour; wingspan 40-45 mm.

Habits: Flight is very high, fast and jerky, usually above tree top.



42. Blank Swift, *Caltois kumara* (Moore)

Status: Common.

Description: Dark olive brown; forewing with a transverse discal series of seven yellowish semi-diaphanous spots; wingspan 35-45mm.

Habits: Found in hills ranges.





**43. Paint brush Swift,
Baoris (Caltoris) farri
(Moore)**

Status: Common.

Description: Dark olive brown colour, big size swift; wingspan 35-45mm.

Habits: Found in lowland-midland regions of the ghats.



**44. Indian Palm Bob,
Suastus gremius Fabr.**

Status: Common.

Description: Light brown with dark brown colour scales. Prominent 5 black colour spots at HW; wingspan 35- 45 mm.

Habits: Spends long time on flowers.



**45. Indian Skipper,
Spialia galba (Fabr.)**

Status: Common.

Description: Dark brown to black in colour with a light brown gloss and many small white spots; wingspan 24 to 27mm.

Habits: Found flying close to the ground and basking with the wings partly open.