

## Nectar host plants of butterflies, their flowering period and flower colour at Visakhapatnam

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### SUMMARY

This paper is intended to be a study concerning with nectar host plants of butterflies at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh is described. At Visakhapatnam a total of 43 butterfly species spread over eight families was recorded. They are distributed among 8 families. Of the 43 species of butterflies recorded at Visakhapatnam, 5 species *Elymnias caudata*, *Mycalasis visala subdita*, *Melanitis leda ismene*, *Euthalia garuda*, and *Neptis hylas* seldom foraged on the nectars of flowers. They are found to feed on over ripe or rotten fruits, sap oozing from wounds and tree trunks. Among the remaining species *Papilio polymnestor*, *P. poltyes polytes*, *Princeps demoleus* were seen to feed on mud in addition to foraging on different flowers and three species, *Euthalia nais*, *Papilio crino*, *Colotis danae* could not found to feed on any flower during the study period. The remaining 35 species were found taking nectar at the flowers of one or the other 54 plant species. The mutualistic relationship between plants and insects is widely explained. Plants have evolved floral structures for the production of nectar which is collected by insects that in the process pollinate the flowers. Also the flowering period and colour of the flower is described.

**Key Words :** Butterflies, Nectar host plants, Flower colour, Flowering period

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