

MONARCH BUTTERFLY



Source: Wikipedia Commons

Family: Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)

Subfamily: Milkweed Butterflies (Danainae)

Identification: Upperside of male is bright orange with wide black borders and black veins; hindwing has a patch of scent scales. Upperside of female is orange-brown with wide black borders and blurred black veins. Both sexes have white spots on borders and apex.

Wing span: 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches (8.6 - 12.4 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Milkweeds including common milkweed (*Asclepius syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*), and showy milkweed (*A. speciosa*); and milkweed vine in the tropics.

Adult food: Nectar from all milkweeds. Monarchs visit a variety of flowers including dogbane, lilac, red clover, lantana, and thistles. In the fall adults visit composites including goldenrods, blazing stars, ironweed, and tickseed sunflower.

Habitat: Many open habitats including fields, meadows, weedy areas, marshes, and roadsides.

Range: Southern Canada south through all of the United States, Central America, and most of South America. Also present in Australia, Hawaii, and other Pacific Islands.

ZEBRA LONGWING BUTTERFLY



Photo by Tammy Powers

Family: Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)

Subfamily: Longwings (Heliconiinae)

Identification: Wings long and narrow; black with narrow yellow stripes.

Wing span: 2 3/4 - 4 inches (7 - 10.1 cm).

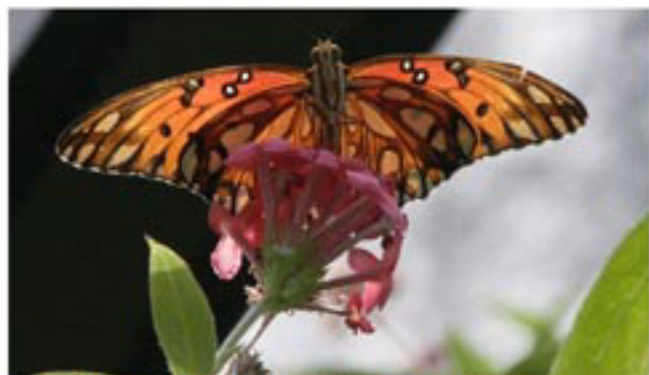
Caterpillar hosts: Passion-vines including *Passiflora suberosa*, *P. lutea*, and *P. affinis*.

Adult food: Flower nectar and pollen, which are gathered on a set foraging route or "trap-line". Favorite plants include lantana and shepherd's needle.

Habitat: Tropical hammocks, moist forests, edges, fields.

Range: South America north through Central America, West Indies, and Mexico to South Texas and peninsular Florida. Occasional immigrant north to New Mexico, Nebraska, and South Carolina.

GULF FRITILLARY



Family: Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)

Subfamily: Longwings (Heliconiinae)

Identification: Upperside bright orange with black markings; 3 black-encircled white dots on forewing leading edge. Underside brown; forewing with orange at base; both wings with elongated, iridescent silver spots.

Wing span: 2 1/2 - 3 3/4 inches (6.3 - 9.5 cm).

Source: Monsanto Insectarium,
St. Louis Zoo, 2006, Robert Lawton

Caterpillar hosts: Various species of passion-vine including maypops (*Passiflora incarnata*) and running pop (*P. foetida*).

Adult food: Nectar from lantana, shepherd's needle, cordias, composites, and others.

Habitat: Pastures, open fields, second-growth subtropical forest and edges, city gardens.

Range: South America north through Central America, Mexico, and the West Indies to the southern United States. Wanders north to the central United States; rare northward.

ATALA BUTTERFLY



Photo by Patrick Coin

Family: Gossamer-wing Butterflies (Lycaenidae)

Subfamily: Hairstreaks (Theclinae)

Identification: Abdomen red-orange. Upperside of male wings soft black with iridescent green overlay and markings; female has blue iridescence at basal areas. Underside dull black, hindwing with large red-orange spot and 3 rows of irregular iridescent gold spots.

Wing span: 1 1/2 - 2 inches (3.8 - 5.1 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Coontie (*Zamia pumila*), a shrubby, fernlike native cycad of Florida and the Bahamas; several other introduced plants of the family Cycadaceae.

Adult food: Flower nectars including lantana, periwinkle, shepherd's needle, and wild coffee.

Habitat: Subtropical shady hammocks and open areas; gardens with ornamental cycads.

Range: Southeastern Florida and the Keys, the Bahamas, and Cuba.

Conservation: This butterfly is ranked endangered by the State of Florida; may recolonize from the Bahamas. Subspecies *florida* has The Nature Conservancy rank of T3 - Very rare or local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range (21 to 100 occurrences). (Threatened throughout its range).

SCHAUS' SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY



Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service

Family: Parnassians and Swallowtails (Papilionidae)

Subfamily: Swallowtails (Papilioninae)

Identification: Upperside of forewing has narrow central yellow band. Tails edged with yellow, filled with black.

Wing span: 3 5/8 - 4 5/8 inches (9.2 - 11.8 cm)

Caterpillar hosts: Plants in the citrus family (Rutaceae) including Citrus species, hop tree (*Ptelea trifoliata*), *Zanthoxylum* spp., and torchwood (*Amyris elemifera*).

Adult food: Nectar from flowers of cheese-shrub, wild coffee, and guava.

Habitat: Found only in tropical hardwood hammocks and neighboring scrub areas.

Range: North Key Largo and the larger Keys in Biscayne National Monument (subspecies *ponceanus*), south to the Greater Antilles (other subspecies).

Conservation: Listed in 1984 as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act. This creature has the Nature Conservancy Global Rank of T1- which means it is critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or a factor in its biology is making it vulnerable to extinction.

FLORIDA LEAFWING BUTTERFLY

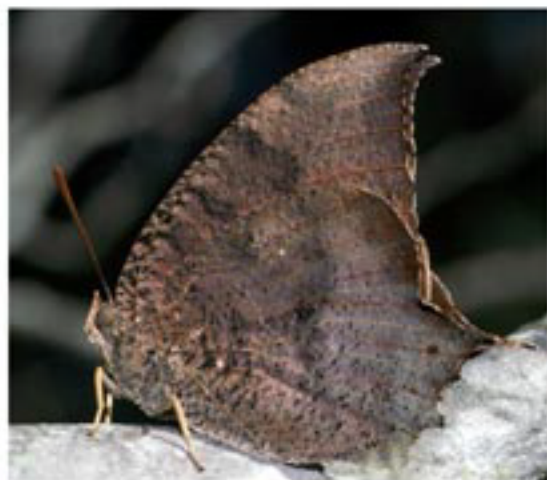


Photo by Patrick Coin

Family: Brush-footed Butterflies (Nymphalidae)

Subfamily: Leafwings (Charaxinae)

Identification: Forewing tip is slightly hooked and margin is straight; hindwing has a pointed tail. Upperside is red with dark outer margins but few other dark markings; forewing has a dark bar in the cell. Underside resembles a dead leaf.

Wing span: 3 - 3 1/2 inches (7.6 - 9 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Woolly croton (*Croton linearis*) in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae).

Adult food: Rotting fruit and dung.

Habitat: Pine-palmetto scrub and edges.

Range: Extreme southern peninsular Florida and the Florida Keys.

Conservation: Limited to a few remaining habitats in the Florida Keys. The Nature Conservancy Global Rank: G1 - Critically imperiled globally because of extreme rarity (5 or fewer occurrences, or very few remaining individuals), or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extinction. (Critically endangered throughout its range).

MIAMI BLUE BUTTERFLY



Photo by J Glassberg

Family: Gossamer-wing Butterflies (Lycaenidae)

Subfamily: Blues (Polyommatae)

Identification: Upperside mostly blue; female hindwing with orange spot at lower edge. Underside of both sexes with 2 eyespots on the outer margin and a wide white submarginal band.

Wing span: 7/8 - 1 1/8 inches (2.2 - 3 cm).

Caterpillar hosts: Balloon vine (*Cardiospermum halicacabum*) in the Sapindaceae family, possibly snowberry (*Chiococca alba*), and various legumes.

Adult food: Flower nectar.

Habitat: Openings and edges of tropical hardwood hammocks.

Range: Florida Keys and West Indies. Formerly in southern peninsular Florida.

Conservation: Loss of habitat due to urbanization has extirpated this butterfly on the Florida mainland. All Florida Keys populations should be protected. The Nature

Conservancy Global Rank: G3 - Very rare or local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range (21 to 100 occurrences). (Threatened throughout its range).

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