

Research Article

Larval Hostplants' specificity of butterflies in Garbhanga Reserve Forest (Proposed Wildlife Sanctuary) and Rani Reserve Forest, Kamrup, Assam, India

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ABSTRACT

Study has been carried out from 14th April 2021 to 14th September 2021 in Rani and Garbhanga Reserve Forest of Assam to gathered knowledge about the larval host plant specificity of butterflies in Pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons using line and point transect methods. Study found that altogether 31 butterflies of 25 species belonging to 4 families that were used 27 different species of plants belonging to 19 families. Certain butterflies were also observed to use larval host plants under the families of Fabaceae and Rutaceae. Again, *Graphium agamemnon* has utilized *Monoon longifolium*, *Eurema blanda* utilized *Calliandra haematocephala*, *Leptosia nina* utilized *Cleome rutidosperma*, *Pieris brassicae* utilized *Brassica juncea*, *Junonia lemonias* utilized only *Barleria cristata*, *Ariadne merione* utilized only *Ricinus communis*, *Acraea issoria* utilized only *Sarcochlamys pulcherrima*, *Elymnias malelas* utilized *Musa balbisiana*, *Ancistroides nigrata* utilized only *Curcuma longa*, *Burara harisa* utilized only *Heteropanax fragrans* and *Tagiades litigiosa* utilized only *Dioscorea alata*. Whereas certain butterflies used more than two plant species as their larval hostplants such as *Papilio clytia* utilized *Litsea deccanensis* and *L. monopetela*, *Pachliopta aristolochiae* utilized *Aristolochia indica* and *A. tagala*, *Elymnias hypermnestra* utilized *Areca catechu* and *Cocos nucifera* etc. Study also found that many butterflies used only one specific plant species as their larval host plant, such as the plant *Murraya koenigii* used by *Papilio polytes*, *P. Helenus*, *Citrus limon* used by *Papilio polytes*, *P. helenus*, *P. demoleus*, *Cocos nucifera* plant used by *Elymnias hypermnestra* and *E. nesaea* etc. The present observation has supported the views that most of the butterflies have species specific useses of larval hostplant in Rani & Garbhanga reserve forest and the study area is very important to support large numbers of butterflies through providing the valuable resources for butterflies' conservation.

Key words : Butterflies, Larval host plant, hostplant specificity, Garbhanga RF, Rani Reserve Forest

