

Glossary

- Abdomen** The third, most posterior, major body division of insects.
- Antenna** A segmented sensory organ, found in pairs, above the mouth-parts on the head of an insect. (*plural* Antennae)
- Aphrodisiac** A male-emitted pheromone that causes a female to prepare for copulation.
- Aposematism** Warning coloration that is supported by unpalatability or some defense, e.g. chemistry.
- Automimicry** Mimicry of one's own species in species that vary in palatability due to the presence/absence or strength of some defense.
- Basking** A method of modifying body temperature or thermoregulating depending on the sun.
- Batesian mimicry**
Mimicry of an unpalatable model by a palatable mimic.
- Biogeography** Study of the distribution of organisms.
- Camouflage** To imitate, or appear to be, the background.
- Cardenolides** Noxious chemicals present in milkweed host plants (genus *Asclepias*) that protect butterflies from predators.
- Caterpillar** The second life-history stage of Lepidoptera. Stage at which growth occurs. *See also* larva.
- Chrysalis** The third life-history stage of Lepidoptera. Stage during which the bulk of metamorphosis occurs. Interchangeable with chrysalid. *See also* pupa.
- Cocoon** Silken casing around a chrysalis or pupa.
- Colony** A geographically discrete population or subpopulation of butterflies with determinable boundaries that is separated from other populations.
- Common** A term used to describe an organism that is abundant, widely distributed, and often encountered.

Community	The assemblage of organisms that interact with each other in some defined habitat.
Cremaster	Hooked structure at the posterior end of a chrysalis used to attach it to a silken pad.
Crochets	Hooks on the prolegs of caterpillars.
Diapause	A period of inactivity and arrested development.
Dispersal	Movements by individuals as part of their daily activities the sum of which are random or non-directional.
Diversity	An ecological term with several meanings. Usually refers to the number of species present in some defined habitat but also refers to the equitability or similarity in abundance of the species.
Dormancy	A period of inactivity.
Eclosion	The emergence of the imago or adult butterfly from the chrysalis or pupa. Sometimes also used to refer to the hatching of a caterpillar or larva from the egg.
Ecology	The study of the factors that determine the distribution and abundance of organisms.
Ecosystem	A biological community in relation to its physical environment.
Egg	The first life-history stage of Lepidoptera and other insects in which a zygote develops into a caterpillar or larva.
Emigrate	To permanently leave a region or area.
Endemic	Limited to a specific area, occurring nowhere else.
Exoskeleton	An outer skeleton as opposed to an endoskeleton or internal skeleton.
Extant	Now living.
Extinct	Having no surviving individuals or populations anywhere.
Extirpated	Having no surviving individuals or populations in an area where they formerly occurred.
Forewing	The anterior pair of wings.
Generation	A discrete but complete life history, e.g. adult to adult via eggs, caterpillars and pupae.
Genitalia	Copulatory organs.
Genus	A taxonomic category in which all species share some defined trait that is not shared by other genera.
Geotactic	Relating to reflexive movement towards the ground.

Habitat	The place where an organism normally lives.
Hairpencil	A specialized organ of butterflies used to disseminate pheromones.
Head	The first, most anterior, major body division of insects.
Herbivore	An animal that feeds exclusively on plants.
Hibernate	A dormancy period through a wet or winter season. Also called overwintering in temperate regions.
Hindwing	The rear pair of wings.
Host plant	The particular food plant of a caterpillar.
Hybrid	The result of a cross between dissimilar parents.
Imago	The fourth and final life-history stage of Lepidoptera. Stage at which reproduction occurs. Also called the adult or butterfly. (<i>plural</i> Imagines)
Immature	All life history stages before the reproductive imago or adult stage.
Immigrate	To permanently move to a new region.
Inbreeding	Mating of close relatives, leads to increase in genetic defects.
Instar	Developmental stage between successive molts in an insect.
Larva	The second life-history stage of Lepidoptera. Stage at which growth occurs. <i>See also</i> caterpillar.
Lepidoptera	The insect family containing the moths, skippers and butterflies.
Mandibles	Paired chewing mouthparts of a caterpillar.
Metamorphosis	Change in form during development as in the change between a caterpillar and a butterfly.
Metathorax	The third, most posterior, thoracic segment from which the hindwings arise.
Migrant	A participant in a migration.
Migrate	A change in location via directed dispersal by all, or a large proportion, of a population.
Mimetic	An individual that mimics another individual.
Mimicry	A resemblance between individuals that provides some benefit to one or both, e.g. a resemblance between palatable and unpalatable butterflies that protects the palatable individuals from predators.
Molt	The shedding of the exoskeleton that let caterpillars grow.

Monotypic	Having a single form, e.g. a single species in a taxon.
Morph	A single appearance or combination of body form, shape or color.
Müllerian mimicry	A mimetic system wherein all participants are unpalatable and share a single morph.
Muscular thermogenesis	Shivering to generate heat in the muscles.
Mutation	Heritable changes that differ from that most commonly encountered.
Nearctic	Temperate and arctic North America.
Neotropic	Tropical North, Central and South America.
Overwinter	To hibernate.
Oviposition	The process by which a female butterfly chooses a site to lay eggs. Also used to describe the act of egg laying.
Ovum	A single egg. (<i>plural</i> Ova)
Parasite	An organism that lives off of another organism but does not kill it.
Parasitoid	An organism that kills another organism by living off of it.
Perch	A passive mate location strategy characterized by waiting at landmark sites for the passing of potential mates.
Pheromones	Specialized chemical compounds that promote behavioral responses by other individuals.
Photoperiod	The length of the day/night cycle.
Phototactic	Relating to reflexive movement towards the light.
Population	An interbreeding group of individuals of the same species that are separated in space or time from other groups of the same species.
Predator	An organism that eats another organism.
Prepupa	A resting stage within the last larval instar prior to pupation.
Proboscis	The coiled, straw-like sucking tube mouthparts of a butterfly. Also called the haustellum.
Prolegs	The fleshy abdominal legs of caterpillars.
Pupa	The developmental stage between a larva (caterpillar) and an imago (adult butterfly). <i>See also</i> Chrysalis. (<i>plural</i> Pupae or pupas)

Refuge	An area that has remained unchanged while areas around it have changed markedly, often serving as a refuge for species with specific habitat requirements.
Roost	A gathering place of resting butterflies.
Scent scales	Specialized, highly modified scales, usually on the wings, that produce chemical compounds that act as sex pheromones, aphrodisiacs or attractants. Also called androconial scales.
Segment	Structural units of invertebrate bodies, as in the segments of caterpillars, antennae, etc.
Seta	A moveable sensory hair. (<i>plural</i> Setae)
Species	Any group of interbreeding organisms that are differentiated from other such reproductive groups. Also a taxonomic category in which all organisms of the same species are considered different from all other species.
Stray	An individual that is found far outside its usual range but is not a common emigrant.
Subspecies	A distinctive subset of a species, may be geographic in origin. Sometimes considered a variety or race.
Super	A prefix meaning above or over, as in a superfamily (between family and order).
Taxon	An individual unit in a taxonomic classification, e.g. a species, a genus or any other identifiable group. (<i>plural</i> Taxa)
Temperate	An area with a mean annual temperature of between 10°C and 13°C (50°F and 55°F).
Territory	A living space that has evolutionary consequences to individuals, e.g. a territory enhances either the survival or the reproduction of a territorial individual.
Thermoregulation	The process of regulating body temperature.
Thorax	The second, center, major body division of the insect body, contains the bulk of the locomotory muscles, legs and wings.
Tropical	An area with a mean annual temperature above 25°C (75°F) where no freezing occurs.
Tropics	The latitudinal region between the Tropic of Cancer, 23.5°N latitude, and the Tropic of Capricorn, 23.5°S latitude.
Tubercle	A bump or knob on a caterpillar's body.

Type Taxonomic term for the individual upon which a species description is based.

Ultraviolet Wavelengths of light that are beyond the human visual spectrum but visible to some insects.

Warning coloration

Colors used to advertise unpalatability, regardless of the palatability of the advertiser. Usually combinations of black with white, red, orange or yellow, often in alternating bands.