

## Marvels of Butterfly Species

### Introduction

Butterflies are among the most beautiful and fascinating insects on Earth. Their vibrant colors, unique patterns, and delicate wings captivate scientists and nature lovers alike. There are over 17,000 species of butterflies worldwide, each with its own story.

---

### 1. Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Habitat: North America

Known for: Epic migration of over 3,000 miles

Features: Orange and black wings, toxic to predators

---

### 2. Blue Morpho (*Morpho menelaus*)

Habitat: Rainforests of South and Central America

Known for: Iridescent blue wings that reflect light

Defense: Underside of wings camouflages with brown tones

---

### 3. Rajah Brooke's Birdwing (*Trogonoptera brookiana*)

Habitat: Malaysia, Borneo, Sumatra

Known for: Striking black and green coloration

Unique Trait: Named after James Brooke, the Rajah of Sarawak

---

#### 4. Apollo Butterfly (*Parnassius apollo*)

Habitat: European mountain ranges

Known for: Transparent wings with red and black eyespots

Threats: Climate change and habitat loss

---

#### 5. Glasswing Butterfly (*Greta oto*)

Habitat: Central and South America

Known for: Transparent wings that make it nearly invisible

Feature: Wing membranes lack pigment

---

#### Importance of Butterflies

Pollination: Vital for many plant species

Biodiversity Indicators: Sensitive to environmental changes

Cultural Symbols: Represent transformation and hope

---

#### Conservation Matters

Many butterfly species are under threat due to habitat destruction, climate change, and pesticide use. Conservation efforts help preserve not just butterflies but entire ecosystems.