**BUTTERFLIES**

Butterflies have a fouor-stage life cycle, and like opther holometabolous insects they undergo complete metamorphosis. Winged adults lay eggs on the food plant on which their larvae, known as caterpillars, we feed. The caterpillars grow, sometimes very rapidly and when fully developed, pupate in a chrysalis. When metamorphosis is complete, the pupal skin splits, the adults insect climbs out, expands its wings to dry, and flies off.

Some butterflies, especially in the tropics, have several generations in a year, while others have a single generation, and a few in cold locations may take several years to pass through their entire life cycle.

Butterflies are often polymorphic, and many species make uses of camouflage, mimicry, and aposematism to evade their predators. Some like the monarch and the painted lady, migrate over long distances. Many butterflies are attacked by parasites or parasitoids, including wasps, protozoans, flies, and other invertebrates, or are upon by other organisms. Some species are pests because in their larval stages they can damage domestic crops or trees; other species are agents of pollination of some plants. Larvae of a few butterflies e.g., harvesters) eat harmful insects, and a few