

THE SPECIES DIVERSITY OF BUTTERFLY AND ITS ABUNDANCE AT SHERVAROY'S HILL, SALEM DISTRICT, TAMILNADU

S. SELVAMANI, K. VENKATRAMALINGAM AND P. SEKAR¹

*Department of Zoology, Government Arts College,
Salem - 636 007, Tamil Nadu, India*

¹*Corresponding author: drkvrzoo@gmail.com*

ABSTRACT: The abundance and species diversity of butterfly was observed from 2 to 4 hours by 200 meters transect counting at Walker's Path, Agriculture land, Botanical garden, Forest area, Grass land and Coffee plantation area of Sheraroy's hill. Investigations made in this study have shown that except for a few genera, most of the genera reported from Sheraroy's hill are well represented. Although most of these are easily identifiable using colour and wing pattern. Information generated in this study has shown very good survival of most of the species mainly due to protection of the natural habitats. The total number of butterflies recorded in 200 meters transect was 58, 65, 61, 56, 62 and 47 in Walker's Path, Agriculture land, Botanical garden, Forest area, Grass land and Coffee plantation area respectively. The Shevaroy's hill surveyed for four months from October 2013 to January 2014 had representative of 7 families like papilionidae, Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Lycaenidae, Danaidae, Heteropteridae and Satyridae which included 19 genus viz., *castalius*, *papilio*, *tirumala*, *danaus*, *euphydryas*, *euploea*, *eurema*, *jamides*, *appias*, *Badamia*, *Tagiades*, *pachilopectacolisa*, *Junonia*, *peris*, *acraea*, *delias*, *elymnias* and *lethe* respectively. The seasonal occurrence of butterfly species was high from early winter but thereafter declined in early summer. The cause of this decline might be non-availability of nectar and larval host plants, scarcity of water and cutting of grasslands.

Keywords: *Butterfly, biodiversity, abundance, species richness*

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