

Mothing

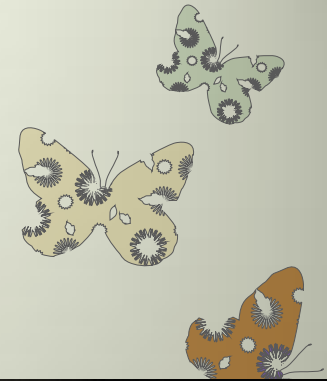


Moth-watching
is
known
as
Mothing



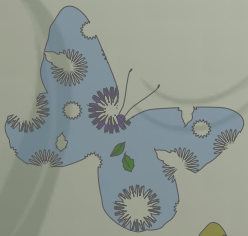
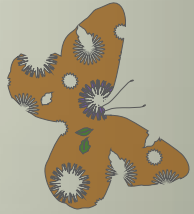
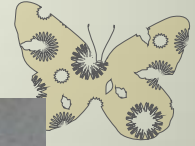
Why moths comes to light?

- Moths navigate in the dark using moonlight for orientation
- In absence of moon, artificial lights interfere with the navigation. Due to high intensity of the light, the moth gets disoriented and heads towards the light source.
- Before settling they go in circles around the light



Methods of Studying Moths

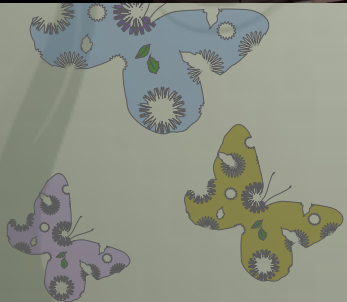
- ✿ Light trap
- ✿ Light sheet
- ✿ Sugaring
- ✿ Baiting



Light Sheet



- Includes a white bedsheet & mercury lamp (225 watts)
- Steady power supply
- To be operated in wilderness sites
- Written permission from State Forest Department.



Sugaring for Moths

Moths can smell food from a distance.

When provided with fermented sugar and fruit, they will fly right to it. This method of attracting moth is simply called 'sugaring'.

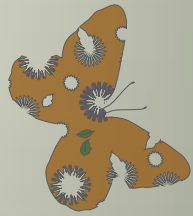
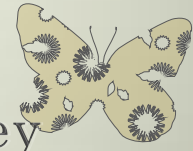
- ✱ Sugar Baits
(jaggery/sugar/honey solution)
- ✱ Brush the mix on tree trunks an hour before dusk.

Check every 30 minutes to see what's coming to the bait.



Fruit Baits

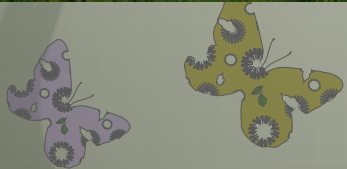
- ✿ When provided with fermented sugar and fruit, they will fly right to it.
- ✿ **Fruit Baits** (banana, guava, pineapple. Chikoo, oranges with a dash or beer)
- ✿ **Brush the mix on tree trunks** an hour before dusk.
- ✿ **Check every 30 minutes** to see what's coming to the bait.



Good time to watch moths



- ✿ Ideal time is during or just after monsoon.
- ✿ In hilly regions, March to June too is a good period.
- ✿ New moon nights are the best nights
- ✿ During monsoon most nights are cloudy and hence a good time, except during heavy downpour.
- ✿ After sunset and before sunrise



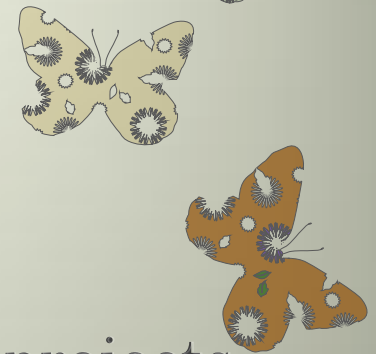
Who comes first/last?

Moths begin to appear after sunset and their numbers swell within 2-3 hours, and the number falls after 2.00 a.m. and some could still come before dawn. Thus, many species have specific “flight windows” like



- Dusk (Sphingids),
- Early night (Crambids),
- Midnight (Erebids, Noctuids),
- Pre-dawn (Saturnids).

Data Collection



- Photograph the moths you see.
- Submit moth photos to the citizen science projects.
- Minimum duration is one season, max. is 3 years

NATIONAL
**MOTH
WEEK**
GLOBAL CITIZEN
SCIENCE



July 21-29

2018



Moths of India

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WELCOME TO THE MOTHS OF INDIA WEBSITE!



Welcome to Moths of India, an internet-based and peer-reviewed resource devoted to Indian moths. It is a sister of the Butterflies of India, Cicadas of India, Odonata of India, Reptiles of India, Amphibians of India and Birds of India websites. Like those websites, it is designed to disseminate comprehensive information on various aspects of the natural history and biology of Indian moths, encourage their observation to study their natural history and ecology, gather population and distributional data in a centralized database, and spread awareness about their conservation.

This website includes photographic records, distributional data, and natural history information under various tabs of the species pages. It encourages "citizen science", where ordinary citizens participate in gathering scientific data and building this free resource on Indian moths. So get involved! You can contribute moth pictures or spot records, write species pages, contribute other articles, or just spread the word.


If you spot any errors or face issues with the website user interface, please contact the [site editors](#).


Cite this website along with its URL as:


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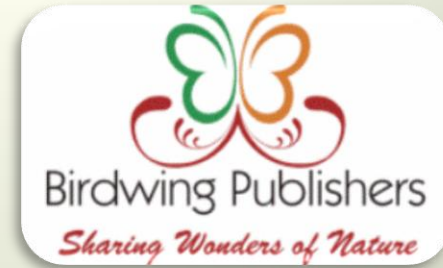
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MOI by the numbers:

No. of species pages: 871
No. of lifecycle pages: 43
No. of images: 3,115
No. of website visits: 14,217
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