Watch Butterflies and Get Soothing Feelings and Smile on Your Face by Annphilip

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Do you know on which continent we can't find any butterflies? It's none other than the ice covered Antarctica. Whenever we watch butterflies there will be a smile on our face and we feel like a child who goes behind it to catch it and play with it. Even in our dreams we will see different varieties and colors of butterflies flying in the sky. The butterfly got its name after butter colored fly named Yellow Brimstone butterfly commonly seen across Europe later shortened to 'butterfly'.

People have identified nearly 28,000 varieties of butterflies throughout the world. Among the different variety of butterflies, the blue pygmy commonly seen in the southern California is considered as the smallest butterfly. Meanwhile, The New Guinea's Queen Alexandra's Birdwing, which measures up to twelve inches in breadth is the largest butterfly ever found on the earth. Butterfly belonging to the order Leptidoptera are territorial and they won't allow anyone to enter into their territory. Just like their transparent wings, they also have the ability to see the ultraviolet rays. This guides them to nectar tubes of those flowers that are invisible to human eyes. Some butterflies even have ultraviolet markings on their wings, and this helps other butterflies to identify them.

Certain butterflies have got few interesting mechanisms to protect themselves from predators. One such method is called cryptic coloration or disguising method, where the butterfly will look like a leaf or took the color of a tree bark and hide themselves from predators. In another method called chemical defense, they produce toxic chemicals in their body. The predators come to know about this by seeing the butterflies' bright colors and the bad taste related to that. Butterflies are considered as cold blooded creatures. So we can see these insects in places where there is not too hot and too cold. In order to avoid adverse conditions they migrate from one place to another place but relative to a short distance. Some species like monarchs has the ability to migrate to places that are thousands of miles away. However, due to their cold blooded nature they cannot fly if their body temperature is below 86 degrees.

Whenever story writers and poets narrate something that has got short life period, the comparison will be with a butterfly. Because the average life span of a butterfly has been just about 20 to 40 days. There are some species that live only for 2-3 days and up to 6 months. In the life cycle of a butterfly, in order to attain its adult stage the insect passes through four different stages namely egg, larva, pupa and adult. Typically butterflies lay their eggs in late spring. The female butterfly attaches the eggs to leaves or stems of trees and it will take 3 to 6 days to hatch it. The young one that comes out of the egg are called larva or caterpillar. The larva will have a voracious appetite and it will eat anything that comes in its way. By undergoing a process called molting for three to four times there come a new and larger exoskeleton for the larva. It takes 3 to 4 weeks for a caterpillar to pupate. In the pupal stage it will take rest for the whole period. The pupa will remain in this stage for 9 to 14 days till it become a fully grown adult. It's really interesting to watch programs related to insects like butterflies in our home television powered with Verizon FiOS TV.

Due to the shrinkage of its natural habitat, butterflies are facing threats like extinctions. Though climatic changes can be considered as one reason, the main cause for this began when man started building residential and commercial flats and villas and industries. If you want to bring butterflies to your garden, then try to plant nectar plants that attract butterflies and make your garden colorful.

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Ann writes about butterflies and its natural habit after collecting information from programs and documentaries aired in channels powered by a Verizon FiOS TV.

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