

BUTTERFLY AND PLANT PARTNERS OF THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN (K-6)

Acmon Blue (*Icaricia acmon*)

Non-migratory: Adults seen spring through fall

Larval Diet: Buckwheat, lupine, clover and many kinds of legumes.

Size: 3/4" - 1"

Description: Bluish-purple in color; orange edge at the base of hind wing; large orange spots under the hind wing. Adults seen in many communities.

Did You Know? Eggs are laid on the host plant from January onward, and the butterflies pupate in leaf litter beneath the plants.

California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)

Origin: Native

Plant Size: 1' - 2' tall shrub with long stalks

Leaf Description: Small course leaves attached to long branching stems. The underside of the leaves are covered in a soft, white fuzz.

Flower Description: Large compound head with white flowers. Blooms from March to October.

Did you know? Buckwheat is one of the few acceptable food plants for the acmon blue butterfly.

Echo Blue (*Celastrina ladon echo*)

Non-migratory: However, its range extends from Alaska to Central America

Larval Diet: Many different plants, including **wild lilac/ceanothus**, buckeye, chamise, lotus and huckleberry. Caterpillars eat buds, flowers, leaves and young fruit.

Size: 7/8" - 1 1/4"

Description: Light purple; front wing tips bordered in black; hind wings bordered in white. Can live in all local communities

Did You Know? Larvae are often cared for by ants.

Ceanothus or Wild Lilac (*Ceanothus spp.*)

Origin: Native

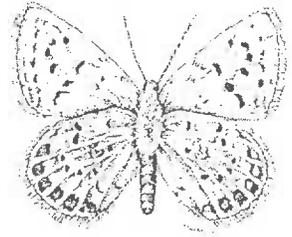
Plant Size: Chaparral shrub can be 6' tall or more.

Leaf Description: Small tough evergreen leaves on very stiff branches; brilliant glossy green above, dull below.

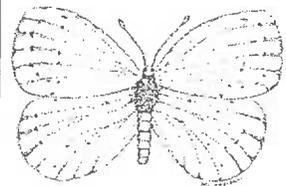
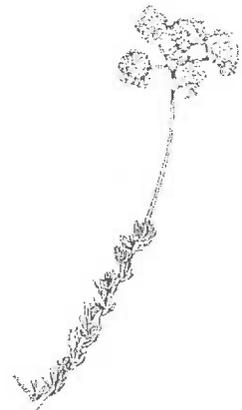
Flower Description: Masses of blue or white flowers appear in early spring.

Seeds: Found inside tiny black berries

Did You Know? This is the food source for the larvae of the echo blue butterfly.

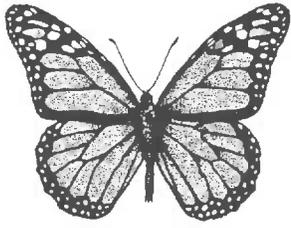


larval stage feeds on:



larval stage feeds on:





Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*)

Migratory: Flies to areas in South America and Mexico in the fall and returns north in the spring.

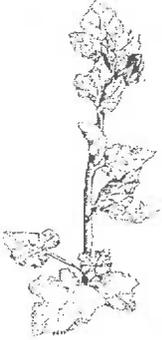
Larval Diet: Milkweed

Size: 4 1/8" - 4 5/8" in length

Description: Large orange wings with black borders. Included in the borders of the upper wings are small white circular markings. Wings are attached to its solid black body.

Did You Know? The larvae of this species are poisonous to birds. They advertise their presence with yellow, black, and white vertical bands along their bodies in order to remind predators that the last time they ate a monarch larvae, they vomited.

larval stage feeds on:



Narrow-leaf Milkweed (*Asclepius fascicularis*)

Origin: Native

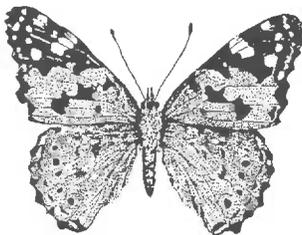
Plant Size: Up to 3' tall

Leaf Description: Bunches of long narrow leaves crowded along the stems.

Flower Description: Flower clusters at the tips of the stems are greenish-white to purplish-white

Seeds: Tiny seeds in a cottony mass that blow away when the seed pod opens.

Did You Know: This is the favorite larval food of the monarch butterfly. Small orange aphids may also be observed along its stems and leaves.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

Migratory in some years: When populations build up rapidly, adults undergo extensive northerly migrations, from which they do not return.

Larval Diet: Common yarrow, California aster, mallow, and many other native plants.

Size: 2" - 2 3/4"

Description: Orange; front wings are tipped with black and spotted with white; four black spots across hind wing. Lives and travels in many different communities.

Did You Know? This species has been introduced to many different areas and is now established worldwide, except for Australia and New Zealand.

larval stage feeds on:



Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Origin: World wide distribution. Believed to be native of Eurasia and Africa

Plant Size: May be 6" tall or more; plant stays fairly low to the ground, expanding outward more than upward.

Leaf Description: Soft, feathery, fern-like leaves.

Flower Description: Flat-topped flower clusters are white to pink on a narrow stalk.

Did You Know? Yarrow is an important larval food source for the painted lady butterfly.

West Coast Lady (*Vanessa annabella*)

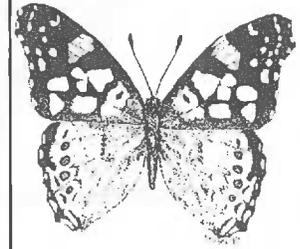
Non-migratory: Adults abundant all year

Larval Diet: Mallow, nettle

Size: 1 ½ - 2"

Description: Orange; front wings mottled with black; white spots apparent on the front wing tips; four blue spots on each hind wing. Lives and travels in many different communities.

Did You Know? Single eggs are laid on the leaves of plants; larvae live in a nest made of a rolled leaf.



larval stage feeds on:

Mallow (*Assurgentiflora arborea*)

Origin: Native

Plant Size: Shrubby, becoming 3'-5' tall

Leaf Description: Shaped like a maple leaf; leaves and stems are covered with a soft fuzz, giving the plant a pale green or whitish appearance.

Flower Description: Many flowers clustered at the end of stems. Flowers are pale purple-red with darker veins at the base.

Did You Know? This plant is an important larval food source for the West Coast Lady. Its soft leaves were once used as toilet paper.



Western Pygmy Blue Butterfly (*Brephidium exilis*)

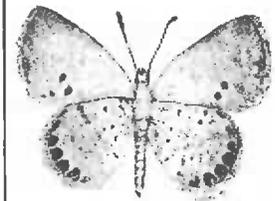
Non-migratory: may winter as a pupa

Larval Diet: Saltbush, fat hen and pickleweed; eats all parts of plant

Size: 0.2 - 0.3"

Description: Brown wings with a white fringe and blue near its body.

Did You Know? The western pygmy blue is the smallest butterfly in North America! It produces many generations each year up to December.



larval stage feeds on:

Quail Bush or Big Saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*)

Origin: Native

Plant Size: Widely-spreading shrub, up to 7' tall

Leaf Description: Pale green, leathery leaves with an arrowhead shape.

Flower Description: Yellow-green flower clusters; flower parts are thick and round, roughly resembling lentils.

Seeds: Very small brown seed

Did You Know? This plant is an important food source for the western pygmy blue butterfly.

