

# BUTTERFLY

Butterflies are known scientifically as Lepidoptera because their wings are covered with thousands of tiny overlapping scales. These scales are often quite brilliantly coloured and account for the distinctive patterns that can be found on butterflies.

There are approximately 170,000 known species of Lepidoptera: about one tenth of these are butterflies, and the rest are moths. Butterflies are amazing in their variety of size, shape, and colour. Their immense diversity, and ability to adapt to virtually any climate, has made them some of the most successful creatures on earth, with habitats ranging from arctic tundra to alpine mountain summits, as well as the warmer tropical rainforests and coastal mangrove swamps.

