

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Admiral Butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*)

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Nymphalidae

Genus: *Vanessa*

Species: Admiral Butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*)



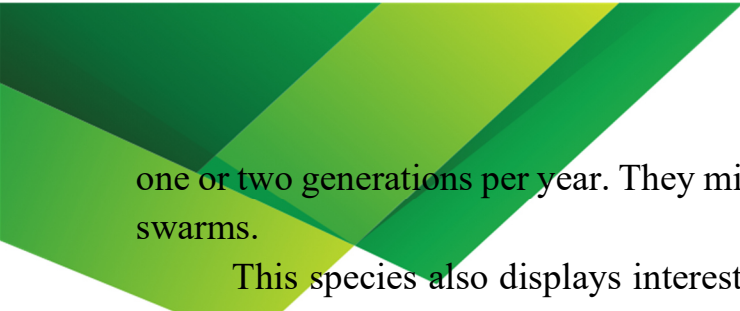
The admiral butterfly is a species distinguished by the harmony of its colors and its magnificent appearance. Its dark black or brown wings are decorated with bright red bands and white spots. The edges of the hindwings are also bordered with red, giving it an appearance that resembles a military uniform.

The admiral butterfly is a well-known migratory species. Every year, they travel thousands of kilometers from the south to the north. In spring, butterflies arriving from the south lay eggs, and the new generation that emerges in summer migrates southward again in autumn. They possess very strong and fast flying abilities.

The caterpillars of the admiral butterfly are dark-colored, with spiny projections and yellowish spots on their bodies. They mainly feed on nettle leaves and roll the leaves to create small “homes” for themselves. These shelters protect them from predators as well as unfavorable weather conditions.

The admiral butterfly feeds not only on flower nectar, but also on tree sap and ripe fruits. They can often be seen on fallen and fermented pears or grapes during autumn. This butterfly is widespread in forests, city parks, and gardens.

The underside of its wings has a complex camouflage pattern, making the butterfly resemble bark or a dry leaf when resting. The admiral butterfly produces



one or two generations per year. They migrate individually rather than forming large swarms.

This species also displays interesting territorial behavior; males defend their territories against rivals. In many cultures, the admiral butterfly is considered a symbol of travel and endurance. These butterflies are accustomed to human presence and sometimes land on people's hands or clothing. The lifespan of this butterfly during its active period is several months. Preserving nettle patches is important for the conservation of the admiral butterfly.

