

**Book Review: A Field guide on Butterflies - R. Bhanumathi**  
(Tamil: *Vannathuppoochigal : arimugak kaiyedu*)  
Published by Cre-A, Chennai, pp. 263.  
Reviewed by B.A. Daniel

This book is the first of its kind in Tamil about butterflies. A very useful and handy book for the butterfly lovers. Books in vernacular language are need of the hour and this book has come out at the right time and also set a model for the need for similar books on other insect groups. The author has given brief introduction to butterflies, body parts, life history, life span, migration, seasonal variations, identification and its status. It has information for 90 butterfly species found in Tamil Nadu state, with 230 photos mostly taken by the author and also from eleven other contributors. Recent scientific names for all butterfly families have been used and in addition, author has coined Tamil names for the butterflies, equivalent to the common names of the species included. The common names in Tamil are very appropriate and much care has been taken to give the right vernacular name considering the characteristic features of the species. To give an example, 17 species are listed under Lycaenidae. It is rightly named as *Neelan* in Tamil as they are called Blues. I am sure this will create interest among amateur butterfly lovers.

Species information has the common names in Tamil and English, scientific name, characteristic features of the species and its identification key points. The author has put enormous effort to list out the host plants of all species listed. Bilingual listing of host plants has been followed throughout the book and this will be very useful for the readers for proper understanding of the association of the species with their host plants. Other species specific information like its feeding behaviour, preferred habitat, seasonality, flight behaviour etc., will help the users to understand the species better. The author Dr. Bhanumathi has shared her many years of research experience and this book is the outcome of it. Popularising the Tamil common name and coining Tamil common names for the rest of the extent species in Tamil Nadu is very much needed. This is a good resource book that should be kept for reference in all schools and colleges.

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