

# **A Checklist of Butterflies (Order: Lepidoptera) in South Western Sarawak.**

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## **Abstract**

A total of 46 species belonging to 27 genera of butterflies in three families, namely Papilionidae, Pieridae and Nymphalidae were recorded during the study. Butterfly species were collected from eight villagers at Lundu and Sematan. The sampling method by using aerial net was used to collect the butterfly species in the residential areas. Nymphalidae with 23 species (50%) under 16 genera represented the most diverse butterfly family from the survey area. The present study was undertaken to create a baseline database of butterfly species in South Western Sarawak. Hence, these butterflies were identified and documented as a first guide for future management and conservation of Insecta in this region.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, butterfly, diversity, Sebako, Sematan

## **Introduction**

Butterflies are classified in the order Lepidoptera and divided into five families, namely Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae, Lycaenidae and Hesperidae (Corbet and Pendlebury, 1992). Studies by Eliot and Kirton (2000) showed that 1,038 species of butterflies were recorded in Peninsular Malaysia. To date there are 944 species of butterflies collected in Borneo Otsuka (2001).