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# Butterfly Biology

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## **Butterfly Biology**

**By Joshua Feingold**

Butterflies are iconic images of delicate beauty. They are models of change, having metamorphosed from grub-like caterpillars to winged, fairy-like creatures. During their life-history, host plants are consumed by the larvae (caterpillars), and are often then pollinated by the adults (butterflies) in a co-evolved relationship that ensures the survival of both plant and butterfly. Their seemingly quiescent pupal phase houses this profound physiological and morphological transition. The following images provide the stark, visual juxtapositions among these stages. All images were obtained in Davie, Florida.

Atala (*Eumaeus atala*)

In NSU's Mesozoic Garden



Figure 1a: Eggs and newly hatched caterpillars on cycad (*Zamia*)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 1b: Caterpillars on cycad (*Zamia*)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 1c: Caterpillar on horsetail (*Equisetum*)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 1d: Pupae on cycad (*Zamia*)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 1e: Adult on fern  
Photo: Feingold personal collection

Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)

On citrus tree



Figure 2a: Caterpillar  
Photo: Feingold personal collection





Figure 2b: Pupa  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 2c: Adult (side view)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 2d: Adult (front view)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection

Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*)



Figure 3a: Caterpillar  
Photo: Feingold personal collection

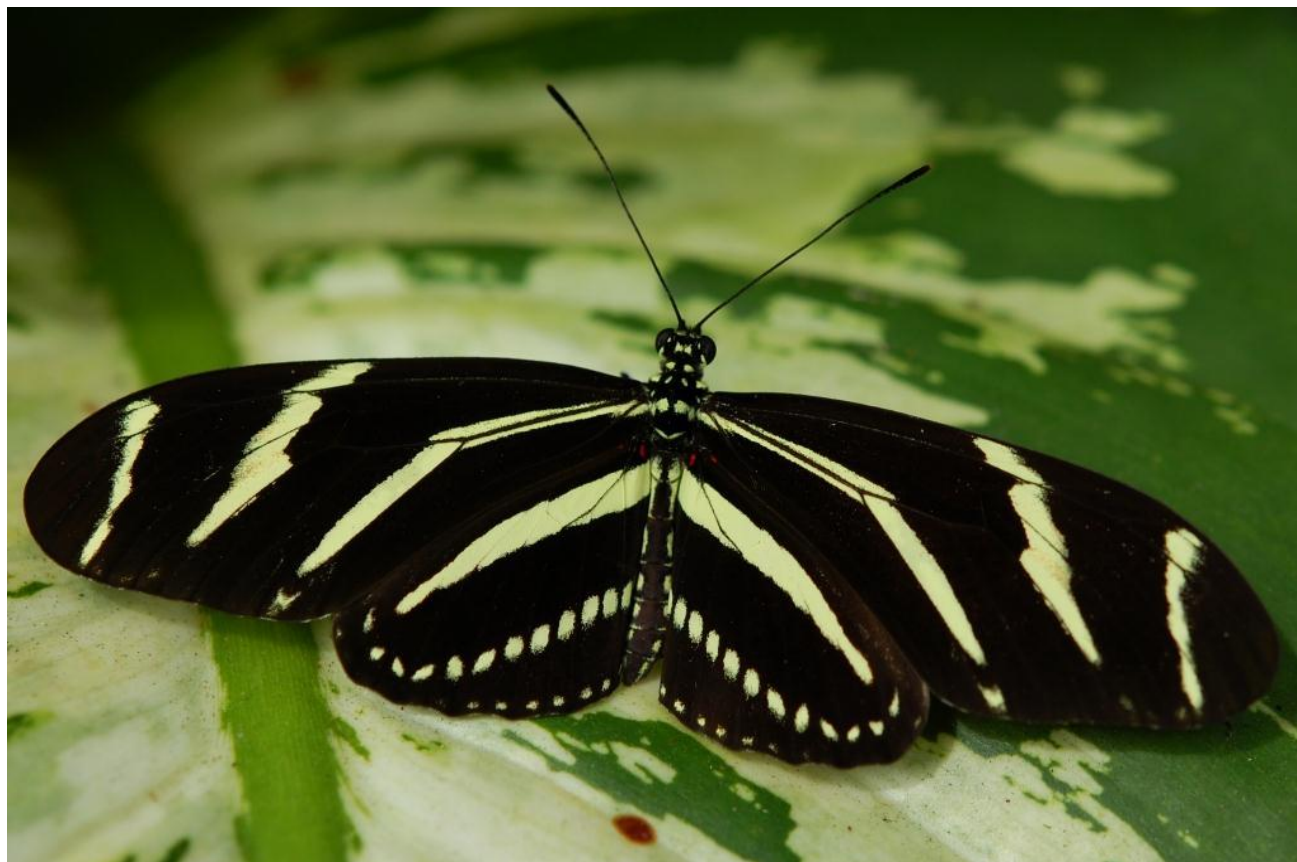


Figure 3b: Adult  
Photo: Feingold personal collection

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)



Figure 4a: Caterpillar on passion flower (*Passiflora*)  
Photo: Feingold personal collection



Figure 4b: Adult on manure  
Photo: Feingold personal collection

Io Moth (*Automeris io*)

On oak



Figure 5: Caterpillar  
Photo: Feingold personal collection