

GREAT EGGFLY BUTTERFLIES *HYPOLIMNAS BOLINA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FEEDING ON PUMPKIN FRUIT IN NEPAL

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While most larvae of Lepidoptera feed on leaves of their hostplants, feeding habits of adults vary. The Micropterygidae have chewing mouth parts; many Bombycoidea lack functional mouth parts and some moths bear specialized mouth parts to pollinate specific flowers. All butterflies have probocides and are capable of imbibing liquid food, especially sugary fluids. There are two major sources of sugary fluids: flower nectar and a second group comprising fruit juice, alcohol, tree sap, etc.

Butterflies that are known to visit flowers usually do not visit over ripe fruit, tree sap etc. and *vice versa*. Nymphalinae includes several genera and species that exclusively visit flowers such as *Melitaea* Fabricius, 1807; *Aglais* Dalman, 1816 as well as genera that feed on both flower nectar and other sugar sources such as *Symbrenthia* Huebner, 1819; *Nymphalis* Kluk, 1780; *Vanessa* Fabricius, 1807; *Junonia* Huebner, [1819] and *Doleschallia* C. & R. Felder, 1860 and thirdly those that never visit flowers such as *Kallima* Doubleday, [1849] and *Rhinopalpa* C. & R. Felder, 1860.

Adults of the genus *Hypolimnas* Huebner, [1819] were believed to obtain sugars exclusively from flowers (Wynter-Blyth, 1957; Bhakare & Ogale, 2018) but three females and a male individual of *H. bolina* were recorded feeding on rotten pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*) in a backyard compost heap near Bhairahawa (Omsatiya Rural Municipality-1, Nepal) on October 22, 2019. They were observed feeding on the pumpkin for 10 minutes. During this period, they were photographed (Figure 1).

Bhuyan *et al.* (2014) and Bhuyan *et al.* (2020) reported 9 species of typically sap and fruit feeding nymphalid butterflies shifting to flower nectar. In the present case, we report a typically flower nectar feeding butterfly shifting to over ripe fruit.

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Figure 1: *H. bolina* on pumpkin



Figure 2: *H. bolina* on pumpkin