

# Butterflies

*Stephenson Natural History Museum, Department of Zoology*



Butterflies are one of the most beautiful insects in the world having more than 20,000 known species. Stephenson Natural History Museum has about 200 preserved specimen of butterflies.

## Distribution

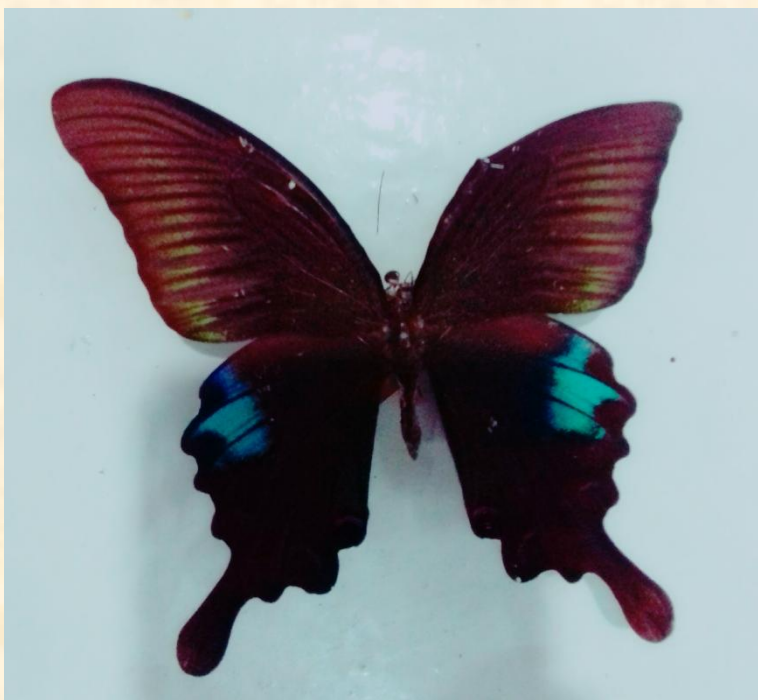
These are found in all the continents, anywhere where there are flowers, except Antarctica

## Size

They range in size from half an inch to as long as 12 inch

## What do they eat?

Butterflies have specially modified mouth part called 'proboscis' which is used to suck nectar from flowers



## Fun Facts about butterflies

- Group of butterflies is referred as 'flutter'
- They have compound eyes comprising as many as 6,000 lenses
- Despite popular belief butterfly wings are colorless. The color is imparted by scales that cover their wings
- Caterpillars are one of the hungriest creatures of the nature. A caterpillar can eat equal to its body weight in a day (imagine a 70 kg man eating 70 kg of food daily)
- Metamorphosis (the process through which pupae change into adult) is no less than a miracle of nature. The larvae inside the cocoon literally melts to liquid and reshapes to form adult

