

# ABC of Indian Butterflies

*A Colouring Book \**



\*For kids, kids, ladies and also for adults

*B.A. Daniel*

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**Zoo Outreach Organisation, India**

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### About this Book ...

Butterflies are insects and "insects" are one of many, many animal groups called invertebrates--animals without backbones. Animals with backbones are vertebrates - people, bears, tigers, birds, snakes, frogs, fish, etc.

Butterflies are different from many other insects because they are never considered as pests, like mosquitoes, flies, fleas, etc. Butterflies do good things for man. They spread pollen which gives birth to plants. They add beauty to our lives during a walk in the forest. They provide a charming surprise when we find them quietly fluttering among flowers and plants in our own gardens.

Artists and photographers find butterflies a favourite subject. Even manufacturers of cloth and crockery and other products frequently use butterflies for decoration because of their beauty. Some butterflies are very small and drab while others are large and brightly coloured.

So butterflies make Man's life better in many ways. What has man done for the butterfly however? Nothing good! Man has changed his surroundings which has resulted in destruction of habitat of butterflies. This has caused the decline and even disappearance of many wild creatures including butterflies.

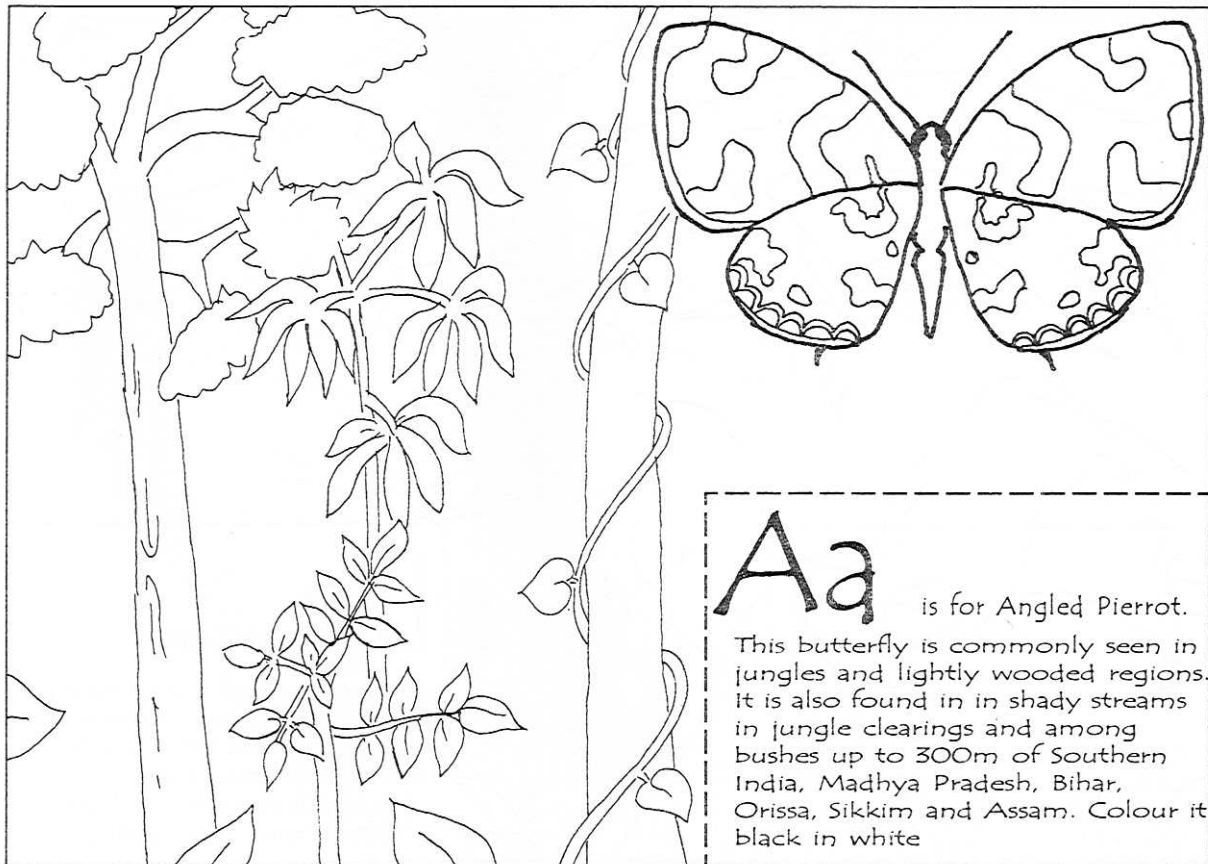
Some men make their living catching butterflies and selling them for use in decorative items or

for collectors in other countries. Even catching butterflies for fun and hobby collections can be very harmful, particularly to rarer species.

More than 1,500 different kinds of butterflies are reported from India and its neighbouring countries. Most of them found in the Western Ghats and in North East India. It is not known precisely how many butterflies are now threatened with extinction but it is estimated to be great many. Now, man has to do something positive for butterflies so that they don't disappear forever.

One of the best ways to achieve this is to educate the public, of which children are an important target group. Children are naturally curious and bright, and will carry lessons of their childhood right into their adult life, where they will be responsible or irresponsible consumers. A colouring book on Indian butterflies is one way to teach about the biology, ecology and its importance in the ecosystem.

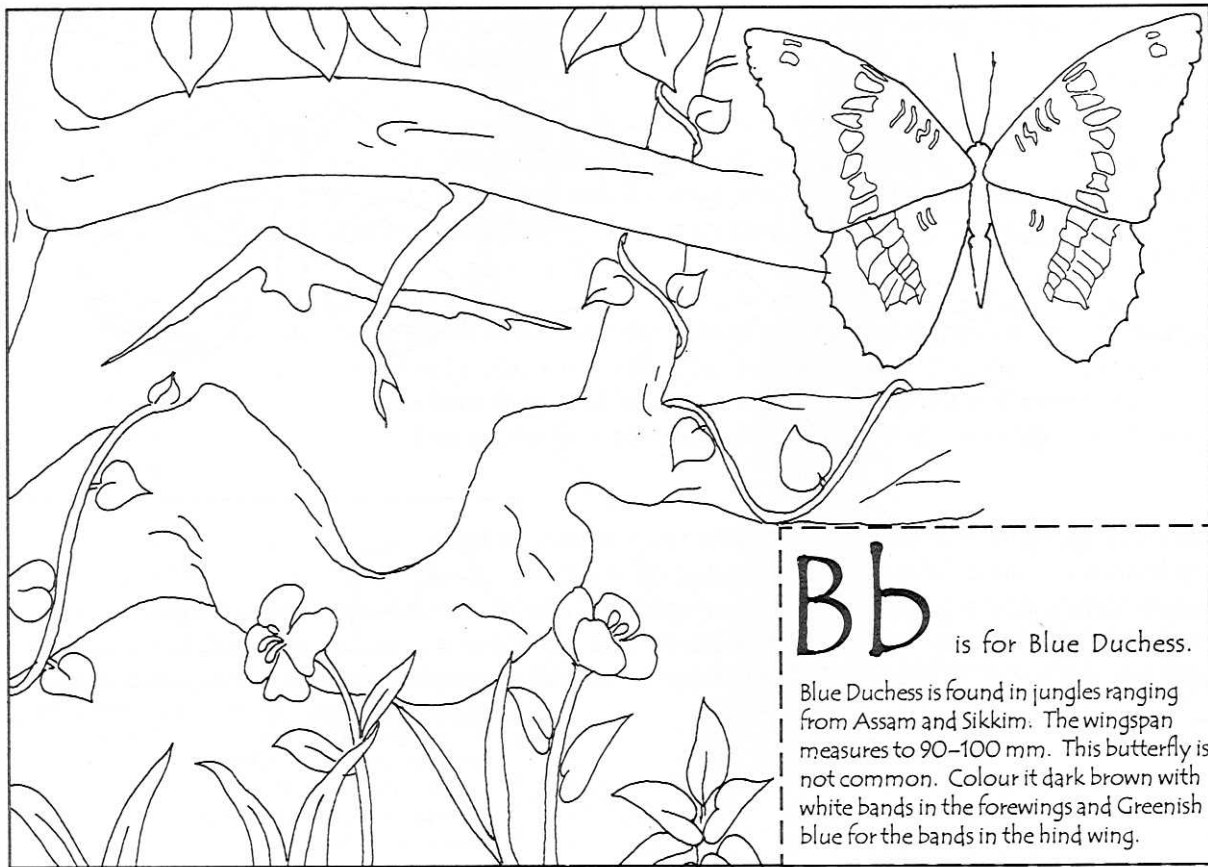
This colouring book has been designed so that its most effective application is when an adult or older child helps a small child to use it. There are 26 butterflies in this ABC book. It is hard to speak of so many butterflies in a small child's language so we have aimed the information at an older group - children and if adults - brothers and sisters, parents, grand parents, etc. It is our hope that these people might also become fascinated with the great variety of butterflies and the habitats they occupy by teaching children.



Aa

is for Angled Pierrot.

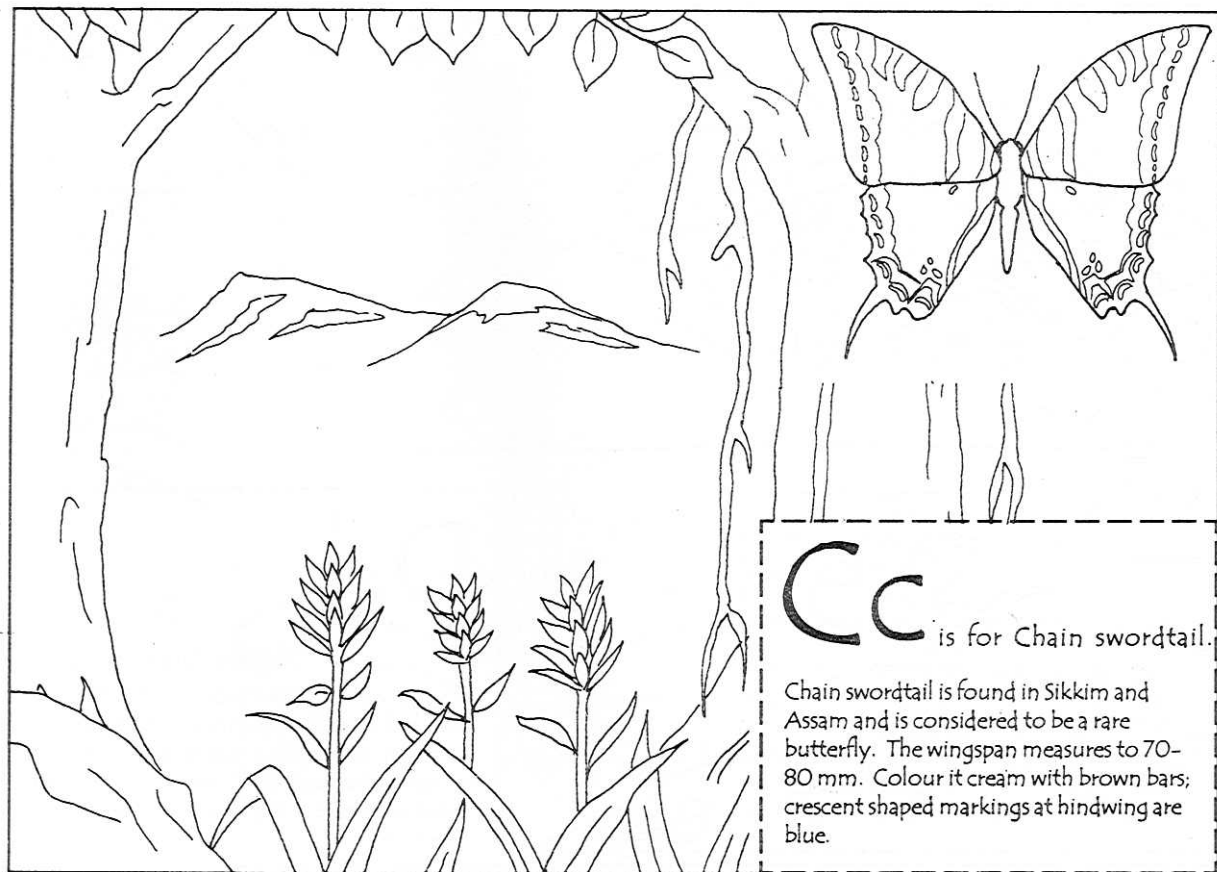
This butterfly is commonly seen in jungles and lightly wooded regions. It is also found in in shady streams in jungle clearings and among bushes up to 300m of Southern India, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Sikkim and Assam. Colour it black in white



**Bb**

is for Blue Duchess.

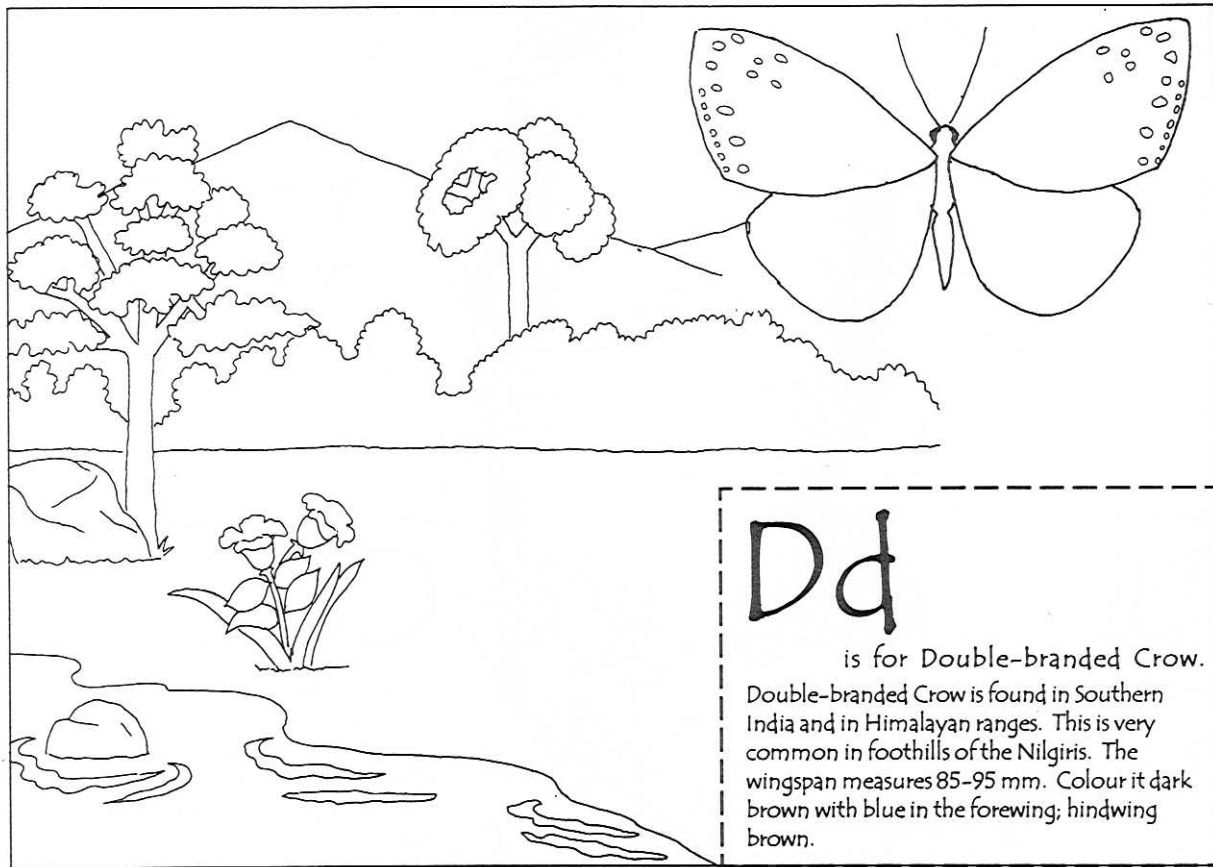
Blue Duchess is found in jungles ranging from Assam and Sikkim. The wingspan measures to 90–100 mm. This butterfly is not common. Colour it dark brown with white bands in the forewings and Greenish blue for the bands in the hind wing.



**Cc** is for Chain swordtail.

Chain swordtail is found in Sikkim and Assam and is considered to be a rare butterfly. The wingspan measures to 70-80 mm. Colour it cream with brown bars; crescent shaped markings at hindwing are blue.

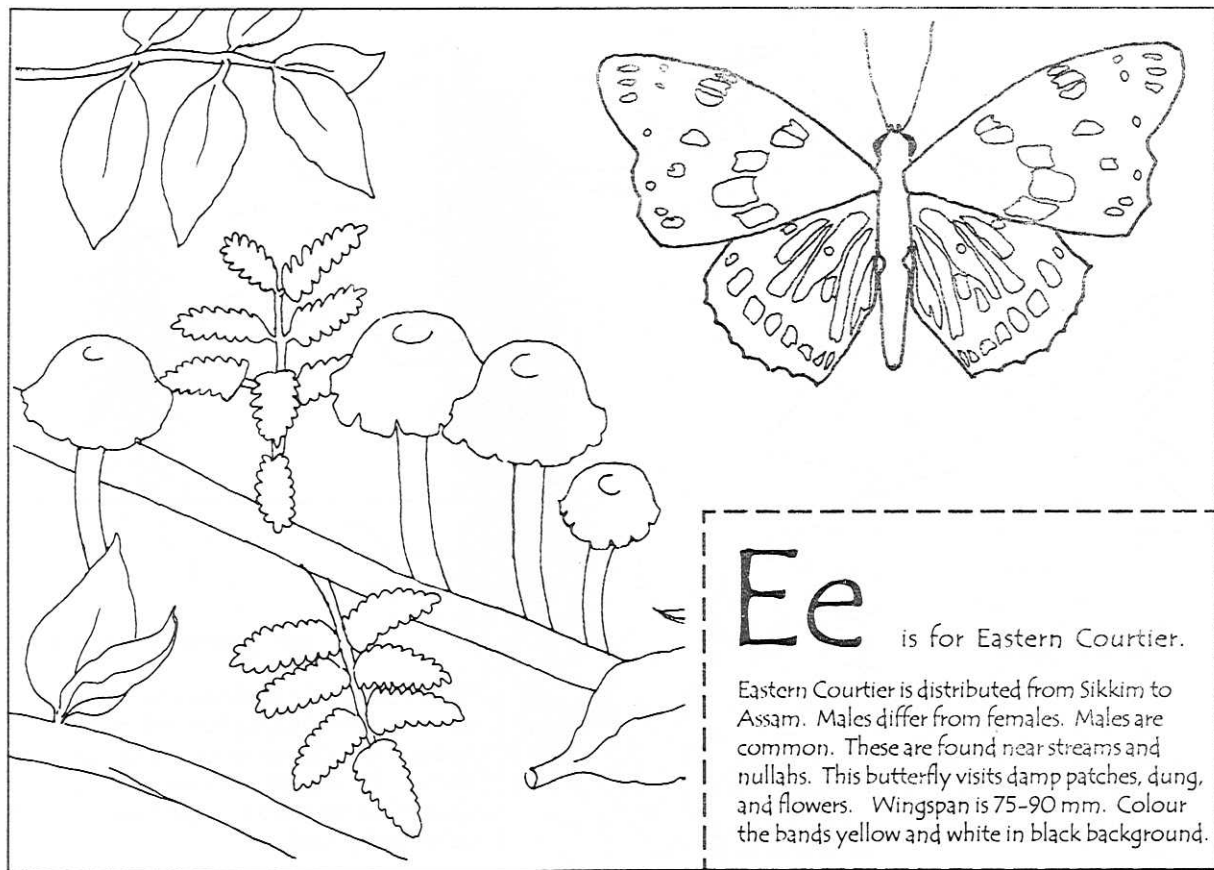




Dd

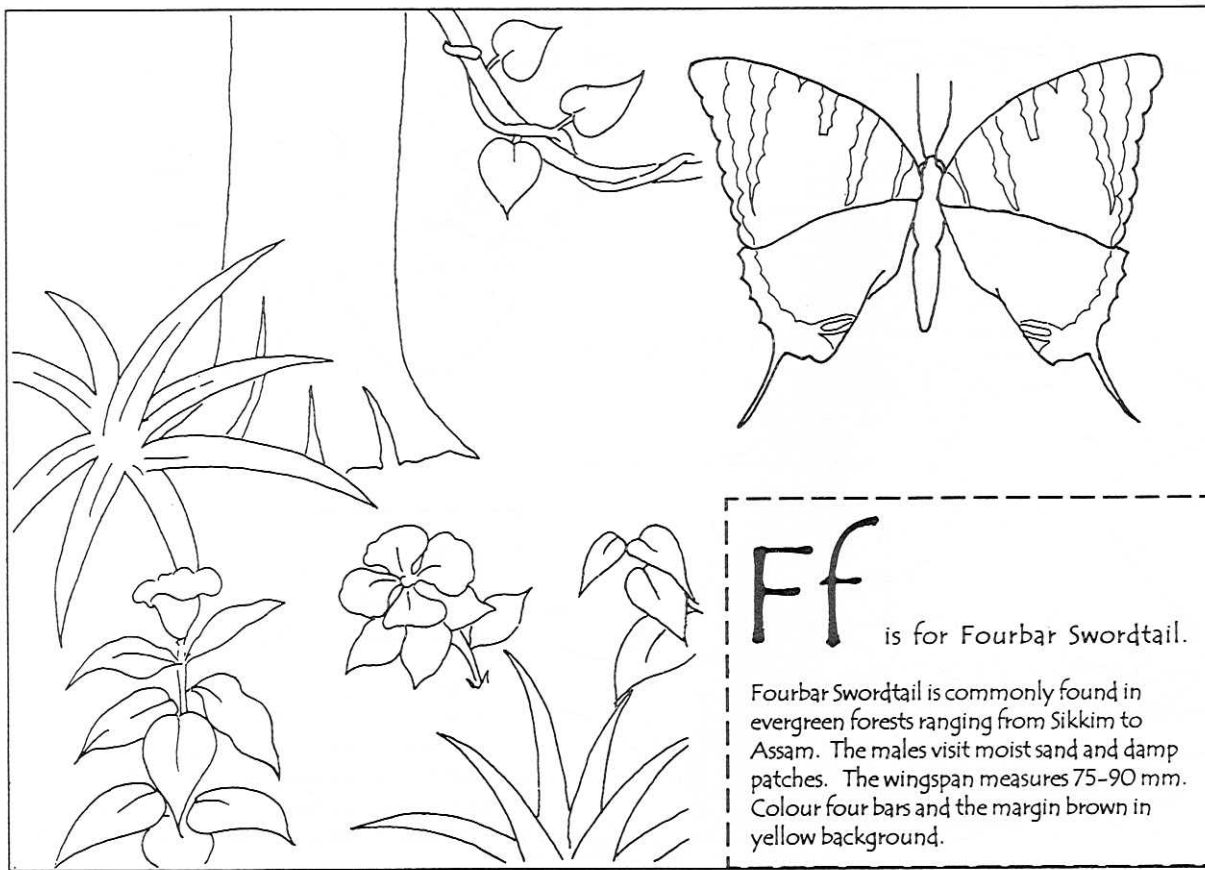
is for Double-branded Crow.

Double-branded Crow is found in Southern India and in Himalayan ranges. This is very common in foothills of the Nilgiris. The wingspan measures 85-95 mm. Colour it dark brown with blue in the forewing; hindwing brown.



**Ee** is for Eastern Courtier.

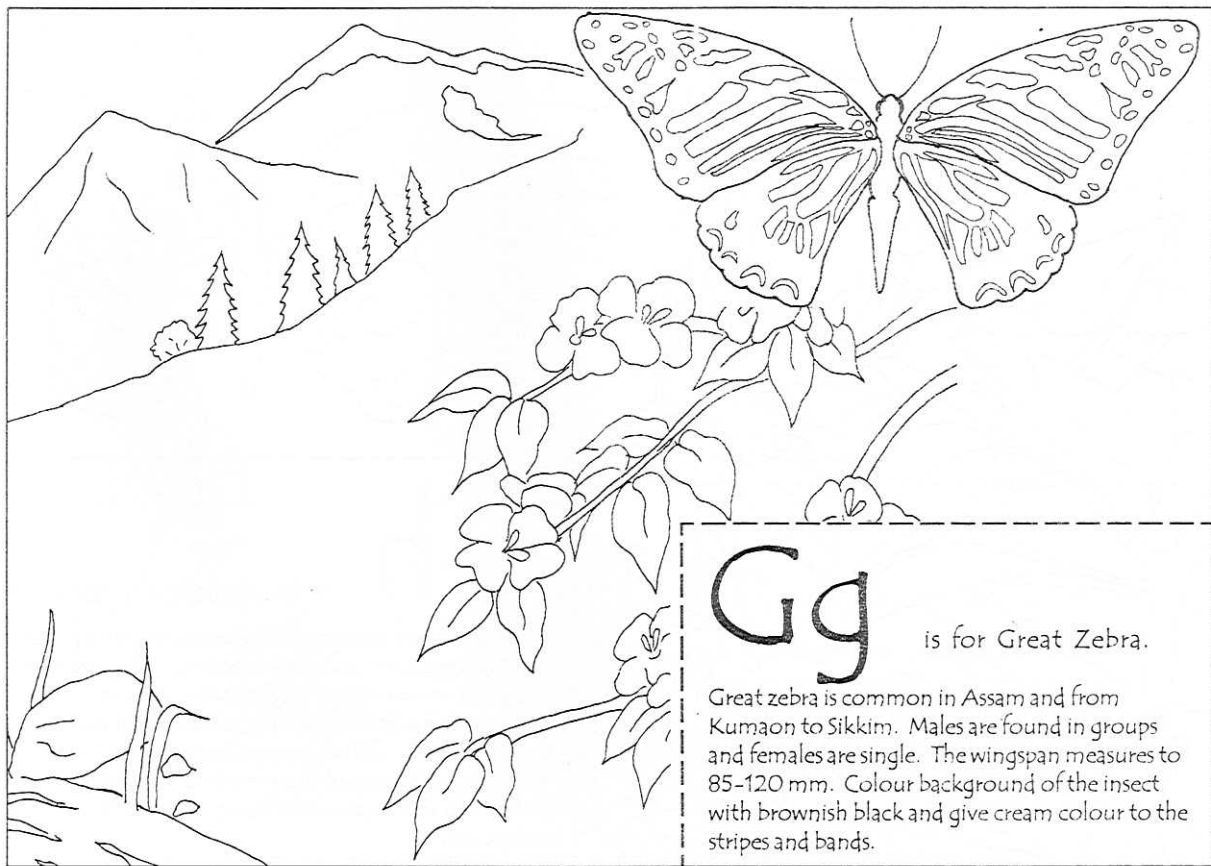
Eastern Courtier is distributed from Sikkim to Assam. Males differ from females. Males are common. These are found near streams and nullahs. This butterfly visits damp patches, dung, and flowers. Wingspan is 75-90 mm. Colour the bands yellow and white in black background.



**Ff**

is for Fourbar Swordtail.

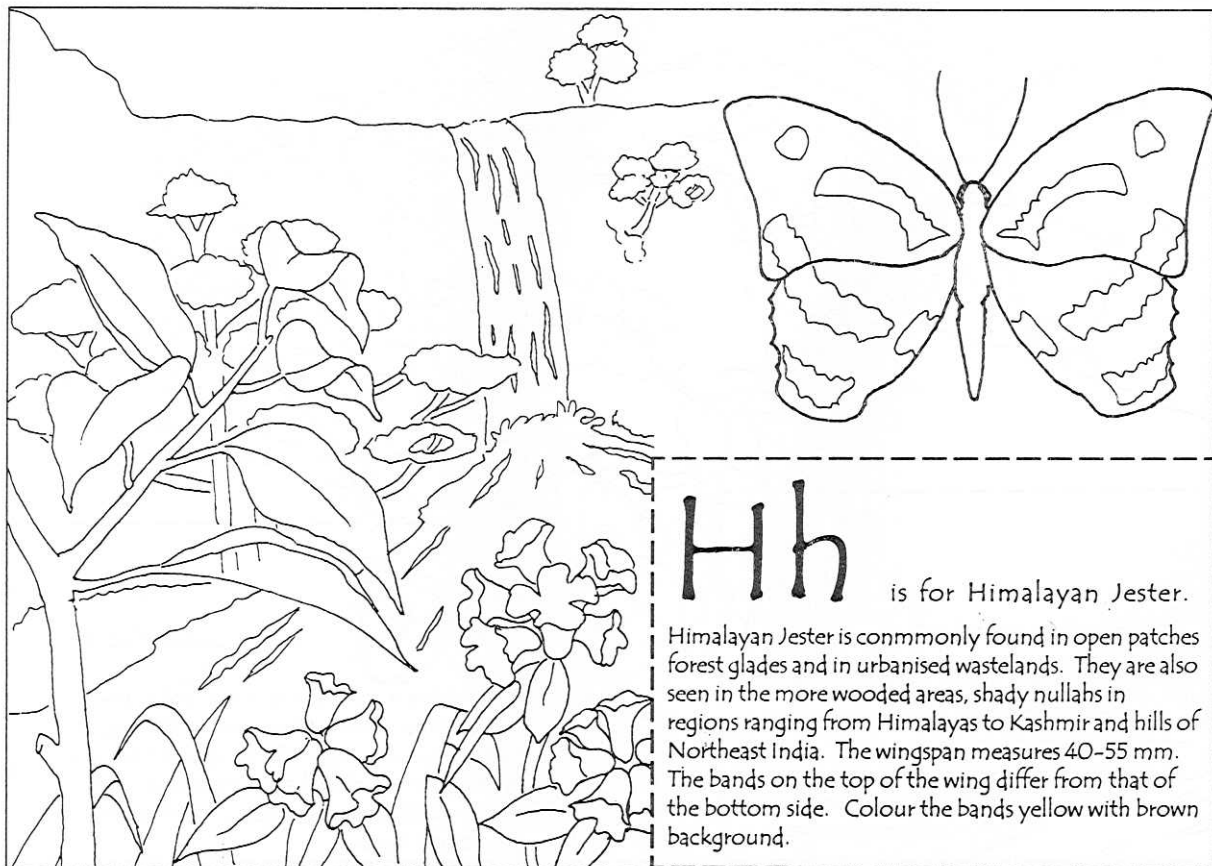
Fourbar Swordtail is commonly found in evergreen forests ranging from Sikkim to Assam. The males visit moist sand and damp patches. The wingspan measures 75-90 mm. Colour four bars and the margin brown in yellow background.



Gg

is for Great Zebra.

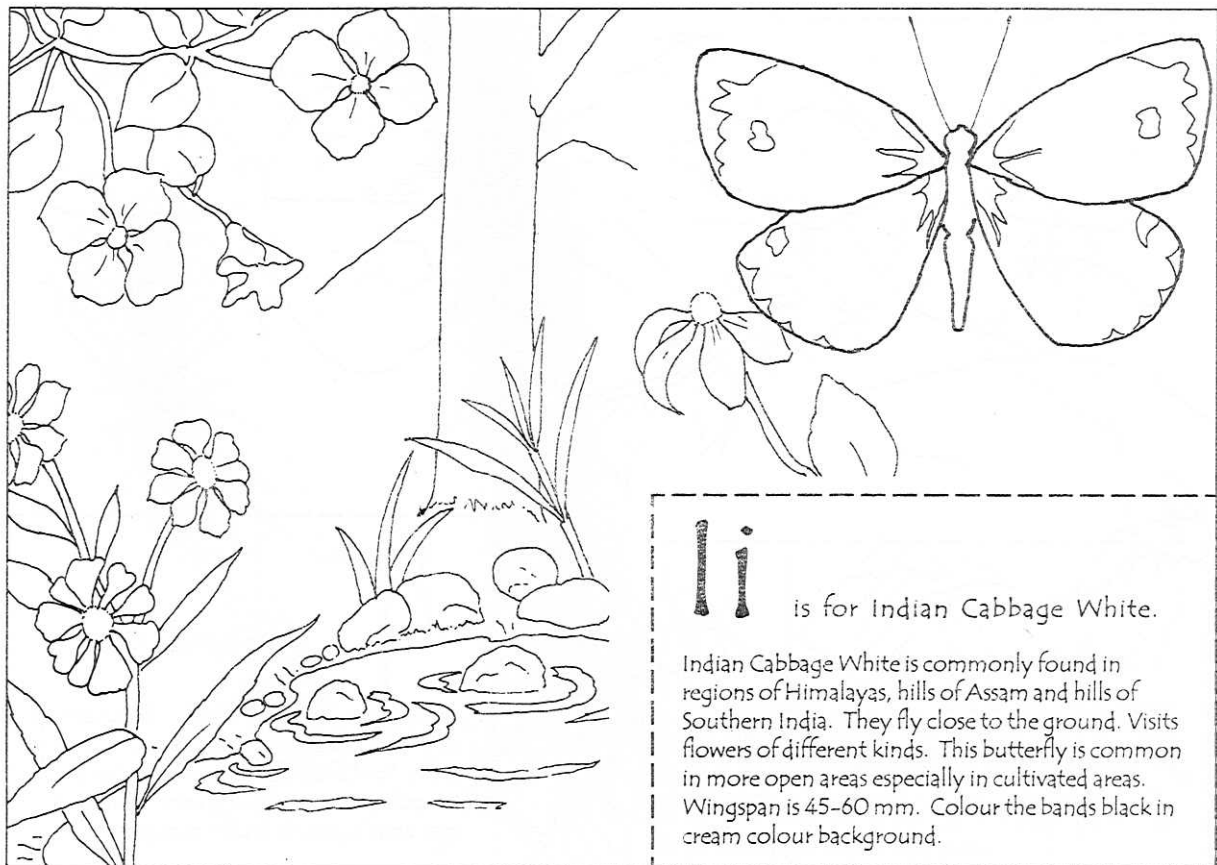
Great zebra is common in Assam and from Kumaon to Sikkim. Males are found in groups and females are single. The wingspan measures to 85-120 mm. Colour background of the insect with brownish black and give cream colour to the stripes and bands.



Hh

is for Himalayan Jester.

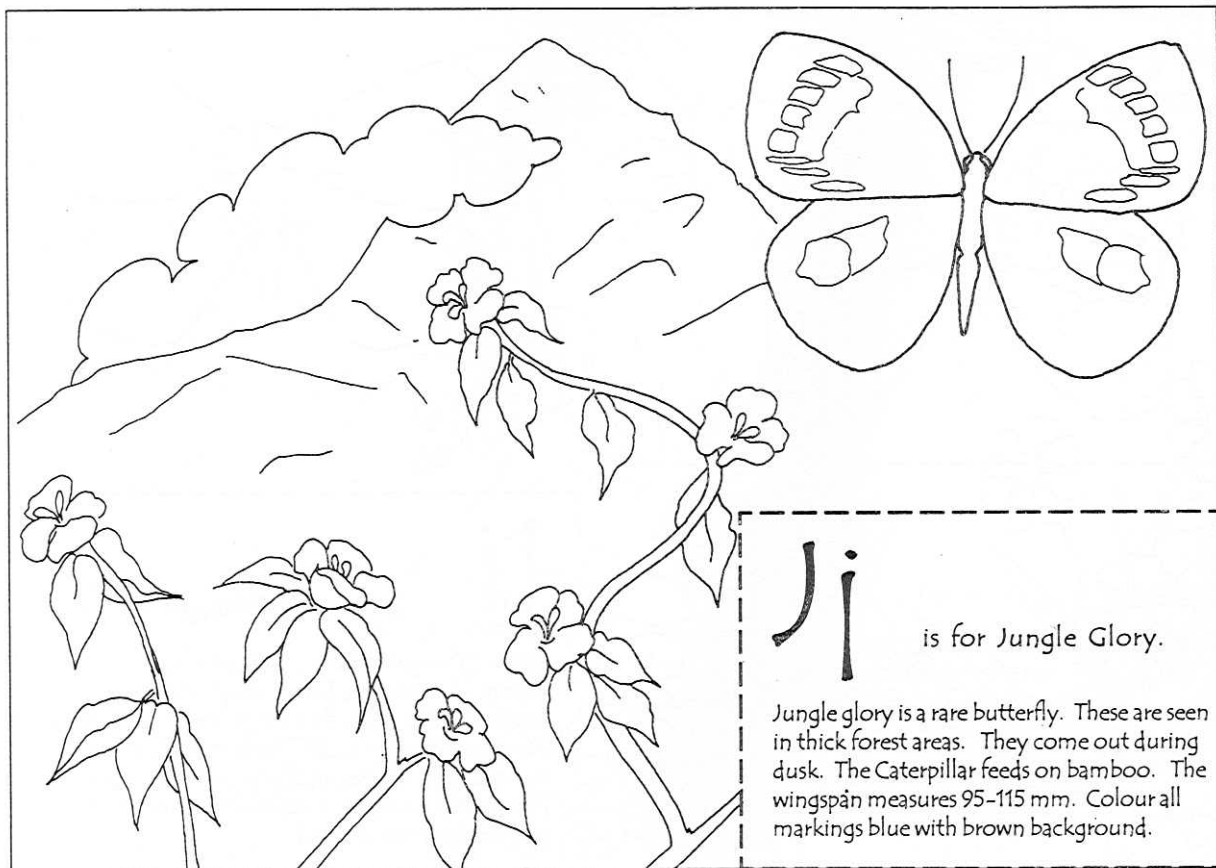
Himalayan Jester is commonly found in open patches forest glades and in urbanised wastelands. They are also seen in the more wooded areas, shady nullahs in regions ranging from Himalayas to Kashmir and hills of Northeast India. The wingspan measures 40-55 mm. The bands on the top of the wing differ from that of the bottom side. Colour the bands yellow with brown background.



**I**

is for Indian Cabbage White.

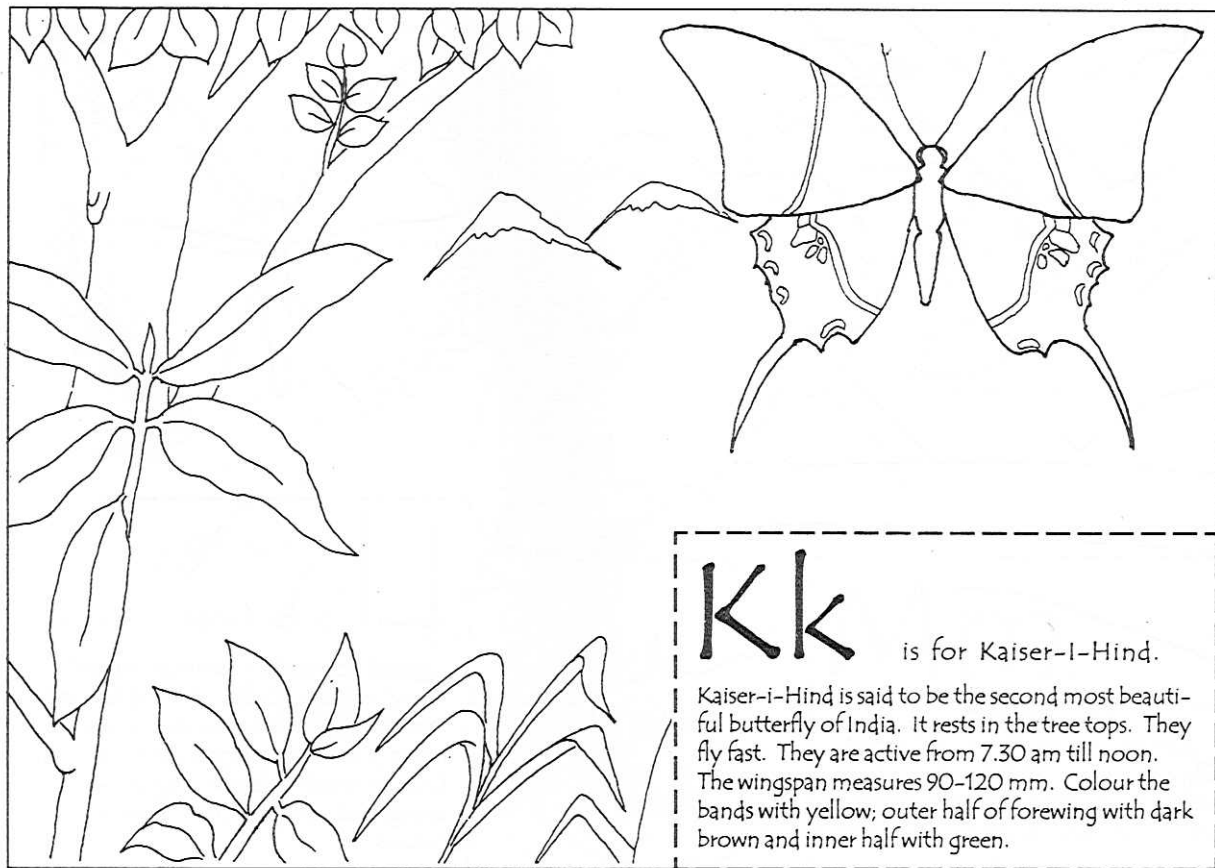
Indian Cabbage White is commonly found in regions of Himalayas, hills of Assam and hills of Southern India. They fly close to the ground. Visits flowers of different kinds. This butterfly is common in more open areas especially in cultivated areas. Wingspan is 45-60 mm. Colour the bands black in cream colour background.



Ji

is for Jungle Glory.

Jungle glory is a rare butterfly. These are seen in thick forest areas. They come out during dusk. The Caterpillar feeds on bamboo. The wingspan measures 95-115 mm. Colour all markings blue with brown background.

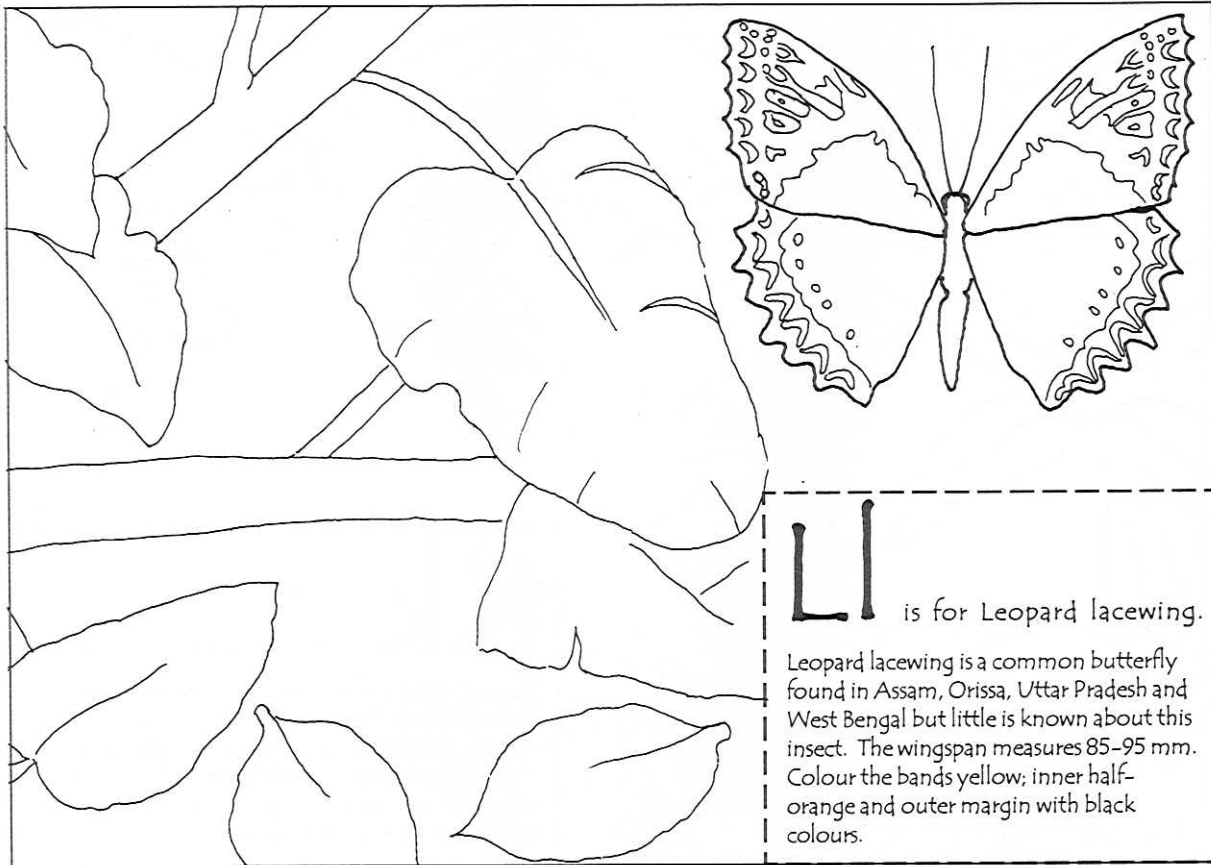


**Kk**

is for Kaiser-i-Hind.

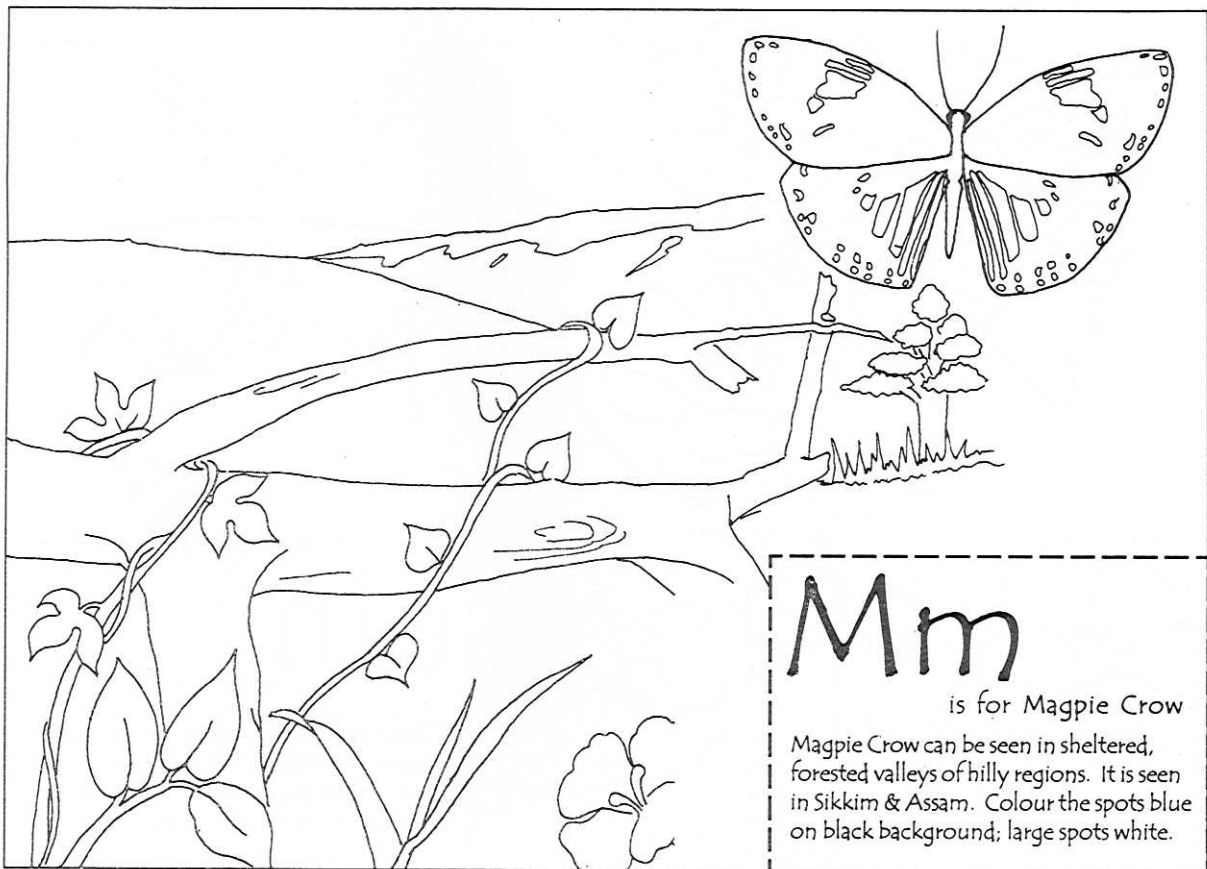
Kaiser-i-Hind is said to be the second most beautiful butterfly of India. It rests in the tree tops. They fly fast. They are active from 7.30 am till noon. The wingspan measures 90-120 mm. Colour the bands with yellow; outer half of forewing with dark brown and inner half with green.





**L** is for Leopard lacewing.

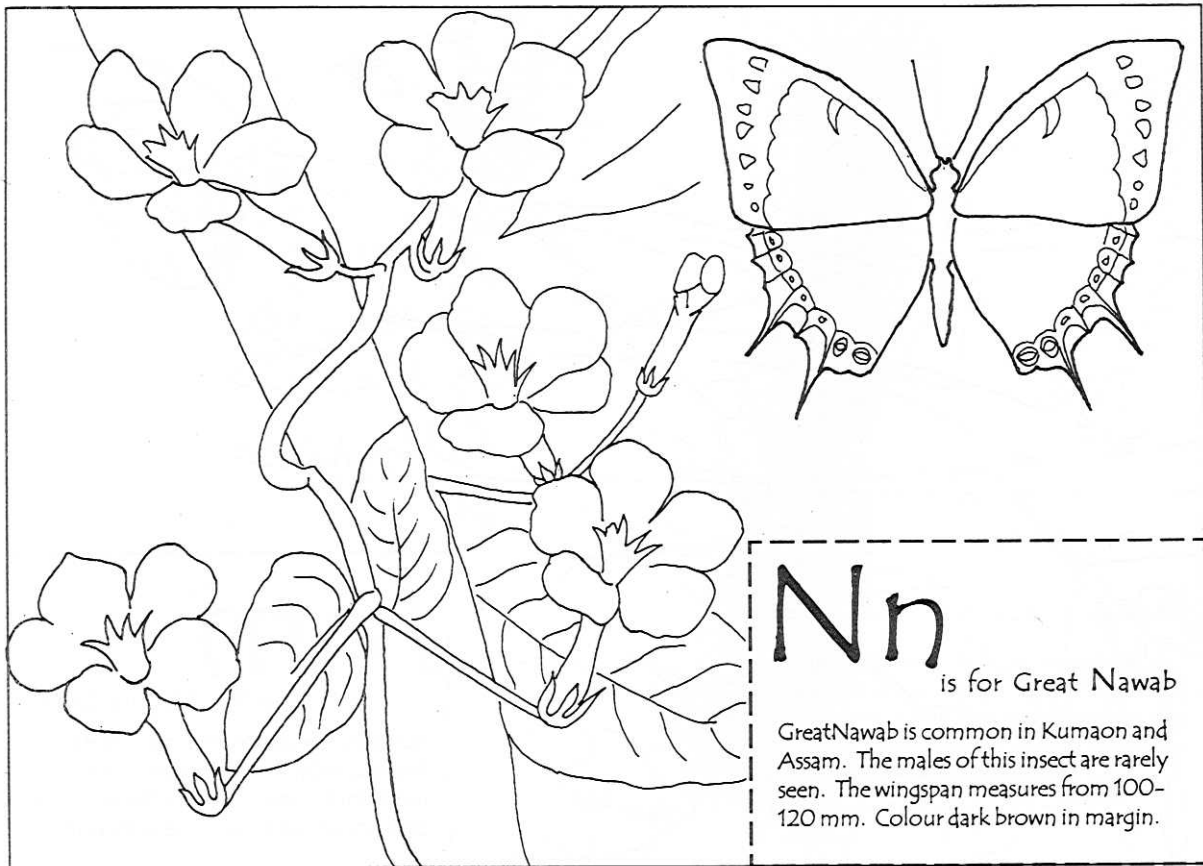
Leopard lacewing is a common butterfly found in Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal but little is known about this insect. The wingspan measures 85-95 mm. Colour the bands yellow; inner half-orange and outer margin with black colours.



Mm

is for Magpie Crow

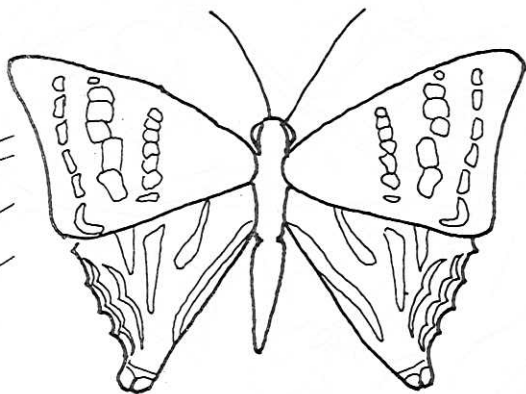
Magpie Crow can be seen in sheltered, forested valleys of hilly regions. It is seen in Sikkim & Assam. Colour the spots blue on black background; large spots white.



Nn

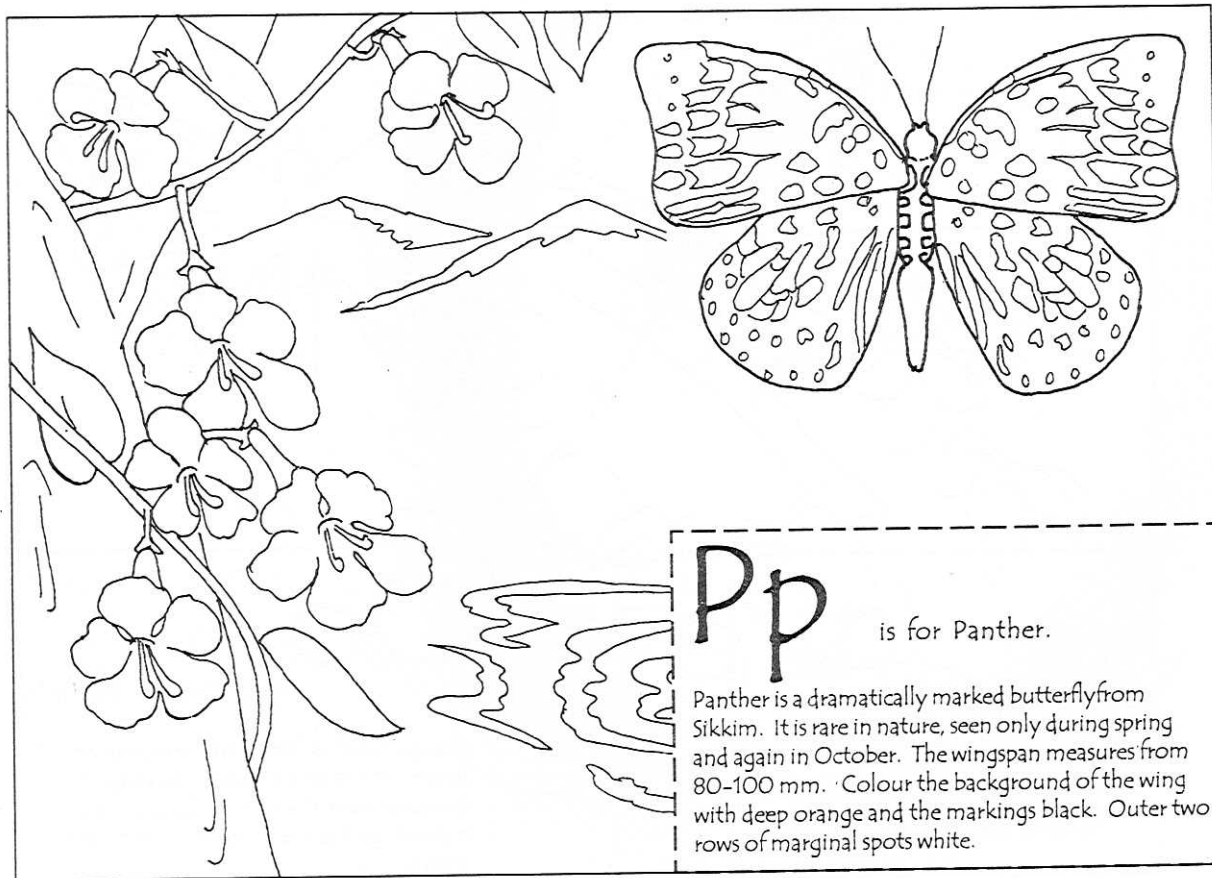
is for Great Nawab

Great Nawab is common in Kumaon and Assam. The males of this insect are rarely seen. The wingspan measures from 100-120 mm. Colour dark brown in margin.



is for Orange Punch

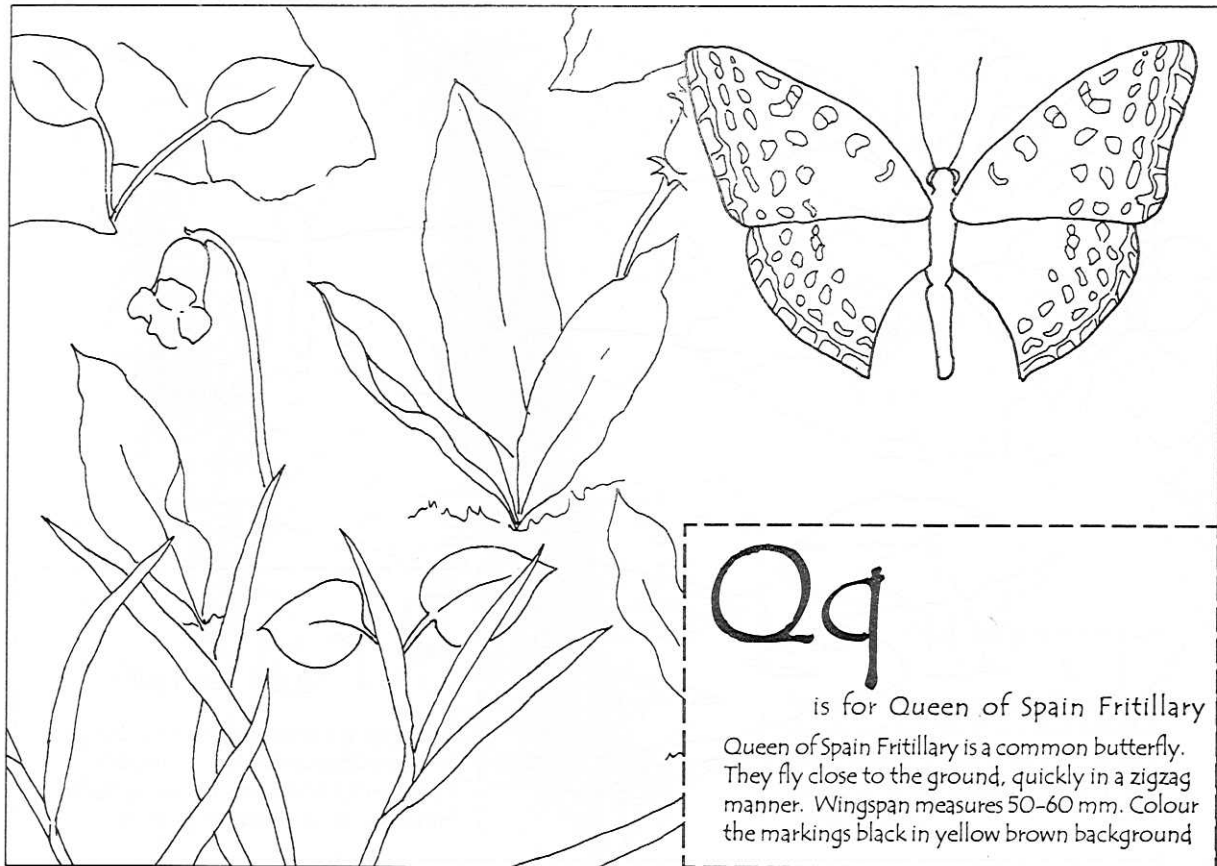
Orange Punch is present in the regions of Assam. It is rare to be seen. The wingspan measures from 45-50 mm. Colour markings orange and the background with dark brown.



Pp

is for Panther.

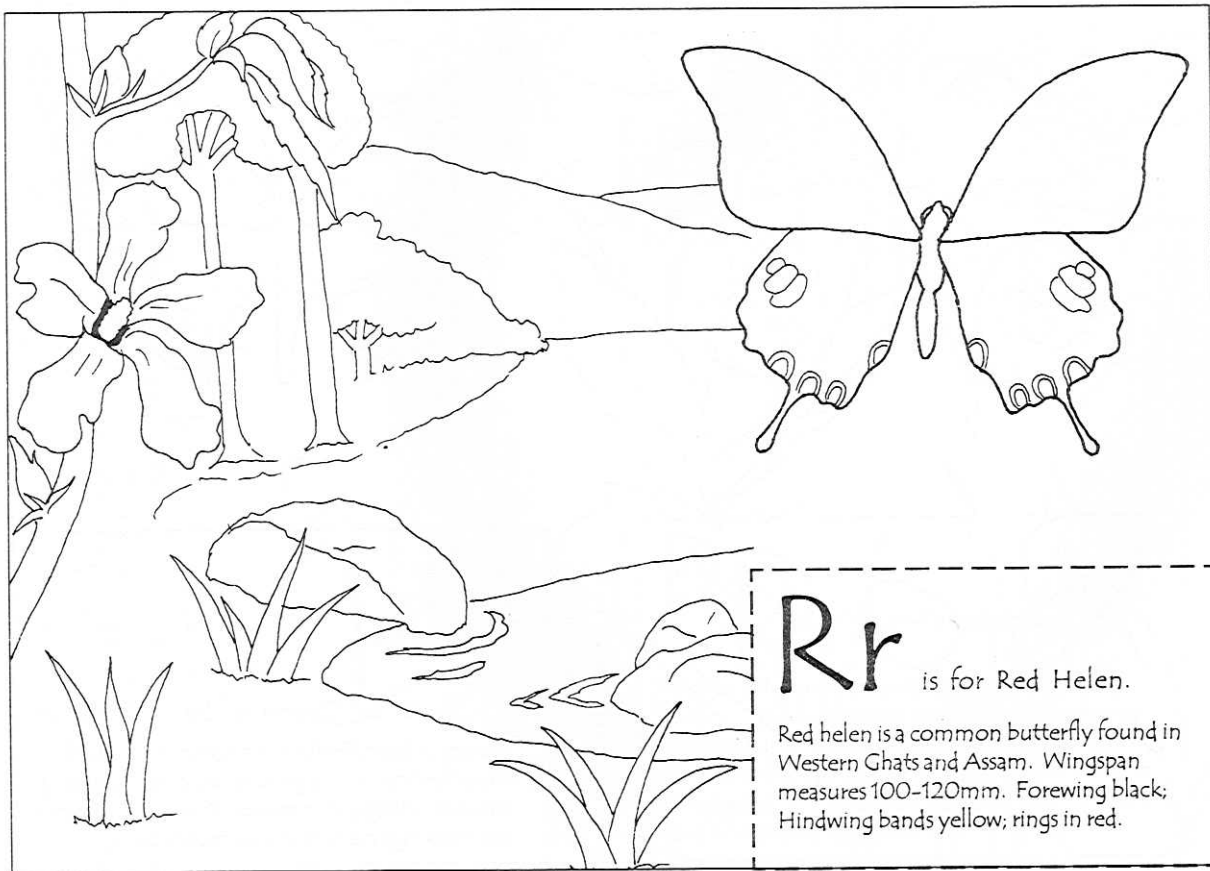
Panther is a dramatically marked butterfly from Sikkim. It is rare in nature, seen only during spring and again in October. The wingspan measures from 80-100 mm. Colour the background of the wing with deep orange and the markings black. Outer two rows of marginal spots white.



Qq

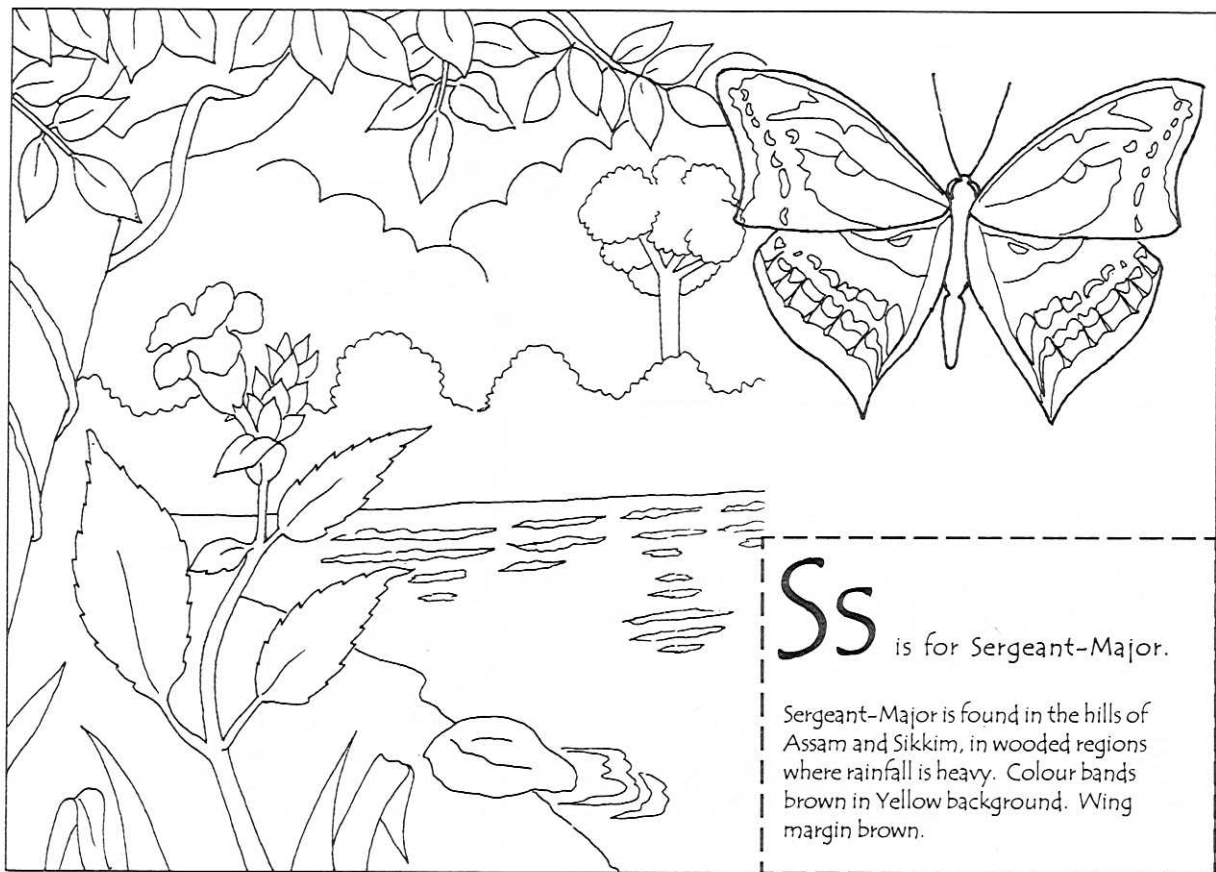
is for Queen of Spain Fritillary

Queen of Spain Fritillary is a common butterfly. They fly close to the ground, quickly in a zigzag manner. Wingspan measures 50-60 mm. Colour the markings black in yellow brown background



**Rr** is for Red Helen.

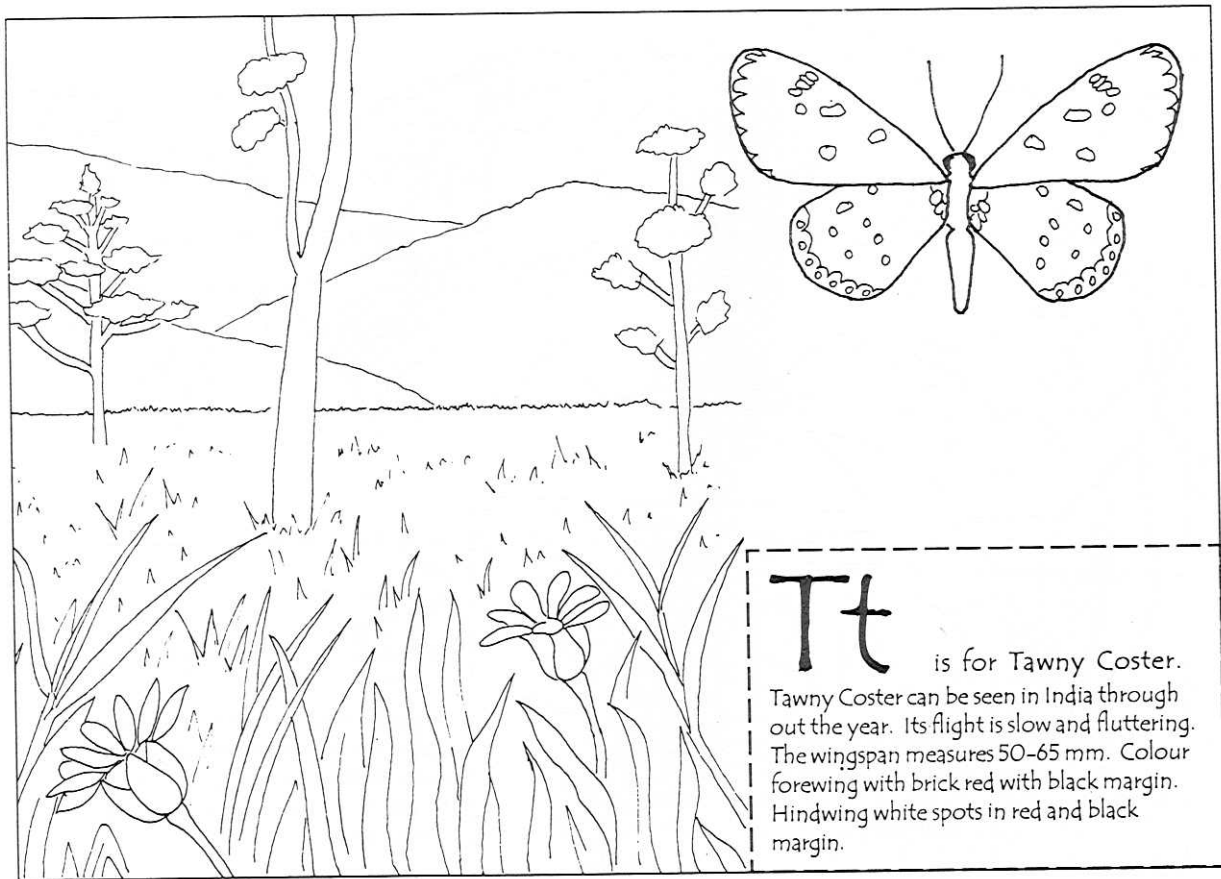
Red helen is a common butterfly found in Western Ghats and Assam. Wingspan measures 100-120mm. Forewing black; Hindwing bands yellow; rings in red.



**Ss** is for Sergeant-Major.

Sergeant-Major is found in the hills of Assam and Sikkim, in wooded regions where rainfall is heavy. Colour bands brown in Yellow background. Wing margin brown.

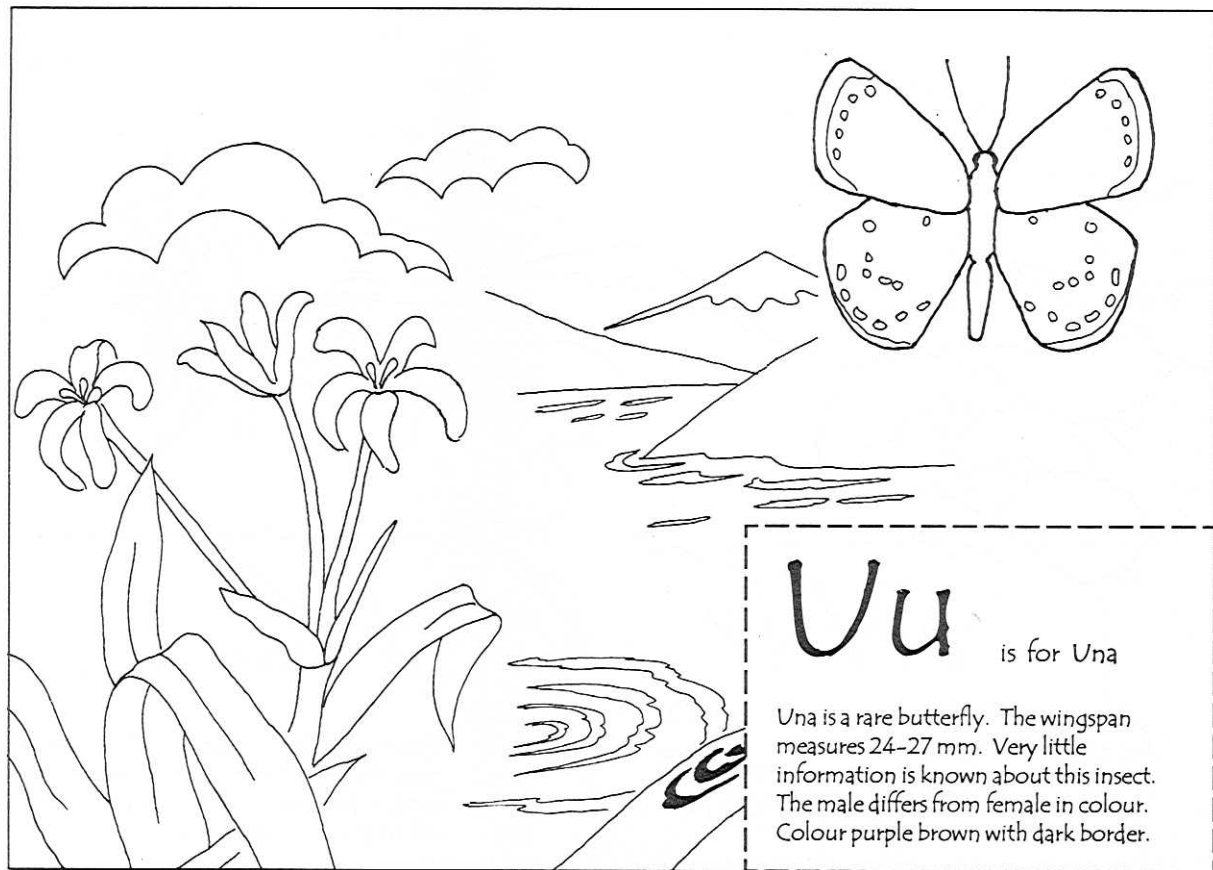




Tt

is for Tawny Coster.

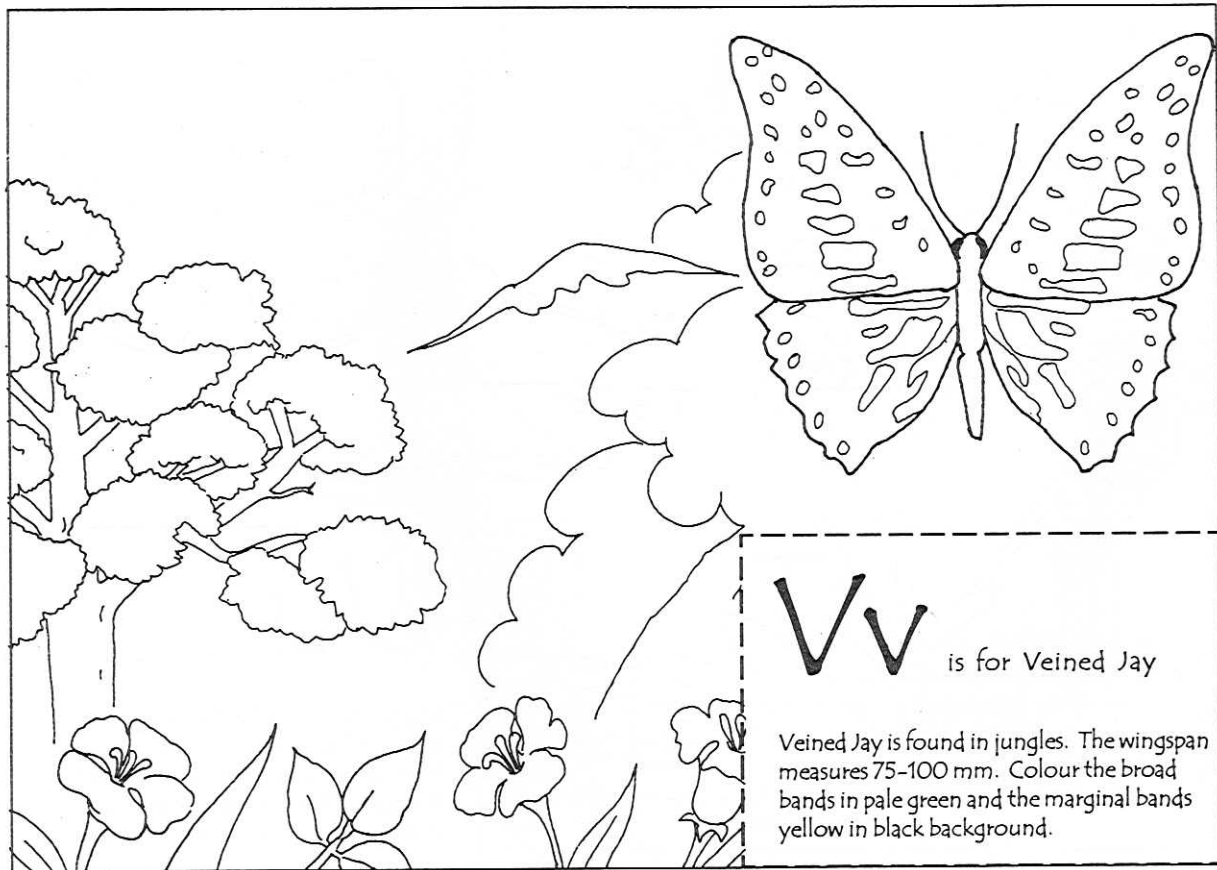
Tawny Coster can be seen in India through out the year. Its flight is slow and fluttering. The wingspan measures 50-65 mm. Colour forewing with brick red with black margin. Hindwing white spots in red and black margin.



Uu

is for Una

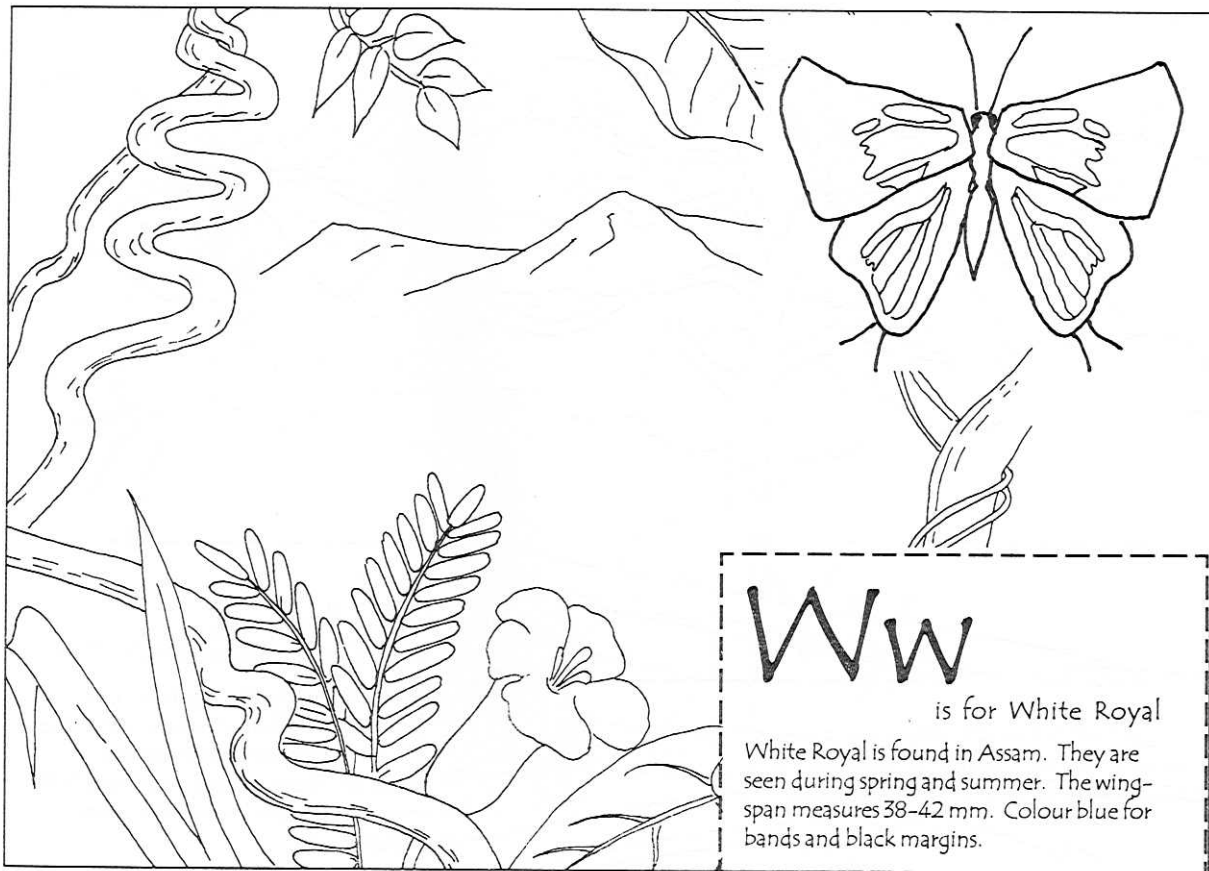
Una is a rare butterfly. The wingspan measures 24–27 mm. Very little information is known about this insect. The male differs from female in colour. Colour purple brown with dark border.



Vv

is for Veined Jay

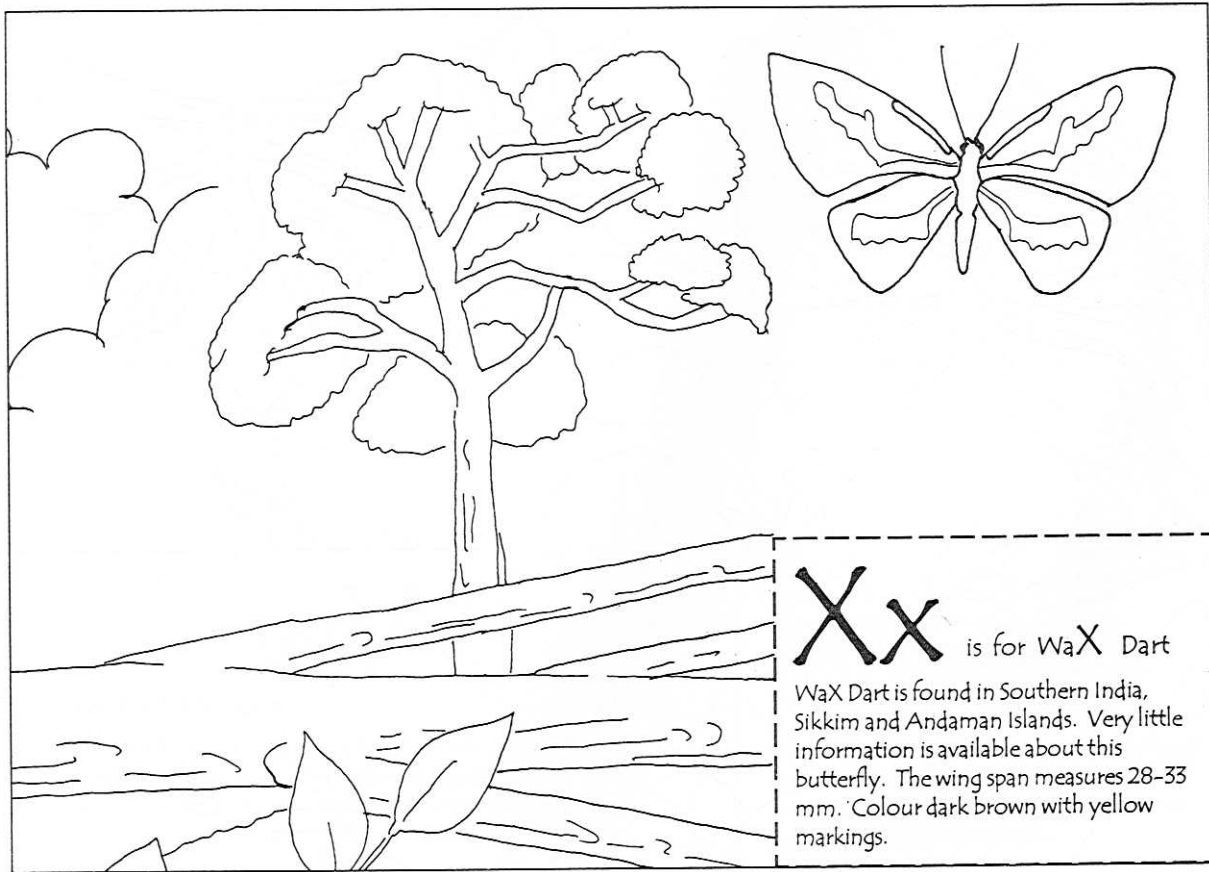
Veined Jay is found in jungles. The wingspan measures 75-100 mm. Colour the broad bands in pale green and the marginal bands yellow in black background.



Ww

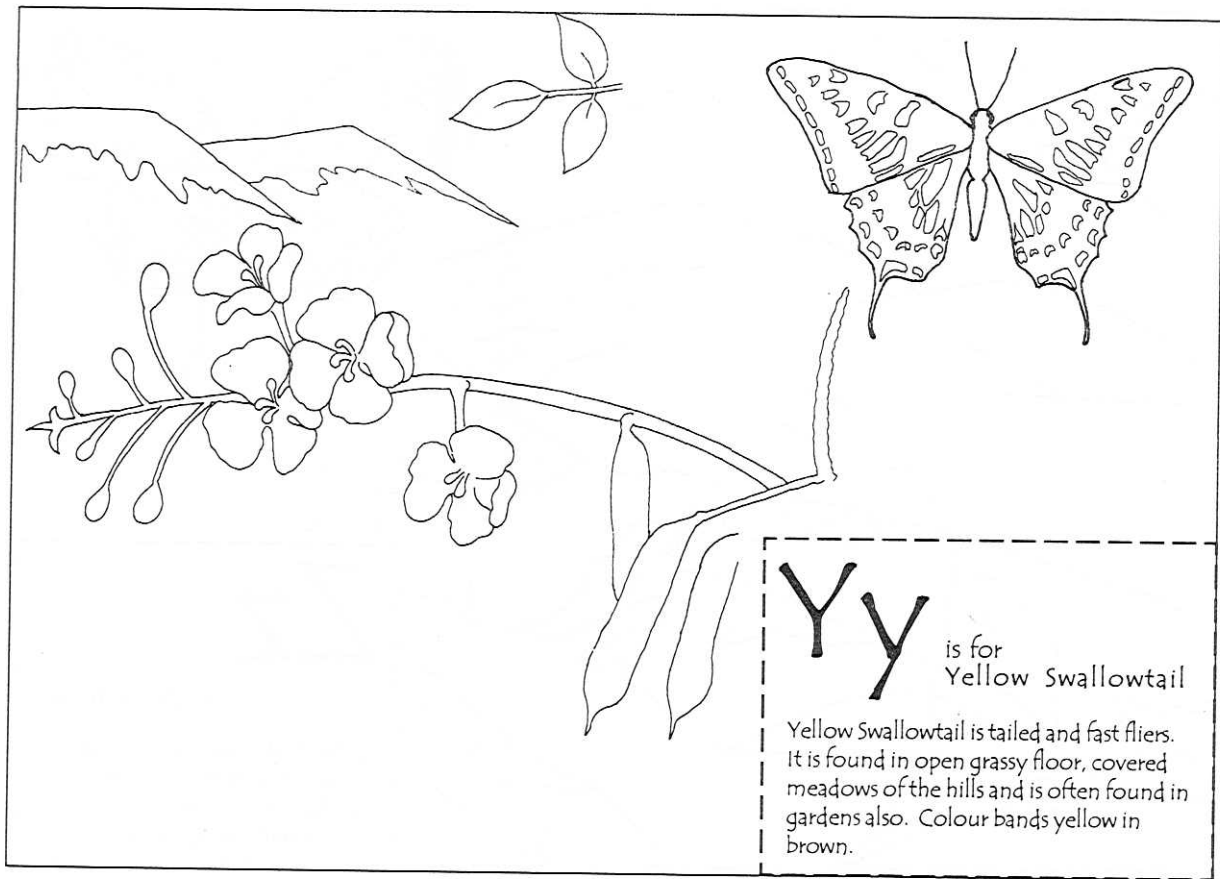
is for White Royal

White Royal is found in Assam. They are seen during spring and summer. The wing-span measures 38-42 mm. Colour blue for bands and black margins.



**Xx** is for WaX Dart

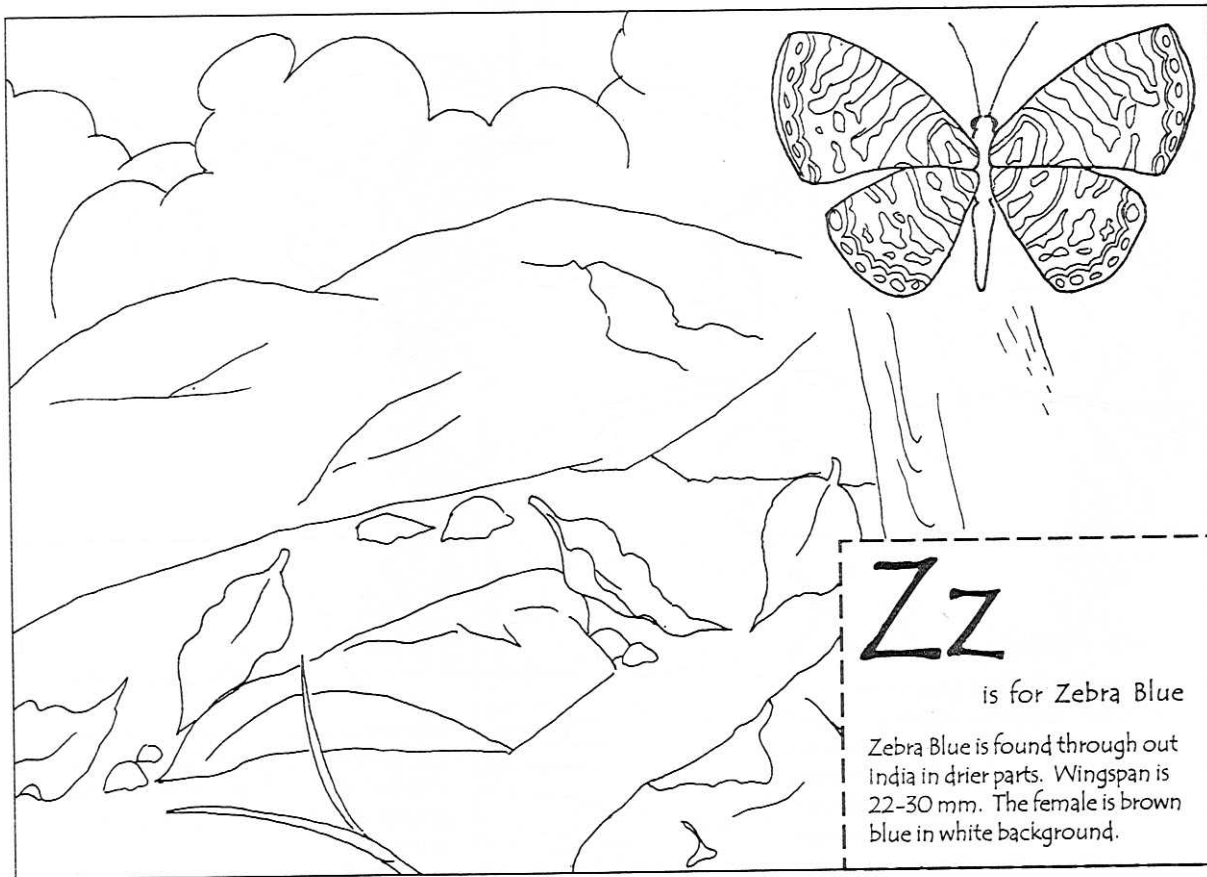
WaX Dart is found in Southern India, Sikkim and Andaman Islands. Very little information is available about this butterfly. The wing span measures 28-33 mm. Colour dark brown with yellow markings.



**Yy**

is for  
Yellow Swallowtail

Yellow Swallowtail is tailed and fast fliers. It is found in open grassy floor, covered meadows of the hills and is often found in gardens also. Colour bands yellow in brown.



Zz

is for Zebra Blue

Zebra Blue is found through out india in drier parts. Wingspan is 22-30 mm. The female is brown blue in white background.

