Butterfly Diversity at Tao Dum Ranger Station, Sai Yok National Park, Kanchanaburi Province

Abstract

Butterfly diversity is being studied at Tao Dum Ranger Station, Sai Yok National Park, Wang Kra-Jae district, Kanchanaburi province. A 2.5 km butterfly transect was established in each of three locations: dry evergreen forest at Huai Tao Dum Yai, mixed deciduous forest at Huai Tao Dum and another mixed deciduous Khao Plu. Each of there was surveyed monthly from January to December 2001 for a total transect length of 90 km. All butterflies were collected and identified. These data were used to analyze patterns of diversity and to compile a species checklist. We observed into 131, genera 248 species and 303 sub-species and forms from all 5 families: Hesperiidae, Lycaenidae, Nymphalidae, Papilionidae and Pieridae. Butterfly species richness peaked in January and was lowest in December 2001. The relative abundance was 15.5 individuals/ km and Fisher’s alpha was measured as 103.8±4.52. Venn diagram showed that the species composition of the dry evergreen forest differs from both mixed deciduous forests. However, the record of Stichophthalma godfreyi in dry evergreen forest in April seems to be the first recorded specimen record from Kanchanaburi since 1914.

Key words: Tao Dum Ranger Station, Sai Yok National Park, butterfly diversity, Lepidoptera.