

Common Name: Lemon Migrant butterfly aka Cassia Butterfly

Binominal Name: Catopsilia Pomona

Synonyms: Catopsilia crocale

Order: Lepidoptera

Family: Pieridae

The species occurs from Madagascar through south-east Asia and in Australia. Predators of this species includes parasitic wasps Ichneumonids. There are two morph forms of Lemon Migrant butterfly; the dark form called Crocale while the lighter morph form is called Pomona.

Crocale:
generally develops between December and April and has black antenna.



Pomona: generally develops between January and September and have pink antenna, are lighter on top of the wing but a more strongly patterned beneath the wing.



A number of issues determine which form emerges from the chrysalis stage. Drought, rain or the length of the day can impact which form emerges, longer days produce the Crocale form and shorter days producing the Pomona form. Rainfall may produce an abrupt switch from Crocale to Pomona. The females of the species have the ability to enter a diapause during the dry season, for up to five months, during which they don't develop eggs. This usually occurs in the Pomona form which is a lighter colour.

Adults have a wingspan up to 6cm. The wings of the male are white with black wingtips and a yellow blush toward the hinges. The wings of the female are pale yellow with black edges and spots. Underneath the wings are dirty white with dark orange markings.

Females can lay 700-900 eggs in a lifetime. Eggs white to pale yellow, barrel shaped and vertically ribbed. They are laid on leaflets of a food plant.

The caterpillar is green with a dark dorsal stripe and has a pale green head with black dots.



The caterpillar usually rests lying along the midrib of a leaf making it difficult to see.

The pupa closely resembles a leaf and is also difficult to see.



It has a pointed head and often attached upright to a stem of the food plant by cremaster and girdle.

Host plants include *Cassia brewsteri*, *queenslandica*, *tomentill* and *Senna acclinis* as well as approx. 20 other *Senna* varieties. In my garden they have laid their eggs in my *Breynias* and seem very very happy as am I to let them be.