

# Brush Footed Butterfly

LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE

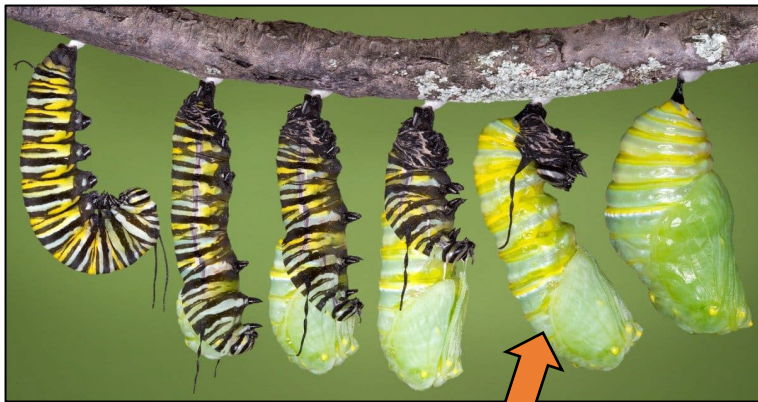
**Did you know?** This is the largest family of butterflies, with over 6,000 species!

**Did you know?** The Monarch butterfly, famous for its beautiful orange and black pattern and large mass migrations, is a member of this family.

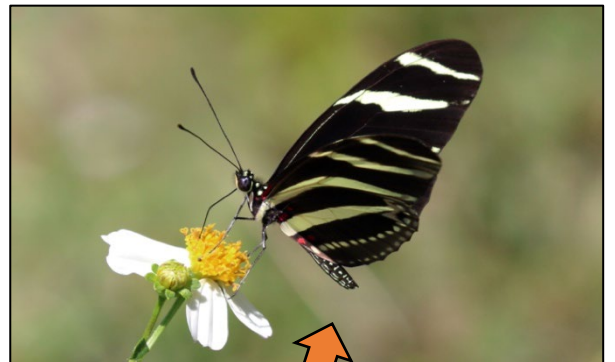


**Did you know?** Members of this family are called brushfoots because of their particularly small forelegs. Their front legs are much smaller and covered with little hairs that they use for sensing. Their back legs are the ones mainly used for walking.

## Look and see!



Brush foots have a life cycle that includes a metamorphosis! During this stage, the caterpillar hangs upside down, forms a chrysalis around itself, and after a bit of time comes out as a butterfly!



The brush footed butterflies come in lots of cool colors and patterns! They are often named after things that their pattern resembles, like the striped Zebra Butterfly (*H. ramzdini*).



Credits:

Photos: Iain H Leach (<https://butterfly-conservation.org/butterflies/painted-lady>), Painted Lady butterfly on leaf; Cathy Keifer (<https://a-z-animals.com/blog/monarch-butterfly-caterpillar-everything-you-need-to-know/>), chrysalis construction Monarch butterfly; Charles J Sharp ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliconius\\_charithonia#/media/File:Zebra\\_\(Heliconius\\_charithonia\\_ramsdeni\)\\_underside.JPG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heliconius_charithonia#/media/File:Zebra_(Heliconius_charithonia_ramsdeni)_underside.JPG)), Zebra butterfly on flower

Facts:

Wildlife Journal Junior

(<https://nhpbs.org/wild/nymphalidae.asp#:~:text=With%20around%206%2C000%20species%2C%20thi s,are%20not%20used%20for%20walking.>)

AZ Animals (<https://a-z-animals.com/blog/monarch-butterfly-caterpillar-everything-you-need-to-know/>)

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