

22 September, 2021

Latest Butterfly Survey Results

Abundant species found despite reduced survey scale during pandemic

60% of local species recorded in 9 hotspots

Green Power announced the results of the 2020-2021 butterfly survey today. The survey period covered 12 months, from June 2020 to May 2021. A total of 162 butterfly species were recorded in 9 butterfly hotspots, accounting for 60% of the total number of species in Hong Kong. Among them 44 were “Rare” and “Very Rare” species. Luk Keng (North District) and Lung Kwu Tan (Tuen Mun) ranked top, with 108 species recorded at each site, followed by Sha Tau Kok with 94 species.

Lo Wing Fung, Green Power’s Senior Education and Project Officer, highlighted two special species—Burmese Sailer (*Neptis nata*) found at Lung Keng and Grass Jewel (*Freyeria putli*) found at Lung Kwu Tan. The former was listed as a doubtful record in the past and was only officially recognised as a local species in recent years. Its status is still “Unassessed”. The new record at Lung Keng showed that the species has established its population—and is gradually expanding—locally.

Grass Jewel, on the other hand, is classified as “Very Rare” and is among the smallest butterflies in Hong Kong. The species mainly occurs in parts of Lantau. It has been recorded at Lung Kwu Tan years ago, but the number was low. The discovery confirmed that Lung Kwu Tan is the second habitat of the species, other than Lantau Island.

Lo also remarked that over the past year, due to the pandemic, butterfly surveys could only be carried out with limitations. The survey sites, number of surveys and surveyors were all reduced. Nonetheless, the overall number of butterfly species recorded had not shown much decrease, indicating that biodiversity at the various butterfly hotspots was satisfactory.

Lo noted that during the pandemic, visits to the countryside where many butterfly hotspots are located have become popular. The increased visitor crowds inevitably bring extra pressure to the butterfly hotspots. **Lo** called on the public to cherish our countryside and remember to take our rubbish away. Do not pick wild plants, pollute water sources, smoke, or set a fire in the wild. Protect nature and our rich butterfly biodiversity in Hong Kong.



Press Release

Editor's Note:

Butterfly Surveyor Scheme

Launched in 2008 by **Green Power**, the Scheme is the first of its kind for training members of the public to become qualified Butterfly Surveyors for large-scale, long-term collection of local butterfly data. The numbers of butterflies and the species and environmental changes of the various butterfly hotspots are monitored.

Recruitment of Butterfly Surveyors opens once each year. Upon training and assessment, participants become qualified Butterfly Surveyors. The surveys begin in June/July each year and end in May/June the following year.

Website: www.greenpower.org.hk/butterfly/eng/surveyor.shtml

Facebook Fanpage: ButterflyCare

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