

Classification Wanderer Butterfly

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Hexapoda
Order:	Lepidoptera
Family:	Nymphalidae
Species:	<i>Danaus plexippus plexippus</i>
Common Names:	Monarch, Wanderer

Body

Body Parts:	3, head, thorax & abdomen
Legs:	6, attached to thorax
Eyes:	2, compound eyes
Antennae:	2
Mouthparts:	Long curled up tube (proboscis) for drinking nectar and other liquids.
Bright Colour:	Wanderer butterflies have bright orange and black patterns on their wings. This tells birds that Wanderers are poisonous (from eating poisonous food plants).



Life History

Habitat:	Wanderer butterflies are native to North America. They can fly long distances. Some got lost and made Australia their new home. You find Wanderers in open woodland, valleys and on farm land.
Life Cycle:	Like all butterflies, Wanderers lay eggs. The caterpillars eat their favourite food plant, grow bigger, pupate and transform into the adult insect.
Diet:	Wanderer butterflies feed on nectar from flowers. Their caterpillars feed on cotton bush plants (milkweeds) which grow as weeds and garden plants in many parts of Australia.

