The first Peninsular Malaysia Butterfly Count took place on 6 June 2015. In this special issue we share the findings from the count.

WHO TOOK PART?

Butterfly legs were collected at 26 locations including UM campus, a highschool, several public parks and private residences.

DID YOU SEE THESE BUTTERFLIES?

We received 220 butterfly legs and managed to identify 194 of them. This added up to 43 species! The most common species are shown above, but most species were only collected one or two times.
DID YOU SEE THESE BUTTERFLIES?

The most collected butterfly was

Appias olferna

known as the Striped Albatross

The species shows sexual dimorphism which means males and females look different from each other.

The Striped Albatross is common in India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar, but was rare in Peninsular Malaysia until about 60 years ago. 

>Now it is common in gardens and along roadsides.

Why could this be?

Perhaps the Striped Albatross has followed its invasive host plant the Fringed Spider Flower into Malaysia?

Another common butterfly was Delias hyparete, known as the Painted Jezebel. We think this is the species seen by Gan Hui Hui in her front yard which she has beautifully illustrated for us.

The Tawny Coster has only been known in Peninsular Malaysia since 1992 and has become increasingly common. It is moving south, and was reported from Australia in 2012. Brady et al. 2014

The brown Ring butterflies include several species in Peninsular Malaysia which all look quite similar. Two Rings were among the most collected species. We need to do further research but the DNA barcodes suggest new species for our region may have been collected during the Butterfly Count in Penang!

MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like to know which species you collected, or more information generally about the result of the Butterfly Count, please send us an email butterflycount@gmail.com or give us a call 0379677022 ext. 2115.

We look forward to hearing from you! Thank you to everyone who took part!