

The "dull" world of moths

The colourful world of butterflies. The dull world of moths. Or so I thought. For me, till a few months back, the world of moths was not an exciting area to venture into. After all, who wants to go looking for boring-coloured creatures that only fly at night! Working on a project that involves initiating tourism with the local community in Arunachal Pradesh suddenly exploded many myths. A few dainty steps into the moth world left me befuddled and bedazzled! An explosion of colours engulfed me; a series of bewildering natural history observations left me hungry for more. Fortunately, moths do not have clubbed antennae (unlike butterflies), otherwise they would probably be taking a swing at me for being so naive!

False Tiger Moth
(*Dysphania militaris*)
Found: Garo Hills, Meghalaya

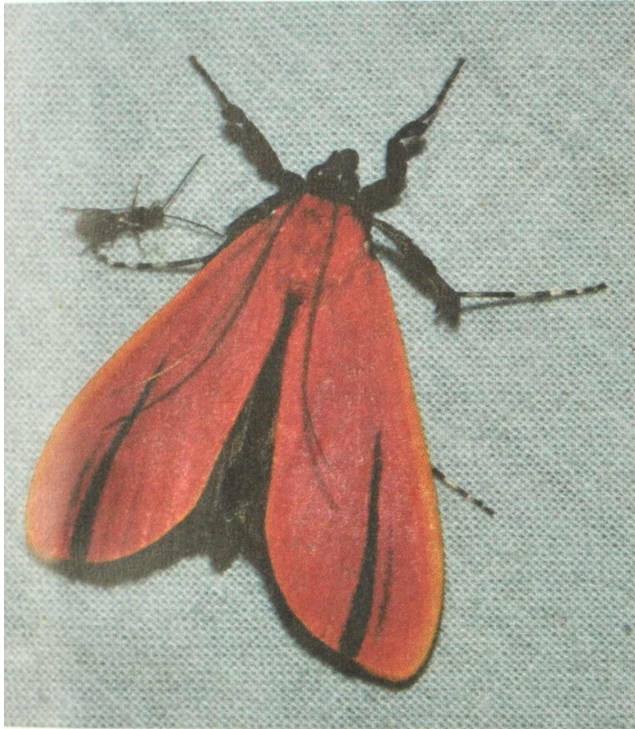
Daytime. A graceful yellow insect wafted past me. What a pretty butterfly, I said to myself. Turns out, it was a day-flying moth. Surprised? I was too. Many moths do not fly at night, but are active during the day.



Brahmid moth
(*Brahmaea wallachii*)
Found: Eaglenest, Arunachal Pradesh

Ten inches across. Its wings have exquisite brown and black markings. The Brahmid moth takes your breath away.



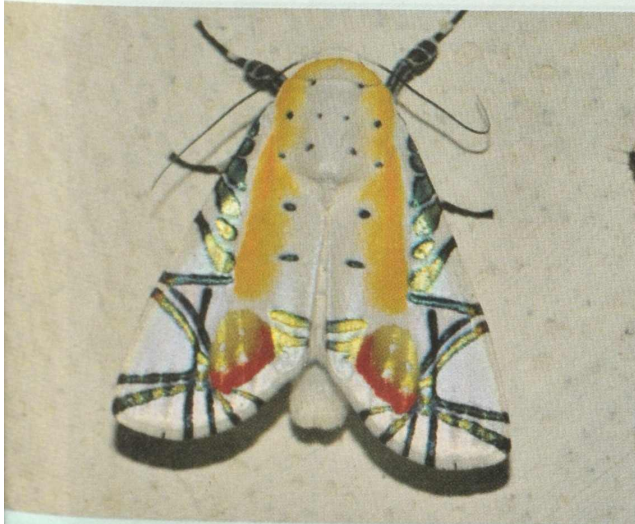
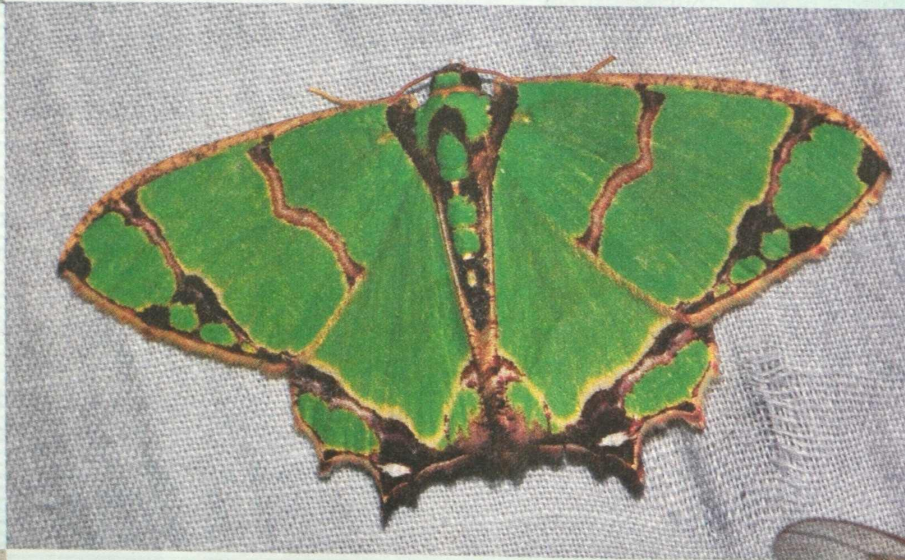


Tailed Emerald Moth
(*Agathia magnifica* and *Idopterus anomalum*)
Found: Eaglenest, Arunachal Pradesh, once again!

Go green! Go crimson! Wonder why fashion designers do not study moths—with such a myriad mix of colours and designs, nature could easily give them some wonderful design ideas!

The Picasso Moth
(*Boarisa hieroglyphica*)
Found: Eaglenest, Arunachal Pradesh

I stared with disbelief at the moth sitting before me. White wings, delicately dabbed with yellow and red, and silver streaks embellishing its gorgeous colours. A work of art! Most moths do not have common names, leaving me free to nickname this as the Picasso Moth!



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