

Seasonal Diversity of Butterfly Species in and around Mokhada Town, Maharashtra, India.

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Abstract: *This research paper investigates the seasonal diversity of butterfly species in and around Mokhada Town, located in the Palghar district of Maharashtra, India. This study aims to document the variety and abundance of butterfly species throughout different seasons. The field surveys on butterflies were carried out in the study area three times a week for the period of nine months from June to February 2025. The results revealed a total of 63 butterfly species from 5 families. In which Nymphalidae was the richest amongst families that comprised (377 and 41%) of the total species of butterfly recorded in all three seasons in three selected areas, which was followed by Lycaenidae (199 and 21%), Pieridae (188 and 20%), Papilioninae (98 and 11%), and the Hesperidae family was the lowest (65 and 7%), respectively. The research identifies key trends, such as higher species diversity during the monsoon and post-monsoon months, attributed to the availability of nectar-rich plants and increased moisture levels. This study highlights the potential of Mokhada as a key region for butterfly conservation, offering insights into the broader ecological significance of butterflies as bioindicators. The findings contribute to the growing body of research on butterfly ecology in India and provide a baseline for future studies on climate change impacts and biodiversity conservation in the region.*

Keywords: Mokhada Town, Butterfly Species, Seasonal Diversity, Biodiversity, Conservation