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Butterfly Biology

By Joshua Feingold

Butterflies are iconic images of delicate beauty. They are models of change, having metamorphosed from grub-like caterpillars to winged, fairy-like creatures. During their life-history, host plants are consumed by the larvae (caterpillars), and are often then pollinated by the adults (butterflies) in a co-evolved relationship that ensures the survival of both plant and butterfly. Their seemingly quiescent pupal phase houses this profound physiological and morphological transition. The following images provide the stark, visual juxtapositions among these stages. All images were obtained in Davie, Florida.
Atala (*Eumaeus atala*)

In NSU's Mesozoic Garden

Figure 1a: Eggs and newly hatched caterpillars on cycad (*Zamia*)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 1b: Caterpillars on cycad (*Zamia*)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 1c: Caterpillar on horsetail (*Equisetum*)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 1d: Pupae on cycad (*Zamia*)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 1e: Adult on fern
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)

On citrus tree

Figure 2a: Caterpillar  
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 2b: Pupa
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 2c: Adult (side view)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 2d: Adult (front view)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*)

Figure 3a: Caterpillar
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 3b: Adult
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 4a: Caterpillar on passion flower (*Passiflora*)
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Figure 4b: Adult on manure
Photo: Feingold personal collection
Io Moth (*Automeris io*)

On oak

Figure 5: Caterpillar
Photo: Feingold personal collection