

Common Native NZ Butterflies



Red
Admiral



A Copper



Yellow
Admiral



A Blue

There are a number of types of “Blues” and “Coppers”. Many butterflies are suffering predation from paper wasps, as they are a good source of protein for paper wasp larvae.

There are about 2,000 types of native New Zealand butterflies and moths. More than 90% are found nowhere else in the world.

Is it a butterfly or a moth?

Butterflies

Antennae are smooth and have a club like end.
Have slender bodies.
Generally rest with their wings in an upright position.
Generally have broad, large and colourful wing patterns.

Moths

Antennae are feathery or pointed.
Have wider bodies.
Generally rest with their wings in an flat position.
Most have smaller wings with dull patterns.

Red Admiral caterpillars really like native nettles to breed in. Unfortunately because nettles are stingy and prickly we tend to chop them down and generally don't plant them in our gardens and re-vegetation areas.

What other plants could be used to help the butterflies breed?

Check out www.forestandbird.org.nz/get-involved/backyard-projects-/how-breed-admiral-butterflies, for more info.