

ICAR-NBAIR pollinator garden as a refugia for migratory Blue Tiger Butterflies

Blue tiger butterfly, *Tirumala* sp. is one of the most abundant urban dwelling butterfly recorded from India. This is also a known migratory species, migrating twice in a year during premonsoon (April-May) and post monsoon (September- October) seasons. NBAIR maintains two patches of pollinator gardens with over 100 plant species belonging to diverse plant families. Recently, the migratory population of this butterfly was seen congregating in large numbers on the pollination garden. Presence of large numbers of wild *Crotolaria* and other flora which are attractive to these migrating butterflies, should have contributed to the congregation in large numbers. These butterflies are similar to Monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) which are known for trans-continental migration. Concept of establishing pollinator gardens amidst urban areas helps in conserving the butterflies as pollinators and enhancing the aesthetics.

Credits: Dr T M Shivalingaswamy and Dr. Amala U

[Video](#)