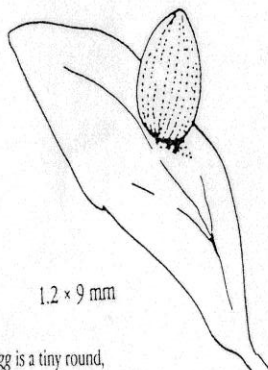


The caterpillar (or larva) is the long, worm-like stage of the butterfly. It often has an interesting pattern of stripes or patches, and may have spine-like hairs. It is the feeding and growth stage of the butterfly. As it grows it sheds its skin four or more times so as to enclose its rapidly growing body.

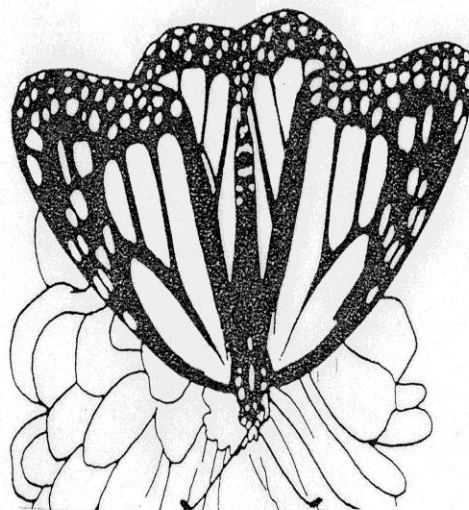


5 cm



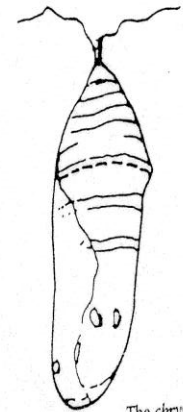
1.2 x 9 mm

The egg is a tiny round, oval, or cylindrical object, usually with fine ribs and other microscopic structures. The female attaches the eggs to leaves, stems or other objects, usually on or near the intended caterpillar food.



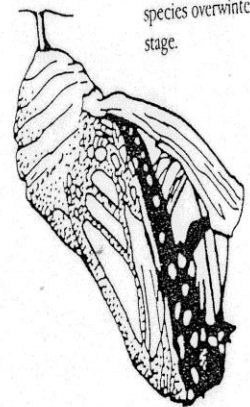
The adult (or imago) is the colorful insect we usually see. It is the reproductive and mobile stage for the species. The

adults undergo courtship, mating, and egg-laying. The adult butterfly is also the stage that migrates or colonizes new habitats.



1 cm

The chrysalis (or pupa) is the transformation stage within which the caterpillar tissues are broken down and the adult insect's structures are formed. The chrysalis of most species is brown or green and blends into the background. Many species overwinter in this stage.



## Life Cycle

As advanced insects, butterflies have a "complete" life cycle. This means that there are four separate stages, each of which looks completely different and serves a different purpose in the life of the insect.