

They have finally arrived! – Bob Miller

One of the more common questions I was being asked by butterfly enthusiasts when they visited me in Cairns was “Do you think The Tawny Coster (*Acraea terpsicore*) will ever get to Cairns and if so, when do you think it will happen?”

Well, we don’t have to guess any longer. I saw my first one (a female) in the front yard on the March 27th. The next one I saw was also a female, at the same place, but on the next day.

This one I captured and put her in my breeding cage, in the hope she would lay some eggs which I could then raise to adulthood and get the life-cycle photos. Having captured this one, I then needed to find the foodplant for her to lay on. I drove to near the Cairns airport, where there is a lot of different vegetation. On the way there, they were hitting the car in numbers, only exceeded by those of the Caper Whites and Blue Tigers that had migrated earlier.

After getting out of the car, I noticed the adults were feeding on low-growing weed flowers and so picked up another four with just my fingers, all females.

I spent a good couple of hours looking for one of the right foodplants for them to lay on but without success. That afternoon, I went to the local boat ramp, where I was successful. Whilst there, a female *A. terpsicore* landed on the *Passiflora* beside me and commenced laying eggs. She ended up laying seventy six of them, taking about twenty minutes to complete the task.

These all hatched on the night of April 2nd. They then commenced eating and eating and eating, typical of *Acraea* larvae. They grew to full size and pupated on anything that was horizontal on April 16th, eventually emerging as adults on April 23rd.

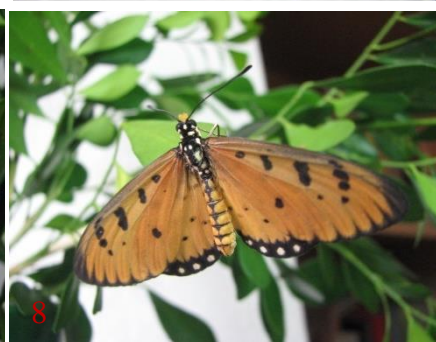
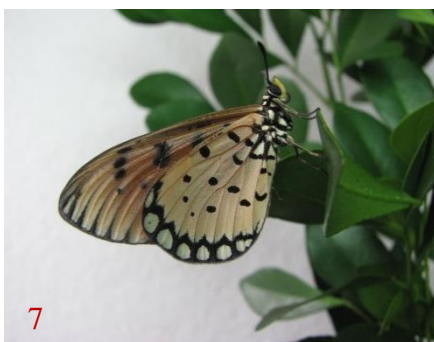
Apart from the eggs that the *A. terpsicore* layed, the local *A. andromacha* were also laying eggs on the same plants. I found another five batches of eggs and wondered how they were all going to survive on the foodplants available.

That question was answered when they were about half grown. The Green ants found them and took every last one! Without that happening, I’m sure they would have run out of foodplant and died anyway.

The last report I have heard was that they have already passed through Kelso in Townsville, still heading South.

What will happen if they get down past the southern limit of the Green ants?







1 & 2 *Acraea terpsicore* eggs
 5 & 6 *A. terpsicore* pupae
 9 & 10 *A. terpsicore* male

3 & 4 *A. terpsicore* larvae
 7 & 8 *A. terpsicore* female

Photos Bob Miller

The Scarlet Jezebel (*Delias argenthona*) – Hongming Kan

Commonly known as Jezebel butterflies, genus *Delias* is a group of beautiful butterflies with stunning combinations of colours of red, yellow, black and white. I remember clearly the first time when I spotted a Black Jezebel resting on a leaf in Karawatha forest I was so impressed by the intricate colour patterns on its wings that I couldn't help wondering if God had doodled on them.

In **Butterfly Lovers**, one of the most famous ancient Chinese folktales, after the tragic death of two young lovers their spirits turned into beautiful Red-Based Jezebel butterflies (*Delias pastithoe*) and rushed out of the grave to stay together forever. One day in October 2016, Ross told me he discovered eggs and larvae of the Scarlet Jezebel on mistletoe, knowing that I was very keen on photographing them. Except for the common Black Jezebel butterflies, I had never had a chance to see other live Jezebels before. A few days later, we returned to the park together where Ross had made the discovery. There were three low hanging mistletoes (*Amyema miquelii*) growing on gum trees and Ross had been checking on them for years but had not found anything until this year.

The eggs were laid together haphazardly in clusters on the mistletoe leaves. The egg of the Scarlet Jezebel is actually quite beautiful. Oval in shape, it has a corolla-like structure on one end and a flat bottom on the other. White ridge lines can be seen clearly running vertically along the surface of the egg, connecting the corolla and the

