



## Bodacious Butterflies of Hawaii

Instructor Heather George, [watergirl321@hotmail.com](mailto:watergirl321@hotmail.com)

- 1. Raccoon** – very common, average size 6-8 inches, found at 10-90 feet, pairs or large schools, color darkens at night (orange-yellow to brownish), easy to approach dark band through eye, white over top of it.
- 2. Fourspot** – also common, 4- 6 inches, 10-50 feet, often paired, easy to approach, four spots (not four eye as in Caribbean!).
- 3. Threadfin** – common, 6 - 8 inches, 6-50 feet, often paired, can be skittish (not easy to photograph, note long thread/filament on dorsal fin (spool is black spot), also body pattern looks “woven” diagonal lines.
- 4. Lined** – 10-12 inches (largest of all butterflies in HI) not as common as threadfin – uncommon (Kona Coast and Oahu), also skittish except in areas where fed. One set of vertical black lines, and a large dark line down dorsal.
- 5. Milletseed** – Endemic 4-6 inches, 6-100+ feet, Bright yellow, often in large schools feeding in water column, bold and easily approached. Rows of black seeds down back of bright lemon yellow back.
- 6. Multiband** – Endemic 4-6 inches, depth 10-90, often in pairs or small groups, Tan colored with 4 to 5 vertical dark bars and dots between (Bands and their groupies are the dots). Also known as pebbled.
- 7. Saddled** – 7-9 inches, 10-90 feet, fairly uncommon. Can see shallow, black saddle rimmed in white, blue stripes along side, beautiful! Generally in pairs.
- 8. Teardrop** – 5-7 inches, at 20-100 feet most common 40-60 feet although can see snorkeling. Large black teardrop on back, runny mascara (also runs down front and back of body. Large mouth, nips off coral, eats polyps and crustaceans.
- 9. Ornate** – 6-8 inches, 10-90 feet, 6 flamboyant “ornate!” diagonal gold bands – like a Gold crown, black markings around the edges, almost always seen in pairs. Also one of the most beautiful.
- 10. Oval** – 4-5 inches, shallower to 60 feet, not nearly as common as ornate, occurs in pairs. Apricot colored with dusky purple/gray stripes, reddish anal fin.
- 11. Bluestripe** – Endemic, truly unique nowhere else in the world will you find anything else like it -4-5 inches, snorkeling to deep – common in shallows, yellow with 8 narrow stripes sweeping upward toward the tail. Large black spot on head and at caudal peduncle.

**12. Blacklip** – about 4 inches, found deeper below 40-50 feet. golden brown, bar through eye with bluish on top (sometimes called bluehead) but distinctive black lips, plankton feeder will be off the bottom.

**13. Forcepsfish** – 4-6 inches, 10-100 feet. Forceps open mouth. Bright yellow (no dark phase) black head and spot on tail. Take a pic for positive ID!

**14. Longnose** – 5-7 inches 10-100 feet but usually deeper, have dark phase not sure what is related too (could not find), dark phase common in Kona, will pair with different phases. Nose is about 1/3 longer than forcepsfish and closed at tip. Also have small black dots at pectoral fins. Take a pic for positive ID!

**15. Pyramid** – 5 inches, schooling at dropoffs, feed in water column, 20-100 feet, usually deeper than 40 ft. Can see them snorkeling at Honaunau on Kona Coast.