



## Red Admiral Butterfly

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The **Red Admiral butterfly (*Vanessa atalanta*)** has been sighted for the first time in India's **Dhauladhar mountain range** in Himachal Pradesh.

- **Size and Family:** The Red Admiral butterfly belongs to the *Nymphalidae* family and has a wing span ranging from 67-72mm (male to female).
  - Morphologically, the Red Admiral resembles the [Indian Red Admiral \(\*Vanessa indica\*\)](#) but can be distinguished by its narrower, deeper crimson discal band and the consistent presence of a diagnostic spot in the upper forewing (a feature absent in the Indian species).
- **Global Distribution:** The Red Admiral butterfly is found in **North and South America, Europe, and Asia** (no confirmed records from China, Mongolia, or Afghanistan).
- **Habitat:** Common in urban and disturbed landscapes, but also found in **moist forested areas, and wetlands**, where it requires water, minerals, and sugars to survive.
- **Behavior:** Male Red Admirals are highly territorial and often chase rivals from their roosting spots.
  - Its larvae feed on **stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*)**, found abundantly in the Western Himalayas.
- **Climate Adaptation:** The species is resilient to climate change due to its diverse host plants, primarily from the **nettle family (*Urticaceae*)**, but may face challenges from habitat loss and environmental changes affecting plant populations.



Read more: [Butterflies Adaptation and Evolution Processes](#)

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