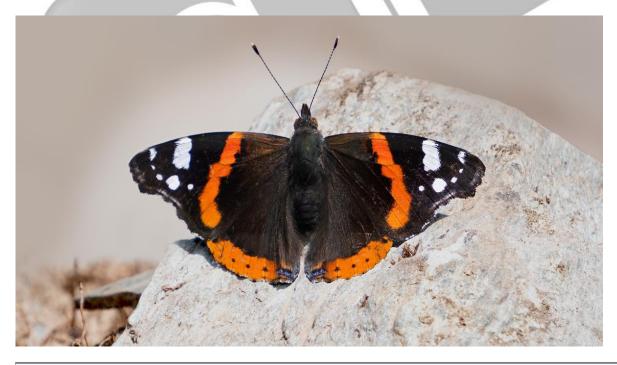


## **Red Admiral Butterfly**

## **Source: TH**

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 <u>Indian Red Admiral</u> (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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