

## Graceful Glasswing Butterflies 森林精灵：透翅蝶

We may **shrink from** spiders, **cockroaches**, and other bugs, but the butterfly **captivates** us all. Its **intriguing** life cycle – from **caterpillar** to **pupa** to **fabulous** creature – is one of nature's great wonders. There are as many as 20,000 species of butterfly. Some of them are known for long **migrations** while others are **admired** simply for their beauty. These winged insects **enchant** people everywhere.

我们可能会对蜘蛛、蟑螂或其他昆虫退避三舍，但却为蝴蝶所著迷。从毛毛虫、蛹、再长成奇妙的生物，蝴蝶复杂的生命周期是自然界的惊奇之一。世界上有多达 2 万种蝴蝶，有些以长途迁徙著名，有些只因其美丽的身影而受人喜爱。世界各地的人们陶醉于此种有翅膀的昆虫。

In the forests of [Central America](#) lives a particular unusual type of butterfly, but even if you travel there, you'd still have to be very fortunate to see one. [Glasswing butterflies](#), or *Greta oto*, can be found from Panama to Mexico, but their **translucent** wings make them very difficult to spot. Instead of the attractive, colored **tissues** that **characterize** the wings of most species, the wing tissue of the *Greta oto* is clear, and almost **invisible** to the human eye. Although you can see the dark borders of the wings, and the **veins** that run between, the wing tissue itself is **see-through**. The **delicate** appearance of these remarkable butterflies is **misleading**, though, as the Glasswing is just as strong as any other species.

中美洲的森林里住着一种品种特别的蝴蝶，但即使你造访当地，也需有相当运气才能一探其庐山真面目。又名 *Greta oto* 的透翅蝶生活在巴拿马至墨西哥间的区域，但牠们的透明羽翼使其很难被看到。不似大部分的蝴蝶物种以引人注目的彩色双翼为特色，透翅蝶的翅脉组织为透明的，人的肉眼几乎无法看清。即使你能见到翅膀上的深色边缘与遍布其上的血管，但其双翅仍是透明的。此种奇异蝴蝶不似其娇细的外表，牠其实如其他蝴蝶物种般强壮。

**As** the Glasswing is difficult to see, it is relatively safe from **predators**. The caterpillars are safe, too, as they hatch from eggs laid on the poisonous [nightshade](#) plant. The caterpillars **feed on** this toxic plant and are thus **unappetizing** to hungry rain forest animals in need of a snack.

因为透翅蝶很难被找到，相对地牠也极少受掠食者侵扰。透翅蝶在有毒茄属植物上孵蛋，使其幼虫也不受攻击。透翅蝶幼虫以有毒植物为食，故对于想打打牙祭的雨林动物来说，透翅蝶幼虫可是很难下咽。

Looking almost like a butterfly **stencil**, the Glasswing is an extraordinary insect. You'd have to be patient to spot one, but it would surely be worth the wait.

透翅蝶是一种奇异的昆虫，看上去像极了一块模板图案。你必须具备相当耐心才能见到一只，但这等待一定值得。

— by Alice Davis

## Vocabulary

**cockroach** [ˈkɒk,rɒtʃ] n. 蟑螂

**captivate** [ˈkæptə,vet] v. 使着迷; 迷住, 吸引

**intriguing** [ɪnˈtrɪɡɪŋ] adj. (由于奇特、神秘或出人意料而) 引起好奇心的; 令人感兴趣的

**caterpillar** [ˈkætə,pɪlə] n. 毛虫

**pupa** [ˈpjupə] n. 蛹

**fabulous** [ˈfæbjələs] adj. 惊人的; 难以置信的

**migration** [maɪˈɡreɪʃən] n. 迁移; (候鸟等的) 迁徙

**admire** [ədˈmaɪr] v. 称赞, 夸奖

**enchant** [ɪnˈtʃænt] v. 使陶醉, 使入迷

**translucent** [trænsˈlusnt] adj. 半透明的

**tissue** [ˈtɪʃu] n. (动植物的) 组织

**characterize** [ˈkærəktəˌraɪz] v. 具有.....的特征, 以.....为特征

**invisible** [ɪnˈvɪzəbəl] adj. 看不见的

**vein** [ven] n. 【动】翅脉; 纹理, 条纹

**see-through** adj. 透明的

**delicate** [ˈdɛləkət] adj. 纤弱的, 娇弱的

**misleading** [mɪsˈlɪdɪŋ] adj. 使人误解的; 骗人的

**as:** 因为 because

**predator** [ˈprɛdətə] n. 捕食其他动物的动物

**unappetizing** [ʌnˈæpəˌtaɪzɪŋ] adj. 引不起食欲的; 引不起兴趣的; 索然无味的

**stencil** [ˈstɛnsəl] n. 油印蜡纸; (用模板或蜡纸印刷的) 图案

## More Information

**shrink from:** 退缩, 畏缩 avoid

**feed on:** 靠...为食 to eat