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About Our Cover

During observation of several butterflies wandering over an unknown plant in India, these caterpillars were found. They are the larvae of *Anaphaeis aurota*, the caper white (or pioneer white) butterfly. The larval host plant is *Maerua oblongifolia*, a member of the Capparaceae (the caper family), which is closely related to the Brassicaceae (the mustard family).

This butterfly has two phenotypic variants, a wet-season form and a dry-season form. Butterflies living in tropical climes often have adaptations for fluctuations in weather, thereby increasing their survival rates. These include variations in wing patterns, such as the size of eye markings, to avoid predation; body changes to increase drought resistance; and hormonal variation to postpone reproduction. This developmental plasticity allows environmental factors to influence development so that the resulting butterflies have different physical traits yet remain the same genetically.

This image was taken by Kishore Pawar, Department of Seed Technology, Holkar Science College, Indore, India. She used a SP510UZ Olympus camera.

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