



ATTRACTING BUTTERFLIES

Making a butterfly feeder - Fruit buffet!

Malta has 23 species of butterfly, each as beautiful and unique as the next. However, many of them are declining and need our help. The use of pesticides and the destruction of the wildflower meadows that provide them with food has left them in a precarious situation. By putting a feeding station in your garden, courtyard or on your balcony, you're providing these beautiful and glamorous insects with a safe place to feed!

While sweet and sugary nectar from flowers forms the staple of a butterfly's diet, some species also love to drain the sugary juices from fruit! Chunks of fruit, such as apples, oranges, strawberries, melon or mashed bananas can simply be placed on to a plate or wooden plank and left in the garden or courtyard. The riper the better! Alternatively, if you'd like to hang it up, follow the instructions below.



MATERIALS

- Wooden plank
- Rope
- Mixing Bowl
- Spoon/fork
- Fruit - Oranges, apples, bananas, melon, strawberries, etc.
(whatever you have!)

PROCEDURE

- 1** Drill a hole into each corner of the wooden plank
- 2** Thread the rope through each hole and tie a knot in each piece
- 3** Slice over-ripe banana into a bowl and use a spoon/fork to mash it up.



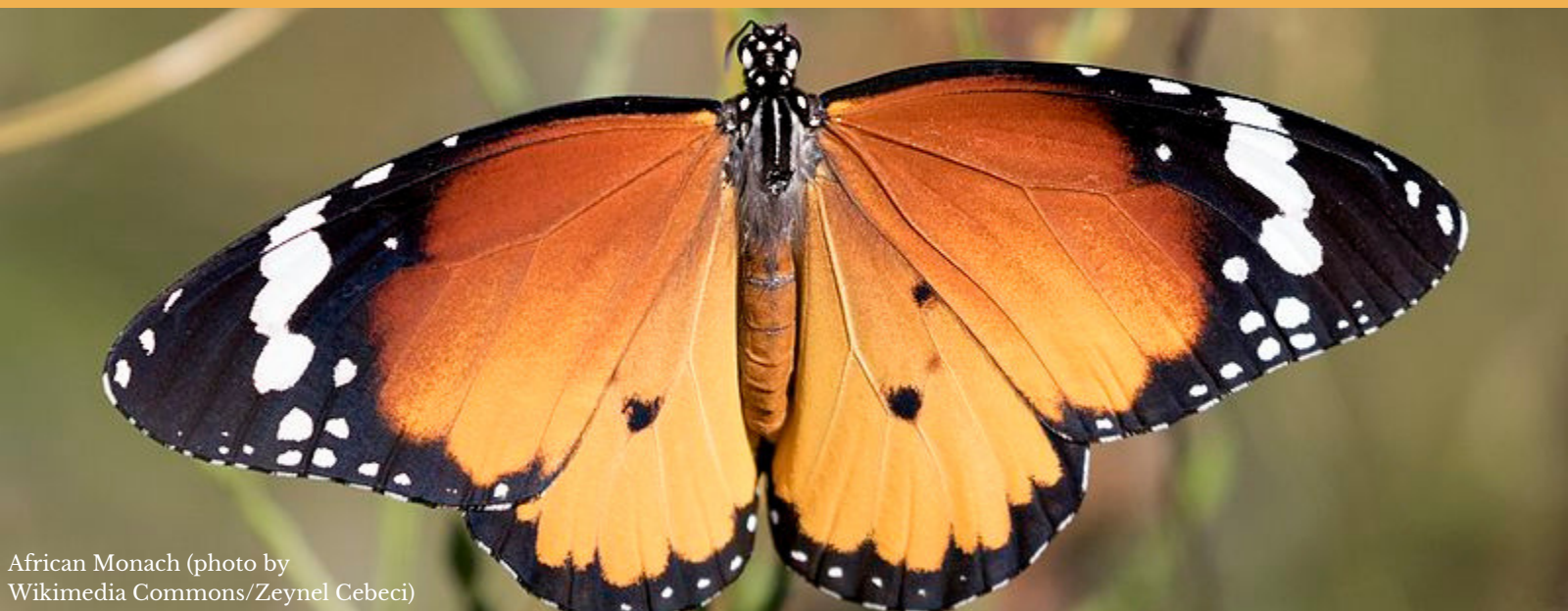
Clouded Yellow
photo: Zeynel Cebeci)



4 Slice any other pieces of over-ripe fruit (apple, strawberries, oranges) into reasonably-sized chunks

5 Tie the loose ends of the rope around a branch, so that the wooden plank dangles beneath it

6 Place your fruit onto the wood and patiently wait for butterflies to visit!



African Monarch (photo by
Wikimedia Commons/Zeynel Cebeci)



Large White (photo by Gail Hampshire)