

Hungarian Stamps 2011

**MAGYAR POSTA
STAMP ISSUE
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FAUNA OF HUNGARY: MOTHS AND BUTTERFLIES



In keeping with its traditions, Magyar Posta presents the characteristic fauna of Hungary each year on a stamp block and set of stamps. The new 2011 stamps depict butterflies and moths.

Insects with scale-covered wings (Lepidoptera) include moths and butterflies, which are thought to be the last order to have evolved among arthropods. To date about 150,000 species of moths have been identified, and 3,500 are known to have occurred in the Carpathian Basin. Insects belonging to the Lepidoptera order are commonly described in Hungarian by a number of words, which can be summarised in English as moth and butterfly. Most of the species representing 40 moth families living in Hungary are small and fragile, but there are some which are large and fat, and they usually fly at night. The ones that are nocturnal are called moths in everyday speech. The word butterfly is mainly used for the splendid dainty species with beautiful coloration, which are on the wing during the day. All butterflies belong to one family only, which is represented by 4 species in

Hungary. These, compared to their wonderful relatives living in the tropics, are elegant but modest in appearance. (Source: written by the expert Zsolt Bálint)

The stamps of the set show, in order of ascending face value, on a white background Freyer's Purple Emperor (*Apatura metis*), which is characteristic in the Danube's catchment area, Esper's Marbled White (*Melanargia russiae*), which used to live in our forest steppe areas but has now disappeared, Garden Tiger Moth (*Arctia caja*), now a less frequent visitor to our gardens, and the Willowherb Hawkmoth (*Proserpinus proserpina*), still quite common in wet meadows. In the border and the stamp design of the numbered block the splendid Large Copper with its original coloration is repeated in a delicate drawing, imparting a special rhythm. This butterfly occurs in marshland in Hungarian areas. Butterfly motifs are likewise repeated in the design of the first day cover and the special postmark.

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Order code: 2011120050411 (set) • 2011120060012 (set FDC)
2011130030011 (block) • 2011130060012 (block FDC)

Date of issue: 6 May 2011 • Total face value: HUF 1410 • Number of copies issued: 500,000 sets and 100,000 blocks • Perforated size of stamps: 40 x 30 mm • Perforated size of the stamp within the block: 40 x 31.5 mm, external imperforated size of the block: 90 x 65 mm. • Printing method: offset • Printed by Állami Nyomda • Designed by Katalin Rácz-Fodor