

Researchers have found that inedible butterfly species with similar colour patterns also have similar flight habits, which serve as warning signals to predators. The study found that the colour pattern mimicry group a butterfly belongs to is the biggest determinant of its flight behavior, rather than its species habitat or wing shape. This study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, involved analyzing the flight patterns of butterflies in South America to determine the factors that influence their behavior. The researchers studied mimicry in butterflies to see if flight behavior corresponds to color pattern, and found that behavioral mimicry is strong and widespread. Distantly related butterflies in the same colour pattern mimicry group have more similar flight behavior than closely related species with different warning coloration. Flight patterns are influenced by factors like air temperature and habitat.