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Stunning Glasswing Butterflies Have Wings that Look like Transparent Windows

By bestfolkmedicine · 21/08/2020 · 1 min read

The Greta oto or the glasswing butterfly may be the most stunning bug you've ever seen. Its sensitive wings have a mixture of orange and white color, similar to the ones of the monarch butterfly.

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The remaining of its fancy wings have flawless clear panes that look like they're windows.

Their stunning wings serve 2 purposes-the white stripes warn the predators of toxicity while the clear panes give the butterfly an opportunity to camouflage into its surroundings.

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Why Are the Clear Wing Panes so Special?

In the stage of caterpillar, the glasswing butterflies lack chitin pigment, a material in insect exoskeletons and butterfly wings.

Without it, their wings don't have color and are transparent because they're very thin.

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To stay protected from predators, their wings have nanopillars or a rough texture which averts the surface from being reflective or one that gives the illusion of 'empty' panes.

These insects are native to South and Central America; however, unlike other species of butterflies, these ones migrate seasonally and sometimes they may appear in Florida.

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The butterfly travels at speeds up to 8 miles per hour and are stronger than other species. The nanopillars have motivated the scientists from Caltech to better the eye implant functionality.

If you want to take a closer look at these impressive butterflies, check out the video below:

Sources:

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