

# A BUTTERFLY ROUNDTABLE: ITHOMIINES ON FRUIT (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)

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Ithomiine butterflies dining on fruit particles near Fazenda Rancho Grande, Cacauplandia, Rondônia, Brazil, 3 Jan 1991. (© 1995 Gary N. Ross)

Although ithomiine butterflies are addicted to the nectars of various flowers, many of these phantom-like butterflies seem to enjoy over-ripe, fermenting fruits. In the photographs, ithomiines are feeding on fragments of fruit from a *Ficus* tree. The fragments had fallen from the forest canopy onto leaves of lower story plants. The fruit originally was nibbled on by canopy-dwelling birds.