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## Larval host records of butterflies in Japan

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**Abstract** Using Japanese literature, we created a consolidated list of host records of butterflies in Japan. The list used the host records described in eight major illustrated reference books, two checklists, and 14 other pieces of literature. The presence of larvae on plants, the observation of larvae eating plants or insects in the field were considered as host records. We collected all species recorded in Japan. Scientific, family, and Japanese names of butterflies were consolidated using the BINRAN database (<http://binran.lepimages.jp/>). Scientific and Japanese names of host plants were based on the YList database (<http://ylist.info/>). If scientific names of host plants were not found in YList, we used scientific names based on The Plant List (<http://www.theplantlist.org/>). Family names of host plants were based on the Catalogue of Life database (<http://www.catalogueoflife.org/>). Scientific, family, and Japanese names of host insects were based on the MOKUROKU database ([\[agr.agr.kyushu-u.ac.jp/mokuroku/\]\(http://agr.agr.kyushu-u.ac.jp/mokuroku/\)\) for Hymenoptera and the catalogue of the Paraneoptera of Japan published by the Entomological Society of Japan for Hemiptera. We also provided the references of each host record and the original names described in the referred literature. Two datasets, HostDB and ReferenceDB, were created to include 3600 records of butterfly larval hosts in Japan, along with scientific and Japanese names of each species and a literature list. These datasets will be useful for basic and applied biological studies of butterflies. Data files are stored in the Ecological Research Data Archives \(\[http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER\\\_DataPapers/\]\(http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER\_DataPapers/\)\) and available from <http://hostbj.lepumus.net/>. These datasets are published under the Creative Commons License Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 \(CC BY-SA, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>\).](http://konchudb.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**Keywords** Biotic interaction · Database · Feeding habit · Food plant · Host insect · Host plant · Larva · Lepidoptera · Life history · Literature study

The complete data set for this abstract published in the Data Paper section of the journal is available in electronic format in Ecological Research Data Paper Archives at [http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER\\_DataPapers/archives/2016/ERDP-2016-02](http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER_DataPapers/archives/2016/ERDP-2016-02).

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