

Part 368 for Cathy's blog

Friday 19th June and Saturday 20th June.

Friday 19th June

Today, we were warned the roads inside Angkor Thom would be closed (due to the Girl Guides Association having a world gathering at the Elephant Terrace in Siem Reap).

You couldn't imagine a more beautiful setting .

And knowing something of how things are organised here in Cambodia, we knew we would have to get out and back home early.

Even as we arrived at Angkor Thom and rode through the South Gate we knew things were already bordering on chaos.

We were sent the wrong way around the Bayon (no big problem there) and then had to wait while about 30 VIP cars went through.

We rode on, tried to turn right to the Victory Gate, but that was where the motorcade had gone.

We can easily change our plans, and we rode on to the North Gate (even though we had just visited the North Gate this week!)

And it turned out to be one of the best morning walks we have had.

We found two new spiders.



One was instantly christened the banana spider. It is about 1 cm across. I thought it was a beetle stuck in a web, but really it was catching and wrapping its breakfast (a large, flying ant).

The second one also deserved the banana spider title, but it also has spots!



I wouldn't have believed them if AI had "drawn" them.

Their "shells" are different shapes.
Their bodies /legs are different colours.

But they both were catching the flying ants.

It is now our goal to go out to the forest of Angkor after the rain, when the flying ants all leave their nests.

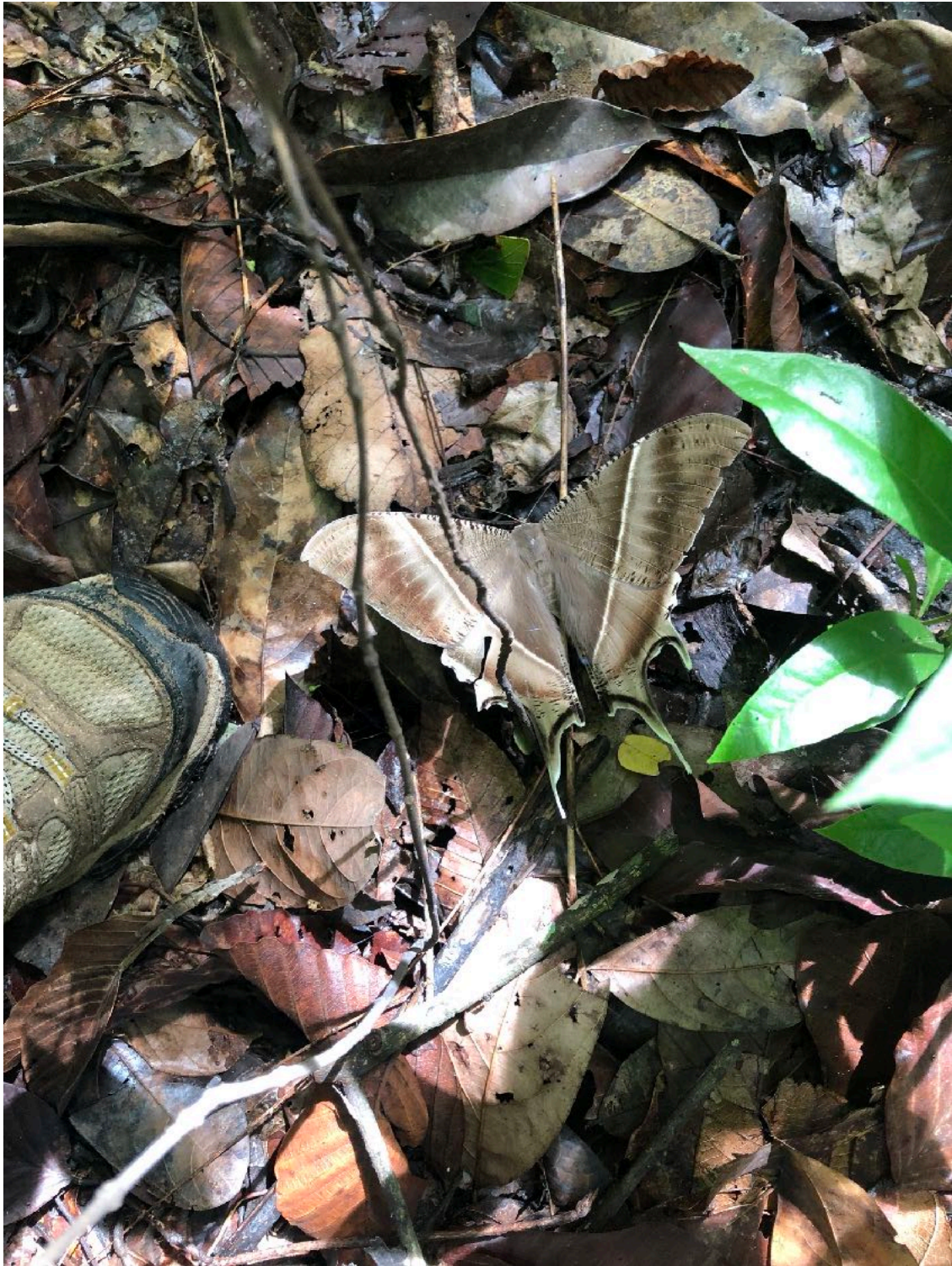
Our later research has found that these two spiders have not been found in Cambodia until now (I am tickled pink by this information... even if I am a bit sceptical about organised research into species here in Cambodia).

Everything else was a bit mundane after these spiders and we needed to be out of the area before the road closures.

But we did stop just 100m South of the North Gate to chase this moth into the forest.



Lyssa Zampa, the tropical swallowtail moth.



Here it is with my shoe, to give you an idea of the size!

Well, we got caught again in the motorcade, pulled off the road and waited... and waited... and finally a nice man (probably 60 years old and with more gold braid than Sargent Pepper), said we could ride around behind the Suor Proat Towers and out through the Victory Gate that way.

We know the area (we have parked along the back there when visiting Chorm Temple), so we left the side of the road (where the motorcade had driven on and filled up both lanes and then stopped!) and rode along trails, behind the north Suor Proat Towers and back onto the road to the Victory Gate.

Saturday 20th June

We walked in to Angkor Supermarket.



On the way, we met this dog who has been shaved for an operation. Perhaps his feelings are hurt too.

And I finished these key rings for our daughter (for loot bags for our grand-daughter's).first birthday

