

Part 372 for Cathy's blog

Wednesday 1st July, 2026.

Wall walk: North Gate to Prasat Chrung NW



These are the ants you have to be careful of. They are in the trees and on the ground. There are termites on the ground too. The rain disturbs them.



Here the ants are protecting “their” fruit.



Other insects are less threatening, like this moth (which would be well camouflaged if it was on tree bark!)



The moat is beginning to fill with water. This water buffalo (“Krab-Bei) is already enjoying the greener grass.



There are always some flowers and some fruit to be seen.





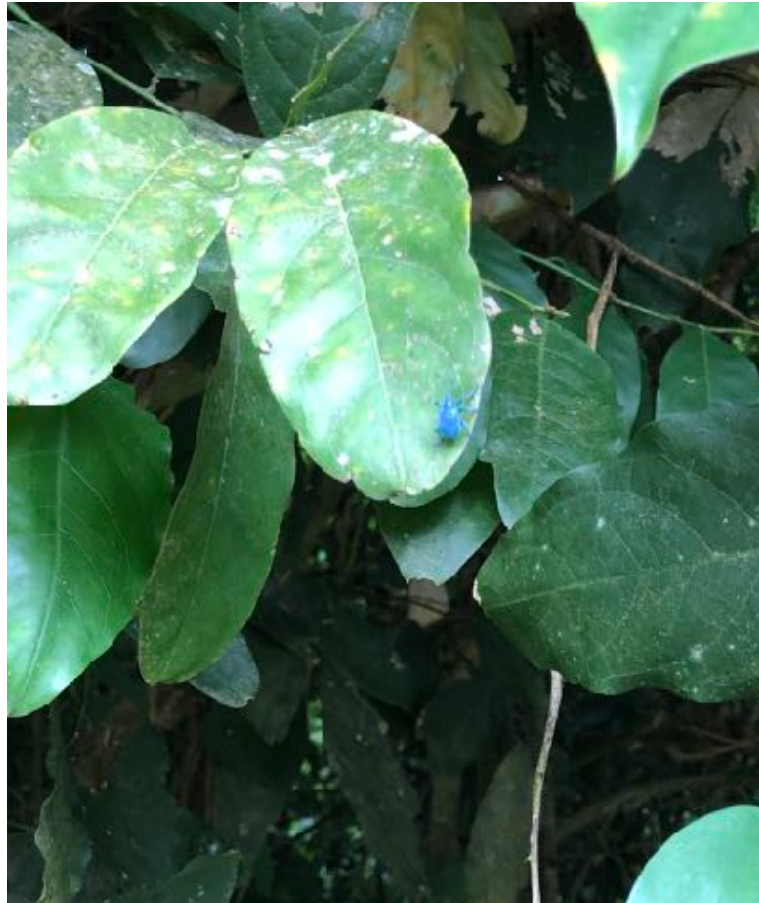
And here is another camouflaged moth; it is about 1cm across the widest part of its wings.



Handsome damselfly.



I don't know if these ants are "tickling" the thrips or just walking on the same stem.



And I had to put this photo in, because this weevil really is this colour (and I apologise for the photo).

They are also very shy. They have the “drop off” strategy. When you get near, they simply drop off the leaf. (They can fly.)



There are more spiders about than before.



This is a folded-up spider.



And one from the ground level web tunnels.

Thursday 2nd July, 2026.

Wall walk : Gate of the Dead to Prasat Chrung SE

This walk is technically one quarter of the wall around Angkor Thom, but it involves coming down from the wall at the Victory Gate and going back up onto the top of the wall, to continue the walk to the corner.

We add a little further to the walk, by walking due east from The Gate of the Dead, to a water lock, where we have seen the otters (no otters today, and no scent of them either... they actually stink!)



The Gate of the Dead. One motor bike has gone through since the last rain.

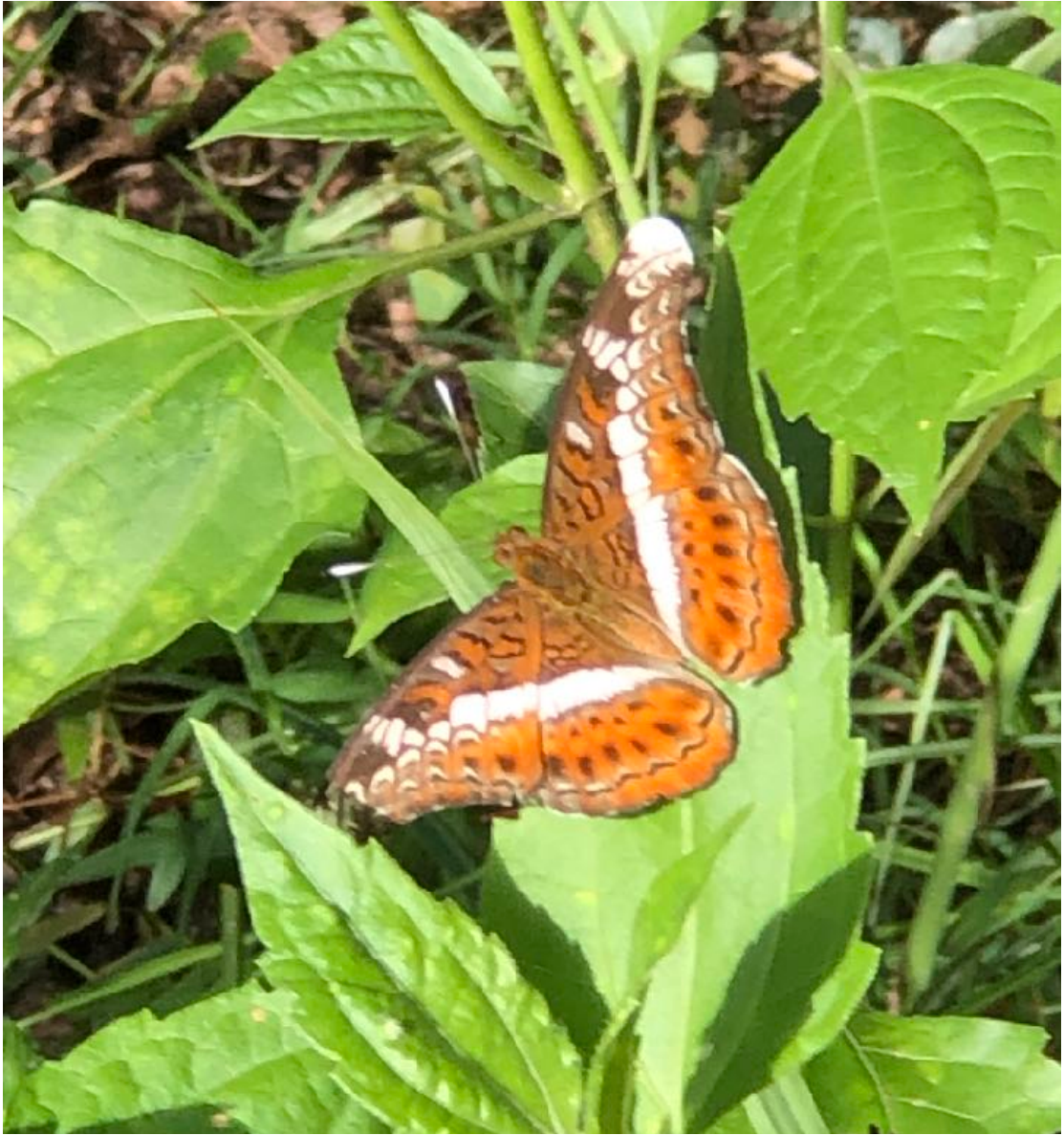
Be prepared! We saw lots of butterflies.



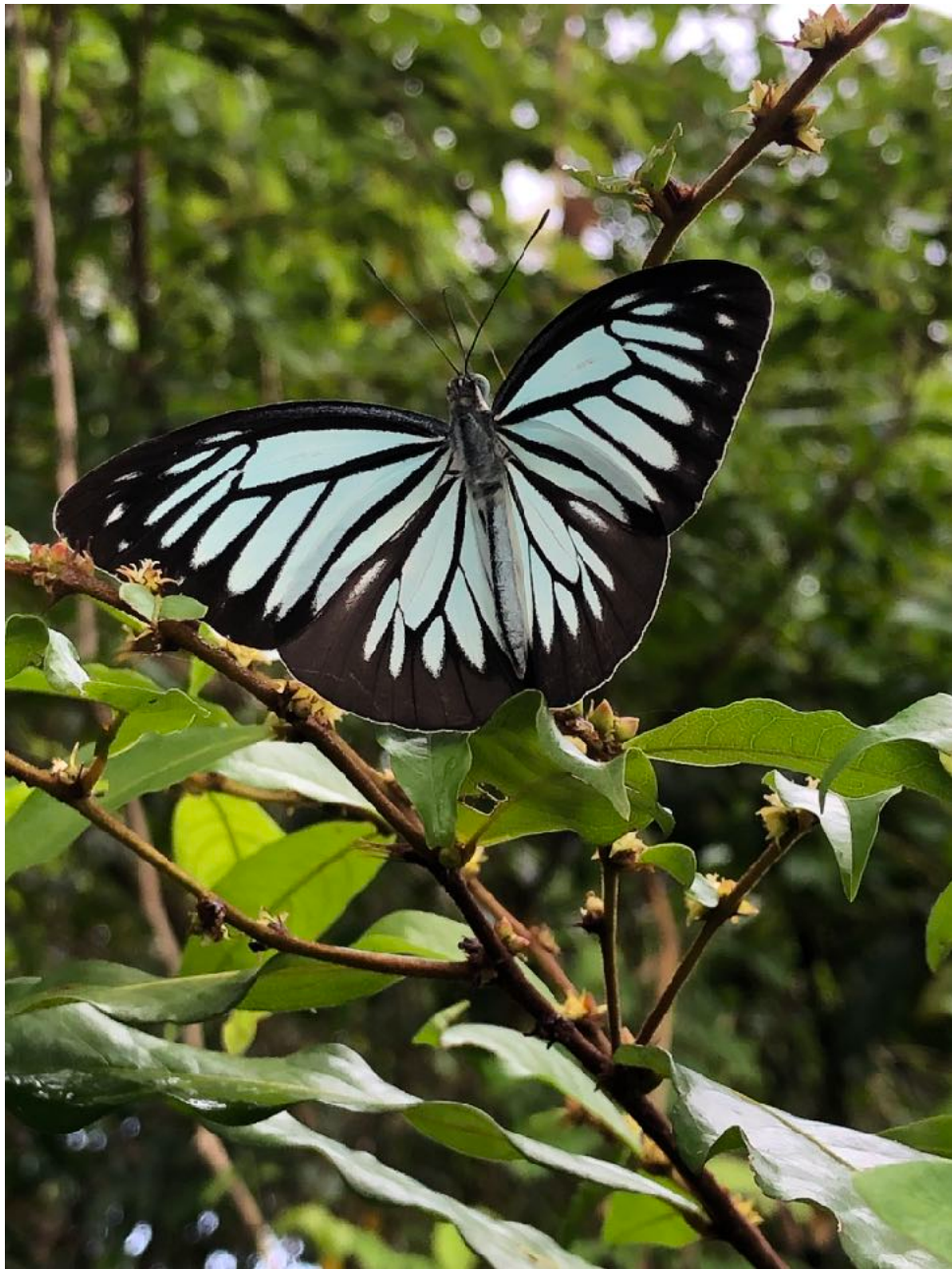
A common Imperial butterfly.



**Newly emerged from its chrysalis (look at its “back” wings... they need to be stretched out).
I looked this one up... it could be *Penthema* spp.
commonly known as the Blue Tiger.**



Lebadea Martha.



Friday 3rd July, 2026.

Wall walk : Gate of the Dead to Prasat Chrung NE



These flowers are hard. They look a bit like a molar.



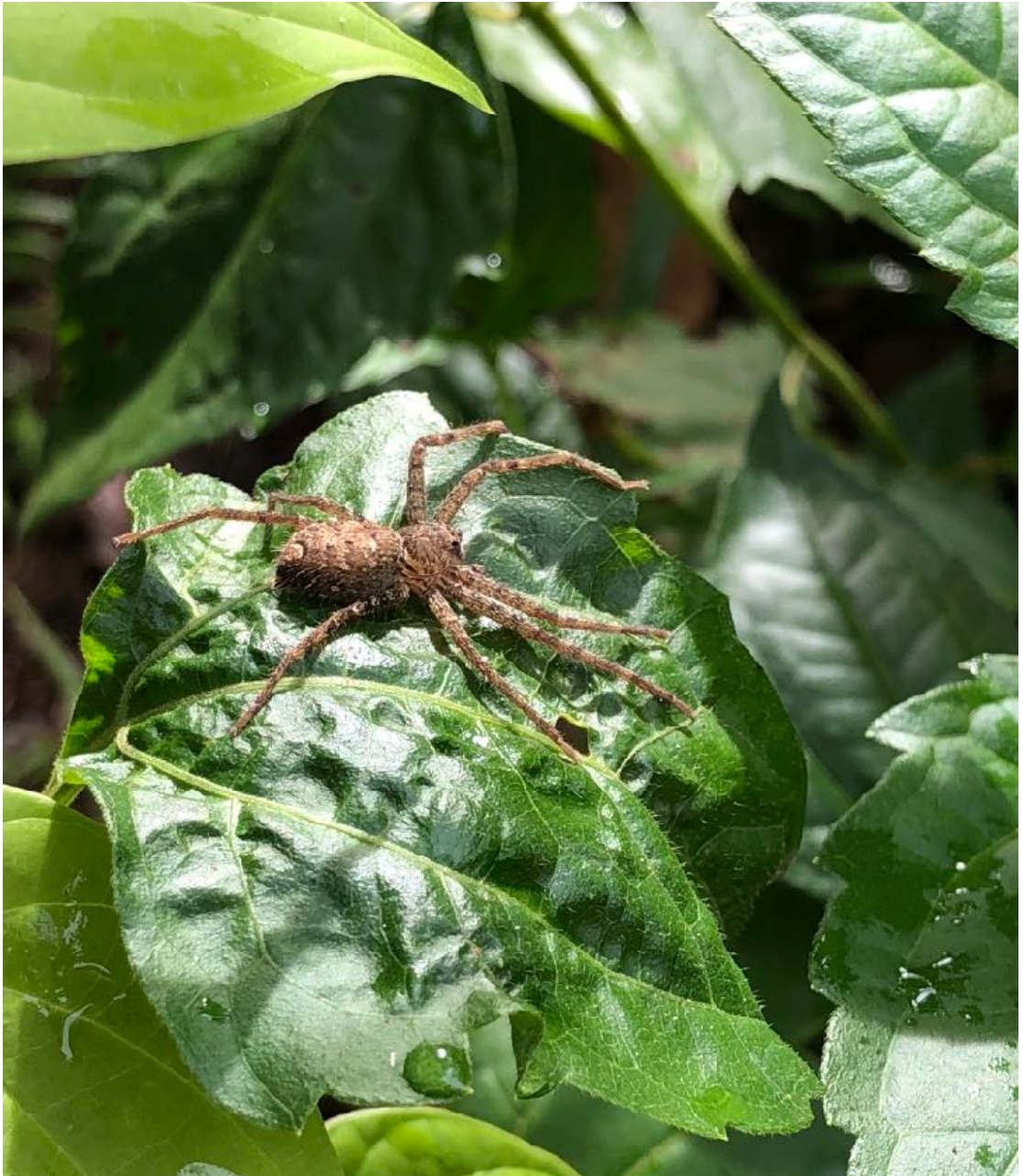
An ordinary snail.



Small lizard, about 5cm long.



I do like the way their back wings have become “antennae” and they have the spots on the wings to look like eyes.



Just waiting...



Very pretty butterfly.



This beetle looks like it is made of velvet!



Sometimes the insects just stand around and let us take photos.



The “eye” patterns seem to be an evolutionary success.



This butterfly is about 15cm wing tip to wing tip.



The Victory Gate.



Caterpillar... warning colours?

Typically, after our morning temple visits, we ride home, exercise and swim (and put the washing on). Then there is just enough time to sort through the photos before lunch.

There is always something new to see on our walks.

Perhaps it is these routines that make the days go by quickly.

It is the weekend again.

Saturday 4th July, 2026.

We begin our weekend by walking to the Angkor Supermarket. The sun is still hot, but the air is a bit cooler. We are still waiting for more regular, heavy rain.

We were invited to a “meet up” of digital creators here in Siem Reap. So we headed over the river to have tea first, then on to meet the people.

Lots of people we knew were there.

And we met some new people (some of whom knew us through the Facebook posts, including one Russian young man married to a Ukrainian girl... hmmm).

I met an Argentinian woman who has just moved closer to town (she was living out near the old airport). We had a long chat.

And we met up with our friends from language school. One of them is now teaching physics (in English) at a local school (he is Norwegian!). He was commenting on finding it hard to keep teenagers entertained in class.

Sunday 5th July, 2026.

We headed off to Spean Chivit to start class at 8:00am. The speeches are moving along slowly. It is an 11 hour day for the person who runs the organisation and her Khmer helper.

11 hours volunteering on a Sunday (so students, who have classes 6 days a week, can attend)... it is a big commitment.