Part 396 for Cathy's blog

Friday 9th October, 2026.
Temple Day : Banteay Prei

Banteay Prei is a small temple in the north of the Angkor Archaeological Park. We have been here many times. It is a good ride, north through Angkor Thom and then further north to just past Preah Khan Temple.



There has been a lot of work recently on the eastern gopura of this temple.

I am not convinced this is as level as it should be.



Here are some of the tools the workers used.



A dragonfly on the sandstone.



Although there has been movement of the blocks, this devapala is still intact.



The central tower, inside a wall.



A window in the wall around the central tower.

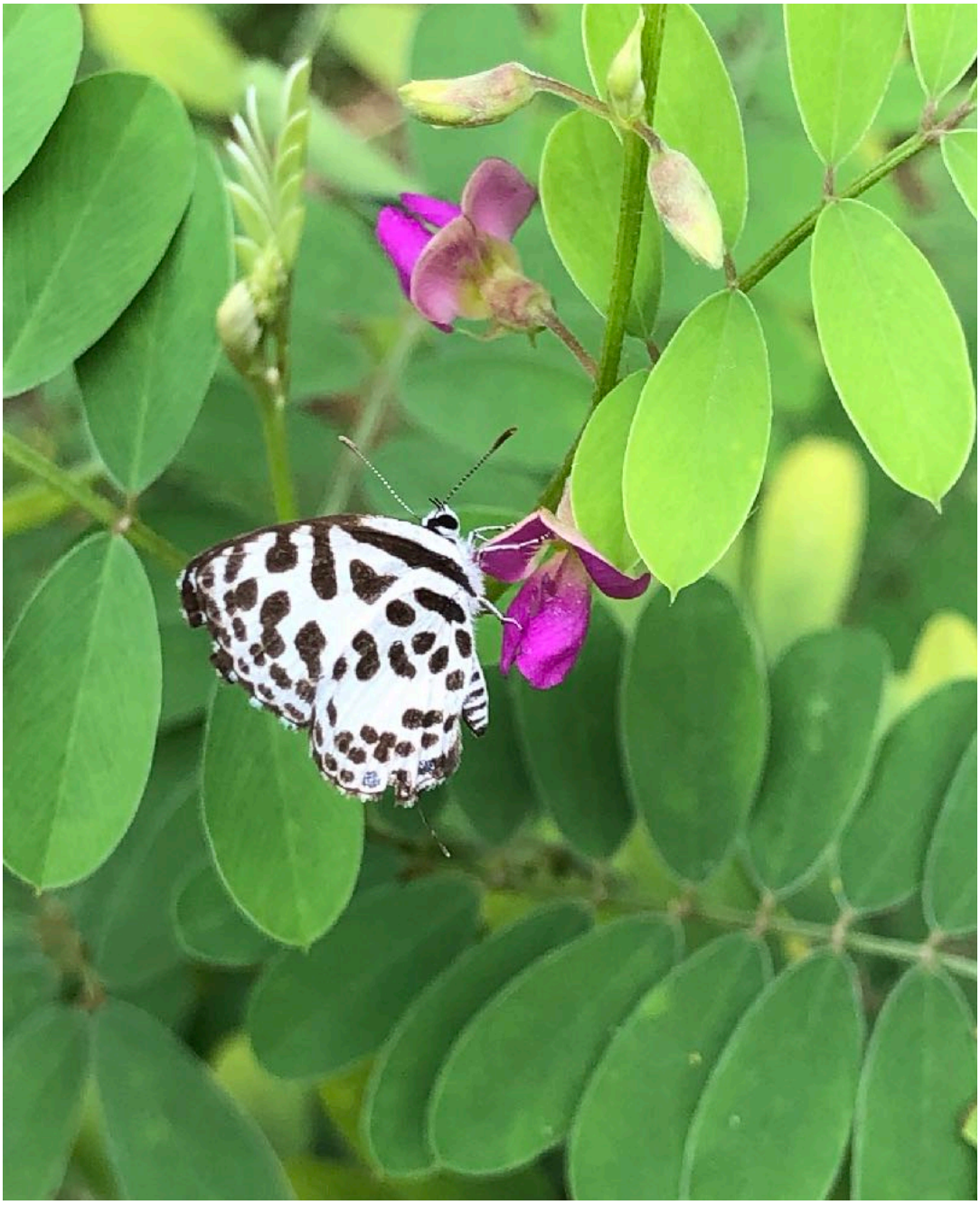


The west gopura of Banteay Prei. Another wall used to run around the site here. Outside this wall is a moat. And outside the moat is yet another wall.

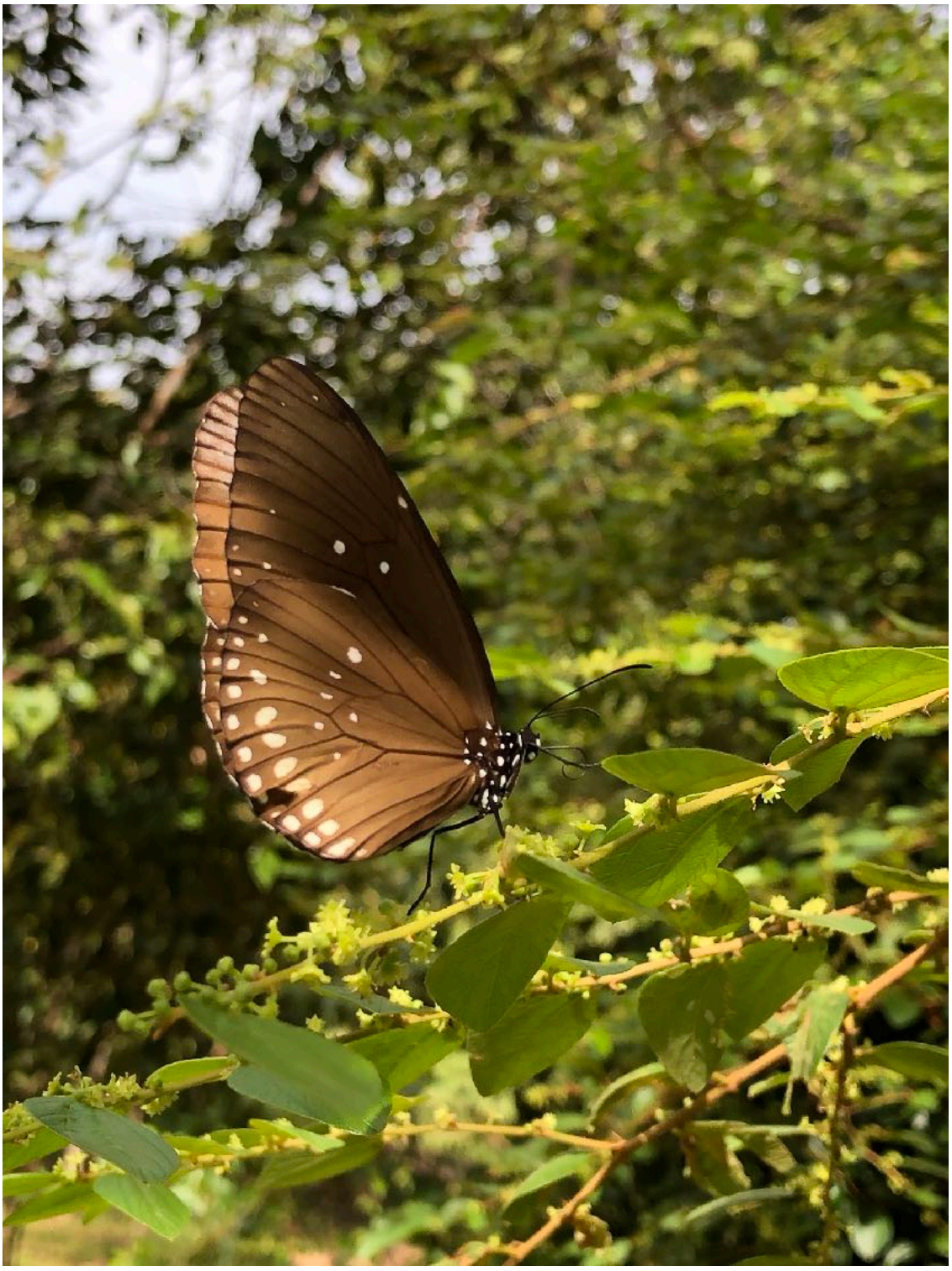
Beyond the outside wall is a small stretch of over grown trees and bushes and then farmland, rice paddies and cashew nut trees.

In some of this overgrown area, we found a lot of butterflies. Here are some of them.













Why did the chicken cross the road?

It was a good morning. We had a ride out on the motor bike. We saw an amazing temple (with no other visitors present). We saw beautiful butterflies. We got about 5000 steps of exercise. And then we rode home.

Back at home, it is time to exercise, swim and get the washing on, all before lunch.

After lunch, we went to the Friday afternoon language class. It was nice to catch up with some learners we met in our first months of language study here in Siem Reap, and there are new learners too.

The rain set in during the class and we waited for a brief pause, riding home in the rain, before it became heavier again. The puddle in the road on the way into town is over flowing. We stayed home and David made soup and toasties for tea.

Saturday 10th October, 2026.

With yesterday's rain, we cannot walk in to town easily. So we walked the other way, along muddy roads to an area behind Psa Kroam (new) then up Night Market Street and then along to Angkor Supermarket. Yes, about 1.5 km further than just walking along our road to Road 63 by the river.



Our flooded road.

As well as our shopping trip, we had to make a visit to the bank. We are going to visit the new baby of our friends tomorrow (the wife used to work here). As well as presents (clothes and a quilt for the baby, and towels for everyone) we will give them money.

Sunday 11th October, 2026.
We rode out to past the Bakong (east) and then north, to the little village the family live in. We were a bit concerned with the traffic along National Road 6, but it all went well. The weather was more of a worry.





We didn’t know our friends had livestock!

It was nice to see the family, in a simple house, but one that’s well set up.



The lotus means “rebirth”… our landlords and many restaurants, display a bowl of lotus flowers floating in water. Sometimes, lotus flowers are left at the temples.

It is nice to see these flowers after our visit to the new baby.

Monday 12th October, 2026.

Wall walk : Gate of the Dead to Prasat Chrung SE.

Siem Reap has many local tourists at the moment. Khmer families reunite for Pchum Ben and many families come to Siem Reap.

Our trip out to the temples is quite busy now, with four wheel drives filled with family members on the roads, and rented scooters filling up the streets.

On the sides of the road, are many fried snack stalls. They sell things like flattened bananas in batter.

This is called “Jake Jean” = “banana fried”.

Siem Reap
12 October 7:13 am



This is one of twelve along our main road towards Angkor Wat. Usually, there is just one stall (near the Botanic Gardens). Cars are happy to double park and call out an order to the seller… the rest of the traffic just has to go around.

We are meeting a young (forty-ish) American we met at the language get-together (on Thursday nights). We were held up by traffic (a little) and he was waiting for us.

We slapped on the mosquito repellent (and gave him the tube, so he did too) and then walked through the Gate of the Dead to see if the otters were there.

No luck, today. Then climbed the wall and walked south to the corner.



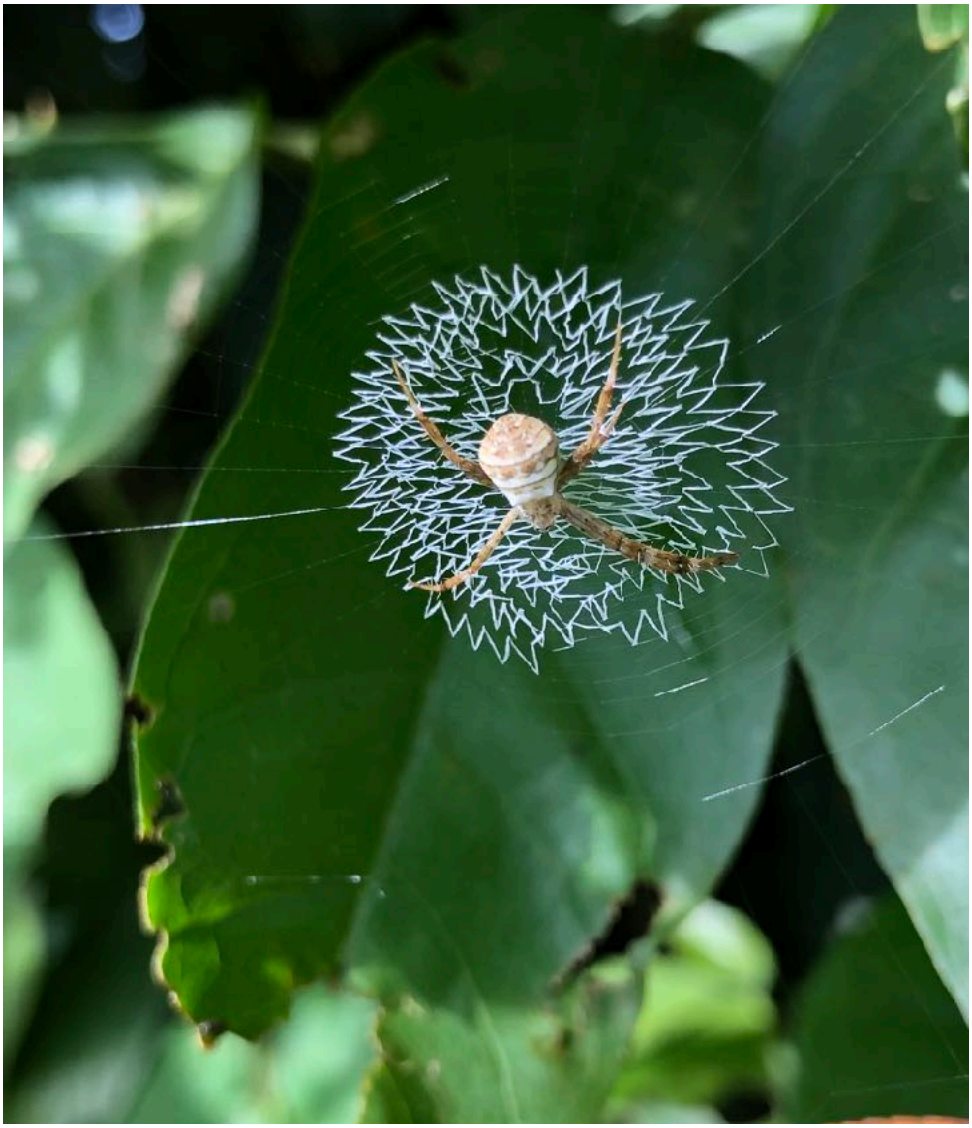
There are flowers just starting to bud. The season is changing.



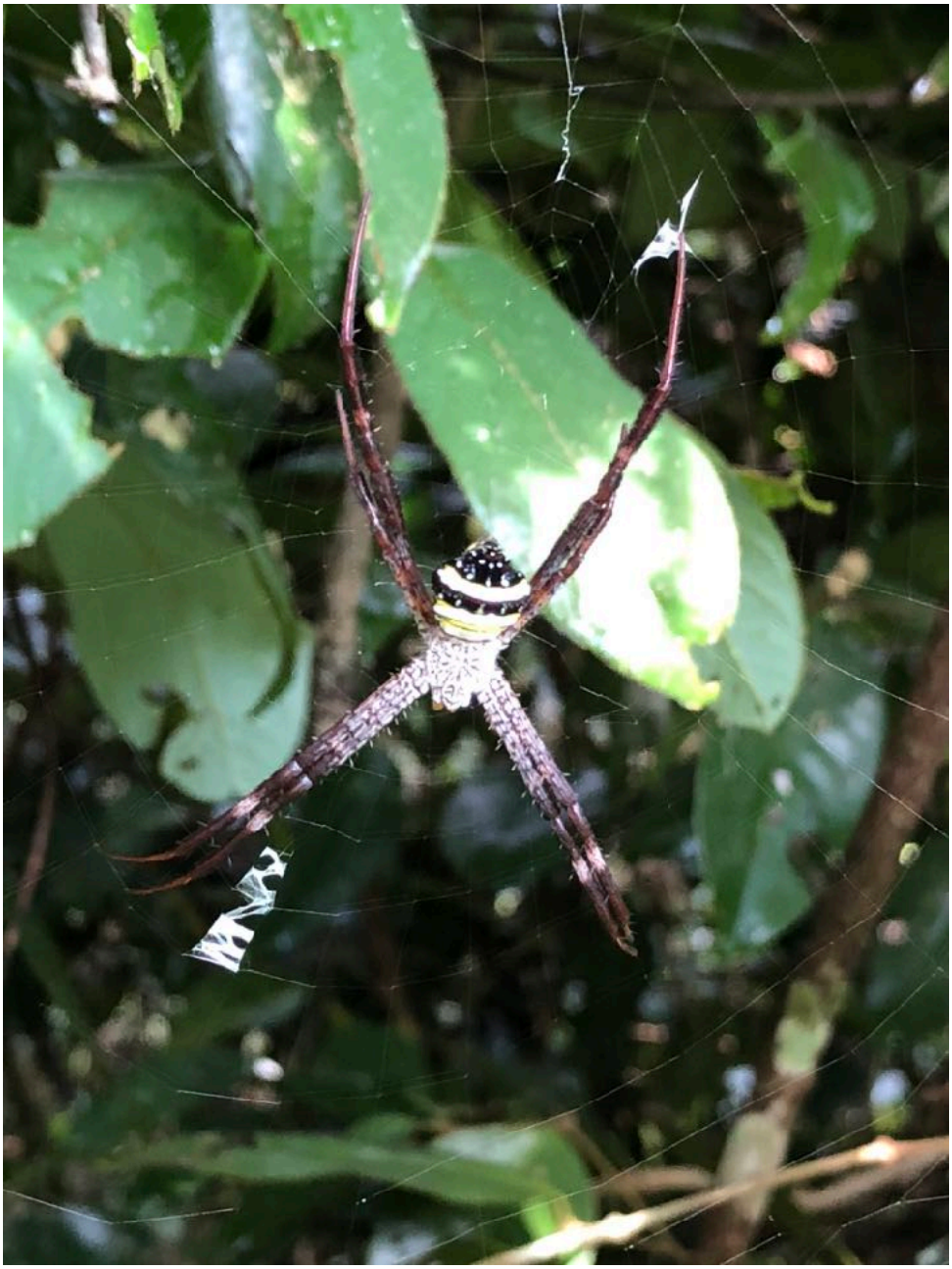
There are always insects to see, like these pretty butterflies.



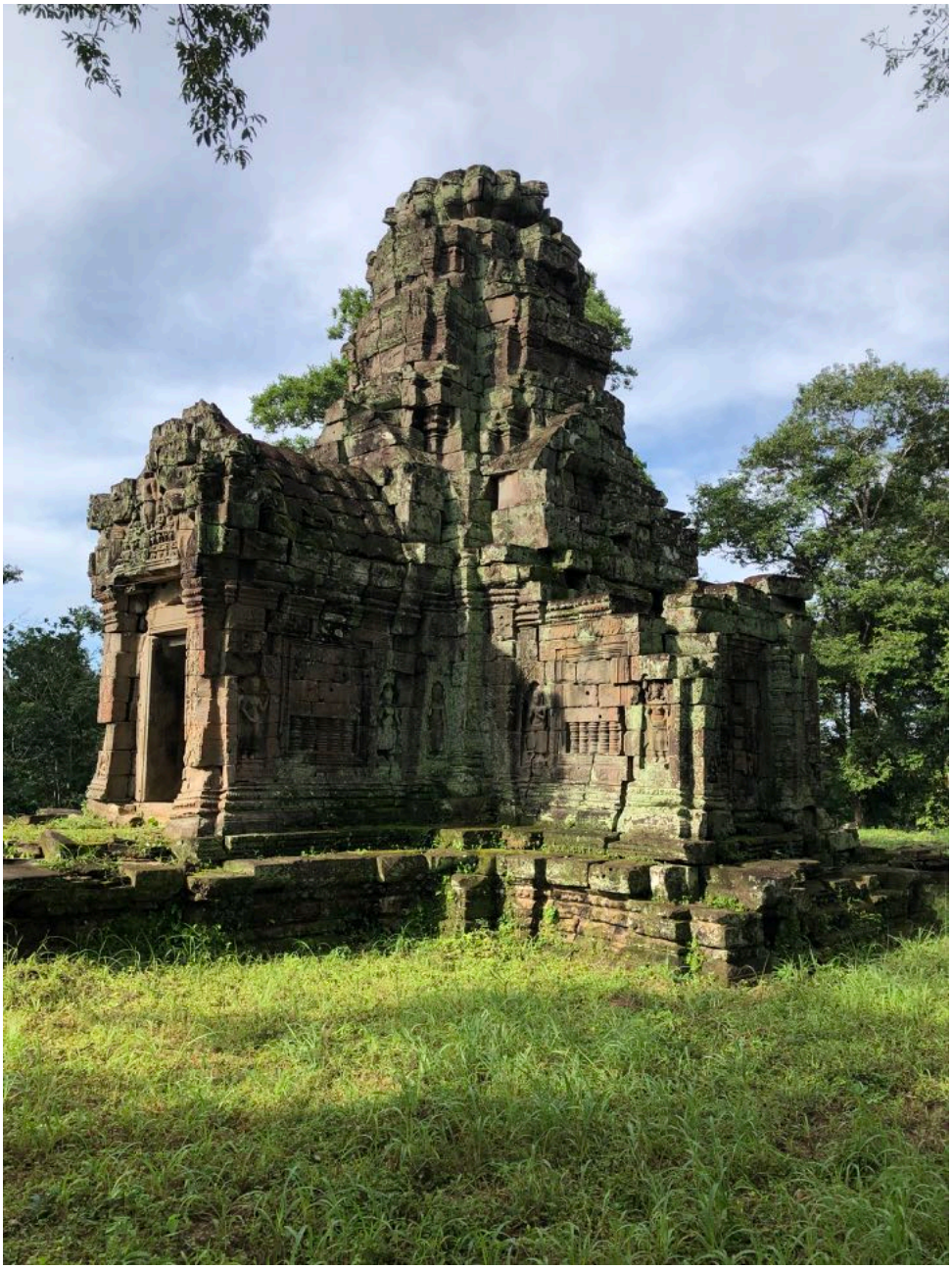
Haven’t seen this grey caterpillar before.



The zig-zag of the web gives the spider some protection. But this one was on the outside! It is a baby Saint Andrew's Cross spider (an orb-weaving spider).



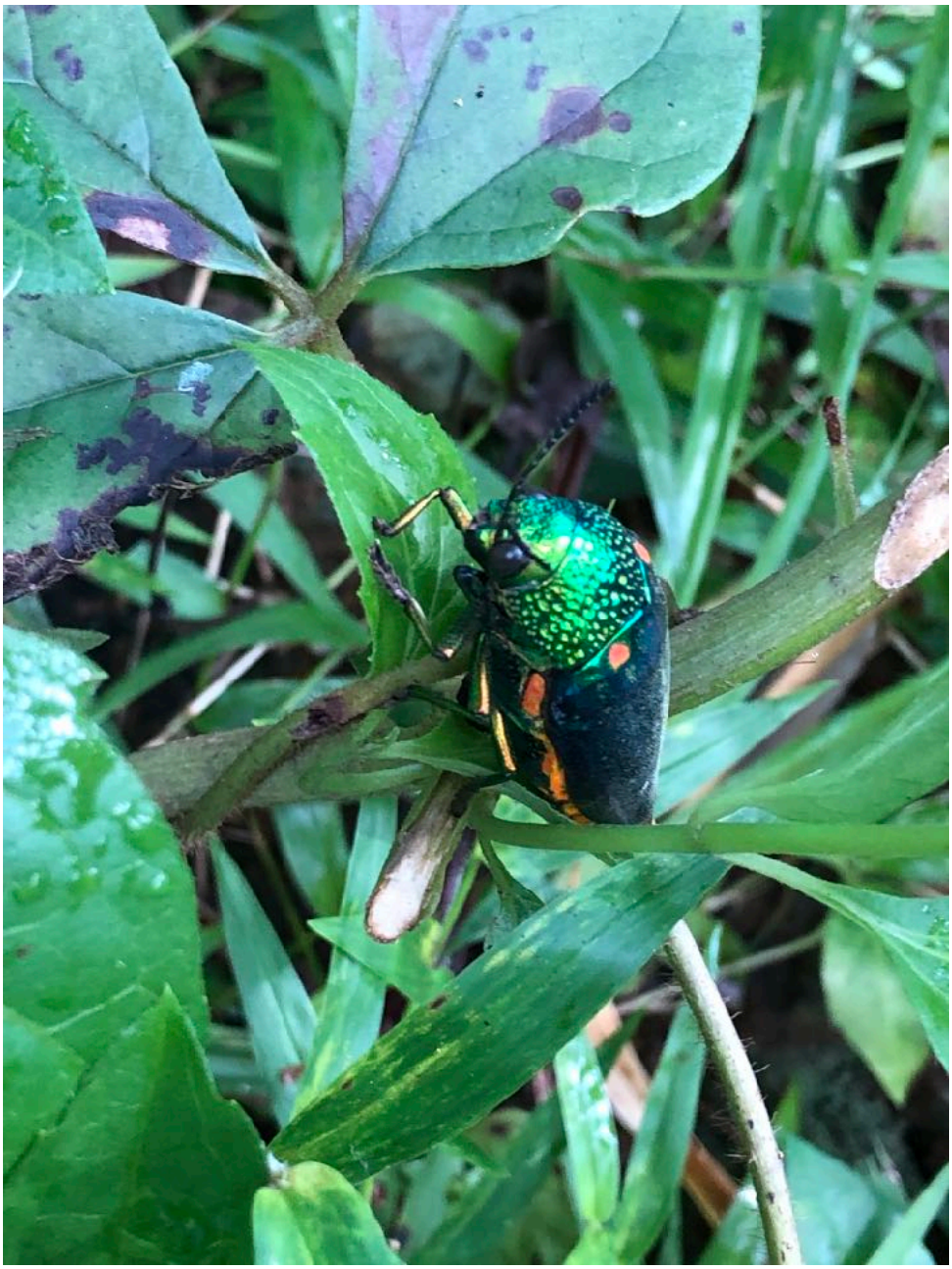
Here is a larger one, with only part of the “cross” of the web intact.



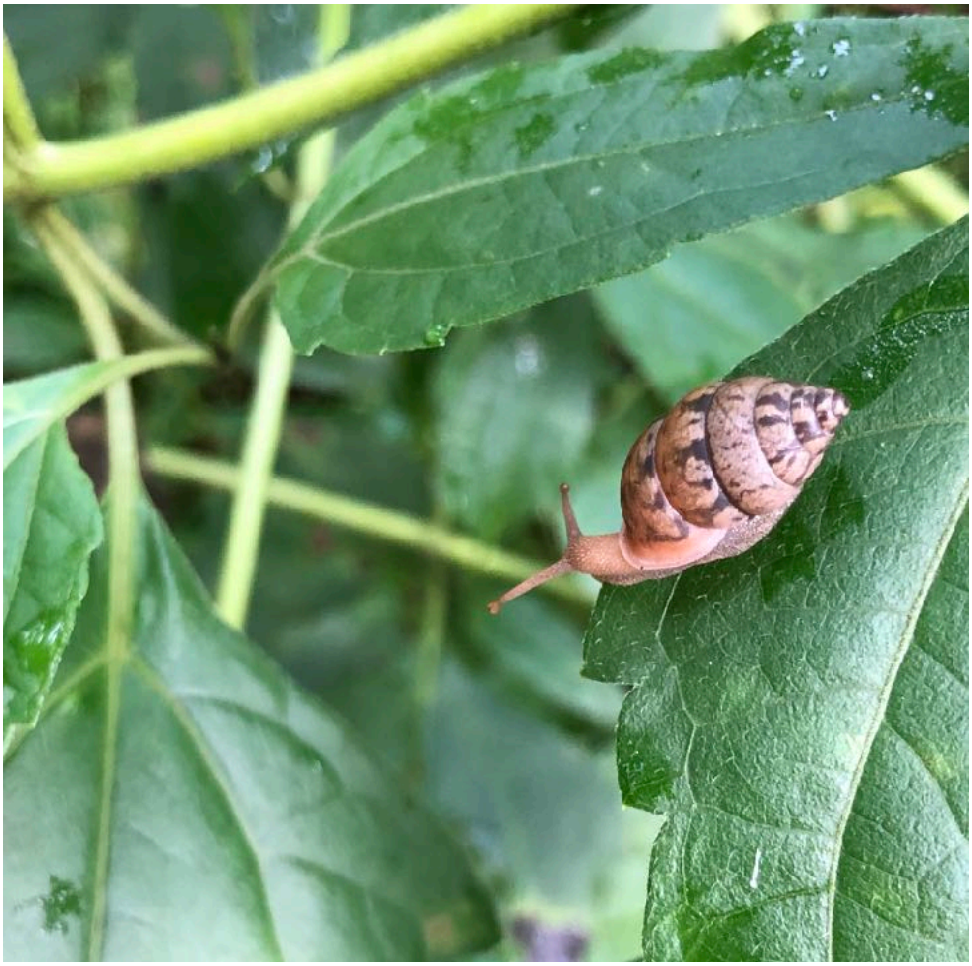
Prasat Chrung South East, in the sunshine.



These dragonflies (damselflies) are easier to photograph than the bigger ones.



The bright, metallic colours of the Christmas beetles make them easy to see.



Snail.

We stopped at the old stone bridge over the Siem Reap River, on the way home. It is called Spean Thmorr = “bridge stone”. Although it uses laterite and carved sandstone, it is quite a modern construction.





The arches allow the water to pass.

The river now runs about 40 meters to the east of this site, and about 40 meters below this level.



In the dry season, the river here is about 50cm deep. Now it would be about 1.5m deep and about four times as wide.



A pretty white fungus.



It is not that long ago, that the water wheel was used to raise the water (for the tree nursery beside the river here).



Another view of the river.

It was a good morning out with our new companion. Now he knows he can park his bike and walk around in Angkor Thom, the ancient city at the centre of the (later part of the) Angkorian Empire.