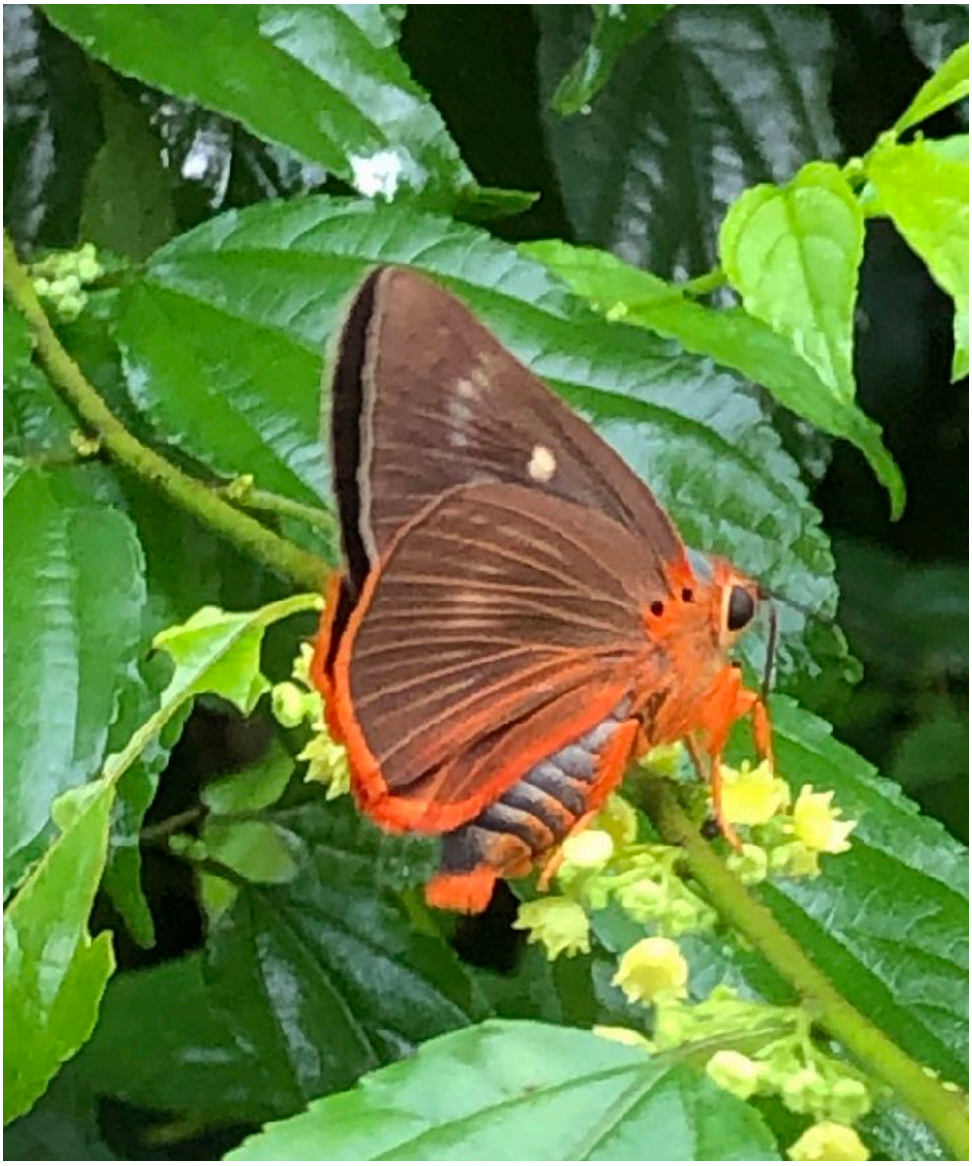
Part 397 for Cathy's blog

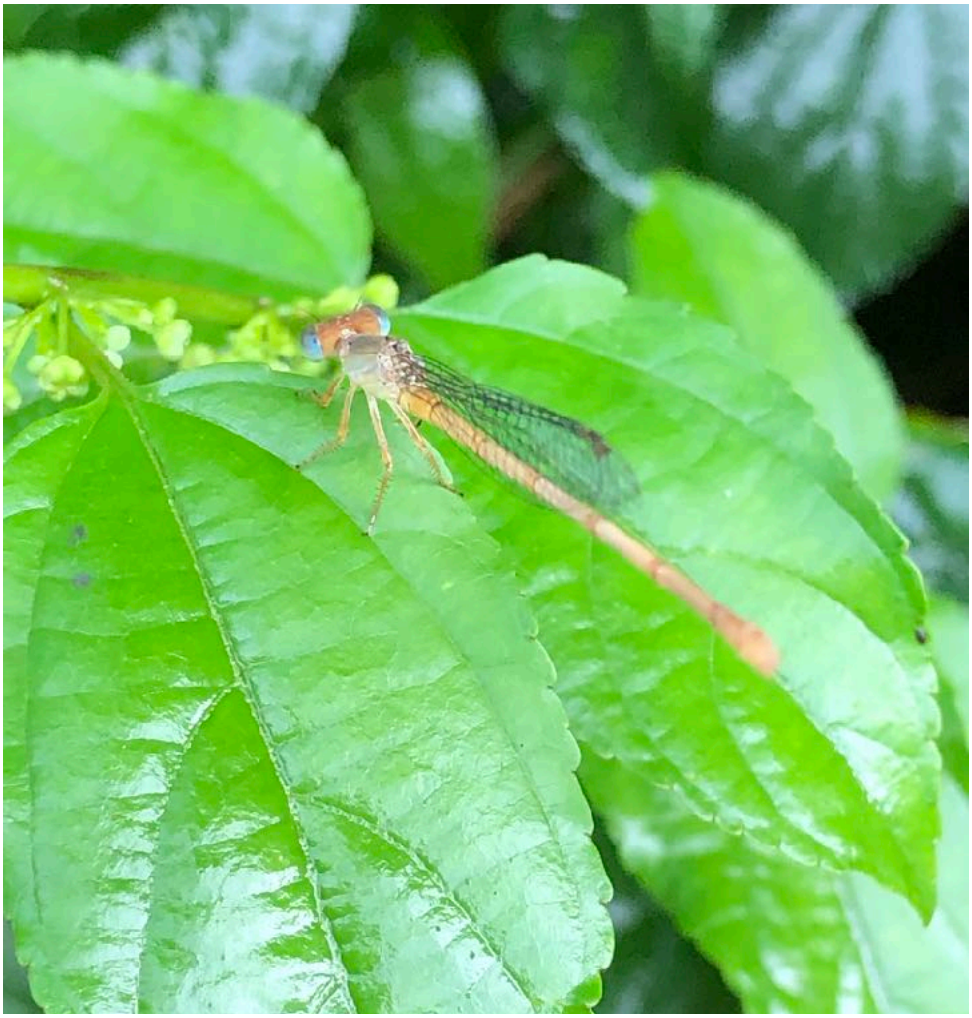
Tuesday 13th to Friday 16th, October, 2026

Tuesday 13th October, 2026.

Wall Walk : West Gate to North West Prasat Chrung

Before we had walked away from the gate itself, we found this orange butterfly.





A little further along the path we found this thin damselfly. Very pretty blue eyes.



In spite of all the rain we have had (Siem Reap had serious floods!), there has not been a lot of fungi. This is one type of fungus we sometimes find. We call it "snot". It is almost clear (translucent like jelly), but is more firm than jelly.



Recently, we have seen more caterpillars. This seems a little strange, because we have just noticed the drop in butterflies around.

The weather is a little cooler in the morning, but the sun is hot by about 9:00am, and it is very humid. We have had some big thunder storms, with strong winds.

Perhaps the wind is a problem for the butterflies (though we think there are as many dragonflies as usual).

Another caterpillar.





The west wall is quite shaded in the early morning, and the dirt path is quite wet. The trees certainly appreciate these conditions.

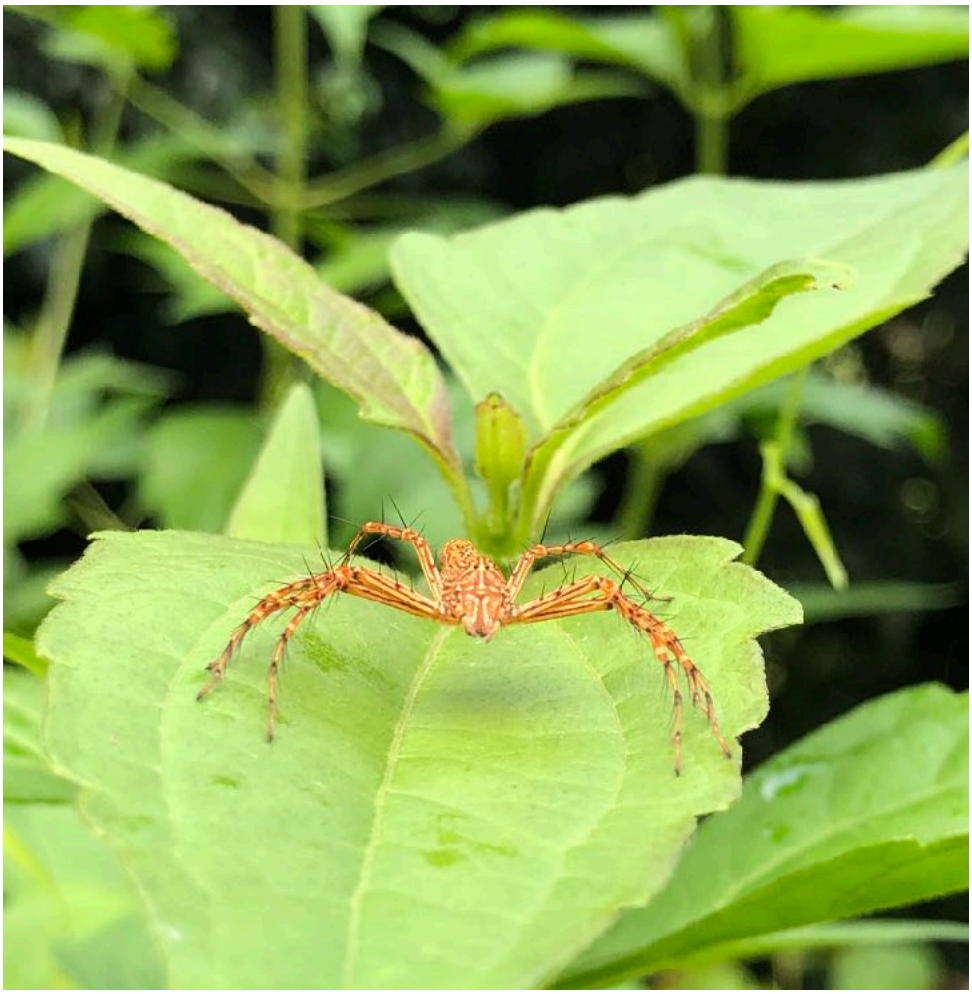


Some of the insects we see have made no attempt to be inconspicuous. This one even “buzzed” at David and did not fly away.

It is a long horned beetle.



Here is a different toadstool, growing amongst the leaf litter.



And we often see these spiders, sometimes orange, sometimes green/yellow.



This tiny orange frog caught David’s eye.



Here is an assassin fly, also called a robber fly. They look threatening.



The Prasat Chrung (NW) has some beautiful carvings. Despite being a small temple, it has false doors, false windows, carved steps and moonstones, and the carved Devapalas, standing here, for about 800 years.



An interesting green grasshopper (with a different shaped face).



Here is David and a strangler fig growing on the path. Time and the hot, humid weather suits the growth of these massive trees.



Although this butterfly isn’t brightly coloured and doesn’t have “eyes” or patterns, I think it’s camouflage is eye- catching against the green of the leaves.



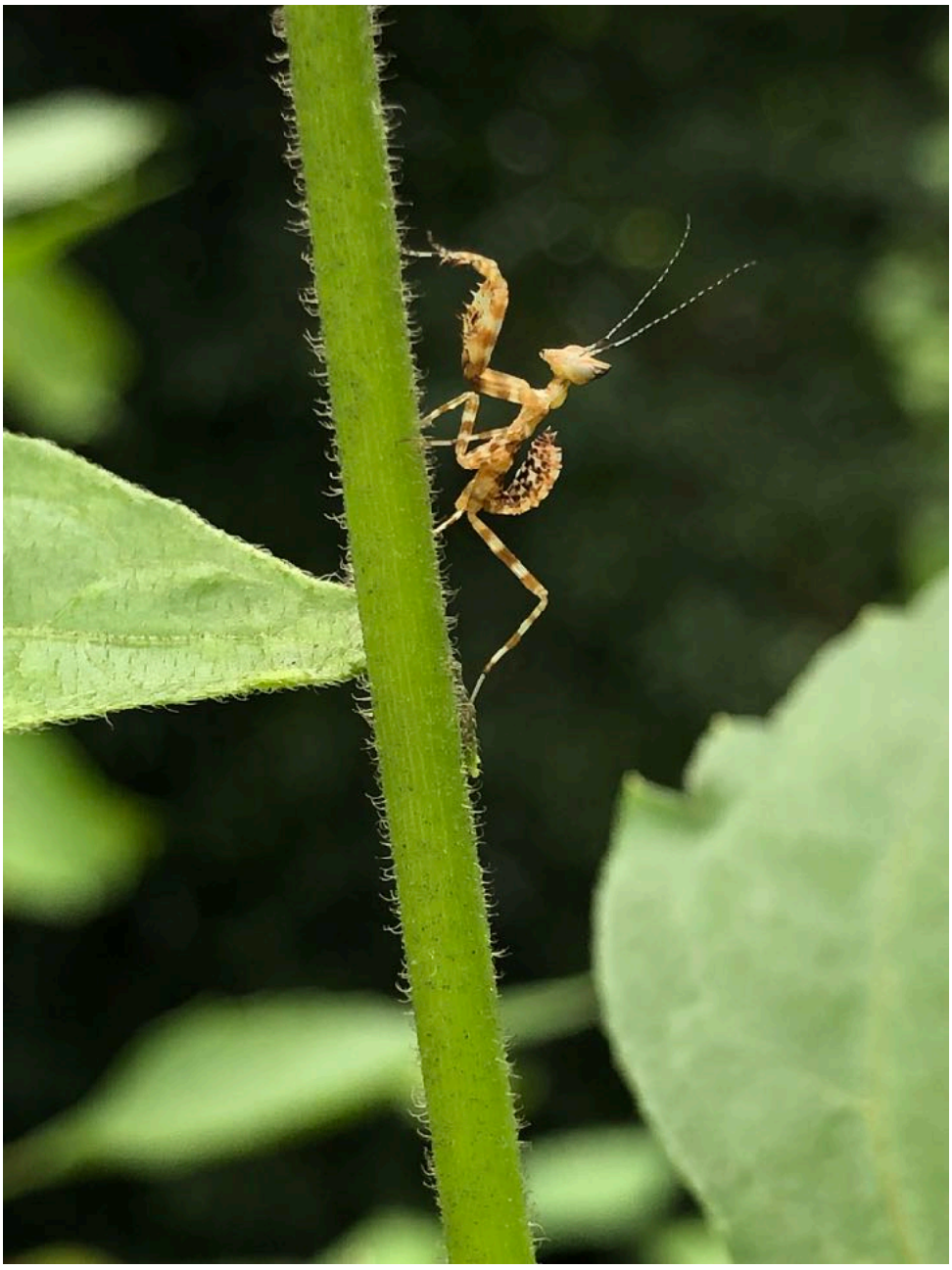
Smaller, and with spots and blotches, this is a new butterfly for us.



This snail is probably on its way to eat the “blobby” black fungus.



Here is a line of tiny white mushrooms growing on a fallen log.



The body of this little mantis was about 1cm (plus about 1cm for front legs, and 1cm for back “leg”).

Wednesday 14th October, 2026.

Wall Walk : West Gate to Prasat Chrung SW

Having walked north yesterday, we returned to the West Gate and walked south.



The shadow of the trees is just falling below the top of the towers at the gate. Look at that blue sky!



Having thought there wasn’t much fungus about, today we found these mauve “blobs”.



This is the underside of some mushrooms growing on a tree trunk.



And this orange, woody fungus.



And these tiny mushrooms on a branch.

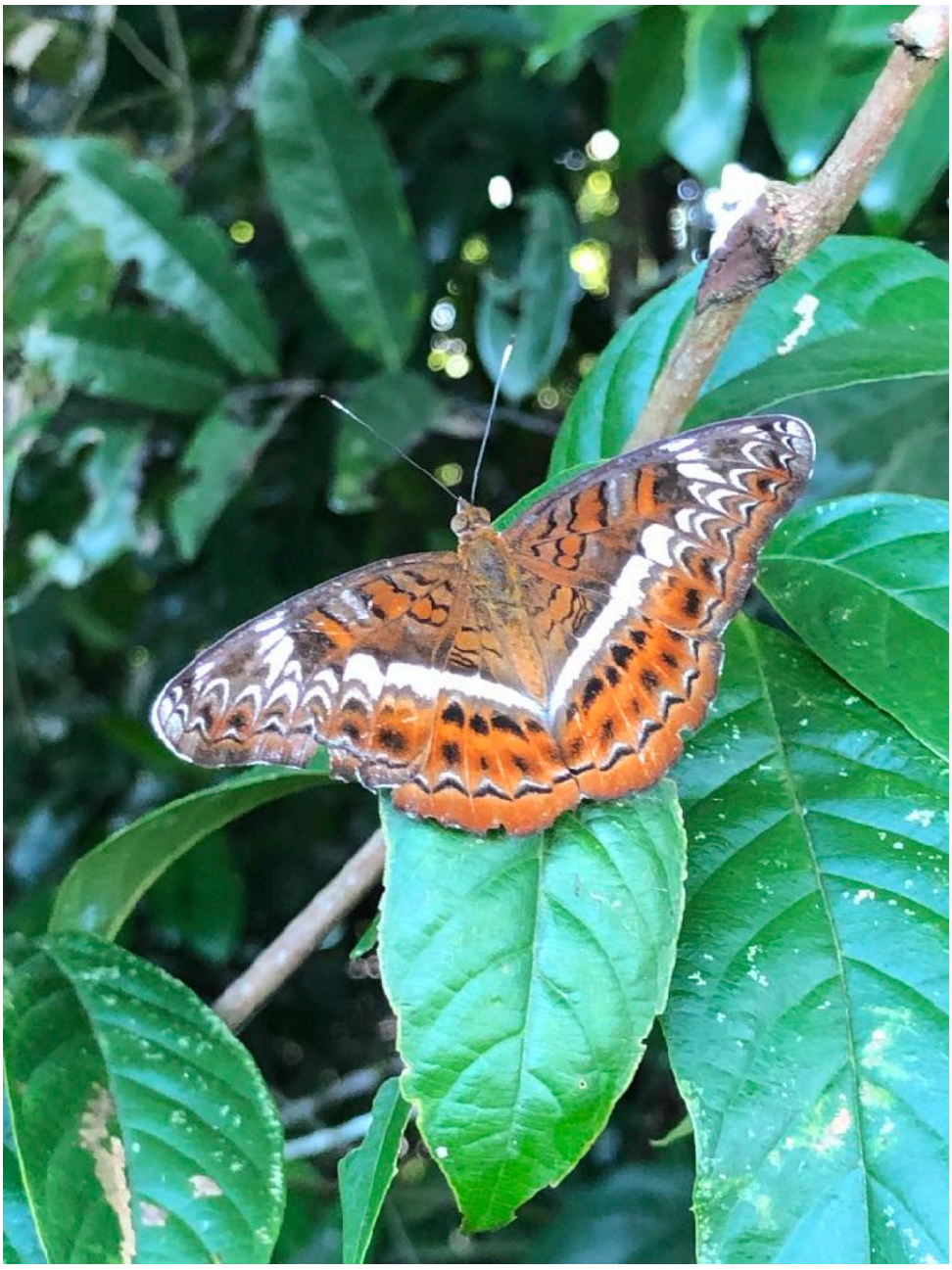


We also saw these ants “waving” their pupae.





These damselflies are harder to see than their dragonfly cousins.

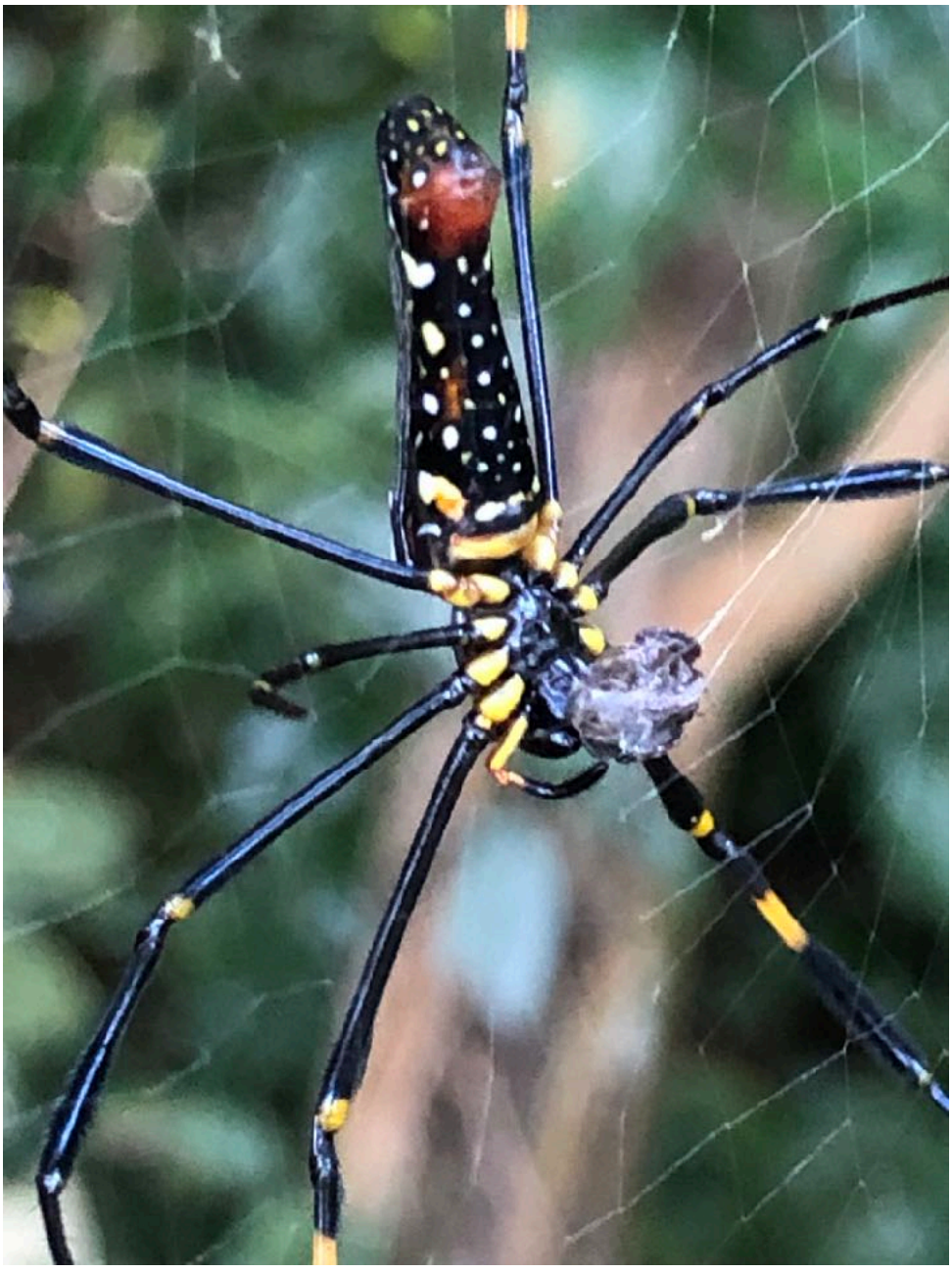


There are always some butterflies.



And this is one of several Nephilia spiders we watched building their webs.

This one could stretch its legs outside my handspan. It is not the biggest we have seen.



Up close, I am glad I am not a breakfast snack.



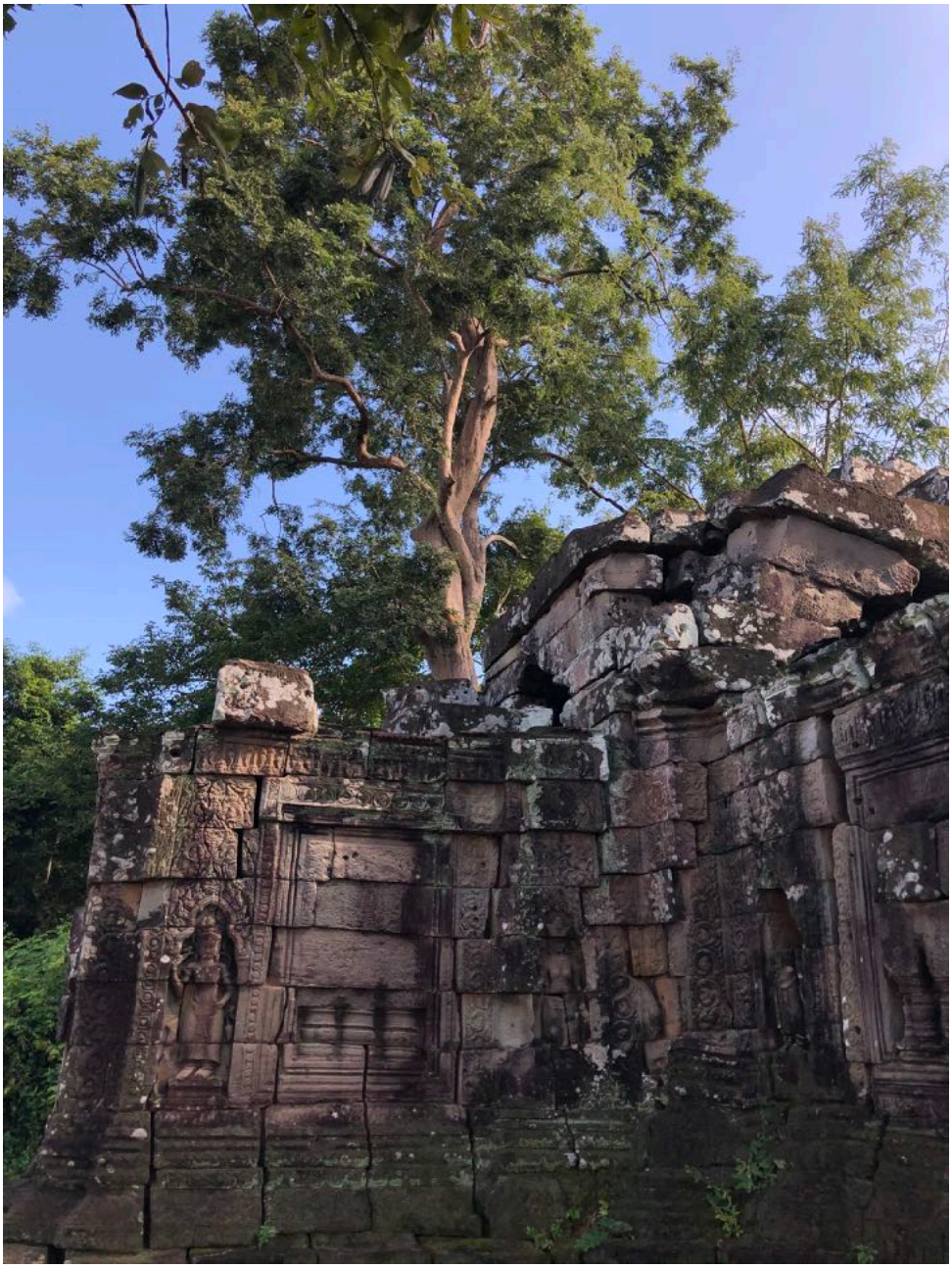
David found these tokay gecko eggs. Their shells are like sandpaper. They are about the size of quail eggs.



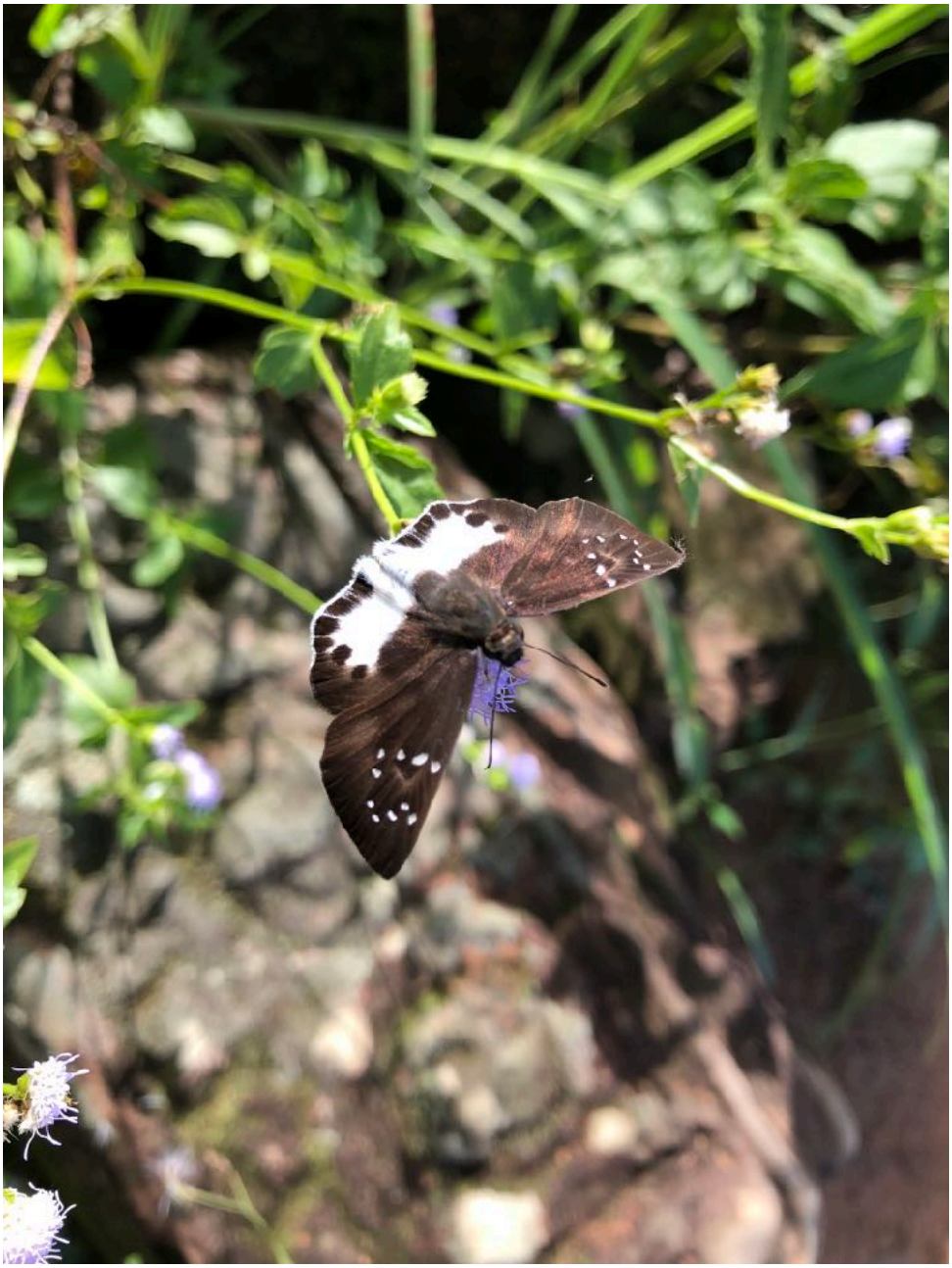
The view of the corner of the moat.



Weeds growing in the laterite stones.



Tree growing over the temple.



More of these little butterflies.



Here is another unpatterned butterfly. It has a funny shaped nose.

After our walk, we rode back into Siem Reap and then on to our apartment. Wednesday's are language lesson days and then we walk into town for tea.

On one of the big electric billboards, there were…



Llamas!

Thursday 15th October, 2026.

With a bit of an upset tummy, David didn't want to risk a bike ride around the Angkor Archaeological park, so we stayed home.

A day at home is a good chance to catch up on a few domestic chores, and do a little extra language study.

Friday 16th October, 2026.

Wall Walk : Victory Gate to Gate of the Dead

This is a short walk, which David felt confident in tackling. Note, we have had upset tummies and a few colds etc, but we bounce back quite quickly.

So we headed out for a walk, for the fresh air, and just to see what is out and about.



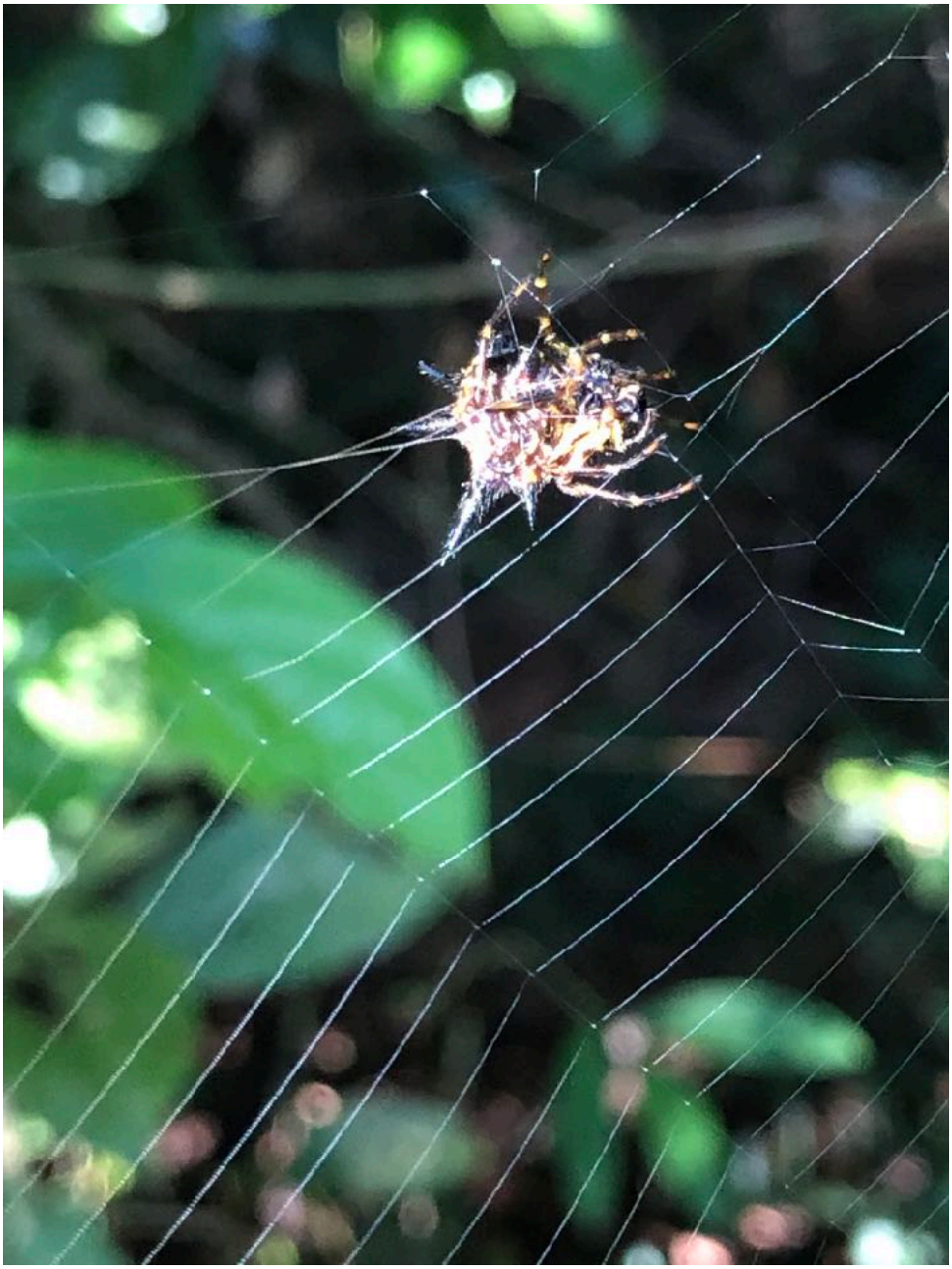
We ride past Angkor Wat. This is the moat on a still day.



We think the season has changed. The sunshine is different. Here is the Victory Gate from the wall.



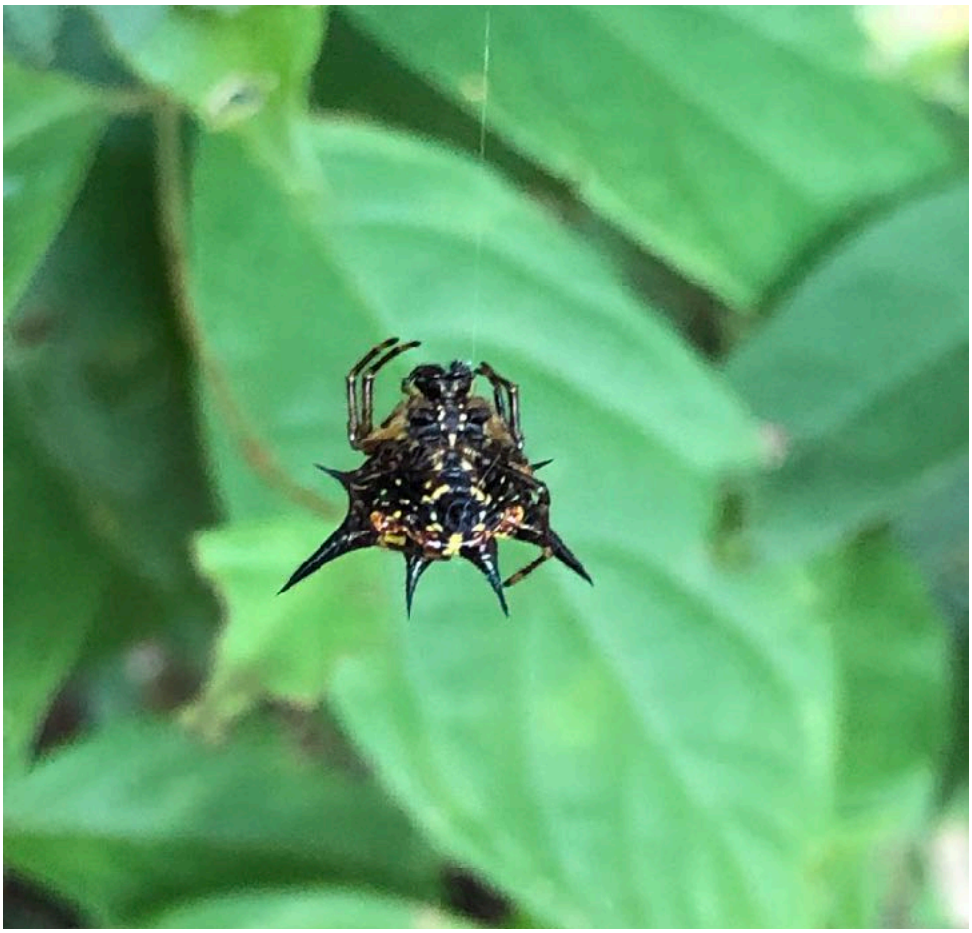
This Nephilia spider is re-marking her web.



This spikey bottomed spider is rebuilding hers.



This is a lucky shot of a praying mantis which has just shed its skin.



The bottom of a spikey bottomed spider.



Some locals had organised a special Buddhist service at the Gate of the Dead.



There seems to be more of these assassin flies (also known as robber flies).

Today’s walk was shorter and we were back home in good time. With David feeling better, we went to the Friday afternoon free class (about electricity and water).