Ceylon Rose (Pachliopta jophon) 90-130 mm (M133)

Similar to Common Rose but streaks on forewings fewer, broader; white patch in discal cell more extensive. Uncommon; forest-loving lowland wet zone species; strays into home gardens. Main flight season Apr–Aug. A regular at Bodhinagala. Flies high in the canopy to feed on forest blooms; descends to feed on shrubs. Flies leisurely, protected from bird predation by disagreeable chemicals accumulated as a larva.

Common Rose (Pachliopta aristolochiae) 80–110 mm (M134)

Similar to Ceylon Rose but smaller, forewing streaks finer, more numerous; white patch in discal cell restricted to base. Female with rounder wings. Common; widely distributed. Flies year-round; frequently seen in home gardens. Fond of flowers of purple-flowered *Duranta erecta*, a commonly planted exotic. On the wing much earlier than most butterflies, protected from predation by birds by poisonous chemicals accumulated from its larval food plant.

Crimson Rose (Pachliopta hector) 90–110 mm (M135)

Crimson spots on female tinged with orange. Common, widely distributed in jungles and waste places in all climatic zones; commonest in dry and intermediate zones. Those seen along southwest coast and a few kilometers inland mostly in migration, only a few breeding. Sightings of adults flying towards or coming in from southern tip of India not uncommon; some seen mid-ocean. Behavior and habitats similar to those of Common Rose.

Common Mormon (Papilio polytes)

80–115 mm. Female appears in three forms: form cyrus resembles the male Common Mormon and the male Red Helen; form stichius resembles the Common Rose and the Ceylon Rose but forewing outer margin edged with white streaks; form romulus resembles the Crimson Rose but with a hindwing tornal spot; distinguished from the Roses by its all-black abdomen. Commonest and most widespread swallowtail; occurs from sea level to the highest mountains. Common in home gardens and urban areas as larvae feed on various common species of *Citrus* and



Murraya. Male flies hurriedly, generally a meter or so above the ground; female flies slowly. See the next page for the male, and the female form cyrus.

162

163