

News Item.

***Danaus chrysippus petilia* Stoll. Breeding in New Zealand**

This butterfly, known in Australia as "the lesser wanderer" and previously recorded as an occasional visitor to New Zealand, has now been found breeding in Taranaki.

During April and May, 1958, a number of caterpillars collected by Master John Wilkins among monarch larvae on swan plants (*Asclepias fruticosa* L.) in New Plymouth were sent to the Plant Diseases Division, D.S.I.R., Auckland, where they were reared and identified by Mr. K. A. J. Wise as *Danaus chrysippus petilia*.

The adult butterfly is similar to the monarch (*D. plexippus* (L.)) except that the wing veins are not marked in black. The larva has three pairs of filaments compared with two on the monarch, and each segment from mesothorax to 8th abdominal has a broad black band containing a pair of large yellow dorsal spots. The pale green chrysalis has several gold spots and a transverse dorsal abdominal band composed of an anterior thin black line and posterior thicker gold line.

(Communicated by K. A. J. Wise, Plant Diseases Division,
D.S.I.R., Auckland.)