
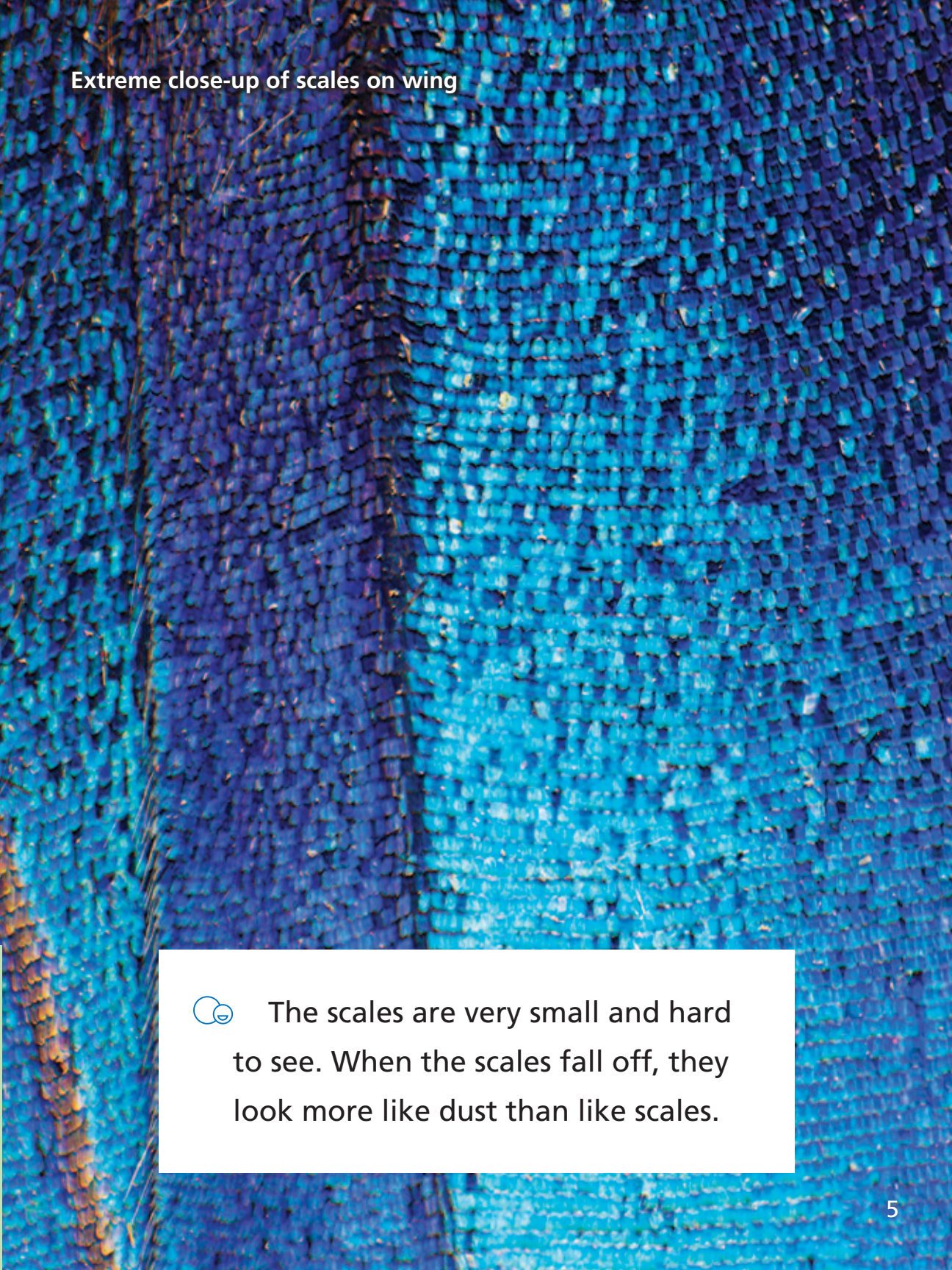



Blue morpho butterfly



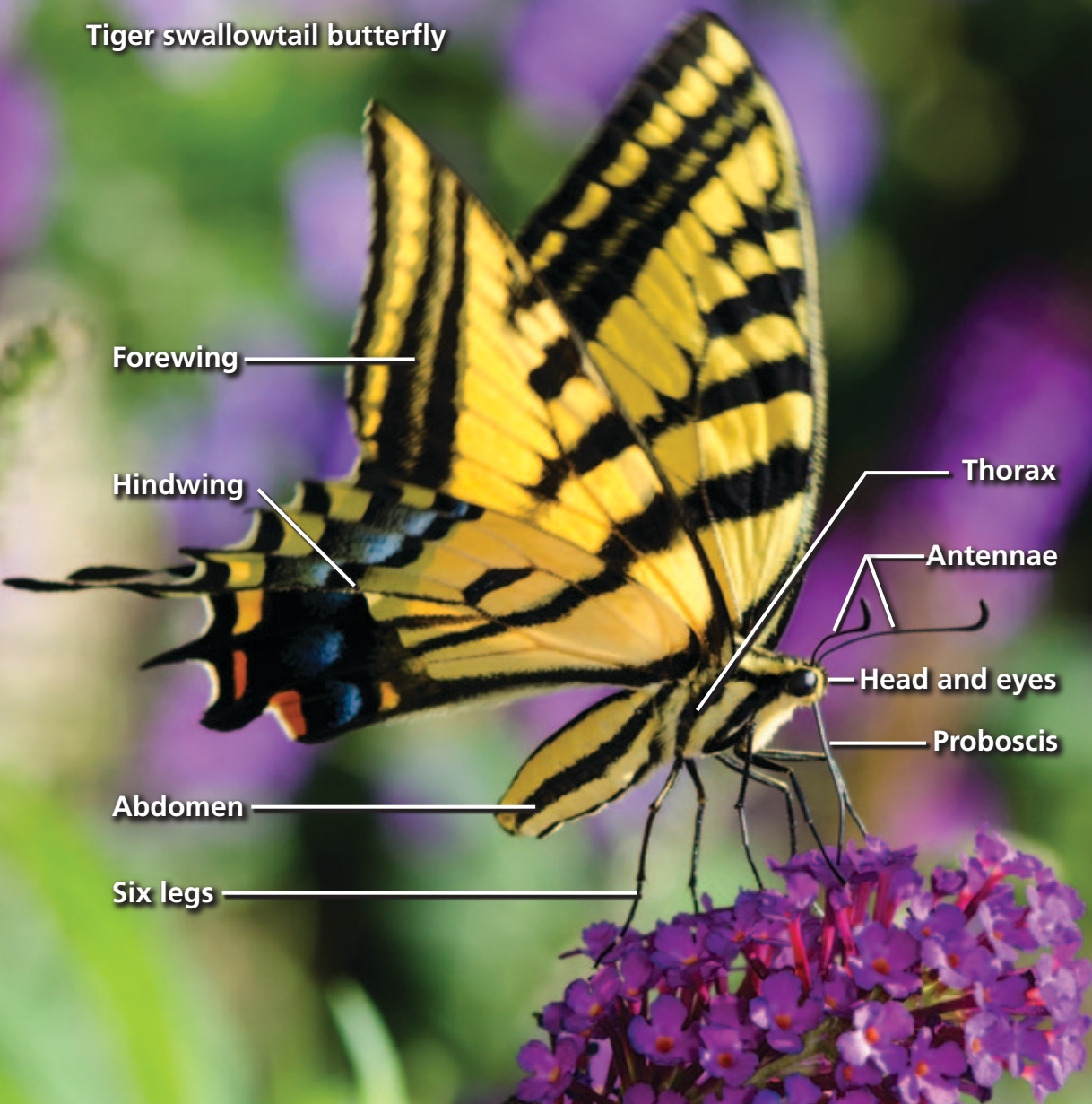
 There are multiple layers of these tiny scales on each wing. When light passes through the layers, it is reflected many times over, and that helps to create iridescent colors that seem to shimmer and glow.

Extreme close-up of scales on wing




 The scales are very small and hard to see. When the scales fall off, they look more like dust than like scales.


Tiger swallowtail butterfly



Pipevine swallowtail



 We have a hard skeleton on the *inside* of our body. An **exoskeleton** is a hard cover on the *outside* of a body. The butterfly's exoskeleton helps to protect it.

 Butterflies are insects that have large wings for flight. All insects have three body parts—the head, the thorax, and the abdomen. They all have six jointed legs, two antennae (an-TEN-ee), and eyes. Insects do not have bones; they have an **exoskeleton** (ek-so-SKEL-uh-tin).

Chinese violet cress



Zigzag flat





Leopard lacewing eggs and caterpillars

Did you know that there are no baby butterflies?

A butterfly starts out as an egg, which hatches into a caterpillar. Once the caterpillar is fully **grown**, it forms itself into a **chrysalis** (KRIS-uh-lis). Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms.



Banded woolly bear caterpillar

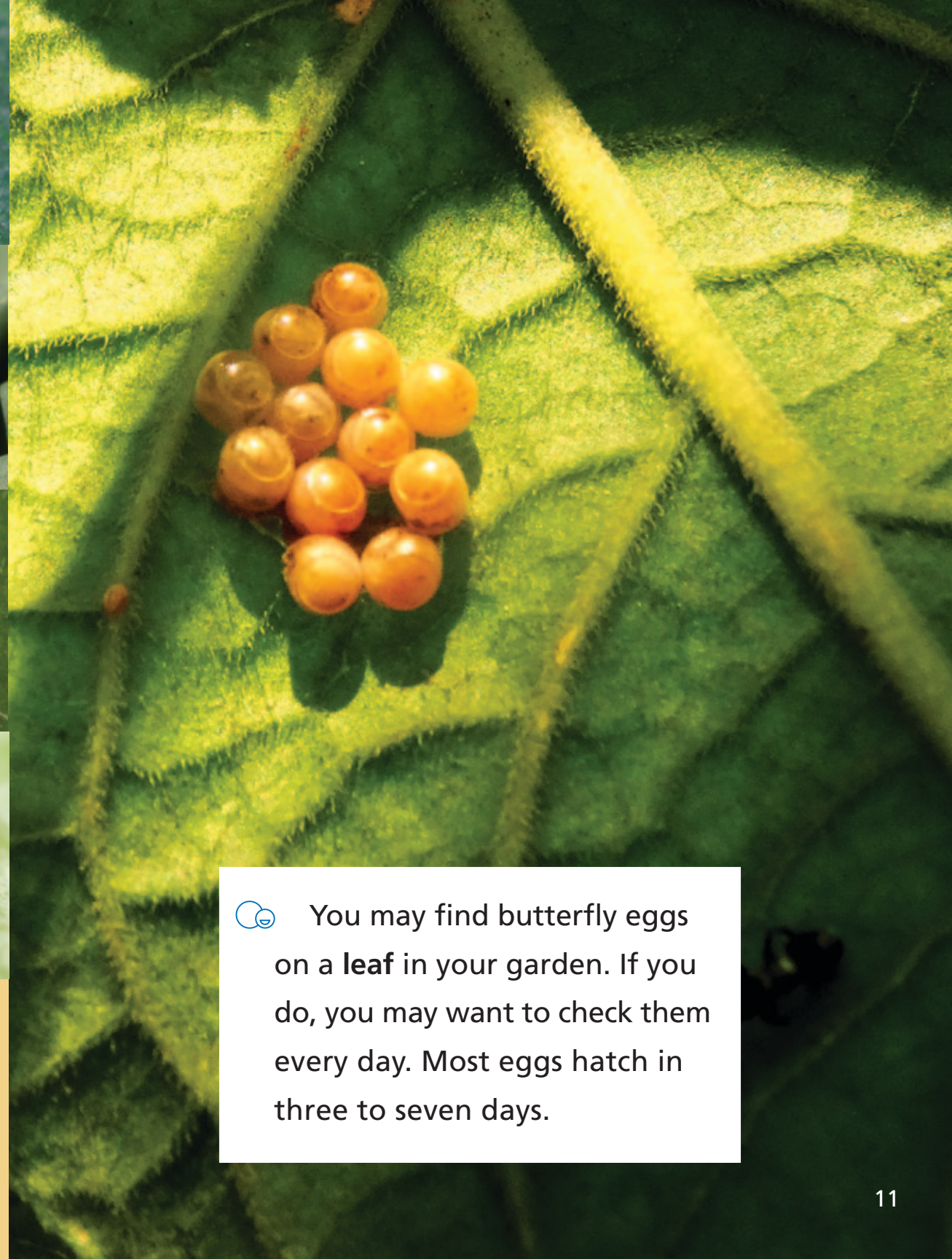
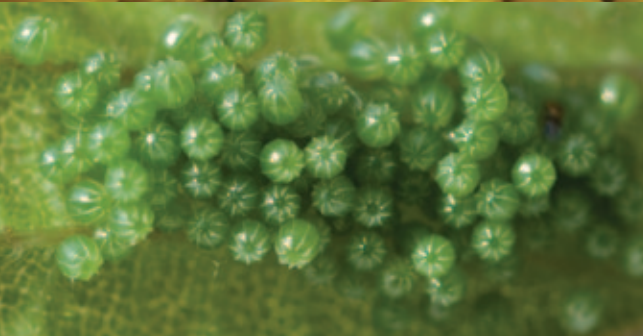
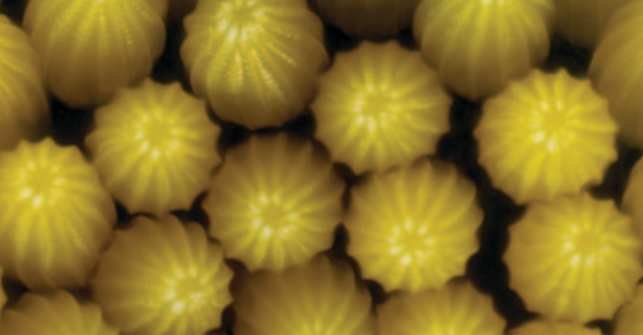


Swallowtail caterpillar

## Life Cycle of a Monarch Butterfly



When the **chrysalis** opens, a full-grown butterfly comes out. That is why you will never see a baby butterfly!



☞ You may find butterfly eggs on a **leaf** in your garden. If you do, you may want to check them every day. Most eggs hatch in three to seven days.



Butterfly eggs come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. Some butterflies lay only one egg at a time, while some lay their eggs in small clusters. Others lay hundreds of eggs on one **leaf**. The photos on these two pages are close-up views of different butterfly eggs.