

## BORBOLETA, THE WORD

“Borboleta” is the Portuguese word for “Butterfly”. Indo-Aryan languages have many words that share the same root. Thus, Mother, Mutter, Mater, Madre, Mãe, Mere, etc. It is, therefore, extraordinary that “Borboleta” appears in these languages with so many different roots, as witnessed by the table, below.

Few languages share common roots (for example, Latin/Catalan/French, Norwegian/Danish, Punjabi/Sanskrit and Ucranian/ Slovene). Most other Indo-Aryan languages seem to use a different root for the word describing this difficult swimming stroke!

Can you correct or add to my list? <darosa@ee.stanford.edu>

Afrikaans	Schärlink
Afrikaans	Skoenlapper
Albanian	Fluter
Bengali	Prajapati
Bielorussian	matylok
Bulgarian	Peperuda
Catalan	Papallona
Czech	Motyl
Danish	Sommerfugl
Dutch	Vlinder
English	Butterfly
Farsi	Parvaneh
French	Papillon
Gaelic	Dealan-de
German	Schmetterling
Greek	Petalouda
Gujarati	Patangiyu
Hindi	Thithli
Icelandic	Fidrildi
Italian	Farfalla
Irish	Feileacan
Kannada	Haanthee
Latin	Papilio
Latvian	Tauri?
Lithuanian	Peteli?
Nepali	Putali
Norwegian	Sommerfugl
Portuguese	Borboleta
Punjabi	Titli
Rumanian	Fluturi
Russian	Babochka
Sanskrit	Chitrapatanga
Serbo-Croat	Leptir
Slovene	Metuly
Spanish	Maripo
St. Thomas (patois)	Zanino
Swedish	Fjäril
Ucranian	Metelik
Yiddish	Flaterl