



MINT OF
POLAND

SINCE 1766

BUTTERFLIES

SERIES
Large Blue

The Mint of Poland is proud to present a new collector coin of the “**Butterflies**” series - the „**Large Blue**”. The collection features the most beautiful and unique butterflies of Europe and world.

Thanks to the **pad printing technique** the images reflect the genuine butterfly colours.





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OBVERSE

In the central part of the coin, a likeness of the Queen Elizabeth II. Below, the Mint's mark: **M/W**. Around it the inscription: **ELIZABETH II 1 DOLLAR**. Along the rim of the coin, at the top, the inscription: **NIUE ISLAND 2011**. In the background, a stylized enlarged fragment of a butterfly wing.

REVERSE

In the central part of the coin a stylized image of the Large Blue against the bushes of Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). On one of the leaves a likeness of the red ant (*Myrmica sabuleti*). To the right the inscription: **MACULINEA ARION** (Latin name for the butterfly).

The Large Blue (*Maculinea arion*) is a diurnal butterfly of the *Lycaenidae* family. It has very characteristic, beautiful blue wings, speckled with black dots. The wingspan reaches 4 cm. Sexual dimorphism is only minimal, with the female being better identifiable by its more intensive wing drawings.

The large blue butterfly is commonly spotted between the latter half of June and early August. Isolated individuals live as short as a few days, sometimes up to two weeks or so. They usually feed off thyme flowers, but are also found feeding off vicia. They like to spend the nights and the hottest times of day among juniper bushes.

Females lay eggs in the flowers of burnet. When the larvae are big enough they fall down onto the earth. Secreting honeydew they attract the red ants, which take them to their nests. The large blue caterpillars spend there up to 10 months feeding off ant larvae and eggs.

SPECIFICATION

Issuer:	Niue Island
Face value:	1 Dollar
Metal:	Ag 925
Quality:	proof
Diameter:	38.61 mm
Weight:	28.28 g
Mintage:	up to 8,000 pcs
Decoration:	pad printing
Year of issue:	2011
Designer:	Dobrochna Surajewska