

Basic info PEACE SILK

Silk from India used to be called "wild silk" when it actually came from the wild collection of cocoons. That was mostly Tussah silk. There is hardly any wild collection today. The silkworms are kept in small farms and in families usually outdoors or in huts. A breeding in the narrower sense (selection and targeted propagation) hardly takes place in India, especially not in the regions from which the Peace Silk originates.

There are four main types of silk moths:

- Mulberry silk: The cocoons are smaller than the Chinese, because they have not been bred for millennia. There are brownish cocoons and white cocoons. The silk threads are as fine and light as the Chinese mulberry silk. The silk fabrics are not of filament silk, although the fibers must be spun.
- Tussah Silk: Large hard cocoons from which the coarser and yellowish Tussah silk originated (formerly from wild collection)
- Eri silk: The only cocoons that are not closed, but have an opening from which the moth flies out or the pupae can be taken out. It is a very soft silk, but basically cannot be unwound from the cocoon. In the northeast of India, Peace Silk is made from the empty cocoons and the pupae serves as food. In the other regions of India, as with all other types of silk, one waits until the moth has left the cocoon.
- Muga silk: Beautiful golden yellow silk. It is mainly produced in Assam.

Basically, the fibers must be spun from perforated cocoons (spun silk) to obtain yarn, while from the uninjured cocoons (in China) so-called filament silk is produced.

The silkworms live on different forage plants:

- Mulberry silk worms only eat mulberry leaves
- Tussah spinners oak leaves
- Eri silk worms Kesseru, Tapioca and Castor
- Muga silk worms like soalu and som (laurel)

The mouthparts of all butterflies are very specialized and modified compared to other insects. Also for the silk moths is that they have chewed-up eating tools. They live one to two days to mate and die of natural causes or in the beak of a bird.

Butterflies are extremely reproductive in terms of oviposition. Sometimes it comes with many species to two or more generations a year. Depending on the species, a female lays a few hundred or even a few thousand eggs. If caterpillars hatched from all eggs, the habitat would be eaten empty within a short time. However, this is not

true due to regulatory factors. For one thing, not all eggs are fertilized. On the other hand, the eggs, the caterpillars and pupae as well as the moths are on the menu of numerous predators and form a not inconsiderable part of their food base. The eggs and caterpillars are mainly eaten by birds. But even small mammals such as shrews and moles, as well as amphibians and toads eat plenty of caterpillars and eggs.

If too few eggs were laid by the females, the survival of the species would be endangered.

Prakash Jha says: "We make some attractions for silk butterflies, so not all of them fly: A leaves hotel with their favorite berries. They live there only a few days. But the female dies a few hours after hatching the eggs. We collect the eggs, take care of them and bring them to the host trees after a few days. There are thousands of eggs, but not all are fertile. Infertile eggs are even in the majority. "



Due to its very fine and smooth fiber structure silk falls supple and soft.

Silk is very similar to the skin in chemical structure and is therefore particularly skin-friendly and suitable for allergy sufferers. Silk exerts a skin-calming-de property and can accelerate wound healing. Naturopaths recommend the silk especially for skin diseases.

Silk warms in the cold and cools in the heat. It is therefore due to their insulating capacity, both in summer and in winter, perfectly portable.

Silk can absorb about 30% of its own weight in liquid without feeling wet. It therefore absorbs body sweat very well and lets the skin breathe.

Silk is robust in many ways. Thanks to its smooth surface, it is dirt-repellent and insensitive to odors. Silk is tear-resistant and has the greatest elasticity of all natural fibers.

Silk fibers are less resistant to alkaline solutions. Therefore, a non-alkaline silk detergent is recommended (e.g., tenestar).

Silk is the queen of natural fibers!

