

Butterfly Anatomy

- Must understand anatomy to properly use field guides and describe markings locations

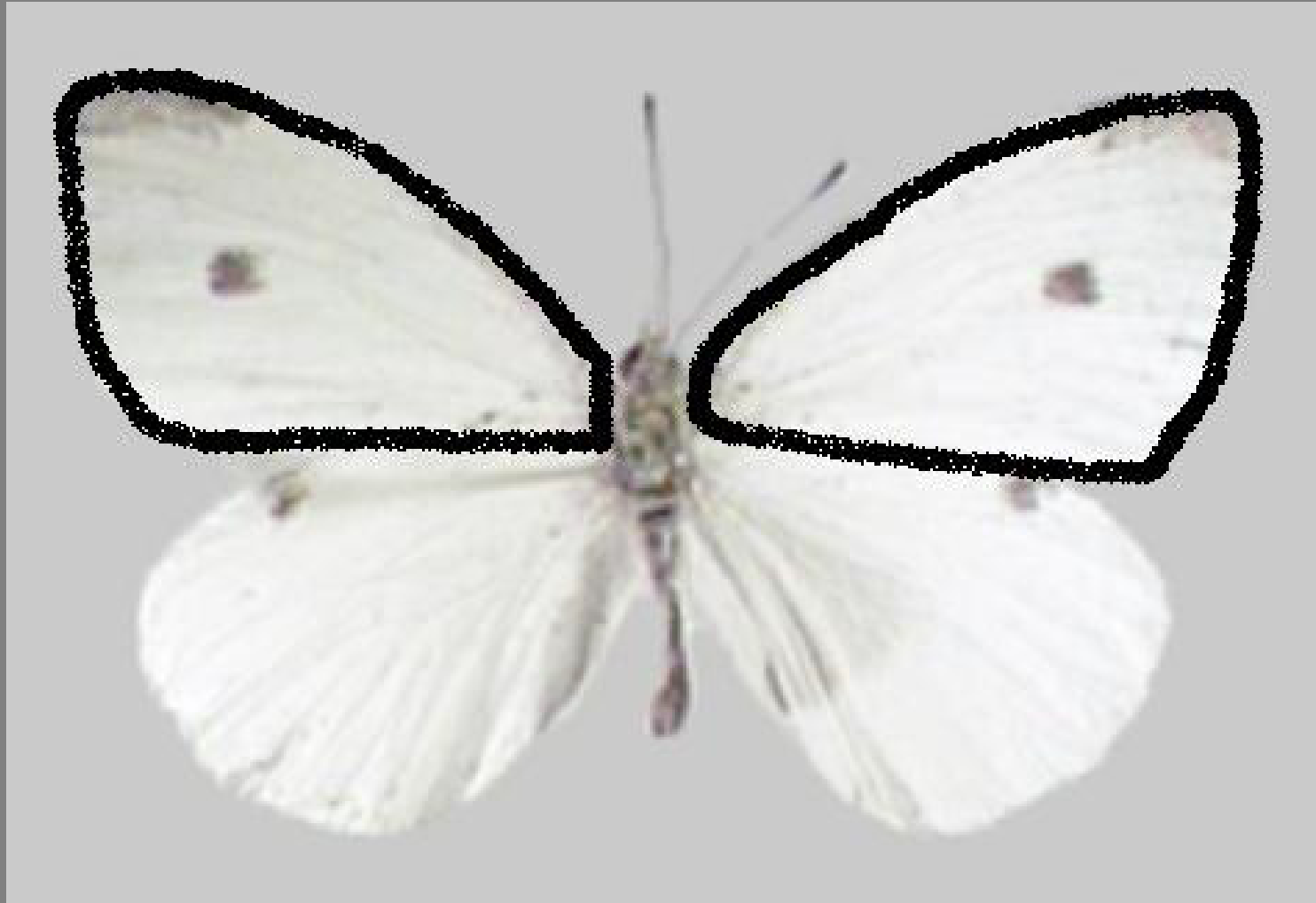
Butterflies - typical insect anatomy

- Three body segments (head, thorax, abdomen)
- Eyes and antennae attached to head
- 6 Legs, attached to thorax
- 4 Wings, attached to thorax
- Wings most important for identification

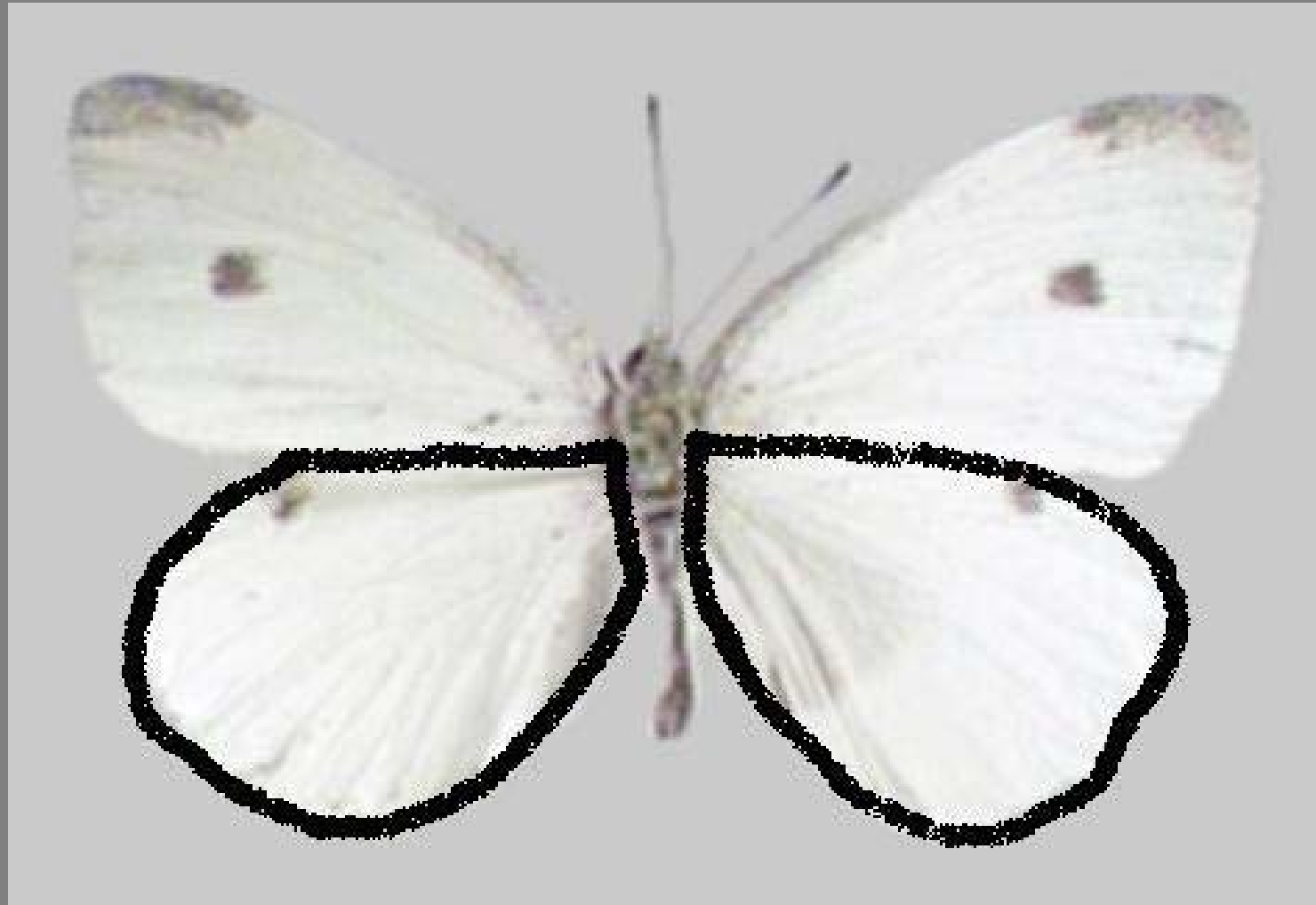
Each butterfly has 4 wings



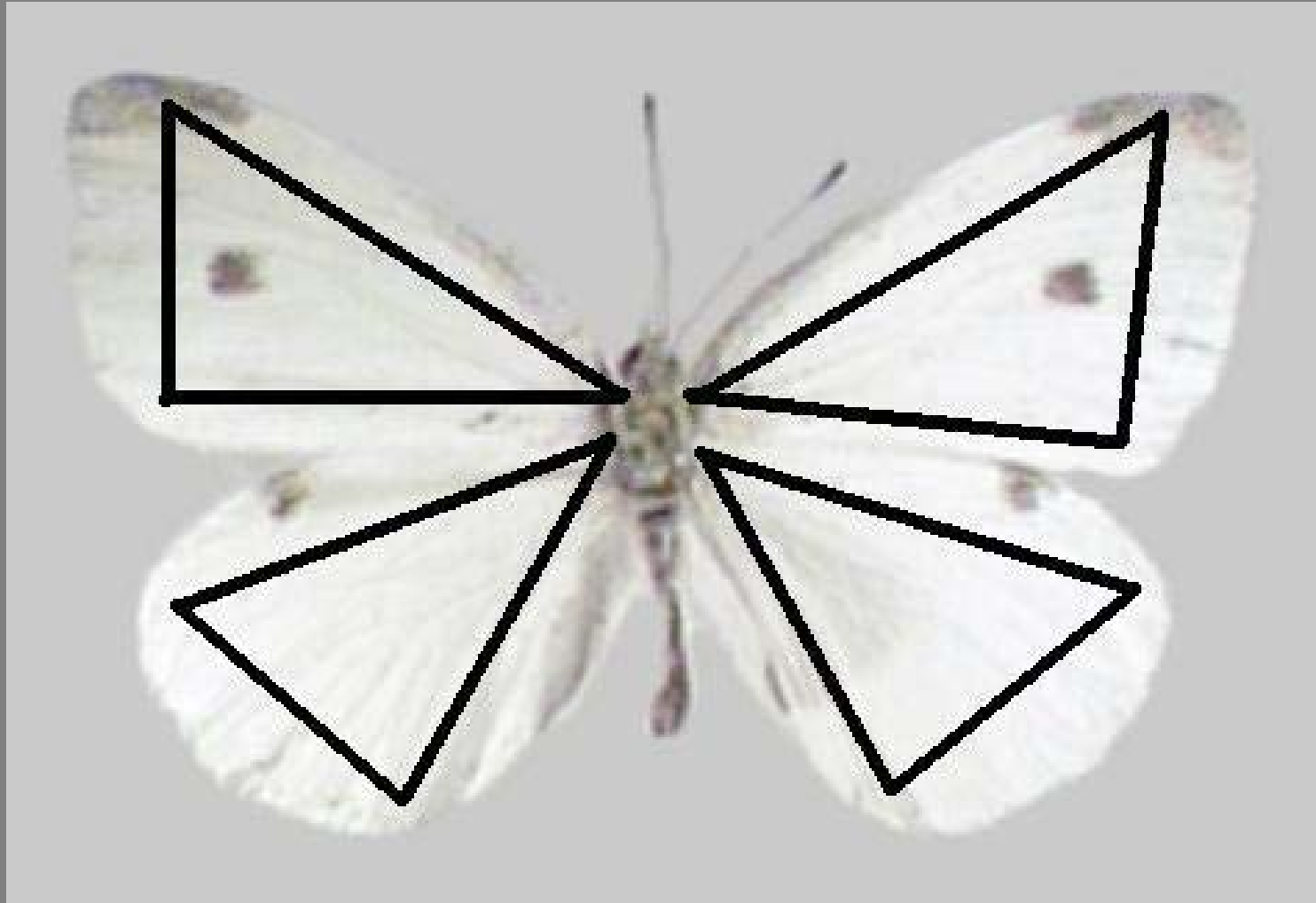
Forewings



Hindwings

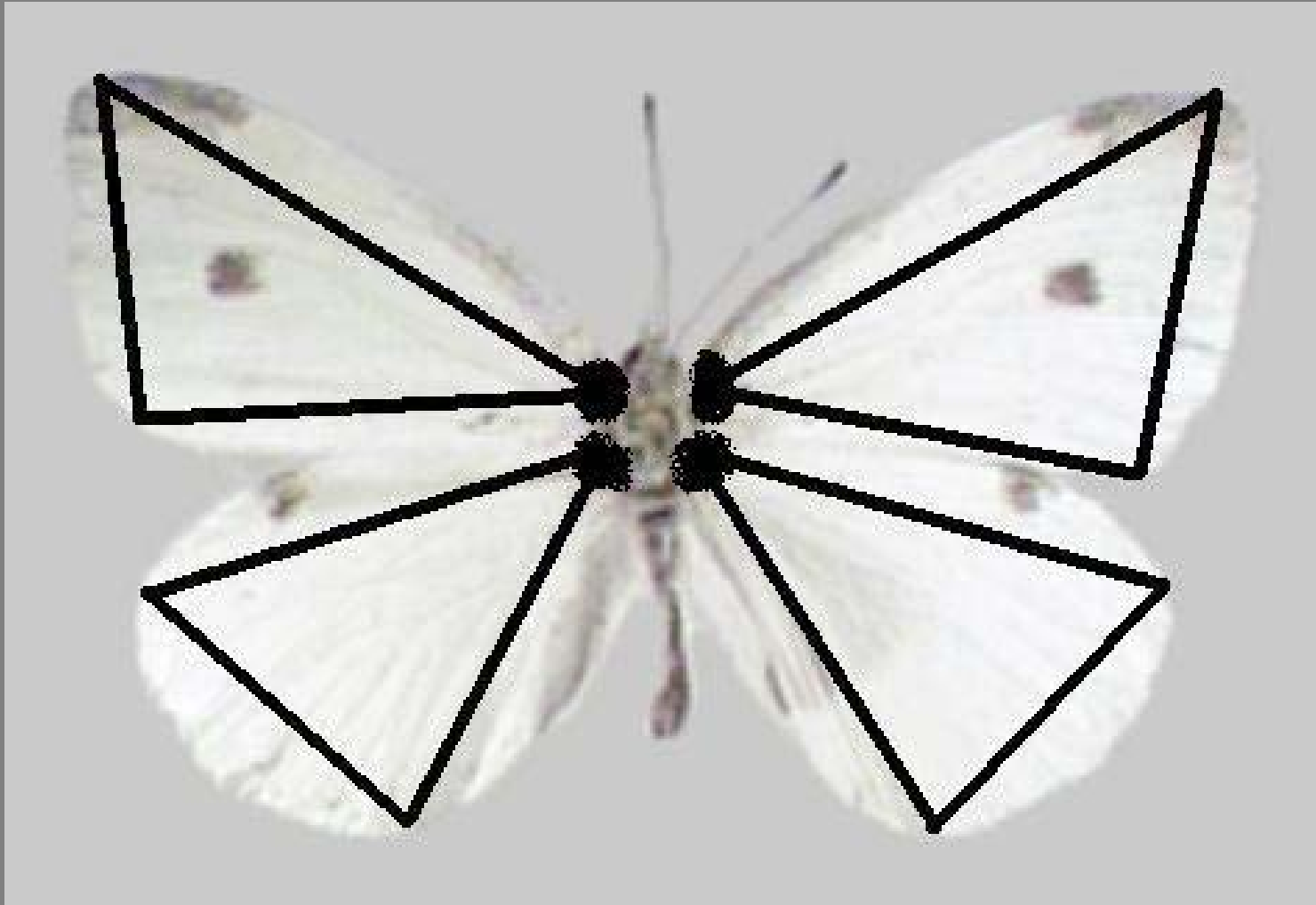


Butterfly wings are triangular

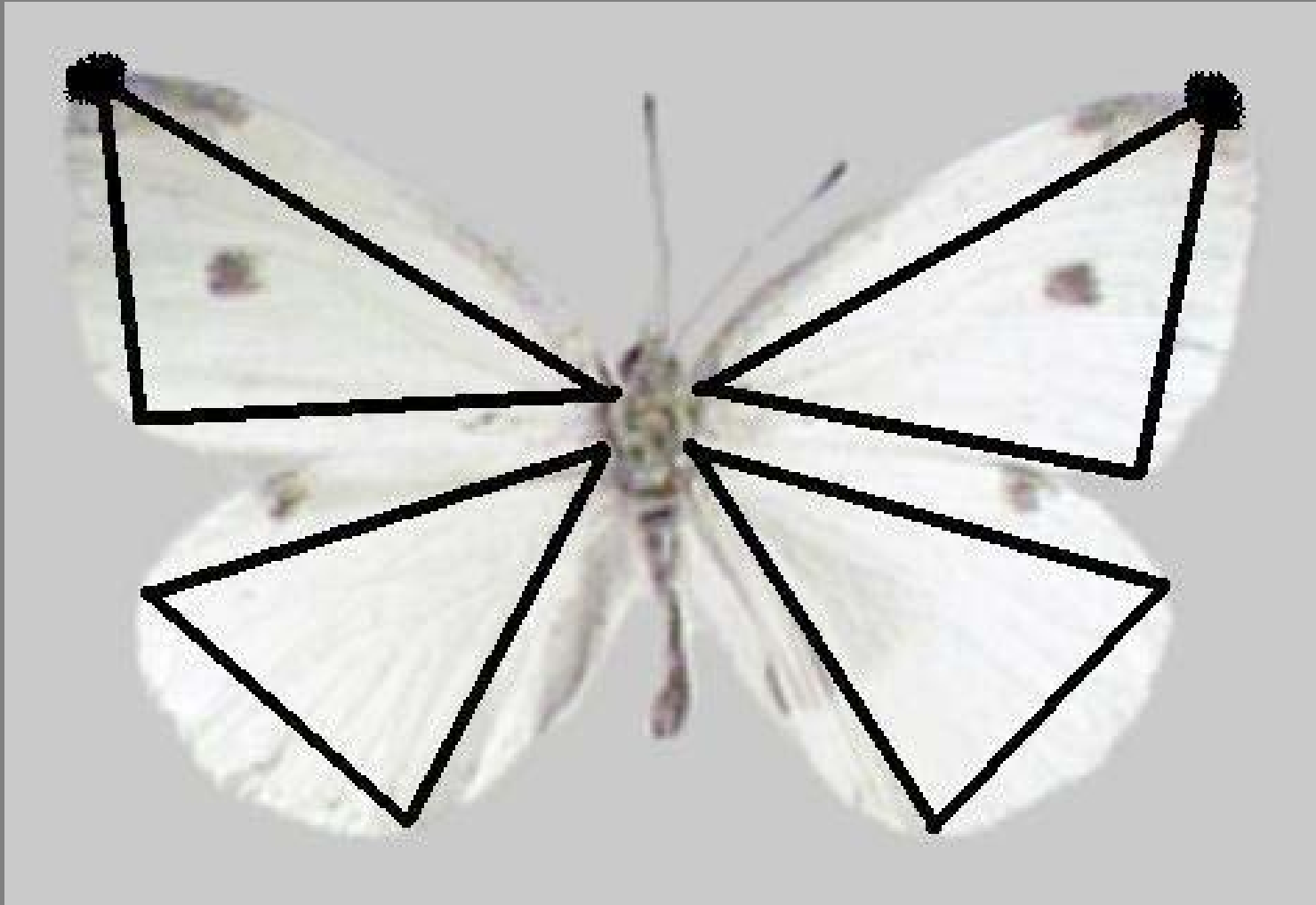


Names of the triangle points:

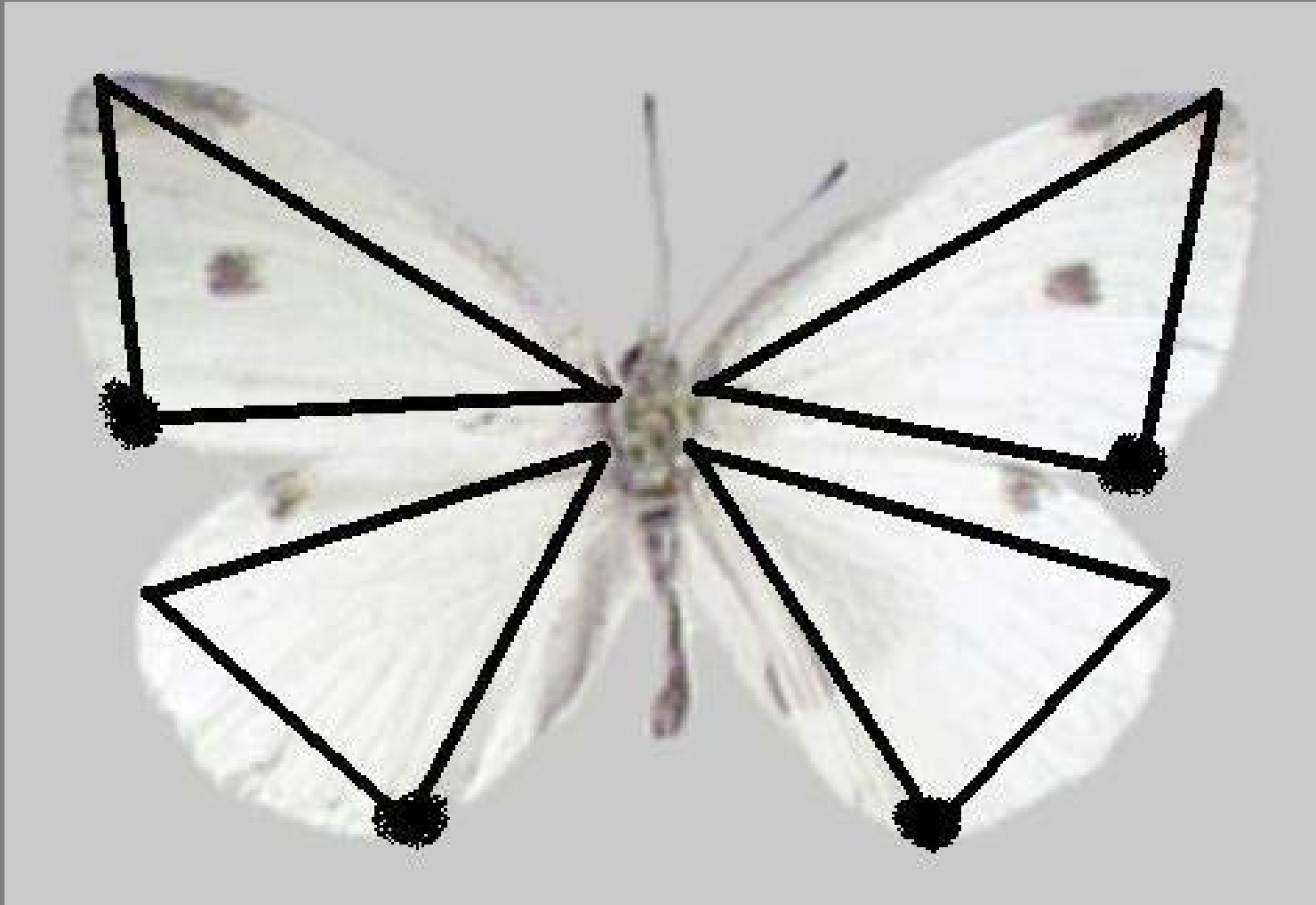
Base



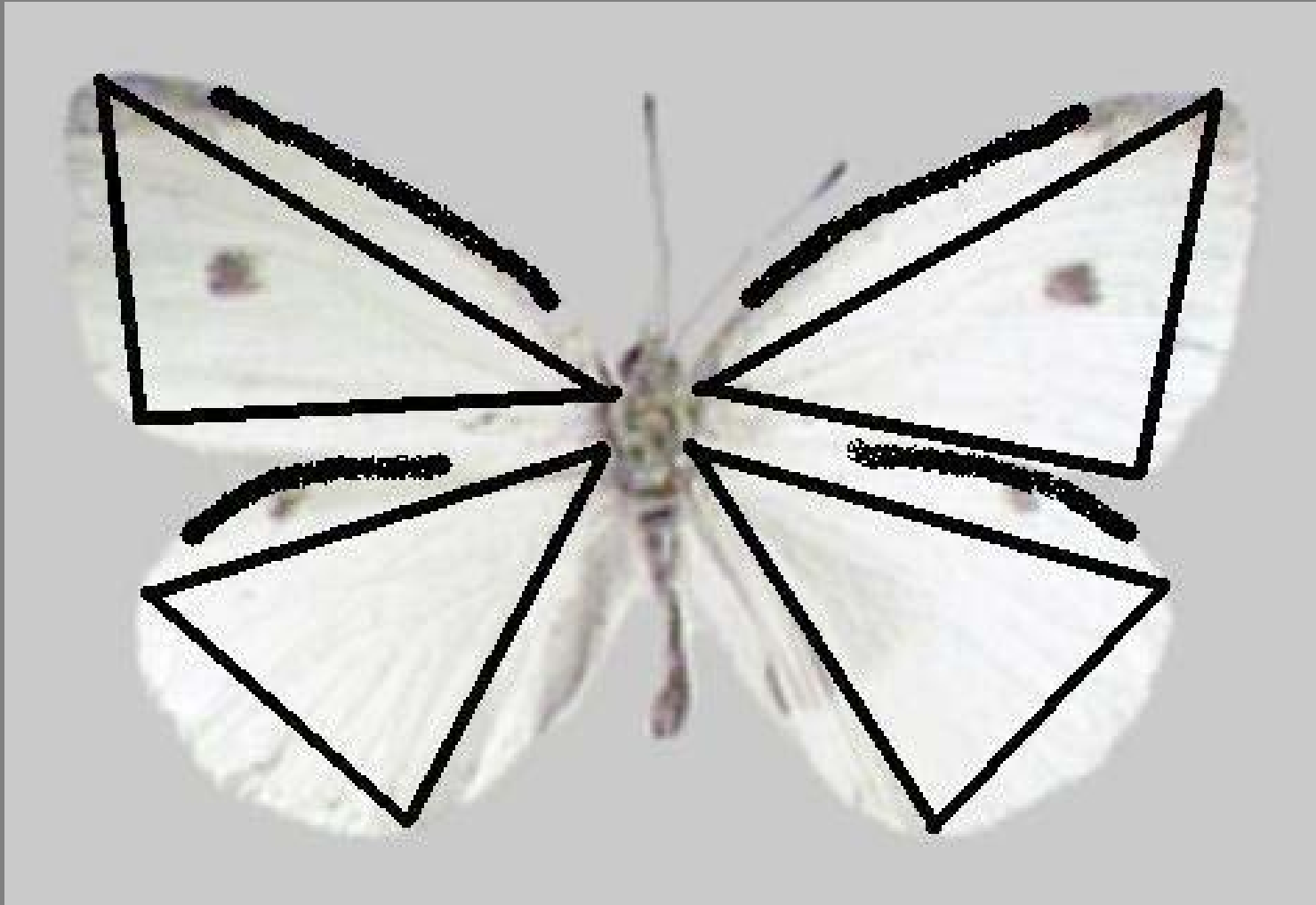
Names of the triangle points:
Apex (forewings only)



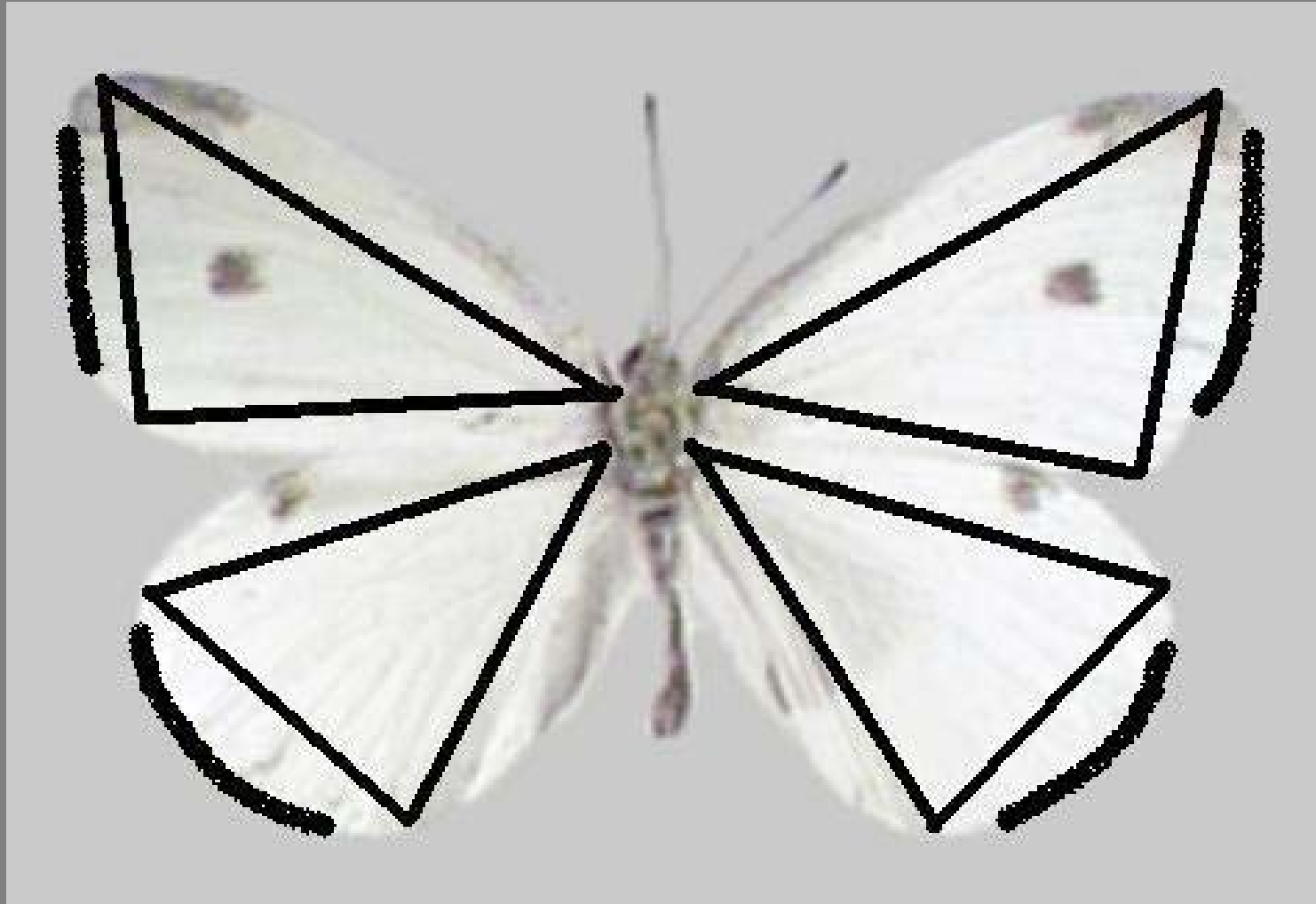
Names of the triangle points: Outer Angle (Tornus)



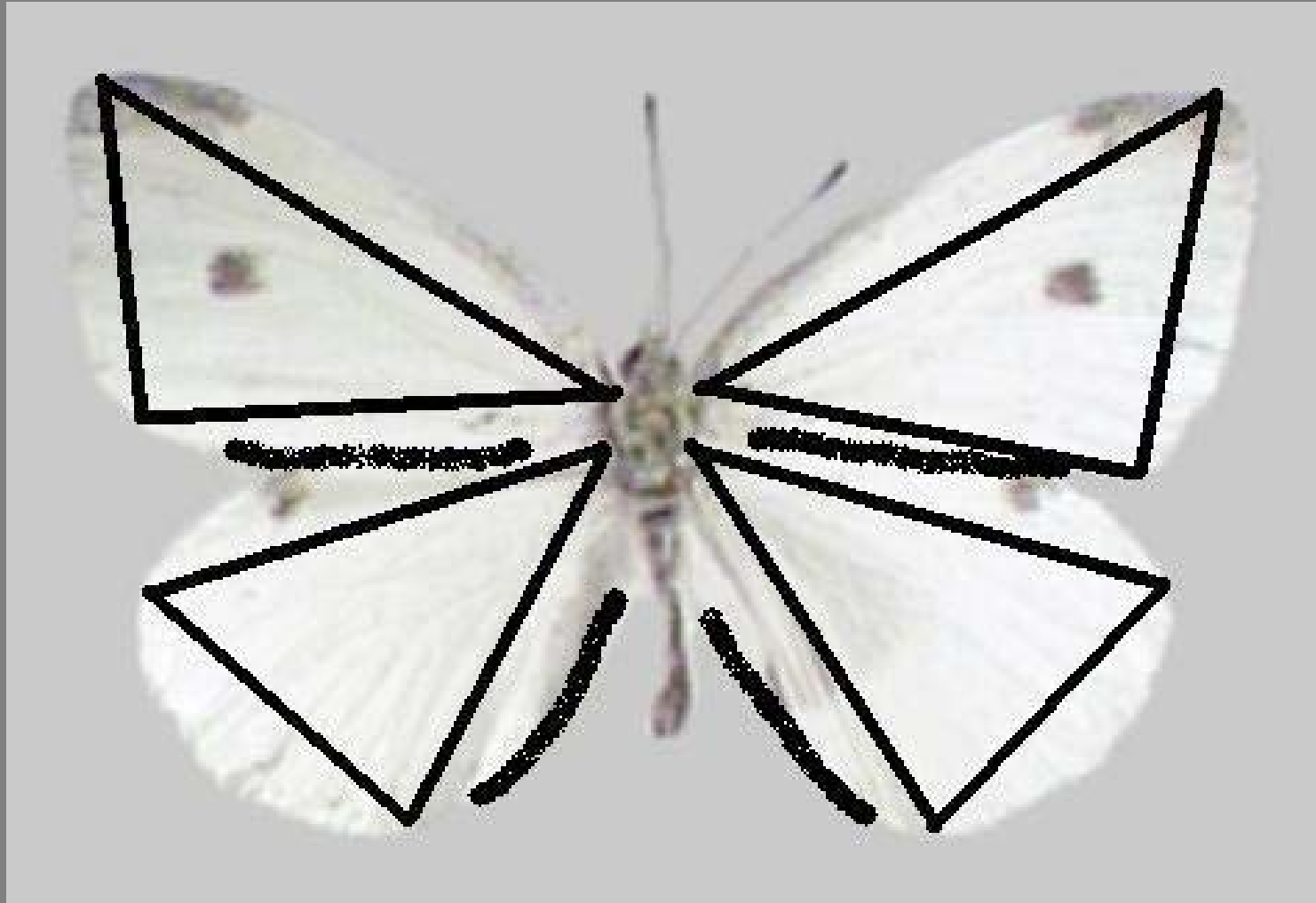
Names of the triangle sides: Costal Margin



Names of the triangle sides: Outer Margin



Names of the triangle sides: Inner Margin



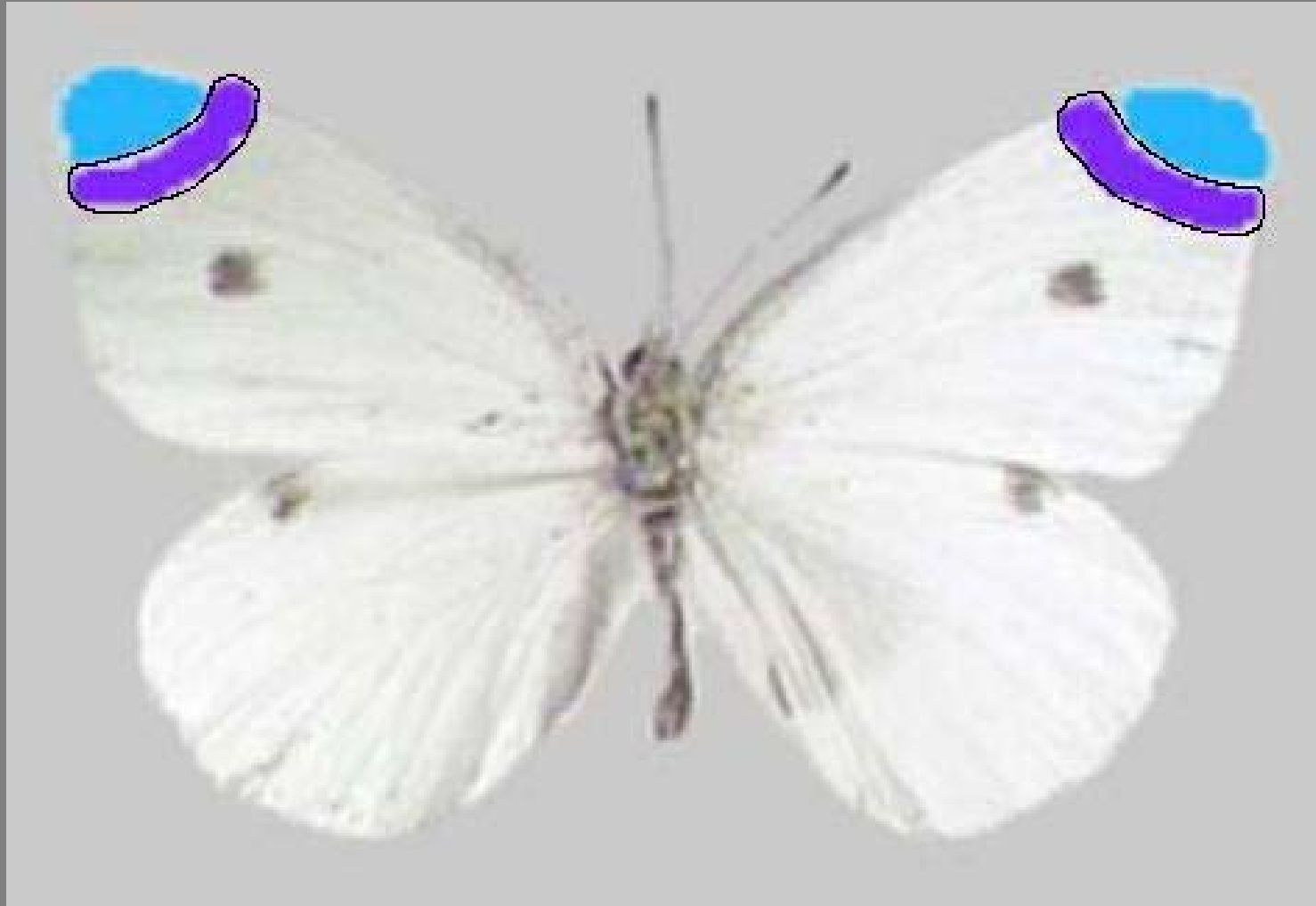
Interior Regions of the Wings

- Names of these regions derive from the points and sides of the wing triangles
- Sub means closer to the body
- Post means further away from the body

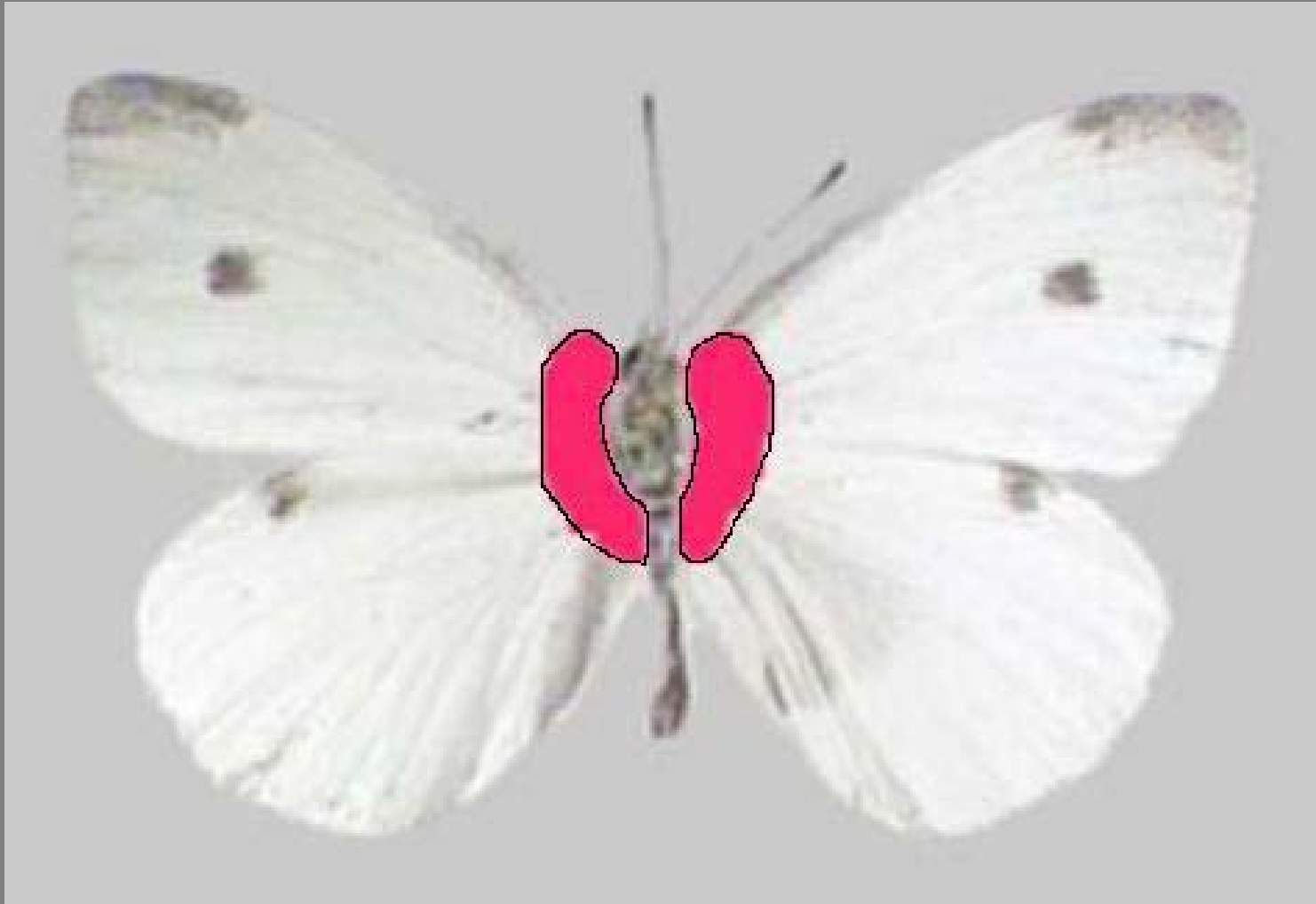
Interior wing regions: Apical (forewings only)



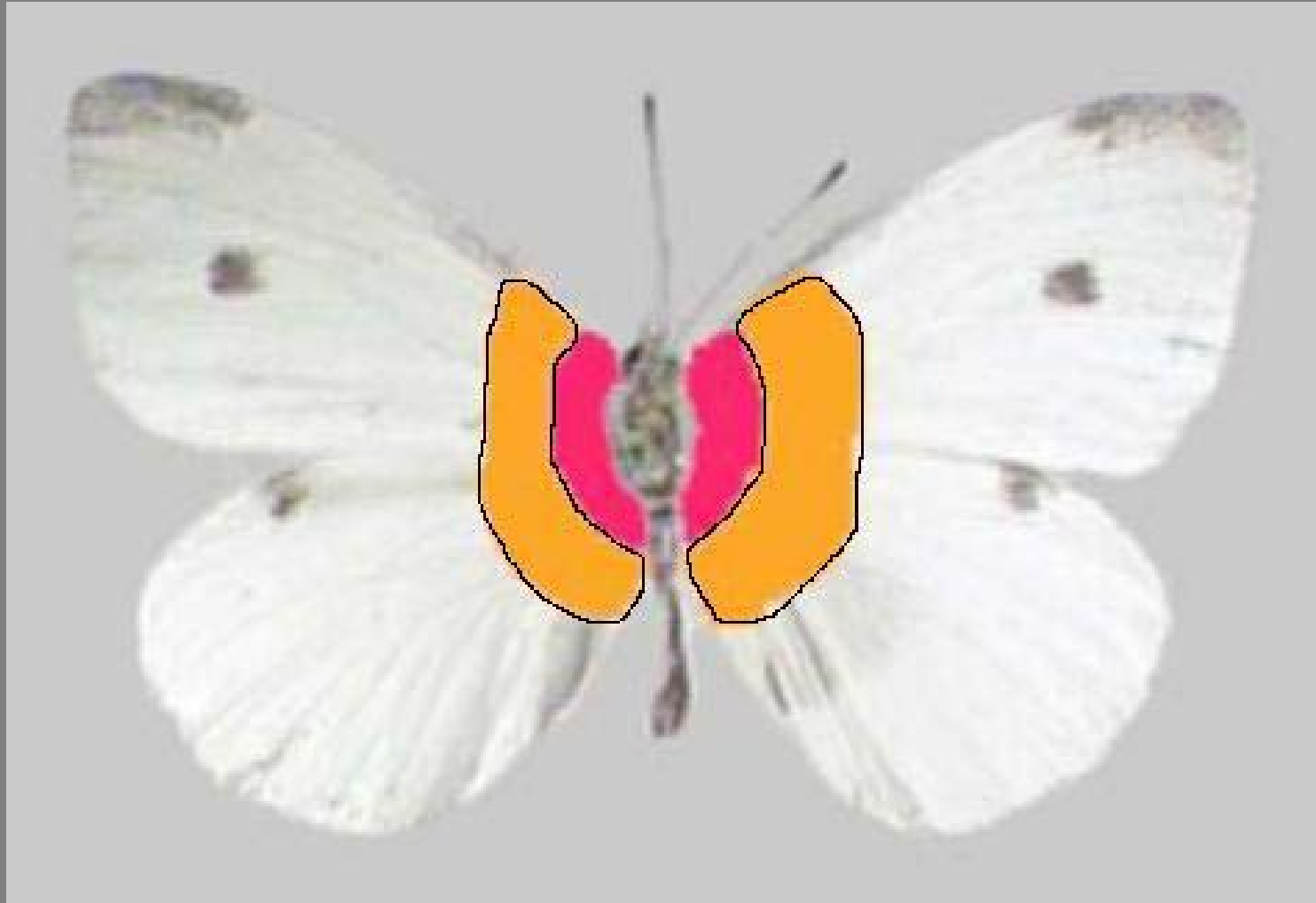
Interior wing regions: Subapical (forewings only)



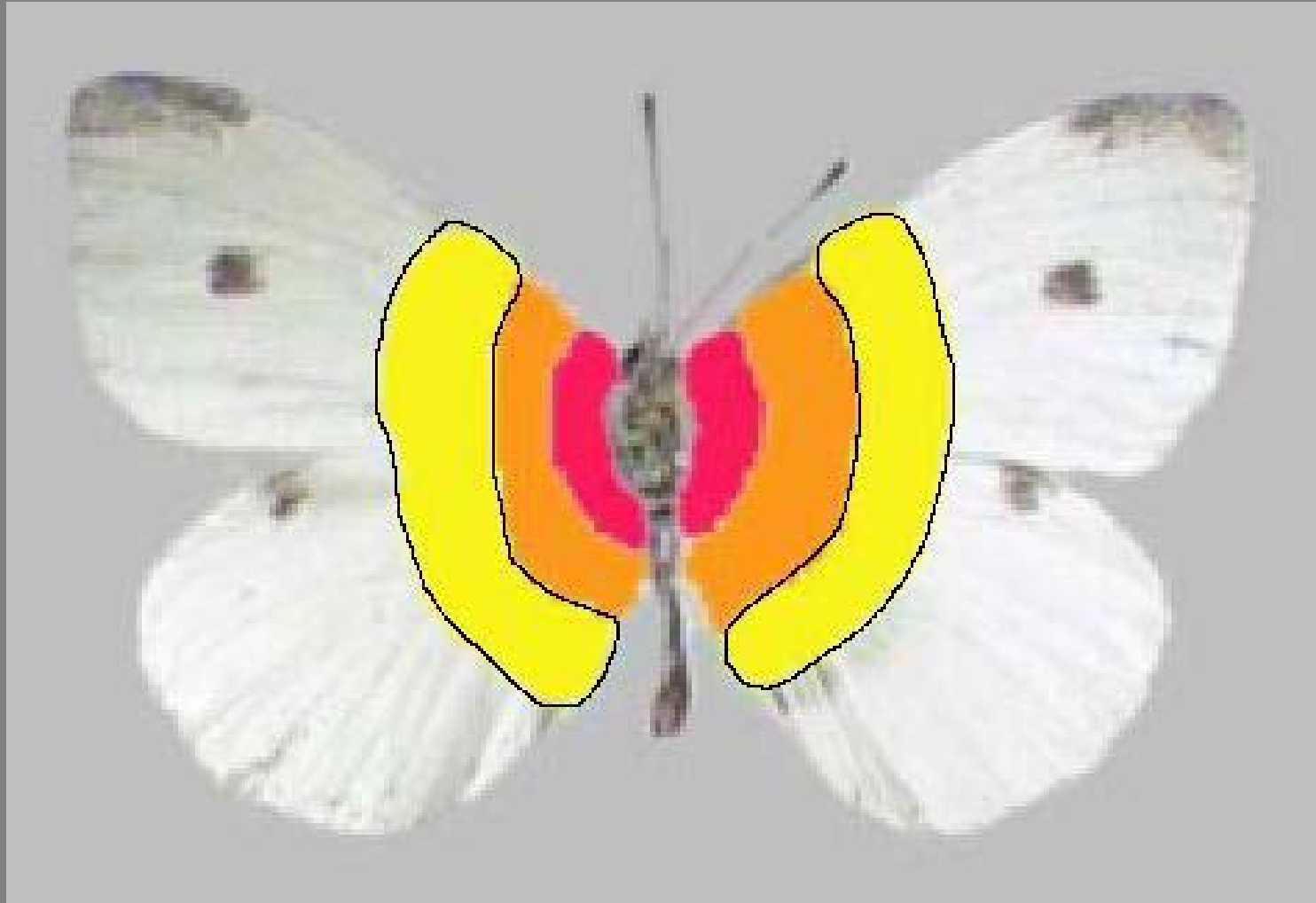
Interior wing regions: Basal



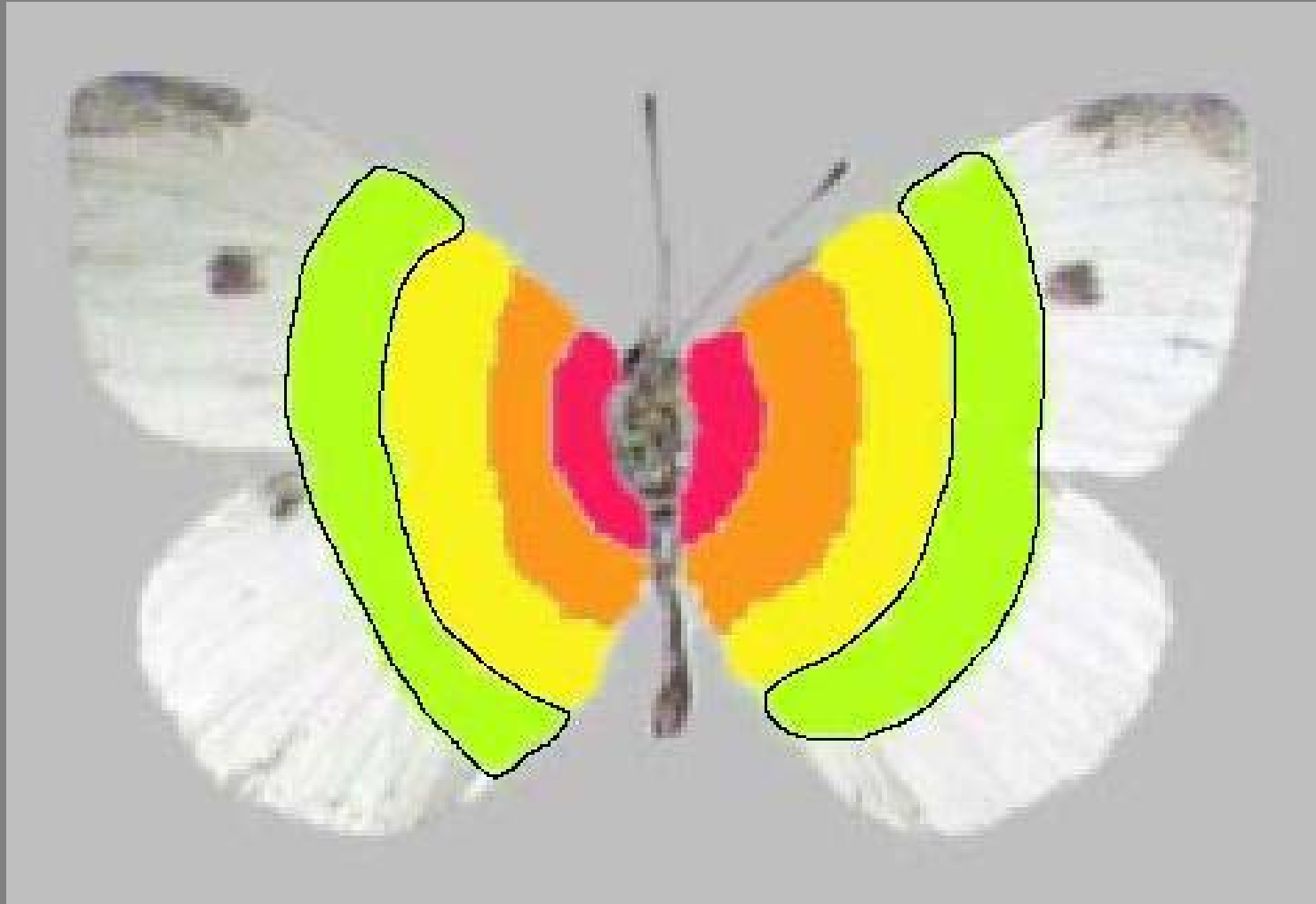
Interior wing regions: Postbasal



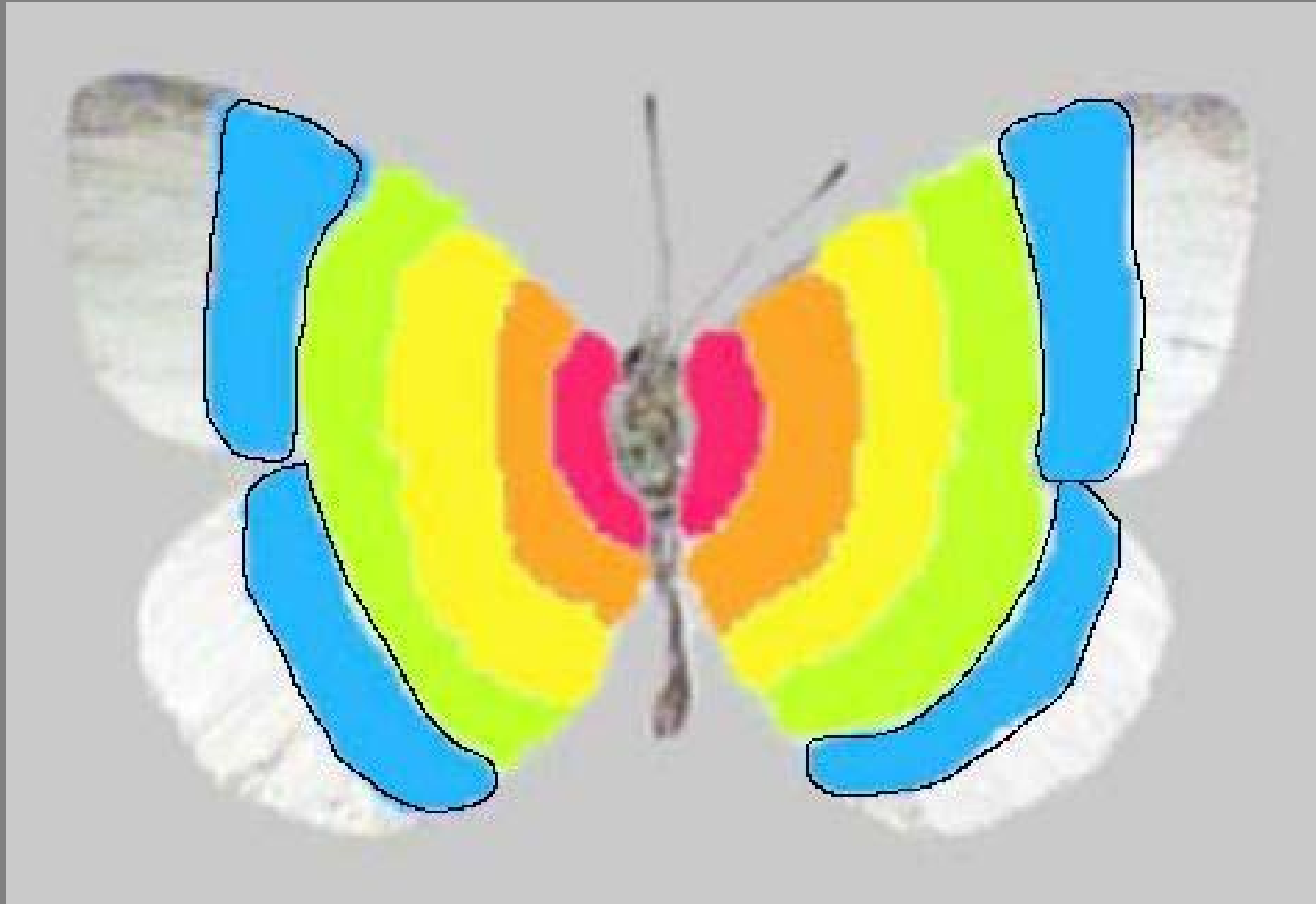
Interior wing regions: Submedial



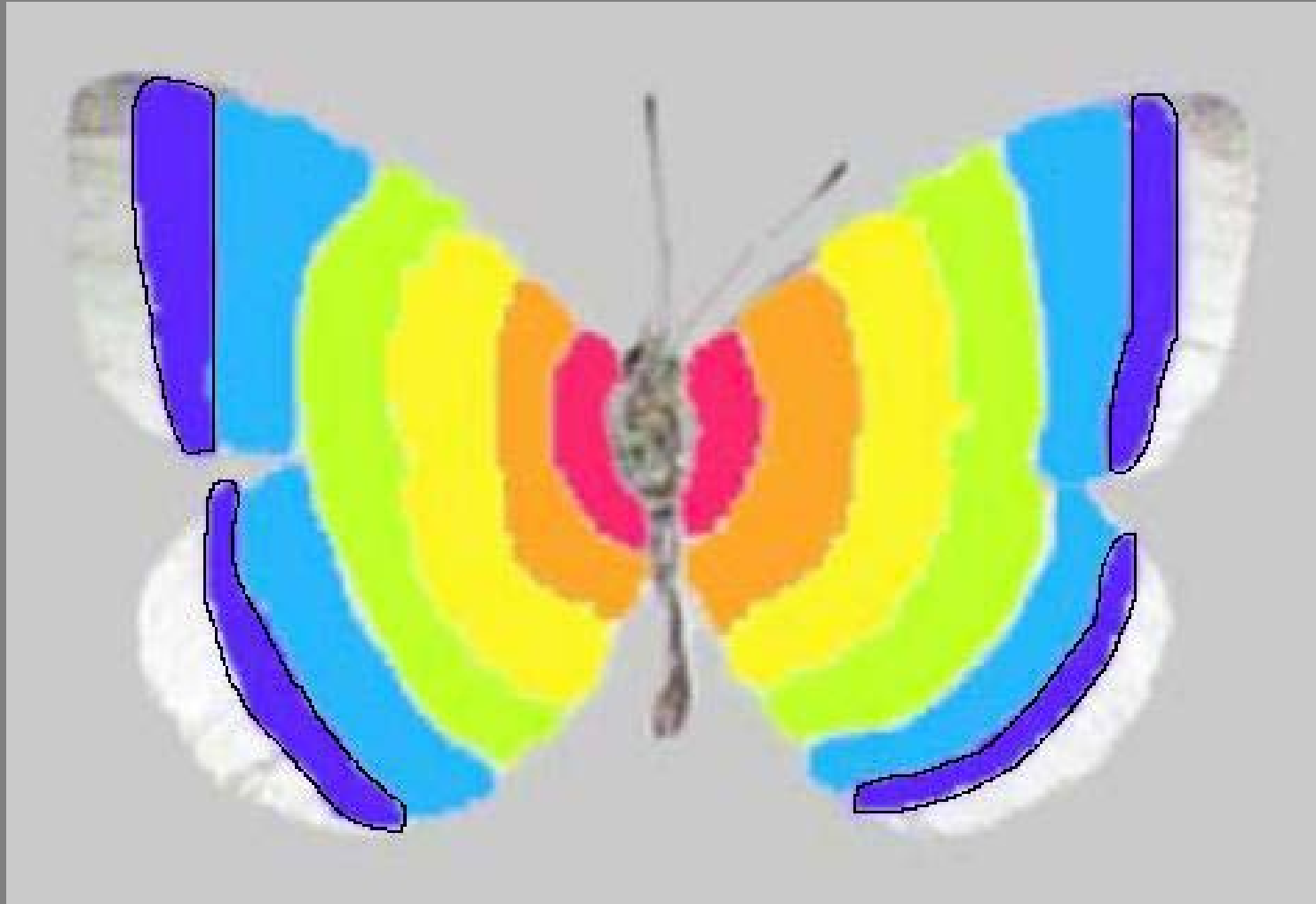
Interior wing regions: Medial



Interior wing regions: Postmedial

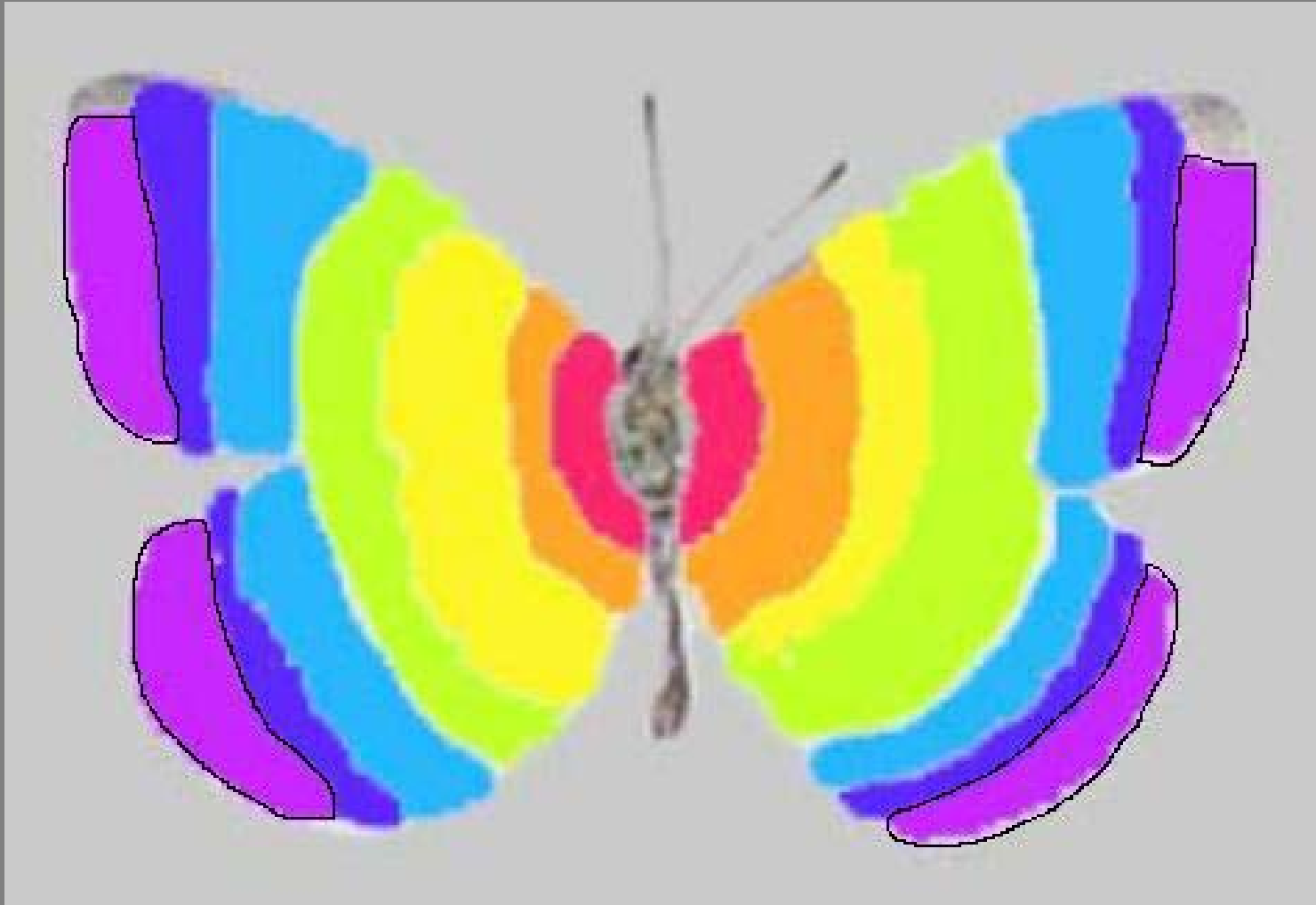


Interior wing regions: Submarginal



Interior wing regions:

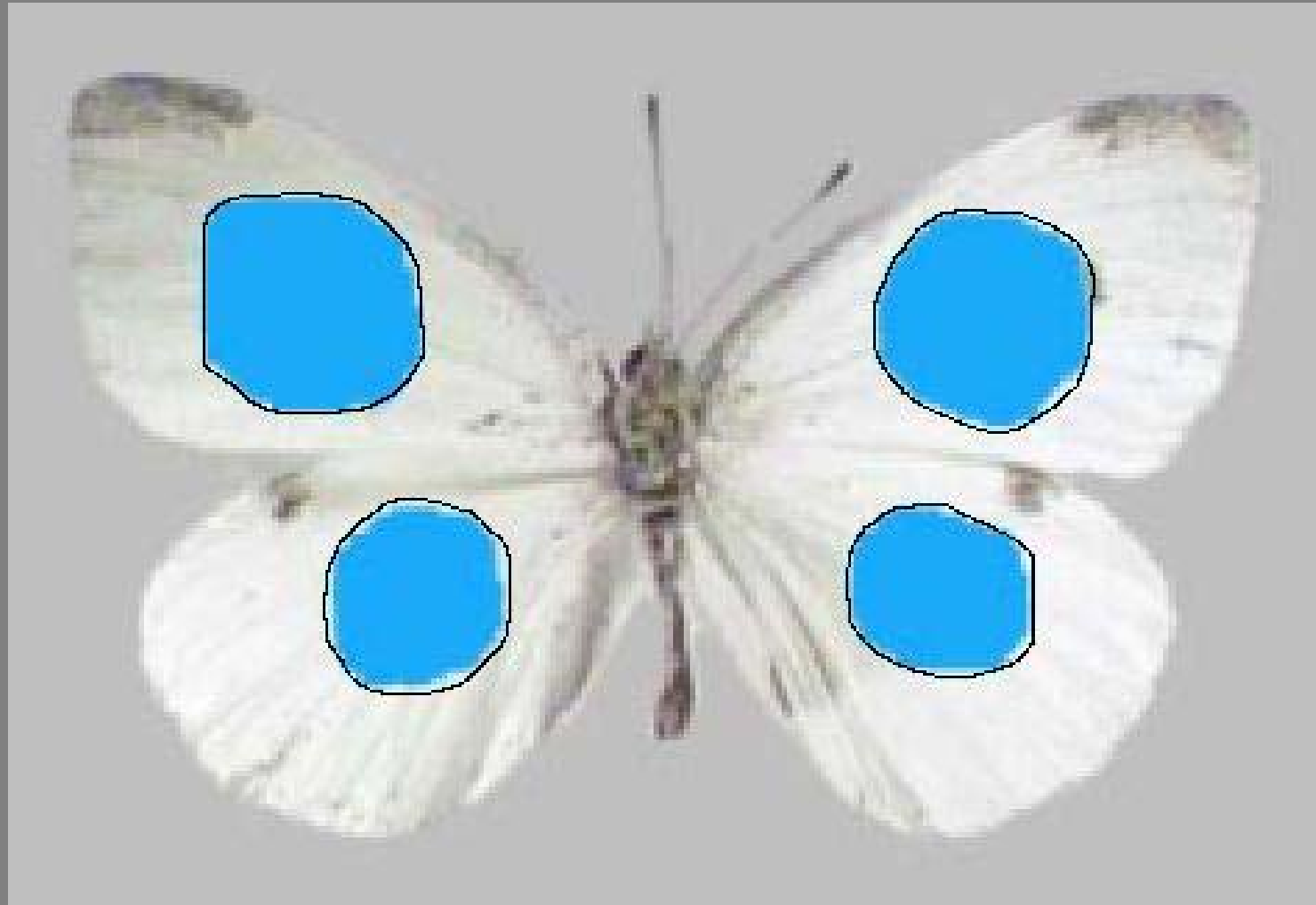
Marginal – Does not include apical region



The Disc and the Cell

- Regions in the center of each wing
- The disc is a more general area right in the middle of the wing
- The cell is a discrete area bounded by veins

The Disc



So what does it all mean?

- Using this terminology, the positions of spots, bands and lines can be accurately described
- It is much easier to discuss field marks using this terminology
- The descriptions in many field guides use the terminology, and will make more sense if you understand it