Journal of Threatened Taxa | www.threatenedtaxa.org | 26 May 2016 | 8(5): 8804-8813



ISSN 0974-7907 (Online) ISSN 0974-7893 (Print)

BUTTERFLIES OF THE RICE RESEARCH STATION AND ADJOINING LOCALITY IN CHINSURAH, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

Somnath Mandal

Department of Zoology, Jhargram Raj College, Jhargram, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal 721507, India somu25_2@rediffmail.com

OPEN ACCESS



Abstract: Chinsurah is a small town on the western bank of the Hugli River, a distributary of the river Ganges. A survey from November 2006 to June 2014 with photographic documentation on the butterfly community in Chinsurah revealed the presence of a total of 70 species representing 53 genera in five families; most dominant family was the Nymphalidae having 34.3% of the total species. Six species are legally protected; one species under Schedule I; three species under Schedule II; and two species under Schedule IV of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Rare species like *Pareronia avator* (Moore), *Mahathala ameria* (Hewitson) and *Melanitis zitenius* (Herbst) were recorded in this rapidly degrading habitat. This study may help in planning conservation strategies in urban areas and sustainable development as well.

Keywords: Butterfly diversity, Hooghly River, insect diversity, Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, lower Gangetic plain, Nymphalidae, urban conservation.

The Rice Research Station (RRS), Chinsurah was established in 1932. Previously it was known as 'Chinsurah Farm'. It is the main RRS in West Bengal and the campus area is approximately one square km. This walled area is situated between the urban and rural habitations of Chinsurah, which lies about 40km north of Kolkata on the bank of Hugli River. The area between the river and the RRS is densely populated. The western

side of the RRS is surrounded by mango orchards and cultivated fields. There is no trace of forest in the entire area and the vegetation is composed of local weeds, shrubs and planted trees. According to agro-climatic zonation Chinsurah is part of the Gangetic alluvial zone with clay loam type of soil and is very fertile (Adhikari et al. 2011; Bhowmik et al. 2014). The entire habitat in this area is rapidly degrading due to extensive urbanization.

The butterflies are our most fascinating arthropod neighbors that act as an important indicator of climate change and environmental degradation. The biology of this group of insects is being studied since time immemorial (Kehimkar 2008). Apart from their ecological importance butterflies and large moths are considered flagship species to promote insect conservation and resource protection (New 2011). Therefore, natural history studies on butterflies are still essential for the maintenance of biological diversity and conservation purposes. The butterfly fauna of India consists of about 1,504 different species. Diversity of butterflies in West Bengal seems to be very high especially in the northern region as, 161 species have been recorded from the Neora Valley National Park (Sengupta et al.

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/jott.2815.8.5.8804-8813 | **ZooBank:** urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:76973ADA-FBAB-44D2-BD98-E0C71BE818B1

Editor: George Mathew, Kerala Forest Research Institute, Peechi, India.

Date of publication: 26 May 2016 (online & print)

Manuscript details: Ms # o4089 | Received 03 July 2015 | Final received 04 May 2016 | Finally accepted 07 May 2016

Citation: Mandal, S. (2016). Butterflies of the Rice Research Station and adjoining locality in Chinsurah, West Bengal, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 8(5): 8804–8813; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/jott.2815.8.5.8804-8813

Copyright: © Mandal 2016. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. JoTT allows unrestricted use of this article in any medium, reproduction and distribution by providing adequate credit to the authors and the source of publication.

Funding: Self funded.

 $\textbf{Conflict of Interest:} \ \textbf{The author declares no competing interests}.$

Acknowledgement: I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Achintya Kumar Paul, Officer-In-Charge, Durgapur Government College, Durgapur, West Bengal, India and Dr. Subhra Kumar Mukhopadhyay, Principal, Hooghly Mohsin College, Chinsurah, West Bengal, India for their constant encouragement to carry out the work. I would like to thank Dr. Tapas Kumar Misra, Head of the Department of Zoology, Jhargram Raj College, Jhargram, West Bengal, Dr. Pradip Kumar Kar and Dr. Susanta Roy Karmakar Assistant Professors of the same department for their generous help in different aspects of the work. I am also thankful to Dr. Samir Kumar Saha, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, West Bengal State University, Barasat, West Bengal and Dr. Suprotim Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, Raja Ram Mohan Mahavidyalaya, Khanakul, West Bengal for allowing me to use their compact digital cameras.

2014). On the other hand, only 76 butterfly species were recorded from the globally famous deltaic ecoregion, the Indian Sundarbans, with poor abundance (Chowdhury 2014). Study areas in both the reports were away from urban areas. The recent worldwide trend of urbanization is causing habitat degradation, destruction and fragmentation (Bates et al. 2014). In another case, severe anthropogenic stress has been assumed to be the cause of lower butterfly species diversity in Oussudu lake area in southern India (Murugesan et al. 2013). Therefore to propagate the conservation in urban areas further studies are necessary. An attempt was made to study and document the butterfly species diversity in Chinurah, West Bengal, having both urban and rural habitation. The present study was centered on the Rice Research Station, Chinsurah and adjoining areas extending up to the western bank of the Hugli River.

MATERIALS AND METHODS Study area

The RRS, Chinsurah is located 22°52′N & 88°24′E at an altitude of 8.62m (Bhowmick et al. 2014). The area marked with red lines on the map indicates the boundary of RRS, Chinsurah (Fig. 1). The entire eastern and the southern sides of the RRS are densely populated by human habitation. The other two sides are rural areas with mango orchards and cultivated lands. The roadsides in RRS or in the rural areas contain bushes of Lantana sp. and other weeds. Additional to that, there are some ponds and ditches of various sizes of which, the sides are covered with bushes of weeds. On the other hand, the roadsides of urban areas are almost clean or scantily covered with weeds. There are some vacant lands in the urban area that are densely covered with weeds. These weeds and some garden plants attract the butterflies in the urban area. The western bank of the Hugli River is the easternmost boundary of the study area and it supports a large array of weeds and plants that attract butterflies. The climate of the study area is tropical and humid. The temperature normally varies from 24-40 °C during summer and from 7-26 °C during winter. According to Bhowmick et al. (2014), the average normal annual rainfall measured in RRS is 1453.7mm of which, the maximum occurs during May-October.

Sampling and other methods

This study was carried out during November 2006 to May 2014. Surveys were carried out twice a month by random walking through roads and footpaths of different parts of the study area. Survey time was either from 07:00–13:00 hr or 15:00–18:00 hr. Butterflies



Figure 1. The study area marked with red lines indicates the RRS, Chinsurah. The white boxes are houses and the two curved lines are railway tracks. Inset - Base of the white arrow indicating location of the study area in India. (Maps downloaded from www.googleearth. org).

perched on the vegetation within 2m of either side of the walking line were observed and recorded. Butterflies were photographed and identified by comparing the characters of photographs with the published literature (Evans 1932; Haribal 1992; Kehimkar 2008) or web resources (Anonymous 2014; Saji & Pullatt 2014). No specimens were captured or harmed and thus identification of each and every specimen was based on photographs only. The data analysis was carried out using Microsoft Office Excel, 2007. The status of rarity of the observed species in India was determined following Kehimkar (2008) and Evans (1932).

RESULTS

The present study documented 70 species of butterfly from this small area of the lower Gangetic plain in West Bengal, India. The entire butterfly fauna represented 53 genera in 14 subfamilies and five families (Table 1). The family Nymphalidae appeared to be the most dominant with 34.3% of total species representing 14 genera and six subfamilies. The next species-rich family was Lycaenidae with 21.4% of total species representing three subfamilies (Table 1; Fig. 2). However, generawise the Lycaenidae was richer than Nymphalidae (Fig. 2). Hesperiidae and Pieridae were represented by 18.6% and 15.7% of total species, respectively. The lowest species-rich family was Papilionidae with only 10.0% of total species representing four genera and one subfamily (Table 1; Fig. 2). A detailed checklist of the butterflies including different forms under species are presented in Table 2. The most important documentations were Pale Wanderer Pareronia avator (Moore), Falcate Oakblue Mahathala ameria (Hewitson), and Great Evening Brown

Table 1. Subfamily wise diversity of the butterflies of RRS, Chinsurah and adjoining area.

Family	Subfamily	Number of Genera	Number of Species
Hesperiidae	Coeliadinae	1	1
	Hesperiinae	11	12
Papilionidae Papilioninae		4	7
Pieridae	Coliadinae	2	5
	Pierinae	6	6
Lycaenidae	Curetinae	1	1
	Theclinae	4	4
	Polyommatinae	10	10
	Danainae	3	4
	Polyommatinae 10 Danainae 3 Satyrinae 4 Heliconiinae 2	8	
Nymphalidae	Heliconiinae	2	2
	Limenitinae	2	2
	Biblidinae	1	2
	Nymphalinae	2	6
Total: 5	14	53	70

Melanitis zitenius (Herbst) as the status of these species is rare in India (Evans 1932; Kehimkar 2008).

The ratio of species to genus was 1.32. Only the genus Junonia was represented by four species while, the genera, Eurema, Melanitis, Mycalesis, and Graphium, were represented by three species per genus. The genera Pelopidus, Borobo, Papilio, Catopsilia, Danaus, Ariadne and Hypolimnas, were represented by two species per genus and the remaining 41 out of 53 genera were represented by a single species each. The year wise species accumulation curve is slightly upwardly moving even after reaching the 6th year of the survey indicating scope for addition of a few species in the butterfly community of the present study area (Fig. 3). Among the butterflies enlisted in this survey, six species were legally protected under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the Wildlife (Protection) amendment Act 2002 (Anonymous 2003). Of these legally important species, one species was protected under Schedule I (Part-IV), three species under Schedule II and two species under Schedule IV (Table 3).

The representative photographs of each species recorded from the RRS, Chinsurah and adjoining areas are illustrated in Images 1–6. The members of the Family Hesperiidae are presented in Image 1, excepting Common Redeye *Matapa aria* (Moore). The most active and abundant member of the Family Papilionidae was the Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus* (Linnaeus) (Image 2j) and Common Mormon *Papilio polyets* (Linnaeus)

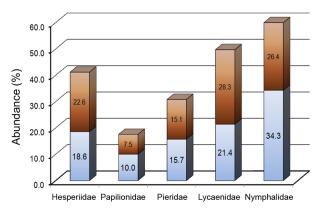


Figure 2. Abundance of the butterflies in and around RRS, Chinsurah. Species-wise (blue) and genus-wise (brown) abundance of butterflies under five families.

(Images 2f–i). The forms cyrus (Image 2f) and stichius (Images 2g–i) of female Papilio polyets (Linnaeus) were recorded from the entire study area. Three varieties in the form stichius were observed based on the number of white spots on the hind wing adjacent to cell and the apex of the cell. Two varieties were devoid of any white spot on the apex of the cell and the numbers of white spots adjacent to the cell were either 2 or 3 (Images 2g,h). The other variety was with white spots on the apex of the cell and four white spots adjacent to the cell (Image 2i). Both the forms clytia and dissimilis of Common Mime Chilasa clytia (Linnaeus) were recorded (Images 2d,e). The only one red bodied swallowtail observed here was the Common Rose Atrophaneura aristolochiae (Fabricius) (Image 2k).

The images 3d-j indicate that seven morphological forms or variations of the Common Emigrant Catopsilia pomona (Fabricius) were observed during the entire study period. The other two butterflies of family Pieridae, Mottled Emigrant Catopsilia pyranthe (Linnaeus) and the male of Striped Albatross Appias libythea (Fabricius) were represented by two different morphological forms (Image 3k,I & n,o). The Indian Sunbeam Curetis thetis (Drury), Falcate Oakblue Mahathala ameria (Hewitson) and Monkey Puzzle Rathinda amor (Fabricius) under family Lycaenidae were observed only once during the entire study period (Images 4a-c). Only three tiger butterflies were recorded in the survey such as, Plain Tiger Danus chrysippus (Linnaeus), Blue Tiger Tirumala limniace (Cramer) and Striped Tiger Danaus genutia (Cramer) (Images 5a-c). The only species, H. misippus, recorded from the study area which is protected under Schedule I (Part-IV) of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and subsequent amendments illustrated in image 6f.



Image 1. Butterflies representing the family Hesperiidae in and around RRS, Chinsurah.

a - Brown Awl B. exclamationis (Fabricius); b - Common Dartlet O. goloides (Moore); c - Plain Palm Dart C. acalle (Hopffer), d - Blank Swift C. Kumara (Moore); e - Conjoined Swift P. conjuncta (Herrich-Schaffer); f - Small Branded Swift P. mathias (Fabricius); g - Rice Swift B. cinnara (Wallace); h - Lesser Rice Swift B. bevani (Moore); i - Indian Palm Bob S. gremius (Fabricius); j - Tree Flitter H. adrastus (Stoll); k - Chestnut Bob L. salsala (Moore); l - Grass Demon U. folus (Cramer). © Somnath Mandal.



Image 2. Butterflies representing the family Papilionidae in and around RRS, Chinsurah.
a - Common Jay G. doson (C. & R. Felder); b - Tailed Jay G. agamemnon (Linnaeus); c - Spot Swordtail G. nomius (Esper); d - Common Mime C. clytia (Linnaeus) form: clytia, e - Common Mime C. clytia (Linnaeus) form: dissimilis; f - Common Mormon P. polytes (Linnaeus) form: cyrus; g-i - Common Mormon P. polytes (Linnaeus) form: stichius; j - Lime Butterfly P. demoleus (Linnaeus); k - Commone Rose P. aristolochiae (Fabricius). © Somnath Mandal.

Table 2. Detailed checklist of the butterflies of RRS, Chinsurah and adjoining area.

	Scientific name	English name			
Family	: Hesperiidae				
Subfamily: Coeliadinae					
1	Badamia exclamationis (Fabricius)	Brown Awl			
Subfamily: Hesperiinae					
2	Oriens goloides (Moore)	Common Dartlet			
3	Cephrenes acalle (Hopffer)	Plain Palm-Dart			
4	Caltoris kumara (Moore)	Blank Swift			
5	Pelopidas conjuncta (Herrich- Schaffer)	Conjoined Swift			
6	Pelopidas mathias (Fabricius)	Small Branded Swift			
7	Borbo cinnara (Wallace)	Rice Swift			
8	Borbo bevani (Moore)	Lesser Rice Swift			
9	Suastus gremius (Fabricius)	Indian Palm Bob			
10	Hyarotis adrastus (Stoll)	Tree Flitter			
11	Matapa aria (Moore)	Common Redeye			
12	Lambrix salsala (Moore)	Chestnut Bob			
13	Udaspes folus (Cramer)	Grass Demon			
Family	r: Papilionidae				
Subfa	mily: Papilioninae				
14	Graphium doson (C. & R. Felder)	Common Jay			
15	Graphium Agamemnon (Linnaeus)	Tailed Jay			
16	Graphium nomius (Esper)	Spot Swordtail			
17	Chilasa clytia (Linnaeus) form: clytia & dissimilis	Common Mime			
18	Papilio polytes (Linnaeus) form: cyrus & stichius only	Common Mormon			
19	Papilio demoleus (Linnaeus)	Lime Butterfly			
20	Atrophaneura aristolochiae (Fabricius)	Common Rose			
Family	r: Pieridae				
Subfa	mily: Coliadinae				
21	Eurema andersoni (Moore)	One Spot Grass Yellow			
22	Eurema blanda (Boisduval)	Three Spot Grass Yellow			
23	Eurema hecabe (Linnaeus)	Common Grass Yellow			
24	Catopsilia Pomona (Fabricius)	Common Emigrant			
25	Catopsilia pyranthe (Linnaeus)	Mottled Emigrant			
Subfa	mily: Pierinae	1			
26	Pareronia avatar (Moore)	Pale Wanderer			
27	Appias libythea (Fabricius)	Striped Albatross			
28	Cepora nerissa (Fabricius)	Common Gull			
29	Delias eucharis (Drury)	Common Jezebel			
30	Leptosia nina (Fabricius)	Psyche			
31	Belenois aurota (Fabricius)	Pioneer			
Family: Lycaenidae					
Subfamily: Curetinae					
32	Curetis thetis (Drury)	Indian Sunbeam			
Subfamily: Theclinae					
33	Mahathala ameria (Hewitson)	Falcate Oakblue			

	Scientific name	English name				
34	Rathinda amor (Fabricius)	Monkey Puzzle				
35	Rapala manea (Hewitson)	Slate Flash				
36	Spindasis vulcanus (Fabricius)	Common Silverline				
	Subfamily: Polyommatinae					
37	Ily: Polyommatinae Castalius rosimon (Fabricius) Common Pierrot					
38	Catochrysops Strabo (Fabricius)	Forget-Me-Not				
39	Tarucus nara (Kollar)	Rounded Pierrot				
40	Pseudozizeeria maha (Kollar)	Pale Grass Blue				
41	Zizeeria karsandra (Moore)	Dark Grass Blue				
42	Zizina otis (Fabricius)	Lesser Grass Blue				
43						
	Zizula hylax (Fabricius)	Tiny Grass Blue				
44	Neopithecops zalmora (Butler)	Quaker				
45	Euchrysops cnejus (Fabricius)	Gram Blue				
46	Chilades lajus (Stoll)	Lime Blue				
	Nymphalidae					
	ily: Danainae	1 .				
47	Tirumala limniace (Cramer)	Blue Tiger				
48	Danaus genutia (Cramer)	Striped Tiger				
49	Danaus chrysippus (Linnaeus)	Plain Tiger				
50	Euploea core (Cramer)	Common Crow				
Subfam	ily: Satyrinae	T				
51	Melanitis leda (Linnaeus)	Common Evening Brown				
52	Melanitis phedima (Cramer)	Dark Evening Brown				
53	Melanitis zitenius (Herbst)	Great Evening Brown				
54	Elymnias hypermnestra (Linnaeus)	Common Palmfly				
55	Mycalesis perseus (Fabricius)	Common Bushbrown				
56	Mycalesis mineus (Linnaeus)	Dark-Brand Bushbrown				
57	Mycalesis visala (Moore)	Long-Brand Bushbrown				
58	Ypthima huebneri (Kirby) Common Fourring					
Subfam	ily: Heliconiinae					
59	Acraea violae (Fabricius)	Tawny Coster				
60	Phalanta phalantha (Drury)	Common Leopard				
Subfam	ily: Limenitinae					
61	Moduja procris (Cramer)	Commander				
62	Euthalia aconthea (Cramer)	Common Baron				
Subfam	Subfamily: Biblidinae					
63	Ariadne ariadne (Linnaeus)	Angled Castor				
64	Ariadne merione (Cramer)	Common Castor				
Subfam	ily: Nymphalinae					
65	Junonia orithiya (Linnaeus)	Blue Pansy				
66	Junonia atlites (Linnaeus)	Grey Pansy				
67	Junonia almana (Linnaeus)	Peacock Pansy				
68	Junonia lemonias (Linnaeus)	Lemon Pansy				
69	Hypolimnas bolina (Linnaeus)	Great Eggfly				
70	Hypolimnas misippus (Linnaeus)	Danaid Eggfly				
-		1 30 /				



Image 3. Butterflies representing the family Pieridae in and around RRS, Chinsurah.

a - One Spot Grass Yellow *E. andersoni* (Moore); b - Three Spot Grass Yellow *E. blanda* (boisduval); c - Common Grass Yellow *E. hecabe* (Linnaeus); d–j - Common Emigrant *C. pomona* (Fabricius); k&l - Mottled Emigrant *C. pyranthe* (Linnaeus); m - Pale Wanderer *P. avatar* (Moore); n&o - Striped Albatross *A. libythea* (Fabricius) male; p - Striped Albatross *A. libythea* (Fabricius) female; q - Common Gull *C. nerissa* (Fabricius); r - Common Jezebel *D. eucharis* (Drury); s - Psyche *L. nina* (Fabricius); t - Pioneer *B. aurota* (Fabricius). © Somnath Mandal.

DISCUSSION

The species diversity of butterfly in Chinsurah seems to be comparable with Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal, India (Chowdhuri 2014). Although the habitat in the present study area is different, about 59 species appeared to be similar with the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve. Predominance of the family Nymphalidae with respect to species diversity in the present study area is in good correlation with Neora Valley National Park in West

Bengal (Sengupta et al. 2014) as well as other regions in India starting from Himalayan landscape (Singh 2009, 2012; Kunte et al. 2012) through central India (Palot & Soniya 2003; Chandrakar et al. 2007; Singh 2010; Tiple 2011, 2012) to Western Ghats (Mathew & Rahamathulla 1993; Kunte 1997; Kunte et al. 1999; Arun 2002; Eswaran & Pramod 2005; Kumar et al. 2007; Dolia et al. 2008) and southern India (Ramesh et al. 2010; Murugessan 2013).

The number of genera representing Lycaenidae

Table: 3. The butterflies of RRS, Chinsurah and adjoining area protected under various schedules of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Schedule	Family	Scientific name	Common name
I	Nymphalidae	Hypolimnas misippus (Linnaeus)	Danaid Eggfly
II	Lycaenidae	Euchrysops cnejus (Fabricius)	Gram Blue
	Lycaenidae	Mahathala ameria (Hewitson)	Falcate Oakblue
	Nymphalidae	Melanitis zitenius (Herbst)	Great Evening Brown
IV	Hesperiidae	Hyarotis adrastus (Stoll)	Tree Flitter
	Pieridae	Appias libythea (Fabricius)	Striped Albatross

was more than Nymphalidae and other families. The inherent reason may be the single species per genus distribution of all the members representing the family. Furthermore, six genera, namely, Danaus, Melanitis, Mycalesis, Ariadne, Junonia and Hypolimnas under the Family Nymphalidae were represented by more than one species that reduced the number of representative genera. Recording of seven morphological forms in the species *C. Pomona* (Fabricius) is consistent with published literatures (Haribal 1992; Kehimkar 2008).

Observation of 70 butterfly species including three rare species in an urbanized area seems to be encouraging for conservation purposes. The species accumulation curve indicates scope for the addition of some new species upon further sampling in this rapidly degrading habitat. Very low species to genus ratio indicates the presence of strong intra-generic competition (Elton 1946). Additional to that, six species in the study area are legally protected under Schedule I, II and IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the Wildlife (Protection) amendment Act 2002 (Anonymous Reports on butterfly diversity from other habitats in the vicinity of human habitation like the Tropical Forest Research Institute campus in Madhya Pradesh and Ossudu Lake area in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu also indicate the presence of rich butterfly diversity (Tiple 2012; Murugesan et al. 2013). Very poor abundance of butterflies excepting one common tiger butterfly, two very common swallowtail butterflies and two emigrants, in the present study area may be due to the increasing destruction of larval food plants. The conservation scenario in urban areas may be improved by preserving the weeds and shrubs in unused pieces of land. Creation of vacant lands by demolishing old and abandoned structures could offer space for preserving declining species as well as restoration of ecosystem

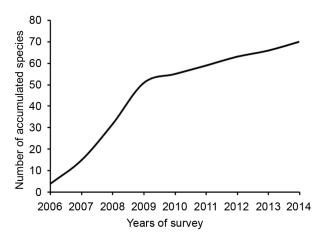


Figure 3. Species accumulation curve of the butterflies in and around RRS, Chinsurah.

functions and food production in urban areas (Gardiner et al. 2013). Conservation of these important pollinators is essential for sustainable development. Designing suitable methodology for conservation in urbanized areas involving local people is awaiting further research.

REFERENCES

Adhikari, B., M.K. Bag, M.K. Bhowmick & C. Kundu (2011). Status Paper on Rice in West Bengal. *Rice Knowledge Management Portal* http://www.rkmp.co.in 1–88pp.

Anonymous (2003). The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 with the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002. The Gazette of India, 148pp. Downloaded on 12 October 2013.

Anonymous (2014). Mahathala ameria Hewitson, 1862 - Falcate Oakblue. In: Kunte, K., S. Kalesh & U. Kodandaramaiah (eds.). Butterflies of India, v. 2.10. Indian Foundation for Butterflies. http://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/sp/2113/Mahathala-ameria Downloaded on 25th May 2014.

Arun, P.R. (2002). Butterflies of Siruvani forest of Western Ghats, with notes on their seasonality. Zoos' Print Journal 18(2): 1003–1006; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.ZPJ.18.2.1003-6

Bates, A.J., J.P. Sadler, D. Grundy, N. Lowe, G. Davis, D. Baker, M. Bridge, R. Freestone, D. Gardner, C, Gibson, R. Hemming, S. Howarth, S. Orridge, M. Shaw, T. Tams & H. Young (2014). Garden and landscape-scale correlates of moths of differing conservation status: significant effects of urbanization and habitat diversity. *PlosOne* 9(1): e86925; http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal. pone.0086925

Bhowmick, M.K., M.C. Dhara, S. Singh, M.H. Dar & U.S. Singh (2014). Improved management options for submergence-tolerant (sub1) rice genotype in flood-prone rainfed lowlands of West Bengal. *American Journal of Plant Sciences* 5: 14–23; http://dx.doi.org/10.4236/ajps.2014.51003

Chandrakar, M., S. Palekar & S. Chandrakar (2007). Butterfly fauna of Melghat Region, Maharashtra. *Zoos' Print Journal* 22(7): 2762–2764; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.ZPJ.1479.2762-4

Chowdhury, S. (2014). Butterflies of Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, West Bengal, eastern India: a preliminary survey of their taxonomic diversity, ecology and their conservation. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 6(8): 6082–6092; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o3787.6082-92

Dolia, J., M.S. Devy, N.A. Aravind & A. Kumar (2008). Adult butterfly communities in coffee plantations around a protected area in the



Image 4. Butterflies representing the family Lycaenidae in and around RRS; Chinsurah.

a - Indian Sunbeam *C. thetis* (Drury); b - Falcate Oakblue *M. ameria* (Hewitson); c - Monkey Puzzle *R. amor* (Fabricius); d - Slate Flash *R. manea* (Hewitson); e - Common Silverline *S. vulcanus* (Fabricius); f - Common Pierrot *C. rosimon* (Fabricius); g - Forget-Me-Not *C. Strabo* (Fabricius); h - Rounded Pierrot *T. nara* (Kollar); i - Pale Grass Blue *P. maha* (Kollar); j - Dark Grass Blue *Z. karsandra* (Moore); k - Lesser Grass Blue *Z. otis* (Fabricius); l - Tiny Grass Blue *Z. hylax* (Fabricius); m - Quaker *N. zalmora* (Butler); n - Gram Blue *E. cnejus* (Fabricius); o - Lime Blue *C. lajus* (Stoll).

© Somnath Mandal.

Western Ghats, India. *Animal Conservation* 11: 26–34; http://dx.doi. org/10.1111/j.1469-1795.2007.00143.x

Elton, C. (1946). Competition and the structure of ecological communities. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 15: 54–68; http://dx.doi. org/10.2307/1625

Eswaran, R. & P. Pramod (2005). Structure of butterfly community of Anaikatty Hills, Western Ghats. *Zoos' Print Journal* 20(8): 1939–1942; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.ZPJ.1330.1939-42

Evans, J.H. (1932). *Identification of Indian Butterflies*. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, 454pp.

Gardiner, M.M., C.E. Burkman & S.P. Prajzner (2013). The value of urban vacant land to support arthropod biodiversity and ecosystem services. *Environmental Entomology* 42(6): 1123–1136; http://dx.doi.org/10.1603/EN12275

Haribal, M. (1992). The Butterflies of Sikkim Himalaya and Their Natural History, Sikkim. Sikkim Natural Conservation Foundation, 217pp.

Kehimkar, I. (2008). The Book of Indian Butterflies. Bombay Natural History Society, Oxford University Press, xvi+497pp.

Kumar, M.P., B.B. Hosetti, H.C. Poomesha & G.H.T. Raghavendra (2007). Butterflies of the Tiger Lion Safari, Thyavarekoppa, Shimoga, Karnataka. Zoos' Print Journal 22(8): 2805; http://dx.doi. org/10.11609/JoTT.ZPJ.1594.2805

Kunte, K. (1997). Seasonal patterns in butterfly abundance and species diversity in four tropical habitats in the northern Western Ghats. *Journal of Bioscience* 22(5): 593–603; http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/ BF02703397

Kunte, K., A. Joglekar, G. Utkarsh & P. Pramod (1999). Patterns of butterfly, bird and tree diversity in the Western Ghats. Current Science 29: 1–14.

Kunte, K., S. Sondhi, B.M. Sangma, R. Lovalekar, K. Tokekar & G. Agavekar (2012). Butterflies of the Garo Hills of Meghalaya, northeastern India: their diversity and conservation. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4(10): 2933–2992; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o2945.2933-92

Mathew, G. & V.K. Rahamathulla (1993). Studies on the butterflies of Silent Valley National Park. Entomon 18: 185–192.

Murugesan, M., P.R. Arun & B.A.K. Prusty (2013). The butterfly community of an urban wetland system - a case study of Oussudu Bird Sanctuary, Puducherry, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 5(12): 4672–4678; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o3056.4672-8

New, T.R. (2011). Launching and steering flagship Lepidoptera for conservation benefit. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(6): 1805–1817; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o2621.1805–17



Image 5. Butterflies representing the family Nymphalidae in and around RRS; Chinsurah.

a - Blue Tiger *T. limniace* (Cramer); b- Striped Tiger *D. genutia* (Cramer); c - Plain Tiger *D. chrysippus* (Linnaeus); d - Common Crow *E. core* (Cramer); e - Common Evening Brown *M. leda* (Linnaeus); f - Dark Evening Brown *M. phedima* (Cramer); g - Great Evening Brown *M. zitenius* (Herbst); h - Common Palmfly *E. hypermnestra* (Linnaeus) male; i - Common Palmfly *E. hypermnestra* (Linnaeus) female; j - Common Bushbrown *M. perseus* (Fabricius); k - Dark-Brand Bushbrown *M. mineus* (Linnaeus); l - Long Brand Bushbrown *M. visala* (Moore); m - Common Fourring *Y. hubeneri* (Kirby); n - Tawny Coster *A. violae* (Fabricius); o - Common Leopard *P. phalantha* (Drury); p - Commander *M. procris* (Cramer); q - Common Baron *E. aconthea* (Cramer); r - Angled Castor *A. ariadne* (Linnaeus); s - Common Castor *A. merione* (Cramer); t - Blue Pansy *J. orithiya* (Linnaeus). © Somnath Mandal.

Palot, M.J. & V.P. Soniya (2003). A preliminary report on the Butterflies of Lonar Crater Lake, Buldhana District, Maharashtra. Zoos' Print Journal 18(11): 1267–1268; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT. ZPJ.18.11.1267-8

Saji, K. & S. Pullatt (2014). Cephrenes acalle Höpffer, 1874 - Plain Palm-Dart. In: Kunte, K., S. Kalesh & U. Kodandaramaiah (eds.). Butterflies of India, v. 2.10. Indian Foundation for Butterflies. http://www. ifoundbutterflies.org/sp/1038/Cephrenes-acalle. Downloaded on 25 May 2014. Sengupta, P., K.K. Banerjee & N. Ghorai (2014). Seasonal diversity of butterflies and their larval food plants in the surroundings of upper Neora Valley National Park, a sub-tropical broad leaved hill forest in the eastern Himalayan landscape, West Bengal, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 6(1): 5327–5342; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o3446.5327-42

Singh, A.P. (2009). Butterflies of Kedarnath Musk Deer Reserve, Garhwal Himalaya, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 1(1): 37–48; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o1873.37-48













Image 6. Butterflies representing the family Nymphalidae in and around RRS, Chinsurah.

a - Grey Pansy *J. athletes* (Linnaeus); b - Peacock Pansy *J. almana* (Linnaeus); c - Lemon Pansy *J. lemonias* (Linnaeus); d - Great Eggfly *H. bolina* (Linnaeus) female; e - Great Eggfly *H. bolina* (Linnaeus) male; f - Danaid Eggfly *H. misippus* (Linnaeus). © Somnath Mandal.

- Singh, A.P. (2010). Butterfly diversity in tropical moist deciduous sal forests of Ankua Reserve Forest, Koina Range, Saranda Division, West Singhbhum District, Jharkhand, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 2(9): 1130–1139; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o2274.1130-9
- Singh, A.P. (2012). Lowland forest butterflies of the Sankosh River catchment, Bhutan. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4(12): 3085–3102; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.02625.3085-102
- Tiple, A.D. (2011). Butterflies of Vidarbha region, Maharashtra State, central India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 3(1): 1469–1477; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o2397.1469-77
- **Tiple, A.D. (2012).** Butterfly species diversity, relative abundance and status in Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, central India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4(7): 2713–2717; http://dx.doi.org/10.11609/JoTT.o2656.2713-7

