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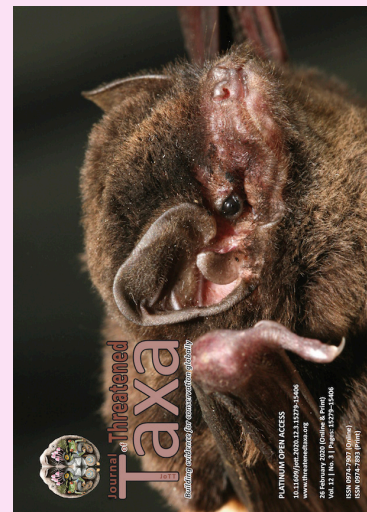
NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF THE HAWKMOTH *THERETRA LYCETUS* (CRAMER, 1775) (SPHINGIDAE: MACROGLOSSINAE) FROM BHUTAN

Sangay Nidup & Jatishwor Singh Irungbam

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First record of the hawkmoth *Theretra lyctetus* (Cramer, 1775) (Sphingidae: Macroglossinae) from Bhutan

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The genus *Theretra* Hübner [1819] comprises small to medium sized, nocturnal hawkmoths belonging to subfamily Macroglossinae, tribe Macroglossini, subtribe Choerocampina (Kawahara et al. 2009). The adults of this genus feed mainly on nectar from flowers and are frequently attracted to light (Bell & Scott 1937). Of the 58 species reported from the Indian subcontinent, seven species have been recorded from Bhutan: *T. alecto* (Linnaeus, 1758), *T. clotho* (Drury, 1773), *T. nessus* (Drury, 1773), *T. oldenlandiae* (Fabricius, 1775), *T. silhetensis* (Walker, 1856), *T. tibetiana* Vaglia & Haxaire, 2010 (Irungbam & Irungbam 2019), and *T. sumatrensis* (Joicey & Kaye, 1917) (Lam Norbu, pers comm.). In the present paper we report the sighting of *Theretra lyctetus* (Cramer, 1775) from Bajo Town, Wangdue Phodrang of central Bhutan.

Theretra lyctetus was described by Pieter Cramer as *Sphinx lyctetus* (Cramer, 1777), but the species was later transferred to the genus *Theretra* by Kirby (1892). It has been recorded from Nepal, southern & northeastern India, the Andamans, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand,

Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Malaysia (https://mol.org/species/map/Theretra_lyctetus). The species is easily identified by the pale longitudinal double lines on the upperside of the abdomen becoming indistinct posteriorly, the darker pinkish-brown forewing upperside with strong postmedial lines and intervening pale bands, the hindwing upperside with a reddish medial band of variable width, and outer row of forebasitarsal spines with additional spines.

A single specimen of *Theretra lyctetus* was photographed (Image 1) on the evening of 14 May 2019, at 18.10h, on the wall of the Wangdue Forest Range Office, Bajothang Town (27.4861 N, 89.8977 E; 1,216m) in Wangduephodrang District, Bhutan (Figure 1). The surrounding vegetation is dominated by an invasive small perennial shrub, *Lantana camara* L. (family Verbenaceae) and the wider area is cultivated with plants of family Vitaceae, which is one of the larval food plant families of *Theretra lyctetus*. The specimen was subsequently identified by first author referring to Inoue et al. (1997) and then confirmed by Jean Haxaire, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris,

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Figure 1. The present sighting locality in Wangduephodrang District, Bhutan.



Image 1. Adult *Theretra lyctus*.

France, through a social media communication (23 May 2019).

Previous studies on the Sphingidae fauna of the Indian subcontinent have reported the presence of this species, from the eastern Himalaya, southern India, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar (Bell & Scott 1937), and Mahakali, Nepal (Kishida 1998), but the studies conducted by Dudgeon (1898) in Sikkim and Bhutan did not record the species from Bhutan. Dierl (1975) reported 10 species of Sphingidae; Irungbam & Kitching (2014) reported 27 species of Sphingidae from Tsirang District; and Geilis & Wangdi (2017) reported 63 species of Sphingidae mainly from the studies conducted in eastern Bhutan, but none of these studies recorded *T. lyctus*. The latest updated checklist of the Sphingidae published by Irungbam & Irungbam (2019) includes 93 species from Bhutan but not *T. lyctus*. New records of Sphingidae, however, continue to accrue for the country. *Clanidopsis exusta* (Butler, 1875) and *Langia zenzeroides* (Moore, 1872) were reported for the first time from Bhutan only in 2019 (Jamtsho & Irungbam 2019; Irungbam & Norbu 2019). Thus, the present sighting of *T. lyctus*

in Bajothang, Wangduephodrang of central Bhutan is significant and important and confirms the presence of the species in central part of the Himalaya.

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