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Caption: Malabar Slender Loris *Loris lydekkerianus malabaricus* © Dileep Anthikkad.



First record of the genus *Tibetanja* (Lepidoptera: Eupterotidae: Janinae) from India

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The family Eupterotidae Swinhoe, 1892, is represented by 60 genera and 396 described species worldwide (Kitching et al. 2018) of which, only 12 genera and about 40 species are known from India (Hampson 1892; Nässig & Oberprieler 2008). Hampson (1892) remains the only comprehensive work on Indian Eupterotidae, having provided a key to 14 genera occurring in the Indian subcontinent, of which two genera *Gangarides* Moore and *Thaumetopoea* Hübner (= *Cnethocampa* Stephens) have since been transferred to Notodontidae (Grünberg 1912).

A new genus *Tibetanja* Naumann, Nässig, & Rougerie was described by Naumann et al. (2020) from Tibet. Although the affinities of this new genus were not clear, it was placed in the subfamily Janinae based on the morphological characters of the male genitalia. This genus currently comprises of the single species *T. tagoroides* which is known only from Tibet. In the present paper, we report this genus from India.

Moths were surveyed from 23–25 September 2014 and 5–7 September 2019 in two locations of Arunachal Pradesh, namely, the lower Dibang valley (28°764'N, 95°961'E) and Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

(27°328'N, 93°538'E), respectively. In the September 2014 survey, a mercury vapour lamp of 160W was hung in front of a white cloth for documenting moths and during September 2019, a LepiLED Maxi (Brehm 2017) supported by three 20,000-mAH Li-polymer power bank was used. No insects were collected, and individual moths were only photographed on the moth screen in both the surveys. The field images of live moths were taken using Nikon D3200 with an AF-S DX Nikkor 18–55mm f/3.5–5.6G VR II lens.

The images were sent by the second author to Mr. Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal for identification and confirmed by Dr. Stefan Naumann, Berlin, Germany (pers. comm. 14 December 2020).

Genus *Tibetanja* Naumann, Nässig & Rougerie, 2020

(Naumann, Nässig & Rougerie, 2020; *Nachr. entomol. Ver. Apollo, N. F.*41 (3/4): 148)

Type species: *Tibetanja tagoroides* Naumann, Nässig & Rougerie, 2020

Type locality: Xizang Zizhiqu, Tibet, China.

Diagnostic characters: This genus is recognized by a typically broad and crenulate median line on both the

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wings and forewing margin rounded and ending in an acute tip, markedly pointed apex. Male genitalia with long, slender scoop-like uncus with two apical lateral teeth, gnathos with two long lateral processes. Valves rectangular with internal process emerging from the ventral margin and with two longer projections. Juxta small, rounded and phallus not fused with juxta as given by Naumann et al. (2020). Within Janinae, the genitalia of *Tibetanja* is somewhat close to *Hoplojana* Aurivillius, 1901 and also some 'Ganisa-group' as discussed in Naumann et al. (2020) while describing this new genus.

***Tibetanja tagoroides* Naumann, Nässig & Rougerie, 2020**
(Images 1 & 2)

Diagnostic characters: This species has been adequately described and illustrated by Naumann et al. (2020) can be easily identified by: the forewing with dark grey median line and zigzag postmedian line; a small black dot present in the basal-median area of both the wings; forewing with apex acute. *T. tagoroides* superficially resembles some species of the genus *Tagora* Walker, 1855 by having forewing with produced



Image 1 & 2. Records of *Tibetanja tagoroides*: 1—From lower Dibang Valley, Mishmi hills, 23–25.ix.2014, © Alka Vaidya | 2—From Tale Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, 5–7.ix.2019, © Sankararaman. H.

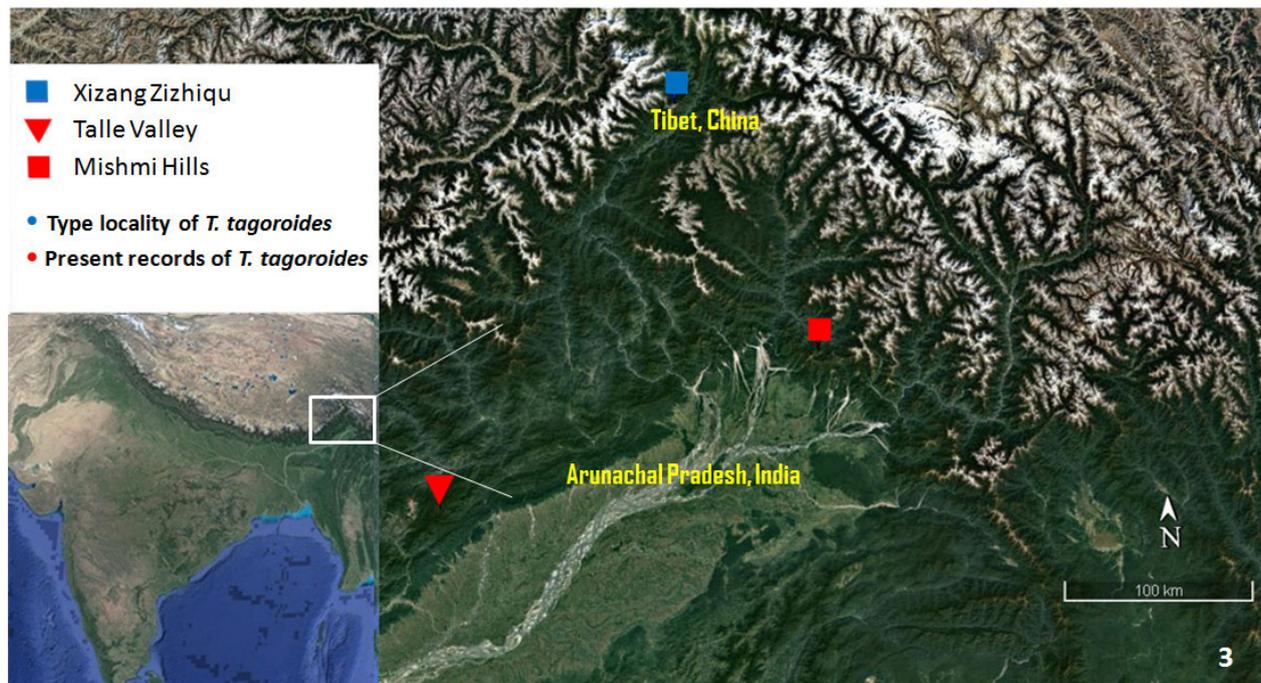


Image 3. Distribution of *Tibetanja tagoroides*.



apex. The immature stages and female of this species still remain unknown.

Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh – new record) and China (Tibet) [Naumann et al. (2020)].

Remarks: The present sightings of *Tibetanja tagoroides* from Tale valley and lower Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh form significant records and extend the known distributional range of this genus to northeastern parts of India, from its earlier reported distribution in Xizang Zizhiqu of southern Tibet, Chinese province (Image 3) and increases the known Indian Eupterotidae fauna to 41 species of 13 genera.

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