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Cover: *Minervarya cepfi* & *Nyctibatrachus petraeus*—mix media. © P Kritika



1896, in Arunachal Pradesh. Sighted on 16 October 2024 (after a gap of 110 years), the communication included three photographs. While two inserted photographs (Image 2) and (Image 3) correctly represents *G. khasiaca*, the third photograph (Image 4) constitutes a misidentification and is herein reassigned to *Gynacantha basiguttata* Selys, 1882. Notably, the sighting of *G. basiguttata* is the first verifiable photographic record from India, and the current manuscript highlights this finding, along with diagnostic details, as a rectification.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The photograph was taken with Sony Cyber-shot DSC-RX10 Mark IV camera, equipped with 24–600 mm f/2.4-4 ZEISS zoom lens, 20.1 MP 1-inch Exmor RS sensor and 0.03-second autofocus. The re-validation (for species identification) was confirmed with ID keys from literature (Selys-Longchamps 1882). No physical specimens were collected in strict adherence to forest norms, and compliance with the Indian Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2022.

Observations and findings

The discovery was made at an elevation of 600 m along the Miao-Vijaynagar road (Image 1) within the coordinates 27.46694°–27.48361° N and 96.40027° E. A single male individual of *G. basiguttata* was spotted perching while hanging vertically downward (Image 2) around 0810 h on a cloudy day within a densely shaded vegetated area.

The specimen was identified as *G. basiguttata* by

following characteristics (Image 1–5): a) black t-mark on frons (Image 2,4); b) olivaceous green thorax without any stripes on lateral; c) dark brown pigmentation in subcostal space at base of both forewing and hindwing extending in medial space, triangle of wings traversed by 7–8 cells, anal triangle 3-celled, anal loop 10–11 celled (Image 3); d) prominent constrict of segment 3; e) segment 2 with greenish-yellow vertical mark on mid-dorsum with greenish-yellow annular mark at anterior end and bluish markings at posterior end (Image 2); f) segment 3 with dorsal greenish-yellow spots on mid part with a pair of dorso-lateral spots near posterior end; g) segments 4–8 with slightly oblique dorsal greenish-yellow markings on mid-part and a pair of small greenish-yellow spots at dorso-lateral aspect of posterior end (Image 2); h) cerci brownish-black, narrow at base, expanded at apex giving a spoon-like appearance in dorsal view, hairs on medial border (Image 6); epiproct short, blackish-brown, half the length of cerci, triangular, broad at base, progressively narrows towards apex, apex of epiproct slightly bulged (Image 6).

Scope of Discovery

Gynacantha basiguttata is listed as ‘Least Concern’ by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (Dow 2020). It was originally described from Philippines and is widely distributed across southeastern Asia, with verifiable records from China, Brunei, Indonesia, Peninsular Malaysia, Philippines, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam (Steinmann 1997; Dow 2020). Based on female specimens present in the Indian Museum, Fraser



Image 1. Location of Miao-Vijaynagar road within Namdapha National Park and Tiger Reserve (Source: Google Earth).



Image 2. Dorsal view of *Gynacantha basiguttata* (male) individual, highlighting its terminal abdominal appendages. © Rajesh Gopinath.

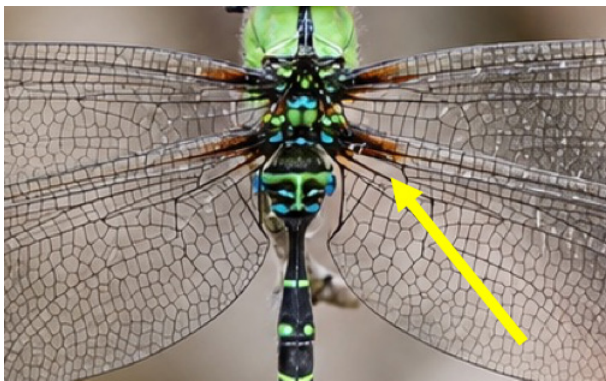


Image 3. Wings of *Gynacantha basiguttata* showing basal wing pigmentation with multi-celled anal loop and anal triangle. © Rajesh Gopinath.

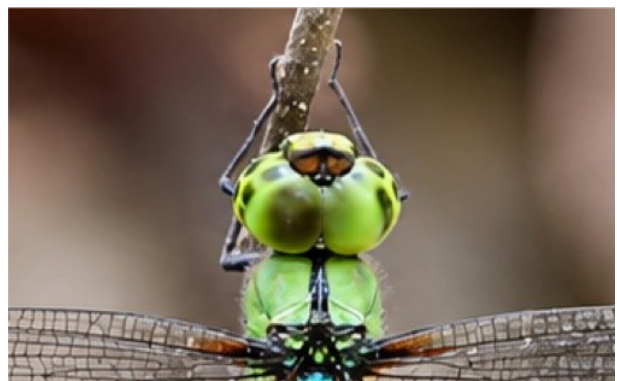


Image 4. Frons of *Gynacantha basiguttata* showing black t-mark. © Rajesh Gopinath.

(1936) had stated the distribution of *G. basiguttata* from Bengal (India), Assam (India) Burma, Malaysia, Indo-China, and Sundaic Archipelago. This geographical distribution was also adopted by Subramanian (2009) and Mitra (2002). Fraser (1936) noted the species to be a very rare insect in Indian limits. As this record from India appeared highly doubtful, the species was excluded from the IUCN checklist of Indian Odonata (Dow 2020), checklist of South Asia (Kalkman et al. 2020) and from the

checklist of India (Subramanian & Babu 2025). Further studies have since then followed the same taxonomic arrangement, including the recently updated Indian checklist detailing the distribution records of *Gynacantha* spp. (Sawant & Kambli 2023). Therefore, with this photographic record, the study presents strong evidence of *G. basiguttata* within the Indian limits and further recommends inclusion of the species in the checklist of India, the Indian subcontinent and South Asia.



Image 5. Constrict of segment 3 and characteristic markings of *Gynacantha basiguttata*. © Rajesh Gopinath.



Image 6. Anal appendages showing spoon-shaped cerci and short epiproct (half the length of cerci) of *Gynacantha basiguttata*. © Rajesh Gopinath.

CONCLUSION

Gynacantha basiguttata Selys, 1882 was historically mentioned in Odonata checklists, for its presence within Indian limits. However, as the inclusion was based solely on female specimens, it was subsequently removed from the recent checklists. The present study provides the first photographic evidence of a male individual from India, thereby supporting its inclusion in the checklists of India, the Indian subcontinent, and South Asia. The study details this discovery and derives it in the form of a self-rectification.

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