A RECORD OF Ourapteryx dierli Inoue, 1994 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Ennominae) FROM THE GARHVAL HIMALAYA, INDIA

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A record of *Ourapteryx dierli* Inoue, 1994 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Ennominae) from the Garhwal Himalaya, India

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*Ourapteryx dierli* Inoue, 1994 was described from central Nepal (Inoue 1994) with specimens collected during June (holotype and paratypes of this species were collected on various dates in vi.1973) between 2,500–2,600 m from central Nepal (Inoue 1994, 1995). Later, *O. dierli* was recorded from western Nepal at 1,000 m on 25.vii.1996 (Stüning 2000). Recently, Sondhi et al. (2020) reported it from Sarmoli village (23.v.2019; 2,200 m; 30.079°N & 80.235°E) near Munsirai in Pithoragarh district of Kumaon in Uttarakhand, India. Hence the known distribution range of *O. dierli* was noted as eastern Kumaon in Uttarakhand, India to western and central Nepal (Sondhi et al. 2020).

During the course of surveys carried out on insects infesting the western Himalayan oaks, the authors recorded one individual of this species (Figure 1) in the Chakrata hills. The individual was attracted to a CFL light on 08.vi.2020 at Kanesar Range Chowki (2,238 m; 30.714°N & 77.859°E; 20:31h; Temp: 17.8°C; RH 77%), Chakrata Forest Division, Dehradun District of Uttarakhand, India. The forest habitat around the site is 12/C1a Ban oak forest (Champion & Seth 1968) with *Quercus leucotrichophora* being the dominant tree species along with associates like Deodar *Cedrus deodara*, Moru Oak *Q. floribunda*, Horse Chestnut *Aesculus indica*, Blue Pine *Pinus wallichiana*, Alder *Alnus nepalensis*, *Rhododendron arboreatum*, Bhamara *Cornus copiatata*, *Pyrus pashia*, and Dwarf Bamboo *Arundinaria falcata*. The earlier record from Uttarakhand by Sondhi et al. (2020) of this species was also in a similar forest habitat, altitude and season (pre-monsoon), which suggests the preference by this species for habitat, altitude, and season.

This finding further extends the western most limit in the distribution range of this species in the Himalaya to the Chakrata hills of Garhwal, Uttarakhand, India. This site of record lies in the Jaunsar region near the state of Himachal Pradesh to its west, and is ~250 km from the nearest known earlier record from Munsirai in Kumaon, India.

**References**


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Image 1. *Ourapteryx dierli* Inoue, 1994 photographed at Kansar Range Chowki (2,238 m), Chakrata Forest Division, Dehradun District of Uttarakhand, India.