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### NOTE

#### **NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF TWO LITTLE KNOWN PLANT SPECIES, *HEDYCHIUM LONGIPEDUNCULATUM* A.R.K. SASTRY & D.M. VERMA (ZINGIBERACEAE) AND *MAZUS DENTATUS* WALL. EX BENTH. (SCROPHULARIACEAE), FROM MEGHALAYA, INDIA**

M. Murugesan

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## New distribution records of two little known plant species, *Hedychium longipedunculatum* A.R.K. Sastry & D.M. Verma (Zingiberaceae) and *Mazus dentatus* Wall. ex Benth. (Scrophulariaceae), from Meghalaya, India

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The East Khasi Hills of Meghalaya home for a very rich and diverse vegetation. It is unique in having a mixture of Asiatic and Indian peninsular elements. Many taxonomists have carried out taxonomic documentation in this region since the British period. A botanical exploration trip was conducted to Mawsynram forest areas of East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya during March 2017–May 2018, for live plant collection under the allotted Annual Action Plan Project on ex situ conservation of endemic and threatened plants of northeastern India in the Experimental Botanical Garden (EBG), Botanical Survey of India, Barapani, Shillong.

During this trip, the author came across two interesting plant species which are growing on rocky slopes in densely shaded areas near a stream. Subsequently, these two species were collected and grown in the EBG. After critical examination of these specimens with relevant literatures, type specimens, comparison with herbarium sheets deposited in ASSAM, CAL, MH, BM, K, E, these specimens were identified as

*Hedychium longipedunculatum* A.R.K. Sastry & D.M. Verma (Zingiberaceae) and *Mazus dentatus* Wall. ex Benth. (Scrophulariaceae). The relevant literatures (Balakrishnan 1981–1983; Haridasan 1985–1987; Joseph 1982; Mao et al. 2016) pertaining to the flora of Meghalaya reveals that, these species so far not reported from the state and hence, reported here as additions to the flora of Meghalaya with photographic illustration, citation, description along with distribution and ecology for easy identification and future reference (Image 1).

### Materials and Methods

The materials for the present study were collected from the forest areas of Mawsynram during March 2017–May 2018. Detailed morphological studies on flowering and fruiting timing, associated species, ecology, habitat of occurrence, and elevation were recorded in field note book. The detailed description was prepared after proper diagnosis and examination of a wide range of

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specimens. Observations were made with Magnus MIPS 5.0 mega pixel digital stereo microscope. Standard method of collection, preservation and maintenance of specimens in the herbarium was followed (Jain & Rao 1977). The herbarium specimens are deposited at Madras Herbarium (MH), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

### Scrophulariaceae

*Mazus dentatus* Wall. ex Benth., Scroph. Ind.: 27. 1835; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 4: 260. 1884; T. Yamaz. in H. Hara, Fl. E. Himalaya: 288. 1966; Malick & Bhaumik in Lakshminarasimhan et al., Fl. West Bengal 4: 118. 2019.

Erect, small, lithophytic, acaulescent, non-stoloniferous, sparsely hairy herb with perennial root stock, whole plant turns into black when dry. Leaves crowded in a basal rosette; lamina broadly elliptic-oblong, oblong-ovate or rarely obovate, 3–12×2–6 cm, acute, rounded or sub-cordate or rarely oblique at base, dentate or sinuate at margins, obtuse or rounded at apex, usually sparsely hairy on lower surface, rarely densely pubescent, sparsely pubescent or sub-glabrous on upper surface; lateral nerves 4–6 pairs, obscure; petioles 1.5–7.5 cm long, channeled above, sparsely hairy. Flowers large, in terminal racemes, 1–10-flowered, usually distant or sometimes apically fascicled; scape usually solitary, rarely 2, erect or decumbent, slender, leafless, up to 12cm long, densely hairy at base, sparsely hairy towards apex; pedicels 4–8 mm long, pubescent. Bracts 2–4 mm long, setaceous. Calyx campanulate, 4–7×2–4 mm, greenish or pinkish, pubescent hairy outside; teeth 5, ovate or triangular, 1.5–2.5×1.0–2.0 mm long, erect or sub-erect, shorter than tube, margins sometimes slightly recurved, acute at apex; midrib prominent, thick, raised. Corolla whitish or purplish, 1.5–2.5 cm long, 2-lipped, exterior in bud, throat with 2 longitudinal yellowish batch, prominently pubescent hairy; tube up to 1.2cm long, white at base, purplish towards apex; upper lip erect or reflexed, 2-lobed; lower lip much longer than upper, spreading, 3-lobed, mid-lobe oblong, slightly longer than lateral lobes; lobes emarginate or sometimes shallowly 2-lobed at apex. Stamens 4, didynamous, inserted on corolla tube; anther cells connecting to each other, diverging at base, apically connivent; filaments 0.7–1.5 cm long, glabrous. Ovary hairy or glabrous, 2-celled; style glabrous, up to 1.3 cm long; stigma 2-lamellate. Capsules obovoid, 2–3×1.5–2 mm, obtuse at apex, loculicidal, 2-valved, included; seeds numerous, ovoid, minute.

Flowering & fruiting: March–May.

Habitat & ecology: Very rare in densely shaded tropical moist deciduous forests near waterfall and

on dripping rocks, between 1,000m and 1,800m in association with *Argostemma khasianum* C.B. Clarke, *Argostemma verticillatum* Wall., *Begonia ovatifolia* A. DC., *Begonia* spp., *Bulbophyllum* spp., *Dichocarpum adiantifolium* (Hook.f. & Thomson) W.T. Wang & P.K. Hsiao., *Eriocaulon* spp., and *Malaxis* sp..

Distribution: India (Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, and West Bengal), Bhutan, and Nepal.

Specimen examined: Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills District, Mawsynram, 25.359°N & 91.607°E, 25.iii.2017, coll. M. Murugesan, 137302 (MH Accession number 177984).

### Zingiberaceae

*Hedychium longipedunculatum* A.R.K. Sastry & D.M. Verma, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. 65: 293–295. 1968; A.S. Rao & D.M. Verma, Bull. Bot. Surv. India 14(1–4): 130. 1972; S.C. Srivast. in S.K. Jain & R.R. Rao, Threat. Pl. India: 236. 1983; S.K. Jain & V. Prakash., Rheedia 5(2): 161. 1995; Moakum & Santanu Dey, Pleione 7(1): 290–294. 2013.

Erect, usually terrestrial, perennial, rhizomatous herbs, sometimes epiphytic or rarely lithophytic. Rhizome creeping, 1.5–2.5 cm wide, creamy yellow or pale greenish-yellow internally, light greyish-green externally, slightly aromatic. Leafy shoot 25–55 cm high, slanting with erect inflorescence, glabrous. Leaves 4–8, alternate, lower ones smaller, sessile, upper ones longer, prominently petioled; petioles 0.2–1.7 cm long, sheathed; sheaths 1–6.5 cm long, lowest 2 or 3 sheaths without lamina; lamina broadly to narrowly elliptic or elliptic-lanceolate or oblong-elliptic, 5–32×2–12 cm, dark green on upper surface, light greenish-pinkish or pinkish-purple on lower surface, glabrous, acute at base, undulate at margins, abruptly acuminate or caudate-acuminate and twisted at apex; lateral nerves many, arched at margins; ligule 1.5–2 cm long, bilobed at apex, glabrous, translucent, papery, closely appressed to the stem. Inflorescence of spikes, 4–20 cm long, cylindrical, erect, many-flowered; peduncle up to 14cm long, slightly curved upwards, glabrous, rachis hairy. Bracts 1-flowered, pinkish-red, triangular, ca 1.3×0.8 cm, 9–11-nerved, as long as calyx, glabrous, convolute at margins, acute or sometimes obtuse at apex, translucent, membranous. Bracteoles pinkish or reddish, ovate, ca. 7.5×5 mm, membranous, acute at apex, obscurely 3-nerved, completely enclose the flower. Flowers 3–3.3 cm long, creamy yellow, 8–18 flowers open at a time, ascending, fragrant. Calyx pale yellow or creamy-yellow, tubular, up to 1.2 cm long, 7–9-nerved, densely villous, membranous, tufted hairs



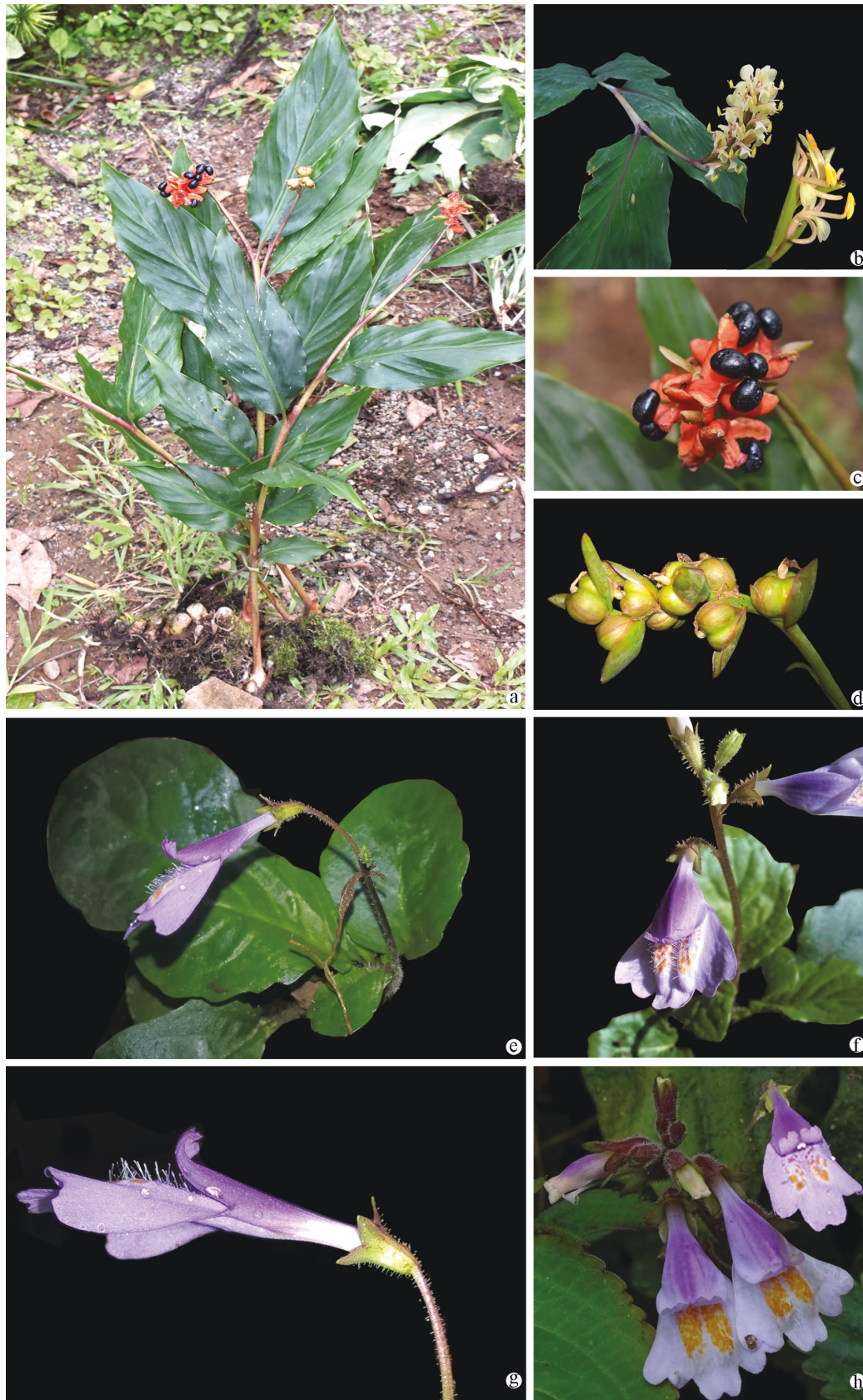


Image 1 a–d. *Hedychium longipedunculatum* A.R.K. Sastry & D.M. Verma: a—whole plant | b—a flowering branch | c—seeds | d—fruits; e–h. *Mazus dentatus* Wall. ex Benth.: e—whole plant | f & h—inflorescence | g—flower side view. a,c–g—© M. Murugesan | b—N. Odyuo | h—Gopal Krishna.

at tip, unilaterally split at apex. Corolla tube creamy yellow with pale red, erect, as long as calyx, villous inside, glabrous outside; corolla lobes 3, ca. 1.8×0.7 cm, creamy yellow, pale red tinged towards apex, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate-oblong, membranous, glabrous, acute at apex, 3-nerved. Lateral staminodes 2, creamy-yellow, spatulate, ca. 1.8×0.8 cm, petaloid, spreading on flower, slightly reflexed back in upper half, prominently clawed towards base, slightly thick; claw ca. 6×3 mm. Labellum deeply bi-lobed; sinus ca. 1cm deep, lobes ovate or oblong or rarely orbicular, obtuse or rounded at apex. Stamen solitary, ca. 2.2cm long, erect; anther ca. 7mm long, oblong, bright-yellow, 2-celled anther locules divergent at base, attached with the filament at 2–3 mm above from base, connective bright yellow; filament ca 1.5cm long ca. 2mm wide at base, yellow, erect. Ovary ca. 3mm in diameter, subglobose, densely villous, obscurely three angled; placentation axile; style filiform, white, ca 2.8cm long glabrous, green tinged towards stigma; stigma ca. 1mm broad, green, cup-shaped, slanting with a depression at center, with hook-like ciliate hairy. Capsule ca. 1.5cm diameter, subglobose, glabrous or hairy, 3-angled, 3-locular; fruit wall fleshy, reddish or orange internally, completely splitted and reflexed back on dehiscence; seeds black, ellipsoid, ca. 3.5×1.5 mm, smooth; aril red, lacerate, fleshy.

Flowering & fruiting: May–August

Habitat & ecology: Very rare in the margins of densely shaded tropical moist deciduous forests near streams and on rocks, between 1,400m and 2,000m in association with *Begonia* spp., *Carex* sp., *Hedychium* sp., Wall., *Malaxis* sp., and *Phyllanthus* sp.

Distribution: Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland; endemic to northeastern India.

Specimens examined: Meghalaya, East Khasi Hills District, Mawsynram, 25.359°N & 91.607°E, 09.vi.2017, coll. M. Murugesan, 137310 (MH Accession number 177985).

Notes: This very rare species previously known based on only few collections from Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland of northeastern states (Sastry & Verma 1968; Jain & Prakash 1995; Moaakum & Dey 2013). Therefore, the present collection from the study area shows its extended distribution and also forms an addition to the flora Meghalaya.

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## Corrigendum

**Bhatt, M.R. (2021).** A new record of an endangered and endemic rare Rein Orchid *Habenaria rariflora* from Gujarat, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 13(5): 18385–18389. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.6171.13.5.18385-18389>

The author regrets that the title of the paper is incorrect. The correct title reads as follows: “A new record of an endangered and endemic orchid *Habenaria rariflora* A. Rich from Gujarat, India”. The author would like to apologize for any inconvenience caused.





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#### Conservation Application

##### First attempt at rehabilitation of Asiatic Black Bear cubs to the wild in Thailand

– Robert Steinmetz, Worrapan Phumane, Rungnapa Phoonjampa & Suthon Weingdow, Pp. 18411–18418

#### Communications

##### Status of Sumatran Tiger in the Berbak-Sembilang landscape (2020)

– Tomi Ariyanto, Yon Dinata, Dwiyanto, Erwan Turyanto, Waluyo Sugito, Sophie Kirkin & Rajan Amin, Pp. 18419–18426

##### The diversity of small mammals in Pulau Perhentian Kecil, Terengganu, Malaysia

– Aminuddin Baqi, Isham Azhar, Ean Wee Chen, Faisal Ali Anwarali Khan, Chong Ju Lian, Bryan Raveen Nelson & Jayaraj Vijaya Kumaran, Pp. 18427–18440

##### Patterns, perceptions, and spatial distribution of human-elephant (*Elephas maximus*) incidents in Nepal

– Raj Kumar Koirala, Weihong Ji, Yajna Prasad Timilsina & David Raubenheimer, Pp. 18441–18452

##### Assessing spatio-temporal patterns of human-leopard interactions based on media reports in northwestern India

– Kaushal Chauhan, Arjun Srivathsa & Vidya Athreya, Pp. 18453–18478

##### Bat diversity in the Banpale forest, Pokhara, Nepal during spring season

– Prabhat Kiran Bhattarai, Basant Sharma, Anisha Neupane, Sunita Kunwar & Pratyush Dhungana, Pp. 18479–18489

##### A patho-microbiological study of tissue samples of the Greater Adjutant *Leptoptilos dubius* (Aves: Ciconiiformes: Ciconiidae) that died in Deeporbeel Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India

– Derhasar Brahma, Parikshit Kakati, Sophia M. Gogoi, Sharmita Doley, Arpita Bharali, Biswajit Dutta, Taibur Rahman, Saidul Islam, Arfan Ali, Siraj A. Khan, Sailendra Kumar Das & Nagendra Nath Barman, Pp. 18490–18496

##### Vaduvur and Sitheri lakes, Tamil Nadu, India: conservation and management perspective

– V. Gokula & P. Ananth Raj, Pp. 18497–18507

##### A new species of shieldtail snake (Squamata: Uropeltidae: Uropeltis) from the Bengaluru uplands, India

– S.R. Ganesh, K.G. Punith, Omkar D. Adhikari & N.S. Achyuthan, Pp. 18508–18517

##### A looming exotic reptile pet trade in India: patterns and knowledge gaps

– A. Pragatheesh, V. Deepak, H.V. Girisha & Monesh Singh Tomar, Pp. 18518–18531

##### Legal or unenforceable? Violations of trade regulations and the case of the Philippine Sailfin Lizard *Hydrosaurus pustulatus* (Reptilia: Squamata: Agamidae)

– Sarah Heinrich, Adam Toomes & Jordi Janssen, Pp. 18532–18543

##### Conservation breeding of Northern River Terrapin *Batagur baska* (Gray, 1830) in Sundarban Tiger Reserve, India

– Nilanjan Mallick, Shailendra Singh, Dibyadeep Chatterjee & Souritra Sharma, Pp. 18544–18550

##### Discovery of two new populations of the rare endemic freshwater crab *Louisea yabassi* Mvogo Ndongo, von Rintelen & Cumberlidge, 2019 (Brachyura: Potamonautidae) from the Ebo Forest near Yabassi in Cameroon, Central Africa, with recommendations for conservation action

– Pierre A. Mvogo Ndongo, Thomas von Rintelen, Christoph D. Schubart, Paul F. Clark, Kristina von Rintelen, Alain Didier Missoup, Christian Albrecht, Muriel Rabone, Efole Ewoukem, Joseph L. Tamesse, Minette Tomedi-Tabi Eyango & Neil Cumberlidge, Pp. 18551–18558

##### Checklists of subfamilies Dryptinae and Panagaeinae (Insecta: Coleoptera: Carabidae) from the Indian subcontinent

– V.A. Jithmon & Thomas K. Sabu, Pp. 18559–18577

##### Mantids (Insecta: Mantodea) of Uttar Pradesh, India

– Ramesh Singh Yadav & G.P. Painkra, Pp. 18578–18587

##### An assessment of genetic variation in vulnerable Borneo Ironwood *Eusideroxylon zwageri* Teijsm. & Binn. in Sarawak using SSR markers

– Siti Fatimah Md.-Isa, Christina Seok Yien Yong, Mohd Nazre Saleh & Rusea Go, Pp. 18588–18597

#### Review

##### Termites (Blattodea: Isoptera) of southern India: current knowledge on distribution and systematic checklist

– M. Ranjith & C.M. Kalleshwaraswamy, Pp. 18598–18613

#### Short Communications

##### Population status and distribution of Ibisbill *Ibidorhyncha struthersii* (Vigors, 1832) (Aves: Charadriiformes: Ibidorhynchidae) in Kashmir Valley, India

– Iqram Ul Haq, Bilal A. Bhat, Khurshed Ahmad & Asad R. Rahmani, Pp. 18614–18617

##### A new fish species of genus *Garra* (Teleostei: Cyprinidae) from Nagaland, India

– Sophiya Ezung, Bungdon Shangningam & Pranay Punj Pankaj, Pp. 18618–18623

##### Occurrence of Tamdil Leaf-litter Frog *Leptobrachella tamdil* (Sengupta et al., 2010) (Amphibia: Megophryidae) from Manipur, India and its phylogenetic position

– Ht. Decemson, Vanlalsiammawii, Lal Biakzuala, Mathipi Vabeiryureilai, Fanai Malsawmdawngliana & H.T. Lalremsanga, Pp. 18624–18630

##### Further additions to the Odonata (Insecta) fauna of Asansol-Durgapur Industrial Area, Paschim Bardhaman, India

– Amar Kumar Nayak & Subhajit Roy, Pp. 18631–18641

##### A note on the ecology and distribution of Little Bloodtail *Lyriothemis acigastra* Brauer, 1868 (Insecta: Odonata: Libellulidae) in Kerala, India

– Jeevan Jose, Muhamed Sherif & A. Vivek Chandran, Pp. 18642–18646

#### Viewpoint

##### A unique archetype of conservation in Himachal Pradesh, western Himalaya, India

– Rupali Sharma, Monika Sharma, Manisha Mathela, Himanshu Bargali & Amit Kumar, Pp. 18647–18650

#### Notes

##### A camera trap record of Asiatic Golden Cat *Catopuma temminckii* (Vigors & Horsfield, 1827) (Mammalia: Carnivora: Felidae) in State Land Forest, Merapoh, Pahang, Malaysia

– Muhamad Hamirul Shah Ab Razak, Kamarul Hambali, Aainaa Amir, Norashikin Fauzi, Nor Hizami Hassin, Muhamad Azahar Abas, Muhammad Firdaus Abdul Karim, Ai Yin Sow, Lukman Ismail, Nur Azmin Huda Mahamad Shubli, Nurul Izzati Adanan, Ainur Izzati Bakar, Nabihah Mohamad, Nur Izyan Fathiah Saimhe, Muhammad Syafiq Mohamad Nor, Muhammad Izzat Hakimi Mat Nafi & Syafiq Sulaiman, Pp. 18651–18654

##### Reappearance of Dhole *Cuon alpinus* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Canidae) in Gujarat after 70 years

– A.A. Kazi, D.N. Rabari, M.I. Dahya & S. Lyngdoh, Pp. 18655–18659

##### Mating behavior of Eastern Spotted Skunk *Spilogale putorius* Linnaeus, 1758 (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mephitidae) revealed by camera trap in Texas, USA

– Alexandra C. Avrin, Charles E. Pekins & Maximillian L. Allen, Pp. 18660–18662

##### Record of Indian Roofed Turtle *Pangshura tecta* (Reptilia: Testudines: Geoemydidae) from Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal

– Ashmita Shrestha, Ramesh Prasad Sapkota & Kumar Paudel, Pp. 18663–18666

##### Additional distribution records of *Zimiris doriae* Simon, 1882 (Araneae: Gnaphosidae) from India

– Dhruv A. Prajapati, Pp. 18667–18670

##### Notes on new distribution records of *Euspa motokii* Koivaya, 2002 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Theclinae) from Bhutan

– Jigme Wangchuk, Dhan Bahadur Subba & Karma Wangdi, Pp. 18671–18674

##### New distribution records of two little known plant species, *Hedychium longipedunculatum* A.R.K. Sastry & D.M. Verma (Zingiberaceae) and *Mazus dentatus* Wall. ex Benth. (Scrophulariaceae), from Meghalaya, India

– M. Murugesan, Pp. 18675–18678

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