

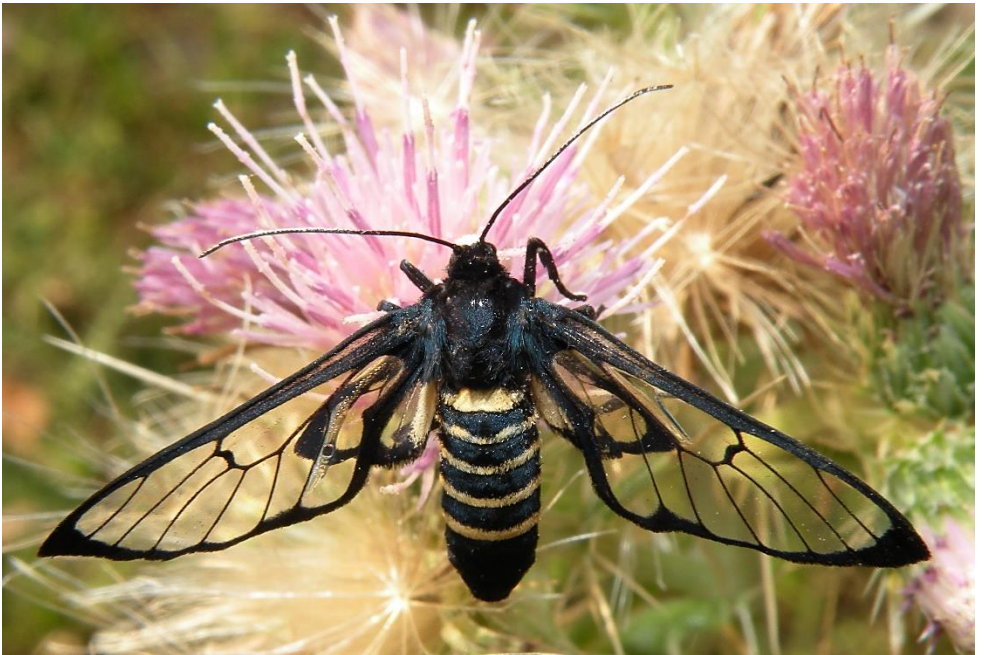
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# BIONOTES

**A Quarterly Newsletter for Research Notes and News  
On Any Aspect Related to Life Forms**

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## **Address for Correspondence**

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,  
Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: +91  
8938896403.

Email: [editorbionotes@gmail.com](mailto:editorbionotes@gmail.com)

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**CONFIRMATION OF CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE PAINTED  
COURTESAN BUTTERFLY *EURIPUS CONSIMILIS* WESTWOOD,  
1850 (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) IN DEHRA DUN,  
UTTARAKHAND**

**TEJASWINI PRAMOD MANKAR**

Assistant Manager Probationer, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra

Corresponding author: [tejaswini.mankar@gmail.com](mailto:tejaswini.mankar@gmail.com)

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Mackinnon & de Nicéville (1899) were the first to mention the presence of *Euripus consimilis* (Westwood, 1850) as a very rare sighting (two males and six females) from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Subsequently, Ollenbach (1930) studied the butterflies of Mussoorie town, which is part of Dehradun district, but he did not include Dehradun valley, and did not record this butterfly among the 149 species reported. Singh & Bhandari (2003) mentioned *E. consimilis* among those 28 species which were observed previously by Mackinnon & de Nicéville (1899) but were not observed during their survey in the Dehra Dun valley.

Singh & Sondhi (2016) reported the presence of *E. consimilis* in Dehra Dun valley, however, *E. consimilis* was again missing from Singh (1999) and Singh (2022), documenting 155 and 148 species of butterflies respectively, from New Forest spread over 450 hectares in the Dehra Dun valley.

Recently, I observed a single male of *E. consimilis* on April 6, 2022 inside the Central Academy for State Forest Service

campus, New Forest, at an elevation of around 670 m. This sighting confirms its continued presence in the Dun valley. The butterfly was observed for over a minute and photographed (Figures 1 & 2).

The butterfly was identified with the help of Kehimkar (2016), Smetacek (2018) and Sondhi *et al.*, (2018). The study area is as per the map of the New Forest (Singh, 2022). Although my observations on butterflies were carried out during all seasons of the year from August 2021 to July 2023, *E. consimilis* was only sighted once.

The known western limit of the distribution of *E. consimilis* is Dehradun, with its range extending eastwards to Assam and Myanmar (Wynter-Blyth, 1957); and in South India in Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats (Kehimkar, 2016). It has never been reported in numbers and this might be because the female appears to be a Batesian mimic of a generic Danaine model, perhaps *Parantica* Moore, [1883].

The recent observation of this butterfly in Dehradun confirms its continued presence at the western extremity of its distribution.

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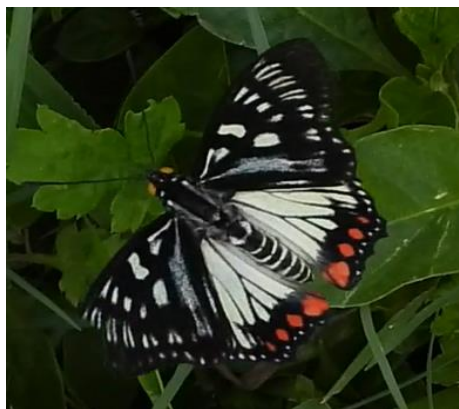
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**Fig 1:** Painted Courtesan UN Male **Fig 2:** Painted Courtesan UP Male