

CONFIRMATION OF *EUREMA SIMULATRIX* (STAUDINGER, 1891) (LEPIDOPTERA: COLIADINAE) IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA

RAJIB DEY

Dept. of DME, North Calcutta Polytechnic, 15, Gobinda Mondal Rd, CIT, Satchasi Para, Kolkata, West Bengal 700002, India
rajibdey88@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Abstract

Eurema simularix is reported from Jayanti riverbed (26°39' N; 89°34' E), Alipurduar district, West Bengal, India.

Introduction

On 16th April, 2018, a single mudpuddling individual of *Eurema simulatrix* was sighted and photographed at Jayanti riverbed, Buxa Tiger Reserve (26°39' N; 89°34' E), Alipurduar district, West Bengal, India along with *Appias indra* (Moore), *Appias lalage* (Doubleday), *Ixias pyrene* (Linnaeus), *Eurema hecabe* (Linnaeus), *Appias lycinda* (Cramer) etc. It was observed for a few minutes. The identity was confirmed by Mr. T L Seow, Singapore. A DSLR camera (model no. Nikon D7100). VR 55-200 mm kit lens was used for the photograph.

The species was not observed in that location during the next two days or subsequently, although the author diligently searched for it. Previous records in the literature are from Meghalaya and Sikkim (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015) and from India (Sikkim to Arunachal, NE), Myanmar (Kehimkar, 2016). However, the hill districts of West Bengal

were often referred to as Sikkim in older literature, and since this is known to be a low elevation species (Kehimkar, 2016), its appearance in Jayanti, Buxa Tiger Reserve is not unusual. This record confirms the presence of *Eurema simulatrix* in West Bengal.

Acknowledgements

The author is thankful to Mr. T. L. Seow for confirmation of identity of the species; to Mr. Peter Smetacek, Bhimtal, Mr. Shantanu Dey, Delhi and Mr. Amit Kumer Neogi, Dhaka for their suggestions to prepare the manuscript. Thanks to Mr. Kurban Khan for his field guidance and Mr. Arindam Halder for accompanying him in the field.

References

- Kehimkar, I. 2016. *Butterflies of India*. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai. pp xii + 505.
- Varshney, R.K and P. Smetacek (Eds.). 2015. *A Synoptic Catalogue of the Butterflies of India*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal and Indinov Publishing, New Delhi. ii + 261 pp., 8 pl.