

plant and both sexes of adults are attracted to ripe fruit of the palms. The butterfly has been recorded in March and October, suggesting that there are at least two annual generations.

As in other parts of its distribution, the taxon *caudata* has not been recorded in the same localities as *E. hypermnestra*.



Fig 1. *Elymnias hypermnestra* (male)



Fig 2. *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Female)

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RANGE EXTENSION OF *ZESIUS CHRYSOMALLUS* (LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE: ZESIINI) TO ANAND DISTRICT, GUJARAT

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Keywords: Redspot, Lepidoptera, Anand, Central Gujarat

Abstract:

This note reports the recent sightings of *Zesius chrysomallus* Hubner, [1819] from central Gujarat, extending its known distribution westwards to central Gujarat. The male was observed taking nectar from flowers which provides additional information about its feeding behaviour.

Introduction

The Redspot *Zesius chrysomallus* Hubner, [1819] occurs in forested regions at low elevations with fairly heavy rainfall (Kehimkar, 2016). Within India, it has been reported from S. India, Orissa, (Evans, 1927); Maharashtra to Kerala, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh to North-East India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015); Southern India up to Gujarat, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand (Kehimkar 2017). Within Gujarat, this species has only been reported from Ahwa in Dang district (Shull, 1963). Other than this reference, there are no published records of its presence in Gujarat. Recently, it was recorded at Vallabh Vidyanagar, Anand district of central Gujarat which is more than 250 km north of Ahwa, the site of the previous record. Anand district is an agricultural landscape and does not have any forest. However, it has a high density of trees, and is considered the green bowl of Gujarat (Singh, 2013). The climate of the region is semi-arid, tropical monsoon type. The widespread agroforestry in Anand district allows a high density of hedges and roadside plantations, which harbours rich butterfly diversity (Rohit, 2001; Vasava *et al.*; 2007; Variya, 2018). *Z. chrysomallus* was recorded for the first time on 31 October, 2017 at 3:30 pm from Vallabh Vidyanagar, sitting on a tree

about 10–12 m above the ground. The second one was sighted on 6 November, 2017, again at 3:30 pm and the third on 16 November, 2017, at 1:28 pm. The butterflies were observed throughout the day during October and November, 2017. Every time, the butterfly was found on *Mimusops elengi* (Figure 1). Females of *Z. chrysomallus* lay eggs on Loranthaceae species (Wynter-Blyth, 1957), *Terminalia catappa*, *Cassia fistula* (Ravikantachari *et al.*, 2018) and *Averrhoa carambola* (Valappil *et al.*, 2018) which are commonly found in the same area where the present records were discovered. Possibly these host plants and the favourable surroundings may support a colony of these butterflies.

Although a few studies (Bhalodia *et al.*, 2002; Gandhi & Kumar, 2016) were conducted to assess the butterfly diversity in certain parts of Dang region, but these studies did not discover this butterfly species again in the same region where Shull (1963) collected the specimen. Earlier studies conducted in Anand Region (Aldrich, 1946; Rohit, 2002; Vasava *et al.*, 2008,) did not mention *Z. chrysomallus*. The present records confirm its presence in central Gujarat, and possibly it still occurs in southern Gujarat, which demands intensive surveys.

Feeding observations:

It was believed that the males are pugnacious and are found on damp sand and never visit flowers (Kehimkar, 2008) but the reported male was found on *Mimusops elengi* flowers (Figure 2) with proboscis extended (Figure 3). Individuals were observed throughout day and they spent most of the time on flowers. This

observation adds new information to its feeding behaviour.

Conclusion

Z. chrysomallus was reported earlier in 1963 from south Gujarat and after that there are no published records. The species has been recently sighted in central Gujarat, which is

more than 250 kilometres north of its previously known distribution. Hence its distribution range is extended from southern Gujarat to central Gujarat. In addition, males of Redspot were found to be nectaring on *Mimusops elengi* flowers.



FigS 1, 2 & 3. *Zesius chrysomallus*

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Prof. Ujjval Trivedi, Department of Biosciences, Sardar Patel University and Mr. Aniruddh Vasava, Voluntary Natures Conservancy for their timely help and support.

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EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF THE DARK WANDERER (*PARERONIA CEYLANICA*) AND ORANGE-TAILED AWLET (*BIBASIS SENA*) BUTTERFLIES TO THE COROMANDEL COAST, INDIA

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Introduction

The Dark Wanderer (*Pareronia ceylanica ceylanica* C. & R. Felder, 1865) (Pieridae) and the Orange-tailed Awlet (*Bibasis sena sena* (Moore, [1866])) (Hesperiidae) are inhabitants of dense evergreen forests, the latter ascending to 1500m in the Himalaya. *P. ceylanica ceylanica* is known from southern India, from Goa to Kerala along the western face of the Western Ghats, and Sri Lanka (Wynter-Blyth, 1957). An isolated population, placed under *P. ceylanica naraka* (Moore, 1877), inhabits the Andaman Is. (Evans, 1932; Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

Within India, the Orange-tailed Awlet is known from Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh and south to Kerala, Himachal Pradesh to N.E. India; Andaman & Nicobar Is. (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

Observations

During an opportunistic survey of the butterflies of Auroville (79° 81'29" E & 12° 00'53" N), which lies in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, near the eastern coast of southern India, the Dark Wanderer was recorded several times. It was observed at three locations in the current study, namely Revelation Forest (5 March, 2018),