

ISSN 0972- 1800

BIONOTES

VOLUME 21, NO. 4

QUARTERLY OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 2019



Date of Publication: 28th December, 2019

BIONOTES

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

BIONOTES articles are abstracted/indexed/available in the Indian Science Abstracts, INSDOC; Zoological Record; **Thomson Reuters (U.S.A); CAB International (U.K.); The Natural History Museum Library & Archives, London; Library Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt (Germany)** etc. and online databases.

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Rates of Membership (per calendar year):

India: Individuals: Rs. 150/- Institutions: Rs. 700/- . Abroad: US \$ 20/- (by sea mail).
Back volumes are available @ Rs. 800/- in India.

Published by Dr. R.K. Varshney, A Biologists
Confrerie, Raj Bhawan, Manik Chowk,
Aligarh (up to volume 20 (2018)) R.N.I.
Registration No. 71669/99.

Publication Policy:

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From Volume 21

Published by the Entomological Society of India (ESI), New Delhi (Nodal Officer: V.V. Ramamurthy, ESI, New Delhi)

And

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal

Executive Editor: Peter Smetacek

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Butterfly Research Trust, Bhimtal

Cover Photo by Peter Smetacek of a *Salassa mizorama* Moth

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BRAHMEA HEARSEYI WHITE, 1862 (LEPIDOPTERA: BRAHMAEIDAE) IN ODISHA, INDIA

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Reviewer: Sankaraman H.

In India, the family Brahmaeidae is represented by two Himalayan species. *Brahmea hearseyi* White, 1862 which occurs at lower elevation and *B. wallichii* (Gray, 1831) which occurs at slightly higher elevation in forests of *Quercus*.

Brahmea hearseyi is reported from Uttarakhand (Smetacek, 2008) along the Himalaya to the N.E. Himalaya, W. China, Myanmar, Sundaland and the Philippines (Holloway, 1987). It occurs in hilly areas with dense forest and heavy rainfall. In Borneo, it is a lowland species, ascending the hills to 1200 m elevation (Holloway, 1987) while Smetacek (2008) reported it from 1500 m elevation in the western Himalaya.

During a survey of moths attracted to artificial light in Taptapani, Ganjam district, Odisha, (N 19.489193 E 84.395527; 550 m) on July 28, 2019, a single individual of this species was attracted. Since it was such an unusual record,

the specimen was taken and deposited in the collection of the Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

The present record extends the known distribution of this species, genus and family to peninsular India.

The examined specimen is a male, with a forewing length of 58 mm, a wingspan of 130 mm.

References

Holloway, J.D. 1987. *Moths of Borneo: Families Lasiocampidae, Eupterotidae, Bombycidae, Brahmaeidae, Saturniidae, Sphingidae* (Superfamily Bombycoidea). Part 3. Southdene Sdn. Bht., Kuala Lumpur. Pp. 199, 18+20 pl.

Smetacek, P. 2008. Moths recorded from different elevations in Nainital district, Kumaon Himalaya, India. *Bionotes* 10(1): 5-15.



Fig.1: *Brahmea hearseyi*, Ganjam district, odisha