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TWO NEW LYCANIDAE SPECIES FOR BHUTAN: *BOTHRINIA CHENNELLI* (DE NICÉVILLE, [1884]) AND *UNA USTA* DISTANT, 1886

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Abstract

Two unusual *Lycanidae* species were photographed in 2016 in the Lingmethang area of Mongar Dzongkhag in Bhutan. They were observed during weekly butterfly surveys from late May to early September 2016. Among the almost 200 species recorded were the following two that have not been reported for Bhutan before.

Introduction

Bothrinia chennellii (de Nicéville, [1884]), Hedge Cupid has two subspecies, *B. c. chennelli* and *B. c. celastroides* Shirôzu & Saigusa, 1962. Evans (1932) reports it from Assam to the Karens. Website Butterflies in Indo-China by Yutaka Inayoshi gives locations in north Thailand and north Laos for *B. c. celastroides*. The subspecies in Bhutan and India is *B. c. chennelli*. The type locality for the species is Shillong in Megalaya, India. Varshney & Smetacek (2015) list it for Assam. It differs from similar Hedge Blues (*Celastrina* Tutt, 1906) by the Underside Forewing discal spots in spaces 1b-5 being in line and the spot in space 6 only slightly shifted in, the Underside Hindwing discal spots in spaces 1b-1c-2 being almost in line, and not having any androconia (Evans, 1932).

Observations

On 20 May 2016 and 3 June 2016 between 10:00 and 14:00 hours, some 5 individuals were observed in 3 different locations near Lingmethang in Saleng Gewog, Mongar Dzongkhag, Bhutan. Some were on the sandy river bank near the confluence of the Lingmethang and Kuri Rivers at about 560 m elevation. Others were found on wet sand a bit upstream at 610 m elevation in the Mountain Hazelnut Project area near Lingmethang town. The latter area is forested and includes the

hazelnut nursery as well as some buildings of the project. The confluence area consists of stones and sand deposits of the Lingmethang River, which are covered with shrubs and a few small trees. Most *Bothrinia* Chapman, 1909 were mudpuddling with other blues including *Leptotes plinius* (Fabricius, 1793) (Zebra Blue), *Prosotas nora* (Felder, 1860) (Common Lineblue), *Megisba malaya* (Horsfield, [1828]) (Malayan) and Hedge Blues. The species was listed in a report on the butterfly species of Lingmethang (Van der Poel, 2016), but the identification was only recently confirmed by Motoki Saito. The figures show one male and one female.

Una usta Distant, 1886, *Una* (also known as Singleton), has three subspecies: *usta* Distant, 1886, *unipunctata* Toxopeus, 1932 from Java and *philippensis* Schroder & Treadaway, 1986 from the Philippines. The type locality for *Una usta* is the Malay Peninsula, Malaysia. Evans (1932) reports it from Assam to S. Burma. Varshney & Smetacek (2015) list it from Assam. The underside is pale ochreous brown with a small double spot in the Underside Forewing cell and no spot in the Underside Hindwing cell and the two costal spots of the Underside Hindwing being more prominent than the other spots (Evans, 1932). The latter is not quite the case for my individual.

On 12 August 2016, one single *Una usta usta* was observed mudpuddling together with *Prosotas nora* (Common Lineblue) and Hedge Blues, on the muddy roadside near a bridge in Masangdaza, Saleng Gewog, Mongar Dzongkhag, at 860 m elevation. The location is in a valley with broadleaved forest, upstream from the monastery, houses and agricultural fields of Masangdaza village. Several kilometers downstream, the creek joins the Lingmethang river just west of Lingmethang town. The reported observations extends the known range of *Bothrinia chennellii* further west and north into the foothills of the Himalaya.

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Fig.1: *Bothrinia chennellii* female



Fig.2: *Bothrinia chennellii* male



Fig.3: *Una usta*