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A COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA

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Abstract

Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) conserves a wealth of flora and fauna and is a known destination for ecotourism in Northern India. Besides mammals and birds, for which CTR is known to many, frequent visits to CTR and its vicinity for watching butterflies are also on the rise in recent times. In this respect, an account of species of butterflies in the CTR and its vicinity would be useful not only for butterfly ecotourism but also for conservational, educational and scientific purposes. By virtue of photographic documentation of species of butterflies in CTR for over a decade, we provide here a list of butterflies seen in various tourist zones of CTR and its immediate vicinity. We recorded 94 genera and 130 species belonging to six families. On the basis of our records and work by others in CTR, a comprehensive checklist of 143 species of butterflies has been compiled.

Introduction

Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) is one of the key biodiversity areas in the foothills of Himalaya in Northern India. Established as a wildlife sanctuary with a total area of few hundred square kilometres in 1934, it was upgraded to a National Park in 1936 (Khanna et al., 2008). Presently, the CTR has a well-protected expanse of 1288.31 km² (NTCA, 2009). The spread of CTR encompasses a variety of habitats that support diverse flora and fauna (Pant, 1986, Editor-Director, 2008, Khan et al., 2008). Besides conserving wilderness, the location and approachability of CTR; and plentiful wildlife attracts lakhs of tourists every year (Badola et al., 2010; Gusain, 2015). The recreational value of CTR generates livelihood for the local community (Badola et al. 2010; Kumar et al., 2019).

Today, butterfly watching is one of the favourite recreational activities for many, and the trend is gradually on the rise. This makes butterflies important from the perspective of ecotourism; defined here as "low impact nature tourism which contributes to the maintenance of species and habitats either directly through a contribution to conservation and/or indirectly by providing revenue to the local community sufficient for local people to value, and therefore protect, their wildlife heritage area as a source of income" (Fennel, 2015; Kurnianto et al., 2016; Singh et al., 2016). The diverse and pristine habitat of CTR is expected to be rich in the diversity of butterflies. However, literature on butterfly diversity in and around CTR is sparse. Only two reports provide an account of species of butterflies found in CTR (Kumar, 2008; Arya et al., 2020). The number of species of butterflies mentioned in these reports are 36 (Kumar, 2008), and 56 (Arya et al., 2020). The present communication reports 130 species of butterflies based on the observations made during the last 13 years in CTR and its immediate vicinity. Based on the data from present and previous studies, a checklist of species of butterflies that can be sighted in this area has also been compiled.

Material and Methods: Sites Surveyed

Various sites surveyed and their approximate geographical coordinates are given in Table 1. The sites belonged to two groups 1) sites located inside the administrative boundary of CTR i.e. tourist zones including Jhirna, Bijrani, Dhikala, Durgadevi and Halduparao; and 2) villages and resorts along the boundary of CTR i.e. Dhela, Resorts near Amdanda, Dhikuli, Garjiya, Mohaan and Rahtuaadhab.

Methods of Survey

Inside the boundary of CTR, butterflies among bushes along vehicle tracks were observed from safari vehicles, whereas those in the compounds of Forest Rest Houses were approached on foot. Butterflies in the villages and resorts were approached on foot. The species data presented here is a result of observations spanning last 13 years and includes butterflies sighted during chance encounters and surveys at sites mentioned in Table 1. Visits covered all the seasons i.e. spring, summer, monsoon, post-monsoon and winter. Of all the sites mentioned in Table 1. S3, S5, S6 and S8 were visited at all seasons. Also, multiple visits were made to each site. Identification of butterflies:

Images of butterflies were taken using digital cameras and identification was done as suggested by Kehimkar (2016), Smetacek (2016), and Sondhi (2018). Arrangement of various species and genera is primarily based on Varshney & Smetacek (2015).

Results and Discussions

Based on long term observation at the sites within CTR and its immediate vicinity (Table 1), we hereby report sighting of butterflies belonging to 6 families, 94 genera and 130 species (Papilionidae: 9 species; Hesperiidae: 14 species; Pieridae: 14 species; Riodinidae: 2

Lycaenidae: 44 species Nymphalidae: 47 species; Table 2 and Figure 1). Previous studies performed in similar locations reported only 36 (Kumar, 2008), and 56 species of butterflies (Arya et al., 2020) respectively; and this could be due to the longer study period of this study. We, however, could not sight about 13 species of butterflies (Table 3) which have been reported by previous workers (Kumar, 2008, Arva et al., 2020). Since identification of species in the present study was solely done on the basis of photographs of butterflies taken in the field, a few butterflies could be identified only up to the level of their genus. The same reason is applicable for non-reporting of a few Hesperids sighted during the study as to confirm their identity, examination of male genitalia by dissection is required. In case of genus Tarucus- the superficial markings are extremely variable and tend to overlap, so the species in this genus are best distinguished by an examination of male genitalia and androconia. Females of Tarucus are best separated by breeding or if they are found paired with known males (Wynter- Blyth,

All the species sighted inside CTR in the present study were also sighted at sites located outside CTR (Table 1). However, the population of butterflies were found to be significantly higher inside CTR, which is most likely due to an undisturbed habitat in the protected forest area (CTR).

Based on the total number of butterfly species observed in the present study and those observed by other workers (but not sighted in present study), a comprehensive checklist of butterflies found in CTR and its immediate vicinity has been prepared (Table 2). The state of Uttarakhand is known to have about 500 species (60 species not recorded for many decades) of butterflies; which is nearly 35 percent of the total butterfly species known from India (Sondhi & Kunte, 2018, Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). The list of butterflies

provided here is however incomplete and some species may still be added in due course.

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Table 1: Location of various sites, in tourist zones of CTR and its vicinity (with their geographical coordinates and habitat types) included in the study. *https://earth.google.com/

Sites	Location of the sites	Habitat types	Geographical coordinates*
S1	Jhirna (Tourist Zone inside CTR)	Scrub, grassland, mixed forest, ravines.	29° 26′ 12″ N, 78° 54′ 2″ E Altitude: 325 m. aprox.
S2	Dhela (village)	Agriculture landscape, fringes of mixed forest.	29° 25′ 17″ N, 78° 59′ 57″ E Altitude: 330 m. aprox.
S3	Amdanda (Resorts)	Mixed forest.	29° 24′ 47″ N, 79° 07′ 44″ E Altitude: 415 m. aprox.
S4	Bijrani (Tourist Zone inside CTR)	Sal forest, mixed Sal forest, grasslands, scrub and ravines.	29° 26′ 20″N, 79° 04′ 39″ E Altitude: 410-450 m. aprox.
S5	Dhikuli (Village)	Fringes of mixed Sal forest, human habitation, orchards, streams.	29° 28′ 09″ N, 79° 8′ 51″ E Altitude: 425 m. aprox.
S6	Garjiya (Village)	Scrub, fringes of mixed forest, streams.	29° 29′ 39″ N, 79° 08′ 25″ E Altitude: 450 m. aprox
S7	Dhikala (Tourist Zone inside CTR)	Sal forest, open-mixed forest, forest fringes, scrub, grasslands, river bed and streams.	29° 35′ 06″ N, 78° 51′ 46″ E Altitude: 375- 650 m. aprox.
S8	Mohaan (Near village)	Human habitation, forest fringes, streams.	29° 32′ 52″ N, 79° 06′ 25″ E Altitude: 550 m. aprox.
S9	Durgadevi (Tourist Zone inside CTR)	Mixed forest, river bed, scrub, rivers.	29° 36′ 15″ N, 7° 59′ 42″ E Altitude: 475-575 m. aprox.
S10	Rathudhab (Near Village)	Agriculture fields, human habitation, river bed, scrub fringes of forest.	29° 40′ 04″ N, 78° 51′ 13″ E Altitude: 700 m. aprox
S11	Halduparao (Tourist Zone inside CTR)	Mixed forest, scrub, river bed.	29° 39′ 04″ N, 78° 44′ 14″ E Altitude: 400 m. aprox

Table 2: Comprehensive checklist of butterflies sighted in Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) and its immediate vicinity.

Species Record	Remarks
Papilionidae	
Pachliopta aristolochiae (Fabricius, 1775),	Occasionally sighted from March to
Common Rose	November in forested areas and nearby.
Papilio clytia (Linnaeus, 1758), Common Mime	Sighted at forest edges and mud pudding
	in ravines.
Papilio polytes (Linnaeus, 1758), Common	More common near human habitations
Mormon	than forested areas.
Papilio demoleus (Linnaeus, 1758), Lime	More common near human habitations
Butterfly	than forested areas.
Papilio protenor (Cramer, 1775), Spangle	Rare
Graphium nomius (Esper, 1799), Spot Swordtail	
Graphium sarpedon (Linnaeus, 1758), Common	
Bluebottle	
Graphium doson (C. & R. Felder, 1864), Common	
Jay	
Graphium agamemnon (Linnaeus, 1758), Tailed	Rare
Jay	
Hesperiidae	
Badamia exclamationis (Fabricius, 1775), Brown	Uncommon; could be sighted only on few
Awl	occasions.
Bibasis sena (Moore, 1866), Orange-tailed Awl	Rare
Burara oedipodea (Swainson, 1820), Branded	Uncommon, could be sighted only on few
Orange Awlet	occasions.
Hasora chromus (Cramer, 1780), Common	Uncommon, could be sighted only on few
Banded Awl	occasions.
Tagiades menaka (Moore, 1866), Spotted Snow	Rare
Flat	
Pseudocoladenia dan (Fabricius, 1787), Fulvous	Rare
Pied Flat	
Caprona sp. (Wallengren, 1857), Angle	Rare
Sarangesa purendra (Moore, 1882), Spotted	Rare
Small Flat	
Sarangesa dasahara (Moore, 1866), Common	Common at the fringes of forest during
Small Flat	rainy season
Spialia galba (Fabricius, 1793), Indian Grizzled	Uncommon, could be sighted only on few
Skipper	occasions
Notocrypta curvifascia (C. & R. Felder, 1862),	Rare
Restricted Demon	
Udaspes folus (Cramer 1775), Grass Demon	

Hyarotis adrastus (Stoll 1780), Tree Flitter	Rare
Erionota torus (Evans, 1941), Banana Skipper	Rare
Matapa aria (Moore, 1866), Common Redeye	Uncommon, could be sighted only at few
	occasions
Potanthus sp.(Scudder, 1872)	Identification up to species level requires
F (examination of male genitalia.
Pieridae	
Catopsilia pomona (Fabricius, 1775), Common Emigrant	Very common during rainy season.
Catopsilia pyranthe (Linnaeus, 1758), Mottled Emigrant	Very common during rainy season.
Eurema brigitta (Stoll, 1780), Small Grass Yellow	Common during rainy season in open areas.
Eurema hecabe (Linnaeus, 1758), Common Grass Yellow	Common during rainy season in open areas.
Eurema laeta (Boisduval, 1836), Spotless Grass Yellow	Common during rainy season in open areas.
Colias fieldii (Ménétriés, 1855), Dark Clouded Yellow	Sighted occasionally during in late winters to spring.
Leptosia nina (Fabricius, 1793), Psyche	Common during rainy season in forested areas.
Pieris brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758), Large Cabbage	Common near human habitations and
White	farms in winters.
Pieris canidia (Linnaeus, 1768), Indian Cabbage	Common near human habitations and
White	farms in winters.
Pontia daplidice (Linnaeus, 1758), Bath White	Rare
Belenois aurota (Fabricius, 1793), Pioneer	Seen from March to November.
Cepora nerissa (Fabricius, 1775), Common Gull	Seen from March to November.
Delias eucharis (Drury, 1773), Common Jezabel	Common during rainy season in open areas.
Pareronia hippia (Fabricius, 1787), Indian Wanderer	Sighted in forested areas and fringes.
Riodinidae	
Zemeros flegyas (Cramer, 1780), Punchinello	Sighted in forested areas and fringes.
Abisara bifasciata (Moore, 1877), Double Banded	Sighted in forested areas and fringes.
Plum Judy	
Lycaenidae	
Curetis acuta (Moore, 1877), Angled Sunbeam	Sighted in open sunny areas and fringes of forest.
Poritia hewitsoni (Moore, 1866), Common Gem	Rare species sighted in forested areas.
Spalgis epius (Westwood, 1851), Apefly	Rare
Heliophorus sena (Kollar, 1844), Sorrel Sapphire	Could be sighted at sites S7,S9, S10 S11
Spindasis vulcanus (Fabricius, 1775), Common Silverline	Sighted on hedges in resorts and villages in rainy season.

Arhopala amantes (Hewitson, 1862), Large	Common during spring season, resting on
Oakblue	fallen leaves in forested areas.
Arhopala atrax (Hewitson, 1862), Indian Oakblue	Abundant in forested areas, resting on dry fallen leaves.
Flos adriana (de Nicéville, 1884), Variegated Plushblue	Occasionally seen in forested areas.
Flos asoka (de Nicéville, 1884), Spangled	Occasionally seen in forested areas.
Plushblue	Occasionary seen in forested areas.
Loxura atymnus (Stoll, 1780), Yamfly	Sighted in rainy season but not very
	commonly.
Horaga onyx (Moore, 1858), Common Onyx	Rare could be sighted only on two
	occasions.
Tajuria cippus (Fabricius, 1798), Peacock Royal	Rare could be sighted only on two
	occasions
Chliaria othona (Hewitson, 1865), Orchid Tit	Very rare and could be sighted only once.
Rapala iarbus (Fabricius, 1787), Common Red	
Flash	
Rapala pheretima (Hewitson, 1863), Copper Flash	Rare
Rapala manea (Hewitson, 1863), Slate Flash	Seen at fringes of forests. It is more
	common than Indigo Flash
Rapala varuna (Horsfield, 1829), Indigo Flash	Seen at fringes of forests
Anthene emolus (Godart, 1824), Common Ciliate Blue	Could be sighted only on 3-4 occasions
Prosotas dubiosa (Semper, 1879), Tailless Lineblue	
Prosotas nora (C. Felder, 1860), Common Lineblue	Common in forested areas.
Jamides bochus (Stoll, 1782) Dark Cerulean	
Jamides celeno (Cramer, 1775), Common Cerulean	Sighted in rainy season.
Catochrysops strabo (Fabricius, 1793), Forget-me- not	Common in rainy season in open areas.
Lampides boeticus (Linnaeus, 1767), Pea Blue	Common near human habitations.
Leptotes plinius (Fabricius, 1793), Zebra Blue	
Castalius rosimon (Fabricius, 1775), Common	Sighted at the fringes of forest, it is not
Pierrot	common species.
Tarucus balkanicus (Freyer, 1844), Black-Spotted	The two species as mentioned here, and a
Pierrot	third <i>T. callinara</i> requires further
Tarucus nara (Kollar, 1848), Striped Pierrot	confirmation by examining male genitalia.
Talicada nyseus (Guérin-Méneville, 1843), Red	Sighted near human habitations close to its
Pierrot	host plant.
Zizeeria karsandra (Moore, 1865), Dark Grass	Very common during rainy season in open
Blue	areas.
Pseudozizeeria maha (Kollar, 1844), Pale Grass	Very common during rainy season in open
Blue	areas.

Zizina otis (Fabricius, 1787), Lesser Grass Blue	Sighted during rainy season in open areas
Zizina ous (Laorielus, 1707), Lesser Grass Blue	but less commonly than Dark and Pale
	Grass blues.
Zizula hylax (Fabricius, 1775), Tiny Grass Blue	Sighted during rainy season in open areas
	but less common than Dark and Pale Grass
	Blues.
Everes argiades (Pallas, 1771), Tailed Cupid	Rare
Everes hugelii (Gistel, 1857), Dusky Blue Cupid	Rare
Everes lacturnus (Godart, 1824), Indian Cupid	Rare
Neopithecops zalmora (Butler, 1870), Quaker	Common among bushes along forest
	fringes. More common in forested areas
	than around human habitations.
Megisba malaya (Horsfield, 1828), Malayan	Sighted in rainy season.
Acytolepis puspa (Horsfield, 1828), Common	Sighted in rainy season
Hedge Blue	
Euchrysops cnejus (Fabricius, 1798), Gram Blue	Common around human habitations.
Freyeria putli (Kollar, 1844), Lesser Grass Jewel	Common in scrubs.
Freyeria trochylus (Freyer, 1845), Grass Jewel	Not common as Lesser as Grass Jewel.
Chilades pandava (Horsfield, 1829), Plains Cupid	
Chilades lajus (Stoll, 1780), Lime Blue	Not common at any of the sites included in the study.
Nymphalidae	,
Danaus chrysippus (Linnaeus, 1758), Plain Tiger	Commonly sighted from March to
	November.
Danaus genutia (Cramer, 1779), Common Tiger	Sightings frequent during March to
	November.
Parantica aglea (Stoll, 1782), Glassy Tiger	Not common outside the rainy season.
Parantica sita (Kollar, 1844), Chestnut Tiger	Not common, could be sighted in open
	forested areas.
Tirumala limniace (Cramer, 1775), Blue Tiger	Not common outside the rainy season.
Tirumala septentrionis (Butler, 1874), Dark Blue Tiger	Not as common as Blue Tiger.
Euploea core (Cramer, 1780), Common Crow	Seen during most part of the year. Fairly
	common in rainy season.
Euploea mulciber (Cramer, 1777), Striped Blue	Not as common as Common Crow
Crow	
Polyura athamas (Drury 1773), Common Nawab	
Elymnias hypermnestra (Linnaeus, 1763),	Sighted from March to November, but it is
Common Palmfly	not a common species.
Melanitis leda (Linnaeus, 1758), Common Evening	Common in forested areas.
Brown	
Lethe europa (Fabricius, 1775), Bamboo	Rare
Treebrown	
Lethe rohria (Fabricius, 1787), Common	Sighted in forested areas but uncommonly.
Treebrown	

examination of captured specimens. Ypthima baldus (Fabricius, 1775), Common Fivering Ypthima huebneri (Kirby, 1871), Common Fourning Neptis hylas (Linnaeus, 1758), Common Sailer Neptis sappho (Pallas, 1771), Pallas' Sailer Neptis sappho (Pallas, 1778), Colour Sergeant Athyma nefte (Cramer, 1780), Colour Sergeant Athyma perius (Linnaeus, 1758), Common Sergeant Athyma perius (Linnaeus, 1777), Common Baron Euthalia aconthea (Cramer, 1777), Common Baron Euthalia aconthea (Cramer, 1777), Common Baron Euthalia lubentina (Cramer, 1777), Gaudy Baron Symphaedra nais (Forster, 1771), Baronet Argynnis hyperbius (Linnaeus, 1763), Indian Fricillary Phalanta phalantha (Drury, 1773), Common Leopard Ariadne merione (Cramer, 1780), Vagrant Ariadne merione (Cramer, 1777), Common Castor Euripus consimilis (Westwood, 1851), Painted Courtesan Cyrestis thyodamas (Doyère, 1840), Common Map Symbrenthia lilaea (Hewitson, 1864), Common Junonia allaea (Herbst, 1794), Indian Red Admiral Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758), Painted Lady Vanessa indica (Herbst, 1794), Indian Red Admiral Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758), Peacock Pansy Junonia allaen (Linnaeus, 1758), Peacock Pansy Junonia iphita (Cramer, 1779), Chocolate Pansy Junonia iphita (Cramer, 1779), Chocolate Pansy Junonia lemonias (Linnaeus, 1758), Lemon Pansy Junonia	Musslesia en (Hushner 1919) Dushhavun	Identification up to species level requires
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	Junonia iphita (Cramer, 1779), Chocolate Pansy	Common in forested areas and nearby.
	Junonia lemonias (Linnaeus, 1758), Lemon Pansy	
	Junonia orithya (Linnaeus, 1758), Blue Pansy	

Hypolimnas bolina (Linnaeus, 1758), Great Eggfly	
Kallima inachus (Doyère, 1840), Orange Oakleaf	Occasionally sighted at the fringes of
	forest.
Acraea terpsicore (Linnaeus, 1758), Tawny Coster	
Acraea issoria (Hübner, 1819), Yellow Coster	Sighted once at site S9.
Libythea myrrha (Godart, 1819), Club Beak	Occasionally sighted in forested areas.

Table 3: List of species of butterflies that were reported by Arya *et al.*, 2020, Kumar, 2008 but could not be recorded in the present study.

1 3
Species Reported by Other Workers
Parnara guttatus (Bremer & Grey, 1852), Straight Swift
Eurema andersoni (Moore, 1886), One-spot Grass Yellow
Eurema blanda (Boisduval, 1836), Three-spot Grass Yellow
Colias erate (Esper, 1805), Pale Clouded Yellow
Polyura agraria (Swinhoe, 1887), Anomalous Nawab
Neptis sankara (Kollar, 1844), Broad-banded Sailer
Athyma zeroca (Moore, 1872), Small Staff Sergeant
Hestinalis nama (Doubleday, 1844), Circe
Borbo bevani (Moore, 1878), Bevan's Swift
Tarucus indica (Evans, 1932), Transparent Pierrot
Mycalesis perseus (Fabricius, 1775), Common Bushbrown
Ypthima sakra (Moore, 1858), Himalayan Five-ring
Libythea lepita (Moore, 1858), Common Beak



1. Pachliopta aristolochiae 2. Papilio clytia 3. Papilio polytes 4. Papilio demoleus 5. Papilio protenor 6. Graphium nomius

7. Graphium sarpedon 8. Graphium doson 9. Graphium agamemnon



Badamia exclamationis
 Bibasis sena
 Burara oedipodea
 Hasora chromus
 Tagiades menaka
 Pseudocoladenia dan
 Caprona sp. 17-18. Sarangesa dasahara
 Spialia galba
 Notocrypta curvifascia
 Udaspes folus
 Hyarotis adrastus



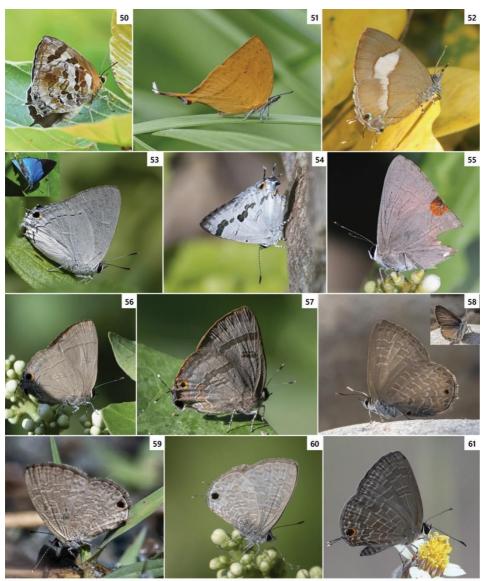
23. Erionota torus 24. Matapa aria 25. Potanthus sp.



Catopsilia pomona 27. Catopsilia pyranthe 28. Eurema brigitta 29. Eurema hecabe 30. Eurema laeta 31. Colias fieldii
 Leptosia nina 33. Pieris brassicae 34. Pieris canidia 35. Pontia daplidice 36. Cepora nerissa 37. Belenois aurota



Delias eucharis
 Pareronia hippia
 Abisara bifasciata
 Zemeros flegyas
 Curetis acuta
 Poritia hewitsoni
 Spalgis epius
 Heliophorus sena
 Spindasis vulcanus
 Arhopala amantes
 Arhopala atrax
 Flos adriana



Flos asoka 51. Loxura atymnus 52. Horaga onyx 53. Tajuria cippus 54. Chliaria othona 55. Rapala iarbus 56. Rapala manea
 Rapala varuna 58. Anthene emolus 59. Prosotas dubiosa 60. Prosotas nora 61. Jamides bochus



62. Jamides celeno 63. Catochrysops strabo 64. Lampides boeticus 65. Leptotes plinius 66. Castalius rosimon 67. Tarucus balkanicus 68. Tarucus nara 69. Zizeeria karsandra 70. Pseudozizeeria maha 71. Talicada nyseus 72. Zizina otis 73. Zizula hylax 74. Everes argiades 75. Everes hugelii



76. Everes lacturnus 77. Neopithecops zalmora 78. Megisba Malaya 79. Acytolepis puspa 80. Euchrysops cnejus 81. Freyeria putli 82. Freyeria trochylus 83. Chilades pandava 84. Danaus chrysippus 85. Danaus genutia 86. Tirumala limniace 87. Tirumala septentrionis 88. Euploea core 89. Parantica sita 90. Euploea mulciber 91. Parantica aglea



92. Polyura athamas
93. Elymnias hypermnestra
94. Melanitis leda 95. Lethe europa
96. Lethe rohria
97. Mycalesis sp.
98. Ypthima baldus
99. Ypthima huebneri
100. Neptis hylas
101. Neptis Sappho
102. Pantoporia sp.
103. Athyma nefte
104. Athyma selenophora
105. Athyma perius
106. Euthalia aconthea
107. Symphaedra nais
108. Euthalia lubentina



109. Moduza procris 101. Argynnis hyperbius 111. Phalanta phalantha 112. Cupha erymanthis 113. Vagrans egista 114. Ariadne merione 115. Euripus consimilis 116. Cyrestis thyodamas 117. Symbrenthia lilaea 118. Aglais caschmirensis 119. Kaniska canace 120. Vanessa cardui

