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Address for Correspondence

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,
Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: +91
8938896403.

Email: butterflyresearchcentre@gmail.com

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Cover Photo by Parixit Kafley of *Balinta octonotata*

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RECENT SIGHTING OF *APPIAS GALBA* (WALLACE, 1867) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE) FROM DHANSIRI RESERVE FOREST, KARBI ANGLONG, ASSAM, INDIA

MANASHI GOSWAMI¹ & PICHILI VIJAYA BHASKAR REDDY²

¹ & ² Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics, Assam University, Diphu Campus
Diphu-782462, Karbi Anglong, Assam
vpichili@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Abstract: The present paper reports the first confirmed record *Appias galba* (Wallace) from the Karbi Anglong district of Assam.

Keywords: Indian Orange Albatross butterfly, new distribution record, Northeast India.

Introduction

The Indian Orange Albatross butterfly, *Appias galba* (Wallace, 1867), has its distribution range along Eastern Himalayas, Sikkim and Northeast India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015; Sondhi & Kunte, 2018). In India's northeastern part, *A. galba* is known from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur. The genus *Appias* Huebner (1819) represents 9 species from India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015; Irungbam *et al.*, 2020). Out of these 9 species, five species/subspecies are reported from Assam: *Appias lyncida eleonora* (Boisduval, 1836), *Appias albina darada* (C. & R. Felder, [1865]), *Appias galba* (Wallace, 1867), *Appias lalage lalage* (Doubleday, 1842), and *Appias indra indra* (Moore, 1857) (Norman, 1956; Gogoi, 2013; Mudoi *et al.*, 2015; Singh, 2017). In Assam, *A. galba* was recorded from upper Assam by Norman in 1953. Gogoi *et al.* (2016) reported this species from Jeypore Reserve Forest in southern Assam.

Observations

Appias galba was sighted in Dhansiri Reserve Forest (26°24'52.180" N; 93°39'51.219" E) of Karbi Anglong district in Assam India during May 2016 (Figs. 1a, b). From 2016 to 2019 in the Karbi Anglong district, the species was recorded only once from Dhansiri Reserve

Forest during the entire study period. Two individuals were recorded along the open forest area of the reserve forest from 10.00hrs to 11.00hrs, the temperature being 27°C-29°C.

Result and Discussion

Appias galba is bright orange with blackish veins. The butterfly is stated to be rare by Evans (1932). The species has also been reported to be rare by Sondhi & Kunte (2018) and Gogoi *et al.* (2016). In India, the species is legally protected under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Not much is known about the ecology of the species. The present finding confirms the presence of *A. galba* in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. It is the first record of *A. galba* from Karbi Anglong district of Assam and is an addition to the known distribution of the species.

Acknowledgement

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Fig. 1 & 2: Adults of *Appias galba*, sighted at Dhansiri Reserve Forest of Karbi Anglong district in Assam