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Late Dr. R. K. Varshney, Aligarh, India

Board of Editors

Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,
India
petersmetacek@gmail.com

V.V. Ramamurthy, New Delhi, India
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Devanshu Gupta, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata,
India
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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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***BIBASIS SENA* AND *PORITIA HEWITSONII* (INSECTA:
LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE & LYCAENIDAE)
RECORDED FROM UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA**

APOORVA GUPTA

Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh, India

apoorvagupta.explorewild@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Abstract

Two butterfly species, *Bibasis sena* (Moore, [1866]), *Poritia hewitsoni* Moore, [1866] were observed in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, the first records from Uttar Pradesh.

Introduction

The Orange Tailed Awl *Bibasis sena* (Moore, 1866) was reported from Sri Lanka, India, Andaman Islands, Indo-China to Malay Archipelagos, only recorded from Hainan Island in China (Evans, 1949). Within India, it was reported from Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh and south to Kerala, Himachal Pradesh to N.E. India; Andaman & Nicobar Is. (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

The Common Gem *Poritia hewitsoni* Moore (1866) was reported from Uttarakhand to N.E. India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

Methodology

Butterflies were observed routinely as a part of duties in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.

On 5.ix.2020, at Bhadi beat of Belrayan range, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, a single Orange-tailed Awl (*B. sena*) was observed on a shrub at 06:40 am, +28° 25' 46.19" N; 80° 49' 59.66"E. It was photographed. It was later confirmed that this butterfly was not yet reported in Uttar Pradesh and the identity was confirmed by Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

On 25.ix.2021 at Dudhwa campus of Dudhwa range, Dudhwa Tiger Reserve a Common Gem (*P. hewitsoni*) was observed at 13:32 hrs after heavy rainfall, at 28°29'23.4"N; 80°38'51.0"E. it was photographed using a DSLR camera (Canon 200D). The identity was confirmed by

Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

Discussion

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve lies in the Terai region of northern Uttar Pradesh and has North Indian moist deciduous forest with a mosaic of numerous wetlands and grasslands. The Shivalik range of the Himalayan chain lies a few kilometers north.

Conclusion

There were no previous records of *B. sena* and *P. hewitsoni* in Uttar Pradesh. The present records confirm their presence in the state.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Mr. Sanjay Pathak, Director and CCF Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, Mr. Manoj Sonkar, former Deputy Director, Dudhwa and Mr. Kailash Prakash, Deputy Director, Dudhwa, for providing me permission and support in the field.

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Figs. 1 & 2: Orange Tailed Awl and Common Gem at Dudhwa Tiger Reserve