# EARLY LIFE STAGES OF THE BHUTAN BLACKVEIN BUTTERFLY *APORIA HARRIETAE* (DE NICEVILLE, 1893)

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Aporia harrietae (de Niceville, 1893) also known as the Bhutan Blackvein, belongs family Pieridae to the (Insecta: Lepidoptera). It is distributed from Bhutan to North Yunnan (Yoshino, 2018). Though known populations are geographically isolated, the species is locally common. Interestingly, the known distribution of the host plant Berberis praecipua includes Bhutan, India (Arunachal Pradesh) and Nepal, concurrent with the restricted distribution of A. harrietae. However, the butterfly has so far not been recorded in Nepal. Hitherto, the host plant and early life-cycle stages of the species were unreported.

The early life stages of *Aporia harrietae* were observed in its natural habitat. On 28th July 2020, during a field visit to Dodeydrag (Thimpu, Bhutan), amongst Blue Pine (Pinus wallichiana) forest at an elevation of ca. 2300 m, around 11:30 am, a female *Aporia harrietae* was spotted feeding on *Philadelphus tomentosus* flowers. In due course, the butterfly descended and laid 40 eggs under a leaf of *Berberis praecipua*. Eggs hatched after 17 days. For a month, the young caterpillars

fed upon the soft underside of the leaves of the host plant and then they started feeding upon the whole leaf. Caterpillars moulted on 41, 58, 99 and 104th days. Moulting took 1-2 days. By the 147th day, 10 caterpillars entered the pre-pupal stage. remaining caterpillars The probably moved to other plants or were attacked by Considering threats predators. from predators and human interference, no further observations were undertaken.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## REFERENCES

Yoshino, K. 2017. Description of Two New Sub-species of Aporia harrietae from W. China and N.E. India. *Butterfly Science* 11: 8 -12.

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Last accessed 08/08/2022.



Figure 1: Host plant of Bhutan Blackvein



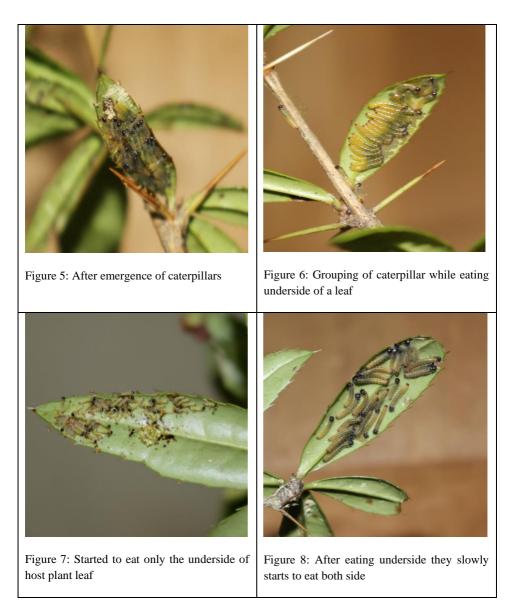
Figure 2: Bhutan Blackvein laying egg



Figure 3: Eggs of Bhutan Blackvein



Figure 4: Freshly emerged caterpillar



**BIONOTES** 

