

OVIPOSITING RECORD OF TAILLESS LINEBLUE *PROSOTAS DUBIOSA* (SEMPER, [1879]) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM THE VICINITY OF DELHI

RAJESH CHAUDHARY

Department of Biomedical Science, Acharya Narendra Dev College (University of Delhi), Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi -110019

Corresponding Author: rajeshchaudhary@andc.du.ac.in

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The butterfly, Tailless Lineblue is widely distributed in India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015; Kehimkar 2016). It was, however, recorded only recently from Delhi and its immediate vicinity (Chaudhary *et al.*, 2021). Since then, it has been reported on several occasions from the aforementioned area during monsoon and post-monsoon months i.e. August to December (Rajesh Chaudhary, *personal observations*). It is not apparent if the recent sightings of Tailless Lineblue in the area are a case of chance migration or if the observed individuals belong to a breeding population (Chaudhary *et al.*, 2021). In the present communication, the ovipositing of Tailless Lineblue at the Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram is reported. The Park touches the southwestern boundary of Delhi and is an ecological restoration site planted with flora native to the Aravalli hills.

Two individuals of Tailless Lineblue were seen laying eggs on nascent flower buds of the tree *Acacia leucophloea* (Roxb.) Willd. in Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram (28°29'02"N, 77°06'50"E) on 15.x.2022 (Figure 1). These individuals were observed for about 20 min. and photographed using a digital SLR camera fitted with a telephoto zoom lens. Throughout the duration of observation,

both individuals laid eggs several times on the *Acacia leucophloea* tree.

The above observations indicate that individuals of Tailless Lineblues which are being sighted so often in Delhi and its vicinity in recent times belong to a population breeding in this area. The present observation adds Tailless Lineblue to the list of butterfly species that are known to breed in Delhi and its immediate vicinity.

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Figure 1. Individuals of Tailless Lineblue as observed ovipositing on nascent flower buds of *Acacia leucophloea*.