

## **FIRST RECORD OF *CAMPYLOTES SIKKIMENSIS* ELWES (LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAENIDAE) FROM BHUTAN**

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The Zygaenid subfamily Chalcosiinae (Lepidoptera) contains many bright, aposematic, day-flying moths which mimic several species of Lepidopterans belonging to other families. The genus *Campylotes* was erected by Westwood in 1839 with *C. histrionicus* as type species. Presently, this genus includes about 15 species under two species groups (Yen *et al.*, 2005), that occur in Bhutan, China, Myanmar, Nepal, North & North Eastern India, Taiwan, Thailand and Tibet. Gielis & Wangdi (2017) provided a provisional checklist of moths recorded from Bhutan. They listed 11 species of Zygaenids and a single species of *Campylotes*, *C. histrionicus* Westwood, 1839. No subsequent addition or correction to this Zygaenid list has been published. Recent surveys from the borders of Bhutan and India yielded an additional species from this region. This paper presents an addition to the known fauna of Bhutan and an eastward extension to the known distribution of the species *C. sikkimensis*.

### ***Campylotes sikkimensis* Elwes, 1890**

During recent patrols and checking of cable line timber extraction site at Trashithang by the Gidakom Forest Management Unit under Thimphu Forest

Division, Department of Forest and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, several individuals of *Campylotes* were observed visiting flowers, from Gidakom Forest Management Unit area, Thimphu Dzongkhag of Bhutan (27°29'37.14" N 89°30'30.21" E). They were photographed using Samsung Galaxy F62 in the field and subsequently identified to species level with the fragmented and scanty literature available for this group. Elwes (1890) described *C. sikkimensis* on the basis of specimens collected from Tonglo (present day, Tonglu in West Bengal) and Chumbi Valley (in Tibet). Jordan in Seitz (1907) mentioned this species is also known from Assam, however, this record is uncertain since the term 'Assam' included all of present day North Eastern India at the time.

Elwes (1890) differentiated *C. sikkimensis* from the closely related *C. histrionicus* by the larger size and pale yellow sub-apical markings on forewing, which are white in *C. histrionicus*. The key to species of *Campylotes* was provided by Hering (1922). The specimens photographed in Bhutan exactly match the original description, figures provided by Elwes (1890) & Jordan in Seitz (1907),

respectively. This species can also be identified by the key in Hering (1922).

No specimens were collected during the present study. The species was diagnosed by comparing our images with the original description and illustrations. Based on the literature, this species has been collected rarely from some restricted localities and flies only during July-September and hence its biology remains unknown. It is likely that *C. sikkimensis*, like other *Campylotes*, feed upon *Pinus* spp., Pinaceae (Yen, 1996). More extensive surveys and collections from these locations can yield the missing information on the biology of this species.

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Figure 1A-D. *Campylotes sikkimensis* Elwes, A. Adult dorsal, B. ventral, C. mating pair, D. adult visiting flowers.

Figure 1E. Illustration of *C. histrionicus*, *C. sikkimensis* and *C. splendida* [= *C. desgodinsi* var. *splendida*] after Elwes (1890, plate xxxiii, figs 1-3)