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ADDITION OF COMMON JAY (*GRAPHIUM DOSON* (C. & R. FELDER, 1864)) TO THE BUTTERFLY FAUNA OF PAKISTAN

MUHAMMAD AKRAM¹ & MUHAMMAD BABAR²

¹*Ayubia Town, Taxila, Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan*
ackramawan@gmail.com

²*Doctor's Housing Society, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan*
bravo383@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Abstract

The Common Jay butterfly (*Graphium doson*) is reported for the first time from Pakistan.

Introduction

In Pakistan, butterflies have not been well documented. So far, two major works have been published on the butterfly fauna of Pakistan: Roberts (2001), who listed 320 species and Tshikolovets & Pages (2016) who recorded 436 species. In the second publication, several new records of typically Indo-Malayan species were reported which were previously known from as far west as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh or even Kumaon in India. The extension of the known distribution westwards and the

substantial increase in the number of species between 2001 and 2016 is probably because most of the area had not been explored. Also, some species are expanding their range westwards.

In the present study, the newly recorded species, Common Jay (*Graphium doson* (C. & R. Felder, 1864)) has expanded its range from India towards the plains of Punjab (Pakistan) in the west.

Methodology

No specimens were collected. Muhammad Babar photographed this species on a Lime tree (*Citrus* sp.) at his home at Doctor's Housing Society, Lahore, Northeastern

Punjab province, Pakistan on 3rd March, 2017 with a Nikon D500 camera.

Results and Discussion

Kumar & Singh (2014) recorded *Graphium doson* from Khanna and Bhatinda in the Punjab plains, India and also observed its life history. Swaraj Raj recorded it from Patiala, Punjab, India; Shakha Sharma and Mamta Sharma recorded it from Jammu, India. (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Singh *et al.* (2016) recorded it from Hoshiarpur, Punjab, India. These records show that the species has definitely spread into Punjab plains recently. Sharma *et al.* (2019) clarified that the southern Indian subspecies, *G. d. eleius* (Fruhstorfer, 1907) had recently colonized the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Jammu in India rather than the Himalayan subspecies *G. d. axionides* (Pages & Treadaway, 2014).

Since no specimens were collected, it is not possible to assign subspecific status to the current observation but, since Sharma *et al.* (2019) report *G. d. eleius* from Jammu, it is very likely that the same southern Indian population of this butterfly has colonized Pakistan recently.

Conclusion

The most recent work on butterflies of Pakistan (Tshikolovets & Pages, 2016) listed 436 species for Pakistan. In a recent work on butterflies of Margalla hills, Islamabad by Robert H. Light, at least 3 species were added to the butterfly fauna of Pakistan. After including *Graphium doson*, Pakistan is now known to harbour 440 species. Two species of *Graphium* Scopoli, 1777 were known from Pakistan, *G. sarpedon* (Linnaeus, 1758)(Common Bluebottle) and *G. cloanthus*

(Westwood, 1841)(Glassy Bluebottle); the new record of *G. doson* (Common Jay) increased it to 3 species.

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