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Cover Photo by Tshulthrim Drukpa of a *Nymphalis antiopa* Butterfly

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FIRST REPORT OF COMMON FIVE-RING *YPTHIMA BALDUS* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FOR PAKISTAN

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Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Abstract

Common Five-ring butterfly *Ypthima baldus* (Fabricius, 1775) is reported from Pakistan for the first time.

Introduction

The Common Five-ring *Ypthima baldus* (Fabricius, 1775) is a common and widespread species in South Asia. It is represented on the Indian sub-continent by 3 subspecies:

(i) *Y. b. madrasa* Evans, 1924: South India (Gujarat to Kerala).

(ii) *Y. b. satpura* Evans, 1924: Central India (Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh) (Varshney and Smetacek, 2015).

(iii) *Y. b. baldus* (Fabricius, 1775): North Eastern Ghats (Orissa, Jharkhand) to West Bengal, and Himalayas, up to 2200m, from Himachal Pradesh, east through Northern Punjab (India), Uttarakhand, Nepal, Bihar, Sikkim, Bangladesh, Bhutan to North-east India (except Mizoram) (Paul Van Gasse, 2019). In Himachal Pradesh, it has been recorded upto Kangra and in Punjab (India) from Siwaliks, but not so far from Pakistan, therefore it was quite expected, particularly from Himalayan parts of Pakistan.

Methodology

After a long wait and search, the second author found a member of *Ypthima* Huebner, 1818 at Sherwan, Abbotabad, KPK Province on 17-19 June, 2019, that looked very different from other Five-rings which were already recorded from Pakistan (i.e. *Y. lisandra* (Cramer, [1780]), *Y. nikaeva* Moore, [1875] and *Y. bolanica* Marshall, 1882). He photographed both *recto* and *verso* surfaces of the wings of the butterfly with a Nikon D7500 and 18-140

mm lens. The first author identified it as *Ypthima baldus*, which was later confirmed by Peter Smetacek.

Results and Discussion

The photographed butterfly was identified using keys and information given in the available literature. (Evans, 1932; Talbot, 1947; Kehimkar, 2016; Smetacek, [2016]; Bhakare and Ogale, 2018). It has 3 pairs of ocelli on the under hindwing, of which the apical ocellus is not larger than the others. The middle pair is shifted out of line with the tornal pair of ocelli. Underside ground colour is pale with darker sub-basal, discal and submarginal fasciae. Upperside has pale area containing ocelli, bordered by dark discal and submarginal lines. These features confirm its identity as *Ypthima baldus* and separate it from other Pakistani 'Five-rings'.

Conclusion

Prior to this record, *Ypthima* was represented in Pakistan by 7 species (i.e. *Ypthima narenda* (Kollar, [1844]), *Y. inica* Hewitson, 1865, *Y. asterope* (Klug, 1832), *Y. bolanica*, *Y. lisandra*, *Y. nikaeva* and *Y. kasmira* Moore, 1884) (Tshikolovets and Pages, 2016). With the addition of *Y. baldus*, 8 members of this genus are known from Pakistan. The total number of butterfly species known from Pakistan after this record has reached 441, which is expected to increase in the future.

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Fig 1: *Ypthima baldus* (underside)



Fig 2: *Ypthima baldus* (upperside)