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Address for Correspondence: Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: ++91 8938896403 Email: butterflyresearchcentre@gmail.com

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

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FIRST REPORT OF *DANAUS CHRYSIPPUS* FORM *DORIPPUS* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

M YUVARAJ¹ & PETER SMETACEK²

¹*Ravva Onshore Terminal, Surasani Yanam, Uppalaguptam Mandal, East Godavari District,
Andhra Pradesh - 533 213, India*

²*Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand 263 136, India
petersmetacek@gmail.com*

Reviewer: Piet van der Poel

Introduction

The Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* (Linnaeus, 1758) occurs in four forms over its known distribution from Africa, through Asia to Australia. These are the typical form *chrysippus*, which is predominant in Asia, the form *dorippus* Klug, which lacks any white marking on the forewing and is the dominant form in parts of Africa, form *amplifascia* Talbot, where the subapical series of white spots on the forewing *recto* extends inwards to the discocellulars and the form *alcippoides* Moore, which has white hindwings. In India, the latter three forms are not often encountered.

D. chrysippus dorippus was believed to occur west of what is now Pakistan (Marshall & de Niceville, 1883) but it has been reported from parts of the Indian subcontinent subsequently, namely from Sri Lanka (Woodhouse & Henry, 1942), Bengal (Best, 1954), Bihar (Harman, 1950), Rajasthan (Donahue, 1962), Delhi (Ashton, 1972), near Pune in Maharashtra (editorial note following Best, 1954), the submontane tract of Kumaon and Garhwal (Atkinson, 1882) and the outer range of the Kumaon Himalaya in Bhimtal (Smetacek, 2001).

On the whole, it was believed that the form *dorippus* was a dry zone form, since it is the

commonest of the forms of *D. chrysippus* in parts of Africa that are relatively drier. Wynter-Blyth (1957) also noted that it was a dry zone form.

A male specimen of *D. chrysippus* form *dorippus* was recorded during a faunal survey at the Ravva Onshore Terminal of Vedanta Limited, Cairn Oil and Gas, Surasani Yanam, Uppalaguptam Mandal, East Godavari district - 533213, Andhra Pradesh at 10 m above sea level on August 8, 2019 with a forewing length of 31 mm. This is the first record of the form from the south east coast of the Indian peninsula, which is a region of heavy rainfall. This was the only specimen of this form among many (20+) individuals of *D. chrysippus* observed that day.

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Fig.: *Danaus chrysippus* form *dorippus*