

RECORD OF *MYCALESIS ADAMSONI* (WATSON, 1897) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM POKHARA AND GODAVARI, NEPAL

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Abstract

M. adamsoni (Watson, 1897) was recorded in Pokhara valley in April, May, August and September during monthly butterfly survey from 2017 to 2018. The confirmation of the species in Godavari area was based on photographic evidence collected in 2011. This note reports the westward range extension of *M. adamsoni* to the central midlands of Nepal.

Introduction

Mycalasis adamsoni (Watson, 1897) is a locally common butterfly species. It inhabits broadleaf forests with dense bamboo undergrowth in hilly regions with heavy rainfall. Its global distribution ranges from Australia to Vietnam, Thailand, Laos and Burma (= Myanmar) (Watson, 1897). Evans (1932) reported this species as rare from Manipur (India) and northern Myanmar. Gogoi (2013) recorded many individuals of *M. adamsoni* from Assam, India. This paper presents records of *M. adamsoni* from Pokhara and Kathmandu valley of Nepal. The nearest colony of *M. adamsoni* is reported from Assam.

Material and Methods

A monthly butterfly survey was conducted in Pokhara (800 m above m.s.l.) from 2017 to 2018.

In 2017 on August 7, 11, 17 & 30) and September, 2 & 18, *M. adamsoni* was recorded and photographed in two different forest areas: Banpale forest, Institute of Forestry (IOF) and Raniban forest of Pokhara Valley. In 2018 on April 6, 21 and 30 and May 11, individuals were recorded from Banpale Forest, IOF and Raniban forest. In addition to the above, there was a photographic record from Godavari area by MSL in 2011 (1500 m above m.s.l.) but it was not identified until recently. The habitat of *M. adamsoni* comprises forest dominated by *Castanopsis* and *Schima* species in Pokhara.

Material Examined

The identifying key of this species is, the origin of v7 is pushed back before end cell on hindwing (Evans, 1932) which was clearly noticeable and wingspan measured was 50 to 61mm.

Result and Discussion

During the survey, a healthy population of *M. adamsoni* was observed in their flight period. Dry season forms were noted in the month of

April and May whereas wet season form were noted in August and September. *M. adamsoni* was observed settling on dry leaves of small bushes near forest trails and basking on stones in the forest near a lake. Watson (1897) reported this species from 560 m to 1400 m from Thailand whereas in Nepal this species was recorded between 800 m and 1500 m elevation. This study shows Pokhara as the westernmost habitat from where the species has been recorded till date. The two study areas considered in this survey, Pokhara and Kathmandu valleys, are about 200 km apart and the nearest known colony is found in Assam. The unexpected record of a healthy population in two valleys suggests that this species was present earlier but misidentification led to the exclusion of this species from the known butterfly fauna of Nepal. It is likely that other populations of the species occur in the intervening areas between Assam and Pokhara but so far they have not been located.

The species has two broods, a dry season brood in April and a wet season brood in

August and September. The limited flying time of the species may be one of the reasons that it has been overlooked so far.

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Fig.1: *M. adamsoni*, verso view, Raniban Forest.



Fig.2: *M. adamsoni*, recto view, Banpale Forest IOF.



Fig.3: Dry season form of *M. adamsoni*



Fig.4: Wet season form of *M. adamsoni*