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# BIONOTES

**A Quarterly Newsletter for Research Notes and News  
On Any Aspect Related with Life Forms**

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## **From Volume 21**

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRST RECORD OF RED IMPERIAL BUTTERFLY <i>SUASA LISIDES</i> (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM TRIPURA, NORTH-EAST INDIA by Nihar Chandra Deb & Sudipta Mandal	110
ADDITION OF THE BUTTERFLY <i>APPIAS GALBA</i> (WALLACE, 1867) TO THE FAUNA OF MANIPUR, INDIA by Jatishwor Singh Irungbam, Harmenn Huidrom & Premjit Singh Elangbam	112
FIRST RECORD OF <i>DODONA DIPOEA</i> HEWITSON, [1866] (LEPIDOPTERA: RIODINIDAE: NEMEOBIINAE) FROM MEGHALAYA, NORTHEASTERN INDIA by Atanu Bora, Laishram Ricky Meitei, Sachin Sharma, Suman Bhowmik & Ngangom Aomoa .....	114
FIRST RECORD OF <i>PSEUDOCATHARYLLA NIGROCILIELLA</i> ZELLER, 1863 (LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE) FROM KERALA by Abdulla Paleri, Md. Jahir Rayhan & Amal Ev	117
GECKO EATS ABDOMEN OF <i>ASOTA CARICAE</i> (FABRICIUS, 1775) (LEPIDOPTERA: EREBIDAE: AGANAINAE) by Sem Cordial	119
RANGE EXTENSION OF PURPLE SWIFT <i>CALTORIS TULSI</i> DE NICÉVILLE (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) TO THE WESTERN HIMALAYA by Shankar Kumar, Raj Shekhar Singh, Paramjit Singh & Sundar Kumar	121
<i>ERANTHEMUM ROSEUM</i> (ACANTHACEAE) A NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT FOR THE CHOCOLATE PANSY BUTTERFLY <i>JUNONIA IPHITA</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) by Raju Kasambe	125
NEEM FLOWERS ( <i>AZADIRACHTA INDICA</i> ) AS AN ABUNDANT SOURCE OF NECTAR FOR BUTTERFLIES IN AN URBAN LANDSCAPE IN DELHI, INDIA by Rajesh Chaudhary	128
REDISCOVERY OF THE ASSAM FLASH BUTTERFLY <i>RAPALA TARA</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM UTTARAKHAND, INDIA by Gaurav Joshi	135
INDIAN TREE FROG <i>POLYPEDATES MACULATUS</i> CAPTURING AND SWALLOWING A LIVE GECKO by Priyadarshini Supekar & Raju Kasambe	136
NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT OF <i>TRYPANOPHORA SEMIHYALINA</i> KOLLAR [1844] (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAENIDAE: CHALCOSINAE) FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA by Arajush Payra	138
FIRST REPORT OF THE NORTHERN JUNGLEQUEEN BUTTERFLY ( <i>STICHOPHTHALMA CAMADEVA</i> ) FROM MIZORAM, INDIA by Lallawmsanga & R. Zoramchhuana	141
<i>ERANTHEMUM ROSEUM</i> (ACANTHACEAE): A NEW LARVAL HOST PLANT FOR THE SOUTHERN BLUE OAKLEAF BUTTERFLY <i>KALLIMA HORSFIELDII</i> KOLLAR, 1844 (LEPIDOPTERA)	108

by Raju Kasambe & Dilip Giri	143
CONFIRMATION OF THE REDBREAST BUTTERFLY <i>PAPILIO ALCMENOR</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE) IN UTTARAKHAND, INDIA by Rajiv Butalia, Shankar Kumar & Ambica Agnihotri	146
TWO NEW BUTTERFLY SPECIES FOR NEPAL: <i>EUREMA ANDERSONI</i> (PIERIDAE) AND <i>LETHE DAKWANIA</i> (NYMPHALIDAE) by Piet van der Poel	148
THE DRAGONFLY <i>ATRATOTHEMIS REELSI</i> WILSON, 2005 IN NAMDAPHA TIGER RESERVE, NORTHEAST INDIA- AN ADDITION TO THE INDIAN ODONATA FAUNA by Minom Pertin, Roshan Upadhaya, Tajum Yomcha & Arajush Payra	153
FIRST RECORD OF LEECH'S SWIFT <i>CALTORIS BROMUS</i> LEECH, 1894 (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE: HESPERIINAE) FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA by Rajib Dey	155
OVIPOSITION BY <i>JAMIDES BOCHUS</i> (STOLL, [1782]) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN NEW DELHI, INDIA by Rajesh Chaudhary & Vinesh Kumar	157
DISTRIBUTIONAL RANGE EXTENSION OF BANANA SKIPPER <i>ERIONOTA TORUS</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) TO THANE AND PALGHAR DISTRICTS OF MAHARASHTRA, INDIA WITH DISCUSSION ABOUT ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS ON LOCAL BANANA PLANTATIONS by Sagar Sarang, Nilesh Chandorkar, Tejas Mehendale, Gaurav Khule, Abhinav Nair, Omkar Dame & Raju Kasambe	158
NECTAR RETRIEVAL BY INSECT SWARM DOES NOT RESULT IN POLLINATION OF <i>LYONIA OVALIFOLIA</i> FLOWERS IN THE KUMAON HIMALAYA, INDIA by Ambica Agnihotri	163
A COMPREHENSIVE CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES SEEN IN CORBETT TIGER RESERVE, UTTARAKHAND, INDIA by Rajesh Chaudhary, Sanjay Chhimwal & Vinesh Kumar	167
THE ZEBRA SKIPPER BUTTERFLY <i>SPIALIA ZEBRA</i> : AN ADDITION TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF INDIA by Mukesh Panwar	187
CONFIRMATION OF THE ROSY FLASH BUTTERFLY <i>RAPALA ROSACEA</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN MIZORAM, INDIA by Lallawmsanga & Zothansangi	188
SOME NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF HESPERIID BUTTERFLIES IN NEPAL by Sajan K.C.	190
BUTTERFLIES OF GOVERNMENT NURSERY, BHATAGAON, CHHATTISGARH WITH TWO ADDITIONS TO THE STATE FAUNA by H N Tandan, Gulab Chand, Ravi Naidu & Swati Tandan	195

## FIRST RECORD OF THE ZEBRA SKIPPER *SPIALIA ZEBRA* (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE)

**MUKESH PANWAR**

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*Reviewer: Peter Smetacek*

*Spialia zebra* (Butler 1888) was described from 12 specimens taken at Chittar Pahar, Campbellpore (= Attock), Punjab, Pakistan. *Hesperia hellas* de Niceville, 1889 was described from the same locality and synonymised with *S. zebra* by Swinhoe (1912).

It is distinguished by the discal band on the underside hindwing being continuous with the outer spot in space 7, the inner spot being adjoined to the basal cell spot. On the underside, the hindwing discal band is straight and directed to the tornus. On the upperside, the basal cell spot is absent (Evans, 1949).

On the Indian subcontinent, it is reported from the “Margalla hills; the northern part of Punjab, “Azad Kashmir” = Pakistan occupied Kashmir; Islamabad and south-eastern part of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa” in Pakistan (Tshikolovets & Pages, 2016). According to them, the habitat is dry xerophite (*sic.*) places and cultivated areas in lowlands or arid foothills.

On 8.xi.2014, a specimen of *S. zebra* was photographed at Sagwara (23.6623 N; 74.0348 E), tehsil Sagwara, district Dungarpur, Rajasthan, India. Several individuals were

observed from 1.20 pm to 1.57 pm and one was collected and deposited in the collection of the Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, with a forewing length of 11 mm. This is an extension to the known distribution by more than 1100 km southwards. The butterfly is difficult to observe because it is quite small and flies rapidly low over the ground.

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Fig.1: *Spialia zebra* upperside

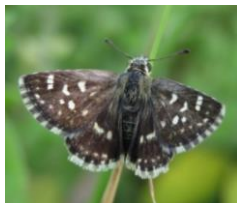


Fig.2: *Spialia zebra*