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CONFIRMATION OF THE ROSY FLASH BUTTERFLY *RAPALA ROSACEA* (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN MIZORAM, INDIA

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Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The Rosy Flash (*Rapala rosacea* de Niceville, [1889]) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) was described from 5 male and 6 female specimens from Sikkim, all collected in March. There are no reliable records of this species subsequently from India and distribution notes about the species record Sikkim to N.E. India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Mizazaki *et al.* (2007) report the species from Vietnam.

According to de Niceville ([1889]), “the reddish-vinous colouration of the underside at once distinguishes it from all the species of the genus known to me.” These included *Rapala nissa* (Kollar, [1844]) and *Rapala rectivitta* (Moore, 1879), the only two similar species within India.

The original description states:

Habitat: Sikkim.

Description: Male. Upperside *both wings* fuscous. *Forewing* glossed with shining deep steel-purple from the base to beyond the middle. *Hindwing* with all but the costa, outer margin narrowly, and abdominal margin broadly, glossed with shining deep steel-purple. UNDERSIDE, both wings vinous-red, in some specimens the red colour somewhat obsolescent. *Forewing* with two short dark lines at the end of the cell, a discal very even slightly curved narrow dark band from the costa to the submedian fold, a submarginal

obscure fascia. *Hindwing* with the discocellular and discal markings as in the forewing but the latter at its posterior end assuming a W-shaped figure, the whole band outwardly narrowly defined with white, at its posterior end also inwardly defined with white, the anal lobe marked with red in the middle, a red spot on the margin beyond the base of the tail; between which the wing is irrorated with grey scales, a narrow red line running up from the anal lobe to the abdominal margin below the discal line. *Cilia* reddish brown throughout. *Tail* black, tipped with white.”

On 18.viii.2012 in Tlangnuam Veng, Aizawl, Mizoram, a single male of this species was observed and photographed (Figures 1 & 2), confirming its presence in Mizoram.

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Fig.1: *Rapala rosacea*, underside



Fig.2: *Rapala rosacea*, upperside