

ISSN 0972- 1800



BIONOTES

VOLUME 23, NO. 4

QUARTERLY

OCTOBER—DECEMBER, 2021



Date of Publication: 24th April, 2022

BIONOTES

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

Founder

Late Dr. R. K. Varshney, Aligarh, India

Board of Editors

Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,
India
petersmetacek@gmail.com

V.V. Ramamurthy, New Delhi, India
vvrento@gmail.com

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Sciences, Institute of Entomology, Branisovska 31,
CZ-37005 Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic.
fric@entu.cas.cz.

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sn@saturniidae.com

R.C. Kendrick, Hong Kong SAR
hkmoths@gmail.com

Devanshu Gupta, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata,
India
devanshuguptagb4102@gmail.com

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Address for Correspondence

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,
Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: +91
8938896403.

Email: butterflyresearchcentre@gmail.com

From Volume 21

Published by the Entomological Society of India (ESI), New Delhi (Nodal Officer: V.V.
Ramamurthy, ESI, New Delhi)

And

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal
Executive Editor: Peter Smetacek
Assistant Editor: Shristee Panthee
Butterfly Research Trust, Bhimtal

Cover Photo of *Athyma nefte* by Rajib Dey

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**FIRST RECORD OF KING CROW *EUPLOEA KLUGII*
(INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM THE
KUMAON HIMALAYA, INDIA**

AMBICA AGNIHOTRI

Uttarakhand Forest Research Institute, Haldwani
ambicaagnihotri99@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The King Crow *Euploea klugii* (Moore, 1858), is a butterfly belonging to the Nymphalidae family. It has a wingspan of about 8-10 cm. There are two forms, a brown and a blue form: both forms occur together in N.E. India but only the brown form occurs in southern India. In the caterpillar stage, the insect feeds on toxic plants like milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) or milk sap releasing plants. The tribe Daniniinae is known for having evolved protection against predation by storing cardenolide toxins in the body. *E. klugii* is reported to occur from Central Nepal to Northeast India, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sri Lanka, Bihar and Thailand (Smetacek, 2017). The butterfly was recently reported from Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh (Mishra *et al.*, 2016).

On 16.xi.2021 a butterfly survey was conducted in Bhujiyaghat (29°18.45"N; 79°31.41"E), situated at 624 m elevation in Uttarakhand. The area has subtropical evergreen forests and lies in between Haldwani and Jeolikote in the Shivalik range which forms the foothills of the Himalaya. The

area is surrounded by mountains and lies in a valley, therefore it has a humid and warm climate suitable for tropical flora and fauna. While conducting the butterfly survey, a male *E. klugii* was photographed around 1 p.m. The butterfly was not reported earlier from Uttarakhand. This is an addition to the known butterflies of Uttarakhand and extends the known distribution of the butterfly further westwards from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

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Figs.1 & 2: *Euploea klugii*