

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

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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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NEW DISTRIBUTIONAL RECORD OF *EUASPA* MOORE, 1884 (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE) FROM SIKKIM, INDIA

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Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The Lycaenid genus *Euspa* Moore, 1884, commonly known as hairstreak butterflies, is distributed across the Himalayan range to southeastern Asia (Wangchuk *et al.*, 2021). According to Das *et al.*, (2019), there are 14 species of *Euspa* worldwide. Koiwaya (2002) described six new species of *Euspa* from different countries of southeast Asia such as Laos, Myanmar, India and Vietnam, of which two were described from India, namely: *E. miyashitai* Koiwaya, 2002 from Darjeeling in West Bengal and *E. mikamii* Koiwaya, 2002 from Arunachal Pradesh. Sidhu (2007) reported *E. milionia* from Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Koiwaya (2007) recognized 12 species under *Euspa* genus. Recently, *E. uedai* was described from China (Koiwaya 2014). Huang (2016) described *E. zhengi* from China.

Five species of *Euspa* are reported from India till date, namely: *Euspa milionia milionia* (Hewitson, [1869]), *E. pavo* (de Nicéville, 1887), *E. mikamii* Koiwaya, 2002, *E. miyashitai* Koiwaya, 2002 (Varshney & Smetacek 2015) and *E. motokii* Koiwaya 2002 (Das *et al.*, 2019). Gupta and Mondal (2005) mentioned *E. pavo* (de Nicéville, 1887) from Assam (Margherita) and Nagaland. Recently, Das *et al.* (2019) reported the first record of *E.*

motokii Koiwaya, 2002 from India and a new distribution record of *E. mikamii* Koiwaya, 2002 from Dihing-Dibang Biosphere Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh, India. More recently, Wangchuk *et al.*, (2021) recorded *E. pavo* and *E. motokii* from Bhutan. This paper contributes a new locality to the known distribution range of *E. pavo* from the state of Sikkim, India.

Observation

On 09.xi.2021, a single individual of *E. pavo* was photographed (Image 1, 2) at around 15:34 hr near Lingdem, Upper Dzongu, North Sikkim, India and the elevation is approximately 3614 m. The individual was sighted in a dry basement besides agroforestry land, where the species was basking in the sun. Since the original description of *E. pavo* by de Nicéville from Bhutan, de Nicéville (1890) mentioned that a male specimen of this species was also collected from Margherita in Upper Assam by Mr. Doherty and later Tytler (1915) also reported male and female specimens from Naga Hills (Nagaland).

The present report extends the known distribution of the species westwards to Sikkim.

Acknowledgements

The authors are grateful to Tarun Karmakar for identifying the species and Bhubakanta Sharma, Sagarmani Rasaily, Silendra Dewan for providing us with valuable information. Our sincere thanks to Mr. Nosang Muringla Limbo for his immense guidance.

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Fig.1 & 2: *Euspa pavo* (de Nicéville, 1887)