

ADDITION OF THE RED PIERROT BUTTERFLY *TALICADA NYSEUS NYSEUS* TO THE BUTTERFLY FAUNA OF CHHATTISGARH, INDIA

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Due to diverse habitats and its rich floral diversity, Chhattisgarh has a rich diversity of butterflies. The latter have been regularly surveyed from Sarguja to Bastar divisions by the authors. The state Chhattisgarh has five revenue divisions as Surguja, Bilaspur, Durg, Raipur and Bastar, which comes under the Deccan Plateau (Rodgers *et al.*, 2002); geologically, it is a part of the Gondwana Plateau (Chandra & Singh, 2004); and climate is tropical, hot and humid in the state. Jashpur (22.8763590N, 84.1569230E) district is situated in the North-East of Chhattisgarh, bordering Orissa state and Bastar division (19.0969125N, 81.9965469E) is the South-East part, also bordering Orissa at lower Chhattisgarh.

For the present report and observation of butterflies, Saurabh Singh with Ashwini Chouhan & Rohit Kalyari visited the Jashpur District office in the morning

hours while Gulab Sahu visited Jagdalpur city and photographed the butterflies. The Red Pierrot was first photographed on 22.ii.2022, and frequently seen in the urban environment of the Jashpur District office. Gulab Sahu encountered the Red Pierrot in Jagdalpur city on 11.ii.2023 and 5.iii.2023 and frequently observed them in the same place. Photographed individuals were identified by field characters using Smetacek (2016) and Kehimkar (2016) and the species were confirmed by Evans (1932), Wynter Blyth (1957) and Haribal (1992).

Observation: These are the first recorded observations of this species from Chhattisgarh. The known distribution of the subspecies *T. n. nyseus* in India was Maharashtra to Kerala, eastward to Andhra Pradesh; Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand; Uttar Pradesh; Delhi (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

The species was first observed on 22.ii.2022, in the Government Circuit House in Gamharia, Jashpur, which has artificially created home gardens, surrounds by public building gardens. *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, the host plant of Red Pierrot (Wynter-Blyth, 1957) was widely distributed with some other plant such as Periwinkle, *Ixora*, etc. After that, sightings of several individuals occurred often. There were also sightings in the front yard, a public park, the Divisional Forest office, etc. The Red Pierrot was sighted in the same month of the following year on 11.ii.2023 by Gulab Sahu in the Green Park Colony, in front of Government Indrāvati Women transit hostel, Jagdalpur, on 11.ii.2023. It was again sighted in the same location on 05.iii.2023 and observed as common in that habitat, which has *Ixora*, *Lantana camara* and *Bryophyllum*.

The Red Pierrot *T. n. nyseus* was not documented earlier in the state (Chandra et al., 2007, 2014; Chandra & Sharma, 2009; Dubey et al., 2015; Sisodia, 2019; Tandan et al., 2020, 2021a,b; Nihalani, 2021). Hence, here with this report, the species *T. n. nyseus* is reported as a new record for the Chhattisgarh state.

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Fig. 1: Red Pierrot at Jagdalpur by Gulab Chand



Fig. 2: Red Pierrot at Jashpur by Saurabh Singh

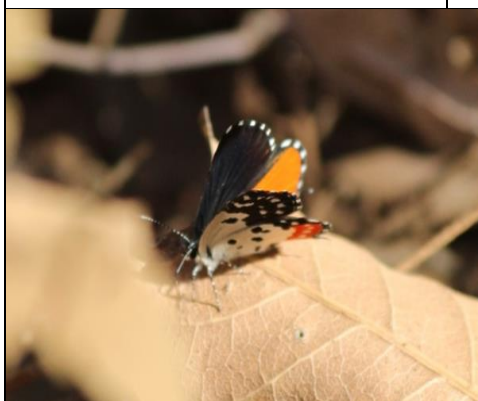


Fig 3: Red Pierrot showing upperwing, © Gulab Chand

Fig. 4: Study area. Map showing the observation sites as Site-1 Jashpur, and Site-2 Jagdalpur (Bastar)

