# EARLY EMERGENCE OF *CYPA DECOLOR* (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) IN THE KUMAON HIMALAYA

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The emergence of hawkmoths from their pupae is determined by soil humidity and temperature. In the western Himalaya, Smetacek (2011) suggested that the failure of the winter rains in the outermost range of the Kumaon Himalaya was responsible for the absence of nearly half the butterfly species known from Maheshkhan Reserve Forest during the following summer.

Smetacek (1994) reported the presence of *Cypa decolor* (Walker, 1856) from the Kumaon Himalaya. On the basis of 15 specimens examined, the flying time of the species was ascertained to be between May 15 and August 27. In two different years (1979, 1990) the species was recorded between May 15 and 17, suggesting that this was a normal emergence period for the species in the area.

On April 26, 2023, two male specimens were recorded at light at the same site as the previous specimens. The data is as follows:

2 males: Forewing length: 24mm. 26 iv.2023. *Leg*. Vishal Potdar & Surendra Pariyar; *Coll*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

Of the two specimens, one is in good condition and the second is worn, suggesting that it had emerged earlier.

Although the rains failed during the winter of 2022-23, with no rain between mid-November and March, there was substantial rain during March and part of April, 2023.

The present records extend the known flying time of the species in the western Himalaya from the last week of April to the end of August.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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Figure: *Cypa decolor* specimens recorded in Bhimtal on April 26, 2023