

BLUE GLASSY TIGER *IDEOPSIS SIMILIS PERSIMILIS* (MOORE 1879) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)- FIRST RECORD FROM DEHING PATKAI NATIONAL PARK, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

The present note reports the first confirmed record of *Ideopsis similis persimilis* from the Dehing Patkai National Park, Assam. Possibly, this report is the second record for India.

KEYWORDS: Danainae, Blue Glassy Tiger, New Record, Dehing Patkai, Assam

INTRODUCTION

The Blue Glassy Tiger *Ideopsis similis persimilis* (Moore 1879) is common throughout its range. It is widespread across Myanmar, southern China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Sumatra (Yutaka, 2015) and Sri Lanka (Evans, 1932). The genus *Ideopsis* (Horsfield, 1829) includes two species found in India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Out of these two species *Ideopsis similis* is the only species reported from Northeast India, specifically Arunachal Pradesh (Thombre & Kehimkar, 2015). The other species, *Ideopsis juvena nicobarica*, is found in the Nicobar Islands (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

There are no recent records of *I. similis* from India after Thombre and Kehimkar (2015). Das *et al.* (2017) prepared an updated list of butterflies of Dibru-Saikhuwa National Park, Assam but they did not find *I. similis* in the area. Singh (2017), who studied and reviewed the butterflies of Eastern Assam, which includes Dehing Patkai National Park (DPNP), did not record this species. Recently, Gogoi *et al.* (2023) studied the diversity and specific richness of butterfly in DPNP, but did not report this species.

RESULT

The current record is from an opportunistic survey conducted at Soraipung Division, Dehing Patkai National Park, Assam on April 30, 2023, at around 10:24 hrs. We observed more than four individuals of the species and photographed one while the butterfly was basking in the sun. The habitat, where the butterflies were sighted consists of evergreen shrubs located at coordinates 27.356009 N and 95.539782 E.

I. similis was recorded by Thombre & Kehimkar (2015) from Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh and that was the first and only record for India so far. Therefore, probably this record will be the second record for India and first report from Assam.

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Figure 1: Underside of *Ideopsis similis persimilis* recorded in this study.



Figure 2: Upperside of *Ideopsis similis persimilis* as above.