

FIRST RECORD OF TWO NYMPHALID BUTTERFLIES FROM PAKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

Two species of family Nymphalidae (Brush-foots), *Clinia Sailer*, *Neptis clinia* (Moore, 1872) and *Commodore*, *Auzakia danava* (Moore, 1858) are reported from Abbotabad district of KPK Province, Pakistan. The records further extend the known range of both species westwards.

INTRODUCTION

The *Commodore* Butterfly (*Auzakia danava*) belongs to a monotypic Nymphalid genus and is distributed over Tibet, West China, north and north eastern India, Bhutan, Myanmar and Sumatra. 4 subspecies are recognized (Anonymous, 2020b). The nominate subspecies is found in the Himalayas (450 to 2400m altitude) from Kashmir (including Nepal and Bhutan) to Arunachal Pradesh. (Gasse, 2018). *Clinia Sailer*, *Neptis clinia* (Moore, 1872) is represented by 4 subspecies in India, of which ssp. *praedicta* (Smetacek, 2011) is found in the western Himalayas at 450 to 1800m from Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh with a single record from Dehli (Gasse, 2018).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During exploration of the butterflies of Sherwan, Abbotabad District (KP Province) Pakistan, SHT noticed two

Nymphalids butterflies previously unreported from Pakistan and photographed them together with a Nikon D7500 digital camera (Figure 1) on 9th September 2019.

- (1) *Clinia Sailer* (*Neptis clinia* Moore, 1872): This *Neptis* Fabricius, 1807 (Figure 1) was different from other sailers known to occur in Pakistan in having upper forewing top-most discal spot elongated, cell-streak conjoined with triangular end-cell spot (versus *nata* Moore, [1858], *hylas* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *sappho* (Pallas, 1771)), upper 3 sub-marginal spots not shifted out and discal band of upper hindwing of even width (versus *soma* Moore, 1858), fused forewing cell-streak and triangular end-cell spot, and a pretty broad hindwing discal band.
- (2) *Commodore* Butterfly (*Auzakia danava* Moore, 1858): Almost double the size of the *Neptis* (Figure 1 and 2), identified as a female *Commodore*, on basis of its huge size and two broad creamy-white bands on its darker greyish-green wings, and dark discal and marginal bands on hindwing. Shade of the

ground color and extension of dark bands is variable in this species (Gallo & Bruna, 2013)

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

These two species are new additions to the list of butterflies of Pakistan (Roberts, 2001; Tshikolovets & Pages, 2016). Trivial name of *Clinia Sailer* was proposed by van der Poel & Smetacek, (2022) to avoid confusion among various English names of the species. The closest known locality of this sailer is Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India, 380 km southeast of Sherwan. The closest locations of occurrence of *Commodore* in India are in the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Moore (1874) recorded this butterfly from Jammu and Kashmir (India) for the first time without specifying any location. He reported most butterflies in this paper, from Sonamarg (200 km eastwards) in Ganderbal district. The second definite record of this insect from the union territory is from Bhaderwah (280 km in the east) Doda district, therefore, our record has expanded its range about 200-280 km to the west.

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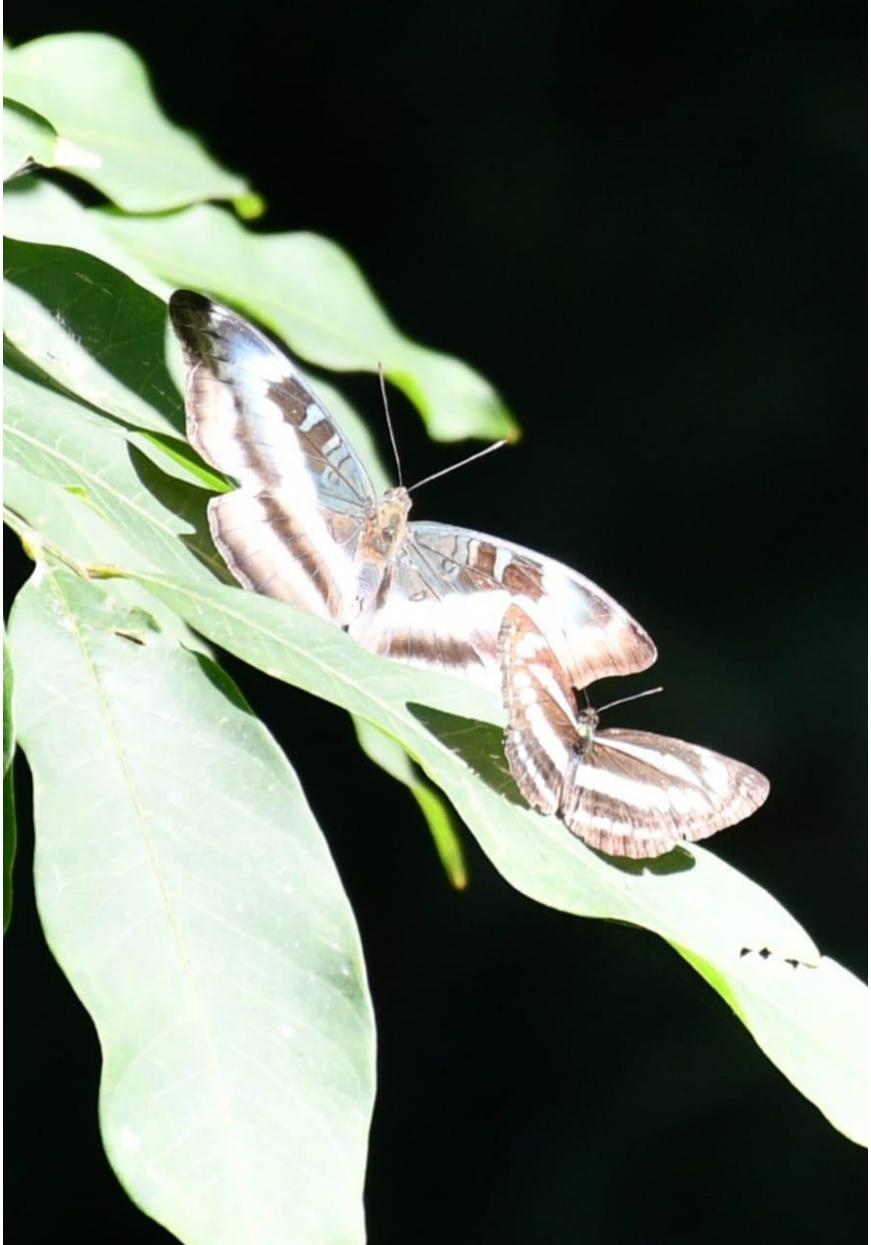


Fig 1: Clinia Sailer and Commodore