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# BIONOTES

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# FIRST RECORD OF THE INDIAN OAKBLUE *ARHOPALA ATRAX* (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM DELHI, INDIA

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The Indian Oakblue *Arhopala atrax* (Hewitson, 1862) is known to occur in Peninsular India and from Jammu & Kashmir to N.E. India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). It has also been reported from Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh (Sushmita *et al.*, 2022). The species is also known from the Kumaon Bhabar in Uttarakhand.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 around noon, a Lycaenid butterfly was photographed in a children's park in Gangotri Apartments, Vikaspuri, New Delhi. It was perched on a dry leaf, from where it came down and settled on a stone. Not recognizing it, it was photographed for the record. It was later identified by Sohail Madan and was confirmed as a new record for Delhi.

This record extends the known distribution of the species to Delhi. Although it is not possible to ascertain whether the

individual photographed belongs to a breeding colony of the species in the immediate locality, since it has not been seen in the area again, nevertheless this possibility cannot be ruled out, since this is an elusive species which spends its time in the canopy and occasionally descends to the ground to imbibe moisture.

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- Sushmita, B. Sharma & A. Kumar. 2022. First record of the Indian Oakblue *Arhopala atrax* (Hewitson, 1862) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from Uttar Pradesh, India. *Bionotes* 24(3&4): 232-234.
- Varshney, R.K. & P. Smetacek. (Eds.). 2015. *A Synoptic Catalogue of the Butterflies of India*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal and Indinov Publishing, New Delhi. ii +261 pages, 8 plates.



**Figures1 & 2:** The same individual of Indian Oakblue *Arhopala atrax* photographed in Delhi