

THE ELUSIVE PRINCE *ROHANA TONKINIANA* IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH: AN ADDITION TO THE BUTTERFLY FAUNA OF INDIA

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The genus *Rohana* Moore, [1880] is represented in India by two species. These are *R. parisatis* (Westwood, 1850) and *R. parvata* (Moore, 1857). Both occur sympatrically in the eastern Himalaya while *R. parisatis* is also found in Southern India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Males of *R. parisatis* were considered singular on the Indian subcontinent for being entirely black on the upper side. On a visit to Bhutan in September, 2019, AG and SD observed and photographed several *R. parisatis* males. Among these, there appeared to be a second species, *Rohana tonkiniana* Fruhstorfer, 1906, distinguished in the field on the basis of its somewhat larger size. Besides size, the shape of the forewing margin is relatively straight in males of *R. tonkiniana* compared to males of *R. parisatis*. In addition, the inner margin of the hindwing is pale in males of *R. tonkiniana* and dark in males of *R. parisatis*. It was photographed on 22.ix.2019 at Tingtibi (Zhemgang district) (400 m). A series of *Rohana* males were collected at Miao, Arunachal Pradesh, India in October, 2019. These were sent to the Butterfly Research

Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand for identification. The specimens were dissected and genitalia examined. The genitalia was compared with illustrations in Jiang *et al.* (2019). A single specimen of *R. tonkiniana* was discovered, confirming its presence in the eastern Himalaya.

Specimen examined: 1 ex.: Forewing length 19mm: expanse 42 mm. Miao, Changlang district. Arunachal Pradesh, India (27.4923 North 96. 2268 East: Elevation: 250 metres). 25 x. 2019. *Leg.* M. Pertin. *Det.* P. Smetacek. *Coll.* Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal. The type locality of *R. tonkiniana* is Than – Moi, Tonkin, North Vietnam. The subspecies *R. t. siamensis* (Fruhstorfer 1913) was described from Hinlap (Siam), [Thailand] Jiang *et al.* (2019) reported the subspecies from several locations in Yunnan, China. Their specimens were collected in May, August and November, suggesting the species has three annual generations in the area. The specimen reported in the present paper was collected in October. If we treat the specimen photographed by AG in Bhutan as *R. tonkiniana*, then the species

was photographed in September. Due to the remarkably similar facies of *R. parisatis* and *R. tonkiniana*, the present report only confirms the presence of *R. tonkiniana* in Arunachal Pradesh, India and suggests that the species probably also occurs in Bhutan on the basis of photographs of free ranging individuals. However, confirmation of the latter would require confirmation by dissection of male genitalia of specimens from that country.

References

- Jiang, Z.-H., J.-Q. Zhu & S. J. Hu. 2019. A note on the genus *Rohana* from China (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae). *Butterflies* 82: 4-12.
- Varshney, R. K. & P. Smetacek (eds.). 2015. *A Synoptic Catalogue of the Butterflies of India*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal & Indinov Publishing, New Delhi. ii+261 pp., 8 pl.



Fig.1: *Rohana parisatis* male, Meghalaya



Fig.2: *Rohana tonkiniana* male, Miao, Arunachal Pradesh

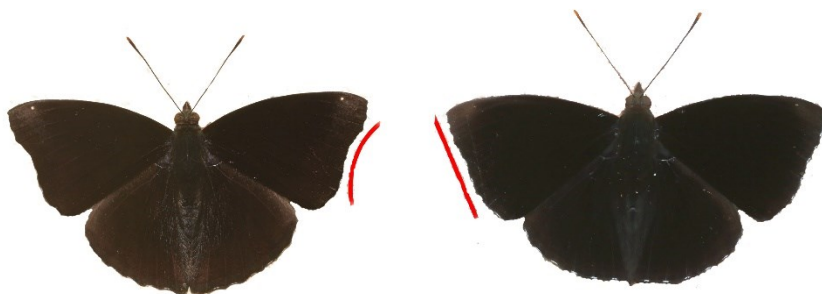


Fig.3: Left *Rohana parisatis* and Right *Rohana tonkiniana*