

MINOR RANGE EXTENSION WESTWARDS TO THE KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF THE TREE YELLOW BUTTERFLY *GANDACA HARINA* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE) TO THE GAULA RIVER VALLEY, UTTARAKHAND

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INTRODUCTION

Gandaca harina assamica Moore, [1906] (Pieridae) is a small butterfly whose wingspan ranges from 35-45 mm; on the upperside of the wings, the male is yellower than the female. The underside of the butterfly is unmarked and this is a distinguishing character. It is reported from Central Nepal, North east India extending to Philippines and Borneo (Smetacek, 2016). A female *G. harina assamica* was photographed in Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary near Chorgaliya forest rest house (Sondhi, 2016), being the first and only report of the butterfly from Uttarakhand. The presence of a female does not confirm whether it is a resident or a migrant in an area, as females tend to travel far and migrate to distant places in search of their larval host plants for laying eggs.

While conducting a butterfly survey in Bhujiyaghat (624 m elevation) in the valley of the Gaula river (29°18.45"N; 79°31.41"E) on 16.xi.2021, two male *G. harina assamica* were found flying. A specimen was collected and deposited in the collection of Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal. The male specimen not

only confirms the presence of the species but also extends the known geographic range westwards from Chorgaliya to the Gaula river in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand.

REFERENCES

Sondhi, S. 2017. First records of butterflies *Anthe emolus emolus* (Godart, [1924]) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae; Polyommatainae) and *Gandaca harina assamica* Moore, [1906] (Lepidoptera: Pieridae: Coliadinae) from Kumaon, Uttarakhand, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 9(6): 10355-10357.

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Figure: *Gandaca harina*