

CONFIRMATORY RECORD OF WAX DART *CUPITHA PURREEA* MOORE, 1881 (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) FROM JHARKHAND, INDIA

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Abstract

The presence of *Cupitha purreea* in Jharkhand is confirmed almost 74 years after its first report based on a single specimen from South Bihar by Morrison-Godfrey (1947).

Introduction

On 23.ii.2020, a single nectaring individual of *Cupitha purreea* (Moore) was sighted and photographed by the authors on flowers of *Psydrax dicoccos* (Figure 1) from Ancient Siddheswar temple (23.37° N; 86.23° E) in Musaboni block of East Singhbhum district, Jharkhand, India along with *Jamides bochus* (Stoll, [1782]), *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius, 1787), *Rapala varuna* (Horsfield, [1829]), etc. The species were identified using Kehimkar (2016) for the butterfly and eFlora group for the plant.

C. purreea was also observed near Dharagiri falls (23.40° N; 86.29° E) in Ghatsila block of the same district on the next day during a diligent search (Figure 2). Previous records in the literature are from South Bihar (Morrison-Godfrey, 1948), which corresponds to present-day Jharkhand. Major P.W. Morrison Godfrey stated in his article entitled 'Butterflies of South Bihar' that *C. purreea* was rare in the region. During his survey, he observed and collected a single male in July, 1907.

The global distribution of the taxon is in South India, Sikkim to Myanmar, Andaman Islands, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Langkawi, W.

Malaysia, Tioman, Borneo, Sumatra, Nias, Java, Philippines and Sulawesi (Inayoshi, 2020). Varshney & Smetacek (2015) also listed the species in Jharkhand, based on Morrison-Godfrey's observation from East - Central part of the state. The present record, more than 200 km south of the previous known locality, from Southern Jharkhand confirms the presence of *C. purreea* in Jharkhand after a gap of 74 years.

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Fig.1: *Cupitha purreea* recorded from 23.37° N; 86.23° E



Fig.2: *Cupitha purreea* recorded from 23.40° N; 86.29°E