

FIRST RECORD OF RINGED CASCADER *ZYGONYX TORRIDUS* KIRBY, 1889 DRAGONFLY FROM WEST BENGAL, INDIA

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Only two species under the genus *Zygonyx* Hagen, 1867 are present in India. One species is *Zygonyx iris* Selys, 1869 and another species is *Zygonyx torridus* Kirby, 1889 (Subramanian & Babu, 2017). *Zygonyx torridus* is commonly known as Ringed Cascader and it can be distinguished from *Zygonyx iris* through its appearance. *Z. torridus* is a medium sized black & yellow dragonfly which can be found near the edges of fast flowing stream in the foothills (Nair, 2011).

During an opportunistic survey on 24 October 2022, the authors photographed an adult *Z. torridus* (Fig. 1 & 2) at around 11:14 a.m. from the Ajodhya Hills of Purulia district, West Bengal, India. During the period of observation, the specimen was flying rapidly & tirelessly 100–200 m away from a river surrounded by streams, rocks and sand banks. The authors didn't observe the specimen in a

resting position during the 10–15 minutes when the dragonfly was observed.

The species was identified based on the key provided by Fraser (1936) and Nair (2011), namely, thorax with complete humeral stripes, colourless hind-wing base, dark metallic green thorax, black abdomen marked with bright yellow paired spots & abdominal segments 2 to 8 with large yellow spots on each side.

The study area, (Fig. 3) Ajodhya Hill (23.10°N, 86.06°E; 270m asl) where the species was sighted, is a dry, deciduous type of forest with some moist patches. Average annual rainfall of the area ranges from 1100 mm to 1500 mm and vegetation of the area is predominantly Sal (*Shorea robusta*) forest mixed with other species such as Palash (*Butea monosperma*), Kusum (*Schleichera oleosa*), Mahua (*Madhuca longifolia*), Neem (*Azadirachta*

indica) and Kendu (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) (Das, 2016).

The species *Z. torridus* was previously reported in India from Peninsular India, East India, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Orissa (Prasad & Varshney, 1995; Prasad & Sinha, 2010; Nair, 2011; Subramanian *et al.*, 2018). There are no known records of this species from the study area Ajodhya Hills (Samanta *et al.*, 2022). Though Prasad & Varshney (1995) reported *Z. torridus* from East India but there are no confirmed reports of this species from the state West Bengal (Dawn, 2021). So our report confirms presence of *Z. torridus* in the state West Bengal and it can be concluded that this is the first report of this species from the state.

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Figure 1&2: Images of *Zygonyx torridus* Kirby, 1889 from Ajothya Hills, West Bengal, India.

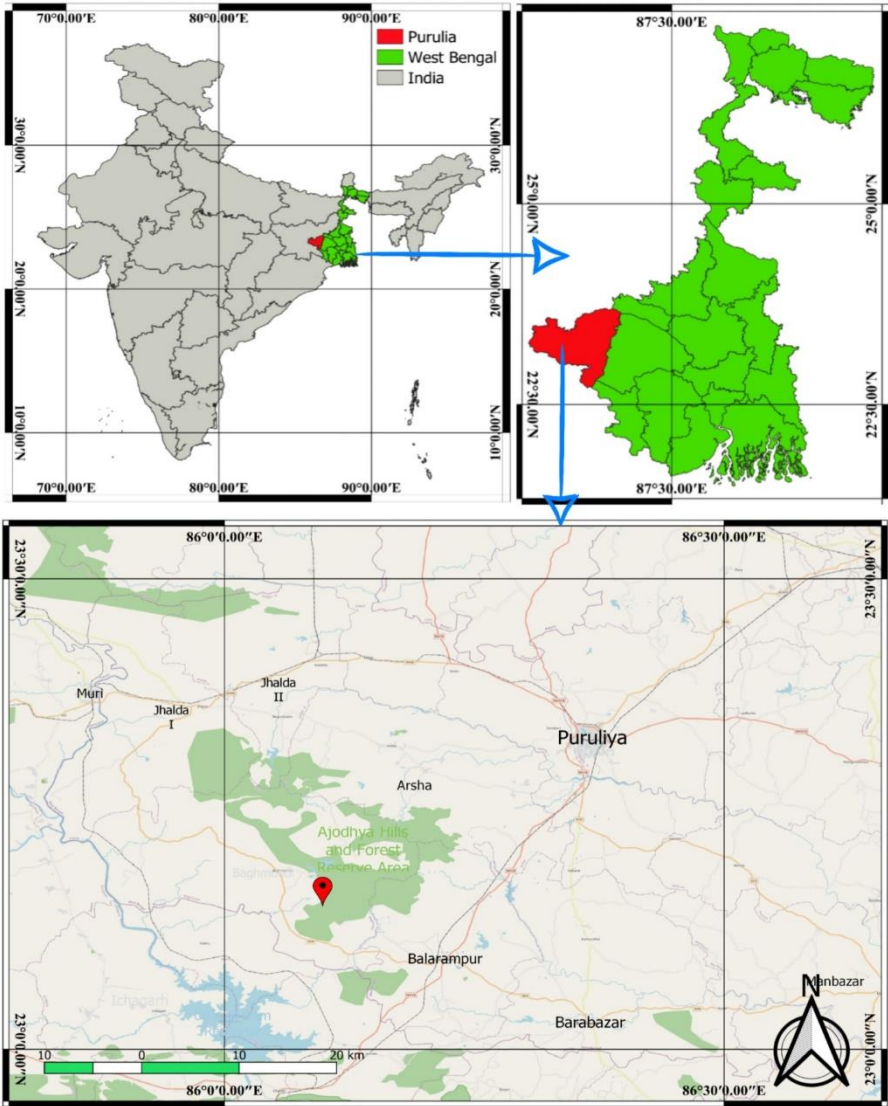


Figure 3: The study area where Ringed Cascader *Zygonyx torridus* Kirby, 1889 was sighted.