

**DISTRIBUTIONAL RANGE EXTENSION OF THE MOTHS
SOMATINA ROSACEA (SWINHAE), *PTEROGONIA AURIGUTTA*
(WALKER) AND *CARRIOLA FENESTRATA* (HAMPSON)
(INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA) TO THE EASTERN GHATS OF
ODISHA**

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Introduction

Field surveys for moths in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha during February, 2020 recorded three moth species belonging to the Nolidae, Erebidae and Geometridae that were previously unknown from eastern India. They were attracted to the light of a mercury vapour lamp reflected off a white screen. The lamp was kept lit from dusk till midnight. The survey was carried out at low elevation in an overgrown field of the village with teak plantation and mixed deciduous forest in the vicinity.

Material examined

Somatina rosacea (Swinhoe, 1894) (Geometridae: Sterrhinae) 2 ♂♂: 19.ii.2020, Village Upara Taldiha (133 m), Mayurbhanj district, Odisha (21°40'28"N; 86°28'41"E). *Leg. et Coll.* Sandeep Mishra, Biodiversity Education and Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

The species was first described from the Khasis (present day East and West Khasi Hills districts of the Indian state Meghalaya) with Cherra Punji (Sohra) as type locality. Apart from the type locality, this species has been

reported from Taiwan (Prout, 1914), Western Ghats of Kerala (Devikulam, Ponnudi and Pandimotta) and Karnataka (Madikeri) in India (Kirti *et al.*, 2012; Sondhi *et al.*, 2018). Two individuals of *Somatina* Guenee, 1857 were collected during the survey. The specimens were identified as *S. rosacea* based on the descriptions by Swinhoe (1893) and Hampson (1895). *Pterogonia aurigutta* (Walker, 1858) (Nolidae: Cloephorinae); 1 ♂: 21.ii.2020, locality data as for *S. rosacea*.

Pterogonia aurigutta was originally described as *Thalatta aurigutta* by Walker (1858) from Singapore. A dimorphic species, the female was described as a separate species *Pterogonia striatura* Moore, 1887 (Yoshimoto, 1994). Later it was synonymised with *P. aurigutta* by Kobes (1997). Thus far the species has been recorded from Sundaland, Thailand and Sri Lanka besides the type locality (Holloway, 2003). In India, this moth is known from the Andaman Islands and Khasi hills, Indian state of Meghalaya. A male specimen of *P. aurigutta* was collected during this survey. Identification of the species was

done based on the description given by Walker (1858). *Carriola fenestrata* (Hampson, 1893) (Erebidae: Lymantriinae); 2♂♂: 24.ii.2020, locality data as for *S. rosacea*.

This moth was first described as *Leucoma fenestrata* by Hampson (1892) from Sri Lanka. The current combination was proposed by Swinhoe (1922). During the survey, two male specimens of *C. fenestrata* were collected. This species was previously known from N.E. India, Sri Lanka and by Gupta (1992) from Nagarhole, Karnataka. The present report is the first record of this species from eastern India.

All the collected specimens were identified, labelled and deposited in the repository of Biodiversity Education and Research Centre, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The survey area is a biodiversity rich zone in the northern end of Eastern Ghats adjacent to the east coast of India. The present report affirms the extension of distributional range of these three species which were previously known only from N.E. India and, in the case of *S. rosacea*, the Western Ghats.

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Fig.1: *Somatina rosacea*



Fig.2: *Pterogonia aurigutta*



Fig.3: *Carriola fenestrata*