

CONFIRMATION OF *DEROCA HIDDA* (LEPIDOPTERA: DREPANIDAE) IN BHUTAN

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Deroica Walker, 1855 is a small genus of Drepanid moths comprising 4 species, remarkable for their semi- or fully transparent wings. On the Indian subcontinent, 3 species are found in the Himalaya. *D. hyalina* Walker, 1855 known from the N.W. Himalayas; Sikkim; Nagas; Manipur (India); E. Pegu (Myanmar)(Hampson, 1892) China (Watson, 1968); *D. inconclusa* (Walker, 1856) known from the N.W. Himalayas; Nagas; Manipur (Hampson, 1892), Myanmar, China (Watson, 1968), and *D. hidda* Swinhoe, 1900 (type locality: Meghalaya) from Sikkim, N. India, Myanmar and China (Watson, 1968). So far, only *D. hyalina* has been reported from Bhutan (Giels, Franssen & Wangdi, 2022)

On 5 September 2023, a specimen of *Deroica* Walker, 1855 was discovered perched on a leaf of a tree, *Benthamidia capitata* at Bumthang, Bhutan and photographed. It was identified as *D. hidda* (Figure 1). Further study clarified that this species had not been previously reported from Bhutan. It is interesting that Smetacek & Smetacek (2011) report *B. capitata* as a larval hostplant for both *D. hyalina* as well as *D. inconclusa* in the

western Himalaya. It is not unlikely that this tree is also a hostplant for *D. hidda*.



Figure 1: *Deroica hidda*

Therefore, the present report confirms the presence of *D. hidda* in Bumthang, Bhutan, (Elevation: 2572m) (27.555199°N; 90.744386°E).

This increases the number of *Deroica* species known from Bhutan to 2 of the 4 species in the genus. It is almost certain that the remaining Himalayan species, *D. inconclusa* will also be found in Bhutan, since it occurs both to the east and west. The fourth species in the genus is not known from the Indian subcontinent and is found in China.

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