

OCCURRENCE OF ANOMALOUS NAWAB *POLYURA* *AGRARIUS* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) CONFIRMED IN UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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Abstract: Anomalous Nawab *Polyura agrarius* (Swinhoe, 1887) is reported for the first time from Uttar Pradesh, India.

Introduction

The Anomalous Nawab, *Polyura agrarius* (Swinhoe, 1887) is a widely distributed species. On the Indian subcontinent, it has been reported from Gujarat to Madhya Pradesh and Kerala; Himachal Pradesh to Northeast India (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Smith (2006) reported it only from western Nepal, but it is likely that it is more widespread in that country.

Since this species was treated as the southern Indian subspecies of *P. athamas* (Drury, [1773]) by Evans (1932) and Wynter-Blyth (1957), older records of the larval hostplants were grouped under those of *P. athamas* and it is no longer clear which plants the two species feed on in the early stages in north India.

Methodology

On 26.vii.2021 at 1:20 pm, two individuals of this species were observed settled on animal dung in the Kukrail Reserve Forest of Lucknow (N 26°54'45.5" E080°59'32.0"), Uttar Pradesh, India. In the photos, both individuals can be separated by the condition of the hindwing tails.

Discussion

This is the first record of *P. agrarius* from Lucknow district as well as from Uttar Pradesh. Kukrail Reserve Forest is a subtropical dry deciduous forest with *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Albizia*

lebbeck, *Ficus glomerata*, *Dalbergia sissoo* etc. *P. agrarius* is a forest species.

Bhakare & Ogale (2018) report *Acacia catechu* and *Albizia chinensis* as larval host plants of *P. agrarius* in southern India. As mentioned above, the north Indian larval host plants are not known.

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Fig.1 & 2: *Polyura agrarius*