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# BIONOTES

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Peter Smetacek, (Executive Editor) Butterfly  
Research Centre, Bhimtal, India  
[petersmetacek@gmail.com](mailto:petersmetacek@gmail.com)

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Please E-mail to [editorbionotes@gmail.com](mailto:editorbionotes@gmail.com)

Bandana Subedi (Assistant Editor)  
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[bandanasubedi84@gmail.com](mailto:bandanasubedi84@gmail.com)

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[sn@saturniidae.com](mailto:sn@saturniidae.com)

## **Address for Correspondence**

Jatishwor Irungbam, Institute of  
Microbiology, CAS, Centrum  
ALGATECH, Novohradská 237 -  
Opatovický mlýn 379 01 Třeboň,  
Czech Republic  
[jatishworirungbam@gmail.com](mailto:jatishworirungbam@gmail.com)

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal,  
Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: +91  
8938896403.  
Email: [editorbionotes@gmail.com](mailto:editorbionotes@gmail.com)

Devanshu Gupta, Zoological Survey of India,  
Kolkata, India [devanshuguptagb4102@gmail.com](mailto:devanshuguptagb4102@gmail.com)

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## CONTENTS

AN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE TO THE GENUS <i>CALLINDRA</i> RÖBER (LEPIDOPTERA: EREBIDAE: ARCTIINAE) OF INDIA by Peter Smetacek, Ian J. Kitching & Stefan Naumann .....	171
RANGE EXTENSION OF <i>TARUCUS HAZARA</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) TO UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA by Susmita Prakash, Babita Sharma & Ashok Kumar.....	189
FAUNISTIC ACCOUNT ON SPHINGID MOTHS (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) OF MIZORAM, NORTHEAST INDIA: A PRELIMINARY CHECKLIST by Lalruatthara Hmar, B. Lalnghahpuii, Samuel Lalronunga, Lalrinmawia, Lalthanpuii Hnamte & Esther Lalhmingliani. ....	192
FIRST RECORD OF TAILLESS PLUSHBLUE <i>FLOS ARESTE</i> (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM WESTERN HIMALAYA, INDIA by Shankar Kumar, Param Jit Singh & Raj Shekhar Singh.....	210
FIRST RECORD OF THE INDIAN OAKBLUE <i>ARHOPALA ATRAX</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM DELHI, INDIA by Nishand Venugopal .....	213
NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD OF <i>HALPE AUCMA</i> SWINHOE, 1893 (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) FROM SIKKIM, INDIA by Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha & Monish Kumar Thapa.....	215
REPORT OF THE GENUS <i>EUHAMPSONIA</i> DYAR, 1897 (LEPIDOPTERA: NOTODONTIDAE) FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA by Jatishwor Singh Irungbam .....	217
NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD OF <i>LETHE BRISANDA</i> DE NICÉVILLE, 1886 (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE) FROM SIKKIM, INDIA by Dorjee Tshering Lepcha, Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha & Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha.....	221
A NEW ELEVATION RECORD FOR THE COMMON MORMON BUTTERFLY <i>PAPILIO POLYTES</i> (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONIDAE) FROM UTTARAKHAND, INDIA by Nikhil Ramola, Mayank Pandey, Deepak Kumar & Peter Smetacek .....	226
HANUMAN PLOVER <i>CHARADRIUS SEEBOHMI</i> (AVES: CHARADRIIFORMES: CHARADRIIDAE): AN ADDITION TO THE FAUNA OF KERALA, INDIA by Abdulla Pareli & Amal E. V .....	228

CONFIRMATION OF *ONCOBA SPINOSA* AS LARVAL HOST PLANT OF THE COMMON LEOPARD BUTTERFLY *PHALANTA PHALANTHA* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) IN DELHI, INDIA by Sandeep Kannan, Sambhava Jain, Sohail Madan & Rajesh Chaudhary.....232

CICADAS (INSECTA: HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE) RECORDED FROM DHEERPUR WETLAND PARK, DELHI by Jeenat, M. Ojit Kumar Singh, Phougeishangbam Rolish Singh & Suresh Babu.....236

HIGHEST ELEVATION RECORD OF THE GOLDEN SAPPHIRE BUTTERFLY *HELIOPHORUS BRAHMA* (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) FROM SIKKIM, INDIA by Sonam Wangchuk Lepcha, Monish Kumar Thapa, Dilip Dhakal Sharma, Dawa Lepcha, Sonam Pintso Sherpa & Lakpa Lepcha .....244

CONFIRMATION OF LESSER SWIRLED HAWKMOTH *MARUMBA INDICUS* (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) IN BIHAR, INDIA by Manu Manjula, Rajesh Kumar & Manish Bhardwaj.....250

## CONFIRMATION OF LESSER SWIRLED HAWKMOTH *MARUMBA INDICUS* (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) IN BIHAR, INDIA

MANU MANJULA<sup>1</sup>, RAKESH KUMAR<sup>1</sup> & MANISH BHARDWAJ<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>P.G. Department of Zoology, Magadh University, Bodh Gaya 824234 Bihar, India

<sup>2</sup>Department of Zoology, S.N. Sinha College, Warisaliganj, Nawada 805130 Bihar, India

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The Lesser Swirled Hawkmoth *Marumba indicus* (Walker, 1856) (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae) is a little-known moth reported from a few locations in India. So far, it has only been recorded from within India. The type locality is 'North India'. Bell & Scott (1937) reported it from the E. Himalaya and S. India, having bred it in the Kanara district of Karnataka. D'Abrera (1986) reported it from North and Central India. Smith (2010) reported it from Nepal. Melichar *et al.* (2018) reported it from E. Himalaya and S. India, noting that in Karnataka, it occurs in forested as well as open landscapes and is 'very rare'.

On August 15, 2024, a single male specimen of *M. indicus* was found at a private home in Rajgir, Bihar. It was being attacked by ants, who had bitten off the antennae. The specimen was collected and identified at the Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.

***Marumba indicus* (Walker, 1856)** (Figure 1)

*Smerinthus indicus*, Walker, 1856. *List Lep. Ins. British Mus.* viii: 254 (N. India)

*Marumba indicus*, Rothschild & Jordan, 1903. *Revision of Sphingidae.* p.283

Material examined: 1 ♂: 15. viii.2014 Rajgir, Bihar (73 m amsl)

Forewing length: 33 mm

Known distribution: E. Himalaya, southern India (Bell & Scott, 1937; Melichar *et al.*, 2018); Nepal (Smith, 2010).

The present record extends the known distribution of this moth to Bihar. Its known larval hostplants, *Sterculia villosa*, *Helicteres isora* (Sterculiaceae); *Bombax malabaricum* (Malvaceae) and *Grewia tiliaefolia* (Tiliaceae) (Melichar *et al.*, 2018) are present in the area and the presence of this moth is not unusual, since all known conditions for its colonization of the area are present.

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Figure 1. *Marumba indicus* Rajgir, Bihar