

FIRST RECORD OF *CELAENORRHINUS PULOMAYA* (HESPERIIDAE) FOR NEPAL

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Celaenorrhinus pulomaya (Moore, [1866]) Multi-spotted Flat

Moore (1865) described *C. pulomaya* from Darjeeling as *Plesioneura pulomaya*. However, he did not indicate that the description was of a new species, and referred to “*Hesperia pulomaya*, Moore, Cat. Lep. E. I. C. i. p. 252”, which appears to be Horsfield & Moore (1857/1858). This document had no description and no image of the species, did not indicate that it was a new species and referred to “*Hesperia Pulomaya*, Moore, *Proc. Zool. Soc. (ined.)*.” The latter does not appear to be a published document by Moore, assuming it was published before or at about the same time as Horsfield & Moore (1857/1958). Van Gasse (2018) and Varshney & Smetacek (2015) reported *C. pulomaya* (Moore, [1866]) from Himachal Pradesh to N.E. India. Van Gasse (2018) also listed it from Bhutan, most probably based on Evans (1949). Van der Poel *et al.* (2023) reported recent evidence of it from Bhutan based on a 2012 picture. Van der Poel & Smetacek (2022) listed some 160 species that were not yet recorded from Nepal but were expected to be flying all across Nepal or in east or west Nepal. The first species on this list was *Celaenorrhinus pulomaya*, also indicated

by Van Gasse (2018) as “doubtless” occurring in Nepal.

When checking the identification of species photographed during butterfly surveys in Astam, 15km N.W. of Pokhara, I came across a 2017 picture of a misidentified *Celaenorrhinus* species. It was *C. pyrrha* de Nicéville, 1889, which at the time had only been reported once from Eastern Bhutan, but was around the same time reported from central Nepal (KC, 2023). I wondered if there were any pictures of *C. pyrrha* among the pictures taken by Colin Smith to which I had access. I did not find any, but instead came across a 2009 picture labelled as *C. ratna* Fruhstorfer, 1909. However, it had the lower spot in space 1b considerably smaller than the upper spot. Hence, it appeared to be *C. pulomaya*. The identification was confirmed by Sajan KC.



The photograph of *C. pulomaya* was taken by Colin Smith on 14 September 2009 in Banthanti, below Ghorepani, in Kaski District of Gandaki Province in Central Nepal, at an elevation of 7,600 ft (2,320m). The individual was extracting nectar from a flower of the Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*). As the site is located in the Annapurna Conservation Area, I looked up the record in the butterfly booklet for that area (Smith, 2011), which showed a picture of a pinned specimen of *C. pulomaya*. Unfortunately, the specimen appeared not to be present in the Kathmandu and Annapurna Natural History Museums. The specimen was also was not the 2009 Banthanti individual, and there are no details in the Annapurna Conservation Area booklet.

This record means that in Nepal *C. ratna tytleri* is now again restricted to the Godavari and Shivapuri areas in Kathmandu Valley (M.S Limbu, *pers. comm.* 2023). *C. pulomaya* is likely to be present in other parts of Nepal. The most recently reported number of butterfly species for Nepal was 692 (Van der Poel & Smetacek, 2022). Earlier in 2023, Peter Smetacek (*pers. comm.*) reported that *Delias lativitta* Leech, 1893 ssp. *nepalica* Katayama, 2017 was overlooked. Thus, this new first record raises the number of butterfly species reported from Nepal to 694.

Multispotted Flat *Celaenorrhinus ratna tytleri*
 /ans 1926 (wingspan 40- 45 mm.)



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