

# FIRST RECORD OF *COLADENIA PINSBUKANA* (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE) LARGE-SPOT PIED FLAT FROM NEPAL, EXTENDING ITS DISTRIBUTION AREA WESTWARD

PIET VAN DER POEL

Noordwijkerhout, Netherlands

Corresponding author: [pipoel@yahoo.com](mailto:pipoel@yahoo.com).

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

## INTRODUCTION

*Coladenia pinsbukana* (Shimonoya & Murayama, 1976), the Large-spot Pied Flat, was described from Formosa (Taiwan) as *Pseudocoladenia pinsbukana*. It looks very similar to *Coladenia hoenei* Evans, 1939. Evans (1939) described *C. hoenei* from type locality “Tapai Shan, Tsinling, S. Shensi” (=Shaanxi), but also listed 5 specimens from “Tien Mu Shan, Lingan, Chekiang” (=Zhejiang). Unfortunately, Evans (1949) listed *C. hoenei* only from Chekiang, while the type locality was in Shaanxi. Huang & Xue (2004) wrongly reported the type locality of *C. hoenei* to be Zhejiang and FUNET (accessed May 2024) list it as “Chekiang”. Chiba *et al.* (2020) considered *pinsbukana* a good species, but placed it in *Coladenia* Moore, [1881]. Huang (2021) reported that *C. hoenei* is restricted to the Chinese provinces of Shaanxi, Gansu and Henan and that *C. pinsbukana* occurs in areas further south. He described ssp. *occidentalis* Huang, 2021 from Pu'er in Yunnan, and noted that it also occurs in Laos, Thailand and Sikkim (India). Chiba *et al.* (2020) indicated that the forewings of the two species look the same, but that the discal dots on the hindwing are

reduced in *pinsbukana*, while those of *hoenei* are more prominent.

*C. pinsbukana* was reported for Thailand by Yutaka Inayoshi (Yutaka website (accessed May 2024) and Ek-Amnuay, (2012). The occurrence of *C. pinsbukana* in Sikkim was reported on the website of IFB (accessed May 2024) from Dzongu Valley near Mangan in northern Sikkim on 25 April 2020. The first record of *Coladenia pinsbukana* for Bhutan was reported by Harada (1987), as *Coladenia hoenei*. He collected 2 specimens on 15 May 1983 in Punakha Dzongkhag, at 1600 m elevation. It was more recently photographed in Bhutan by Karma Wangdi on 5 May 2016 and 1 October 2019 in Zhemgang Dzongkhag (Van der Poel *et al.*, 2023).

## METHODS

The species was photographed during an opportunistic survey of potential “butterfly valley” areas in the Annapurna Conservation Area and near Pokhara in central Nepal. A Nikon D-7500 camera with an 18-140mm Nikkor zoom lens was used to record the species observed. The species was recognised as it was recently

reported from Bhutan under its current name, *Coladenia pinsbukana* (Van der Poel *et al.*, 2023).

## RESULTS

The survey area consisted of approximately 50m of riverbed and a narrow adjoining riverside shrub and forest area below the Jaljala waterfall above Pame, 7 km NW of Pokhara, at an elevation of around 1010m. The site was surveyed on 30 April 2024 from 09:00 to 13:00. Around 10:30 a butterfly flew up from the riverbed and briefly landed on a rock before flying off. This is the first record of *Coladenia pinsbukana* from Nepal. This record represents a 460 km eastward extension to the known distribution area of *C. pinsbukana*. With this record the number of known butterfly species in Nepal reaches 695.

## DISCUSSION

To my knowledge, *Coladenia pinsbukana* has been reported only 5 times from the Himalayas from Bhutan to central Nepal and not from Arunachal Pradesh or north Myanmar. Hence it should be considered as “extremely rare”, or rather, as extremely seldom observed. It is likely to occur in suitable habitats from north Myanmar to central Nepal, but appears to be very elusive.

## REFERENCES

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Huang, H. 2021. Taxonomy and morphology of Chinese butterflies 1 HesperIIDae: Pyrginae: Genera *Coladenia* Moore, [1881] and *Pseudocoladenia* Shirôzu & Saigusa, 1962. *Atalanta* 52 (4): 569–620.

Huang, H. & Y-P Xue. 2004. The Chinese *Pseudocoladenia* skippers (Lepidoptera, HesperIIDae). *Neue entomologische Nachrichten* 57: 171–177, pl. 14.

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## INTERNET SOURCES

FUNET:

<https://ftp.funet.fi/pub/sci/bio/life/insecta/lepidoptera/ditrysia/hesperioidea/hesperidae/pyrginae/coladenia/#hoenci>

IFB (Indian Foundation of Butterflies):  
<https://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/coladenia-hoenei>

Yutaka: A Check List of Butterflies in Indo-China - Chiefly from Thailand, Laos & Vietnam: <https://yutaka.it-n.jp/hes/90700001.html>

Yutaka Inayoshi: <https://yutaka.it-n.jp/hes/90700001.html>



Fig 1: Large-spot Pied Flat (*Coladenia pinsbukana*) photographed near Jaljala waterfall, Pokhara, Nepal © Piet van der Poel