

**CONFIRMATION OF CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE PAINTED
COURTESAN BUTTERFLY *EURIPUS CONSIMILIS* WESTWOOD,
1850 (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) IN DEHRA DUN,
UTTARAKHAND**

TEJASWINI PRAMOD MANKAR

Assistant Manager Probationer, Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra

Corresponding author: tejaswini.mankar@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Mackinnon & de Nicéville (1899) were the first to mention the presence of *Euripus consimilis* (Westwood, 1850) as a very rare sighting (two males and six females) from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Subsequently, Ollenbach (1930) studied the butterflies of Mussoorie town, which is part of Dehradun district, but he did not include Dehradun valley, and did not record this butterfly among the 149 species reported. Singh & Bhandari (2003) mentioned *E. consimilis* among those 28 species which were observed previously by Mackinnon & de Nicéville (1899) but were not observed during their survey in the Dehra Dun valley.

Singh & Sondhi (2016) reported the presence of *E. consimilis* in Dehra Dun valley, however, *E. consimilis* was again missing from Singh (1999) and Singh (2022), documenting 155 and 148 species of butterflies respectively, from New Forest spread over 450 hectares in the Dehra Dun valley.

Recently, I observed a single male of *E. consimilis* on April 6, 2022 inside the Central Academy for State Forest Service

campus, New Forest, at an elevation of around 670 m. This sighting confirms its continued presence in the Dun valley. The butterfly was observed for over a minute and photographed (Figures 1 & 2).

The butterfly was identified with the help of Kehimkar (2016), Smetacek (2018) and Sondhi *et al.*, (2018). The study area is as per the map of the New Forest (Singh, 2022). Although my observations on butterflies were carried out during all seasons of the year from August 2021 to July 2023, *E. consimilis* was only sighted once.

The known western limit of the distribution of *E. consimilis* is Dehradun, with its range extending eastwards to Assam and Myanmar (Wynter-Blyth, 1957); and in South India in Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats (Kehimkar, 2016). It has never been reported in numbers and this might be because the female appears to be a Batesian mimic of a generic Danaine model, perhaps *Parantica* Moore, [1883].

The recent observation of this butterfly in Dehradun confirms its continued presence at the western extremity of its distribution.

REFERENCES

Kehimkar, I. 2016. *BNHS Field Guides Butterflies of India*. Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai. pp xii+528.

Mackinnon, P.W. & L. de Nicéville. 1899. List of butterflies of Mussoorie in the Western Himalayas and neighbouring region. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 11: 205–221, 368–389, 585–605.

Ollenbach, O.C. 1930. Butterfly collection grounds at Mussoorie (U.P.). *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 34: 836–840.

Singh, A. P. 1999. New Forest, Dehra Dun, India: A unique man-made habitat for butterflies in the lower Western Himalayas. *Indian Forester* 125:913-922.

Singh, A.P. 2022. Butterflies of New Forest, Dehradun, India https://fri.icfre.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BUTTERFLIES-OF-NEW-FOREST-CAMPUS-Arun-P.Singh2_.pdf.

Singh, A.P. & R.S. Bhandari. 2003. Butterfly diversity in tropical moist deciduous sal (*Shorea robusta*) forests of Dehradun Valley: the lower western Himalayas. *Indian Forester* 129(10): 1257–1269.

Singh, A. P. & Sondhi, S. 2016. Butterflies of Garhwal, Uttarakhand, Western Himalaya, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 8(4): 8666–8697.

Smetacek, P. 2018. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Butterflies of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka*. Prakash Books, New Delhi. 176 pp.

Wynter-Blyth, M.A.1957. *Butterflies of the Indian Region*. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay. xx + 523 pp., 72 pl.

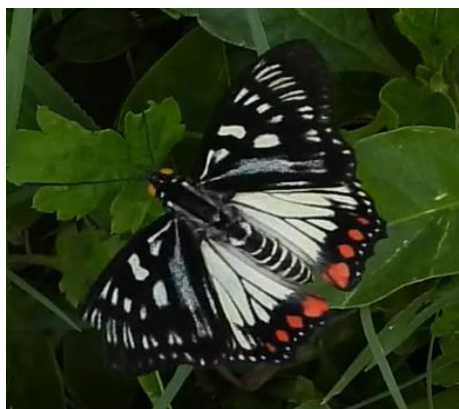
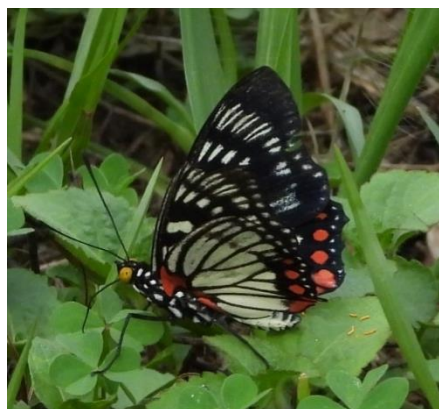


Fig 1: Painted Courtesan UN Male **Fig 2:** Painted Courtesan UP Male