

**EXTENSION OF THE KNOWN DISTRIBUTION OF THE CLUB SILVERLINE BUTTERFLY, *SPINDASIS SYAMA* (HORSEFIELD, 1829) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) TO SATPURA TIGER RESERVE, MADHYA PRADESH**

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**Abstract**

A Club Silverline was recorded at Satpura Tiger Reserve on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at 12:21 pm near Ramya Kund in Pachmarhi at an approx. elevation of 1100 m.

**Keywords:** Satpura Tiger Reserve, range extension, India, butterflies

**Introduction**

Club Silverline (*Spindasis syama*) is a Lycaenid butterfly that occurs in Odisha and from Sikkim to Myanmar (Evans, 1932). Wynter-Blyth (1957) noted that it is a jungle species which is common at low elevations. Kehimkar (2008) reports this species to be found from Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast and Odisha, commonly seen from March to November up to an elevation of 1200 m. Kehimkar (2008) also noted that it flies in sunshine and is a forest dweller. Kehimkar (2016) has reported the species from West Bengal, Jharkhand, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh as well.

**Material and Methods**

Butterflies of Satpura Tiger Reserve were surveyed between 8-10<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 as part of the Butterfly Survey cum Awareness Camp in Pachmarhi under the joint aegis of Satpura Tiger Reserve and State Ecotourism Development Board. The purpose of this camp was to create awareness among people regarding the lifecycle, habitat and importance of butterflies and to identify the various

species of butterflies found in Satpura Tiger Reserve.

During the survey on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 the butterfly was sighted and photographed at 12:21 pm by the first author near Ramyakund at an approx. elevation of 1100 m. The path leading to Ramya Kund offers vast hilly forests landscape covered with bamboo thickets, jamun and sal trees. Club Silverline was spotted sitting on bush on a hillside.

Field identification was not possible, but it was clearly something new, so the second author also photographed the species as a backup record. After returning to the camp site Ashok Sengupta identified it as a Club Silverline and later Peter Smetacek confirmed the identity.

**Discussion**

This is the first record of Club Silverline from Central India. The genus is not known to migrate, so it is likely that the specimen observed is from a resident population. The present record extends the known distribution of this species over 600 km south and west of its previous known range limits in Odisha and Nepal. Hoshangabad district has not been well surveyed for butterflies and there is every likelihood that further new records of butterflies will emerge when proper surveys are undertaken.

**Acknowledgement**

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<http://www.madhyapradesh.tourism.com/touristattractions/pachmarhi.html>



Fig.1: *Spindasis syama*