

***EPICROCIS OEGNUSALIS* (WALKER, 1859) (LEPIDOPTERA: PYRALIDAE), A NEW RECORD FOR SIKKIM**

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ABSTRACT

This study presents the first photographic evidence of *Epicrocis oegnusalis* (Walker, 1859), from Sikkim, India, which was attracted to a light-trap. This discovery enhances the understanding of the distribution of *E. oegnusalis*.

INTRODUCTION

Epicrocis oegnusalis (Walker, 1859) belongs to the family Pyralidae. Adult individuals have a wingspan ranging from 19.0 to 21.5 mm. *E. oegnusalis* can be found in China (Fujian, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taiwan, Yunnan), as well as in Australia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and various parts of Africa (Liu & Li, 2020); within India, it was recorded as occurring ‘throughout India’ (Hampson, 1896). Since Sikkim was not a part of ‘India’ as understood at the time, the

present record extends the known distribution of this species to this state. Recently, *E. oegnusalis* was documented from West Bengal (Shah *et al.*, 2018).

OBSERVATION

Epicrocis oegnusalis (Walker, 1859) (*Pyralis*); TL: Ceylon (Sri Lanka)

Distribution: China (Fujian, Guangdong, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taiwan, Yunnan), as well as in Australia, Bangladesh, Myanmar, India, Indonesia, New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and various parts of Africa (Liu & Li, 2020); throughout India (Hampson, 1896).

Remarks: This species has been newly recorded in Sikkim and represents the first photographic record from the Eastern Himalaya. The moth was recorded from Rimbi, West Sikkim District, Geyzingat (7°18’56”N 88°11’17”E), 1268 m amsl.

On the night of May 21, 2024 at 21:49, SPS used a light trap to photograph night-flying moths leading to the record of this species.

REFERENCES

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Liu, H. & H. Li. 2020. Review of the genus *Epicrocis* Zeller, 1848 in China (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae), with descriptions of three new species. *Zootaxa* 4834(1): 133–144.

Shah, S. K., A. Das, R. Dutta & B. Mitra. 2018. A Current List of the Moths (Lepidoptera) of West Bengal. *Bionotes* 20(2&3): 24-52; 88-91.



Figure 1-2: *Epicrocis oegnusalis* (Walker, 1859), recorded from study area. 1. Lateral; 2. Dorsal