

NEW RECORD OF THE GENUS *THYMISTIDA* (LEPIDOPTERA: DREPANIDAE) FROM UTTARAKHAND

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INTRODUCTION

The Drepanid genus *Thymistida* Walker, 1865 has been reported from central Nepal (Watson, 1968; Yazaki, 1992) eastwards to China and southwards to Myanmar (Watson, 1968). Three species are reported from the Indian subcontinent, *T. tripunctata* Walker, 1865; *T. nigrinicta* Warren, 1923 and *T. undilineata* Warren, (1923) by Watson (1968). Watson (1968) noted that *T. nigrinicta* can be distinguished from *T. tripunctata* by the shorter antennal pectinations in the male (longest pectination equal to about three quarters greatest width of eye), the distinctively shaped costa of the forewing, and by the male and female genitalia. *T. tripunctata* has much larger antennal pectinations in the male (longest pectination equal to over twice greatest width of eye), the less sinuous costa of the forewing, and by the male and female genitalia (Watson, 1968).

The genus is usually montane and has been reported from two sites, Godavari (1600 m) and Mt. Phulchoki (2075-2275 m) in May and June in Nepal by Yazaki (1992); both these sites and Gusum Banjyang (2600 m) in May, June and September (Dierl, 1968) and from several sites between 1600 – 3100 m by Wilkinson (1972). In India, *T. tripunctata* has been

recorded from N.E. India; it also occurs in N. Myanmar and China (Watson, 1968).

T. nigrinicta is reported from N.E. India and N. Myanmar; the lectotype is from the “Khasis” (Meghalaya) (Watson, 1968). In fact, there appear to be no records from north of the Brahmaputra river.

On 9.xi.2022, a single male belonging to this genus attended a mercury vapour lamp set up on the verandah of the Butterfly Research Centre (1500 m), Bhimtal, Uttarakhand. This is the first record of the genus from the western Himalaya.

On the basis of the antennal pectination, we placed the newly recorded Uttarakhand specimen as *T. nigrinicta*, since the longest pectinations are clearly not twice the diameter of the eye, but closer to three-quarters the diameter of the eye (figure 3).

DISCUSSION

Wilkinson (1972) treated *T. nigrinicta* as a junior synonym of *T. tripunctata* without explanation and illustrated two female forms for the species, a pale (typical) form and a dark form. This arrangement was probably also followed by Yazaki (1992), so according to this, the present record would be a range extension for *T. tripunctata* rather than *T. nigrinicta*. There is no record whether the 9 males and

21 females recorded from Nepal and noted by Wilkinson (1972) had variations in the antennal pectination; certainly, there are two forms of the female, both of which are illustrated by Wilkinson (1968), which is an unusual feature for the family.

Yazaki (1992) reported *T. tripunctata* from Nepal on the basis of eight specimens comprising four pairs, but the specimen they illustrated on plate 1 figure 2 is a female, lacking pectination on the antennae.

The present record is a major extension to the known distribution of the genus *Thymistida* and especially for the taxon *T. nigrinicta*, which was previously only reported from Meghalaya and northern Myanmar (Watson, 1968).

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Figure 1: *Thymistida nigritincta* **recto**. Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.



Figure 3: *Thymistida nigritincta* showing male antennae and eye. Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.



Figure 2: *Thymistida nigritincta* **verso**. Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.