

**FIRST RECORD OF KING CROW *EUPLOEA KLUGII*
(INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM THE
KUMAON HIMALAYA, INDIA**

AMBICA AGNIHOTRI

Uttarakhand Forest Research Institute, Haldwani
ambicaagnihotri99@gmail.com

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

The King Crow *Euploea klugii* (Moore, 1858), is a butterfly belonging to the Nymphalidae family. It has a wingspan of about 8-10 cm. There are two forms, a brown and a blue form: both forms occur together in N.E. India but only the brown form occurs in southern India. In the caterpillar stage, the insect feeds on toxic plants like milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) or milk sap releasing plants. The tribe Daniniinae is known for having evolved protection against predation by storing cardenolide toxins in the body. *E. klugii* is reported to occur from Central Nepal to Northeast India, Gujarat, West Bengal, Sri Lanka, Bihar and Thailand (Smetacek, 2017). The butterfly was recently reported from Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh (Mishra *et al.*, 2016).

On 16.xi.2021 a butterfly survey was conducted in Bhujiyaghat (29°18.45"N; 79°31.41"E), situated at 624 m elevation in Uttarakhand. The area has subtropical evergreen forests and lies in between Haldwani and Jeolikote in the Shivalik range which forms the foothills of the Himalaya. The

area is surrounded by mountains and lies in a valley, therefore it has a humid and warm climate suitable for tropical flora and fauna. While conducting the butterfly survey, a male *E. klugii* was photographed around 1 p.m. The butterfly was not reported earlier from Uttarakhand. This is an addition to the known butterflies of Uttarakhand and extends the known distribution of the butterfly further westwards from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

References

Mishra, S., A. Kumar, P. Smetacek & A. Kanaujia. 2016. First report of *Euploea klugii* from Uttar Pradesh, India. *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 113: 33.

Smetacek, P. 2016. *A Naturalist's Guide to the Butterflies of India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka*. John Beafroy Publishing Limited, Oxford. 176 pp.

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Figs.1 & 2: *Euploea klugii*