

FIRST RECORD OF THE ZEBRA SKIPPER *SPIALIA ZEBRA* (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE)

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Spialia zebra (Butler 1888) was described from 12 specimens taken at Chittar Pahar, Campbellpore (= Attock), Punjab, Pakistan. *Hesperia hellas* de Niceville, 1889 was described from the same locality and synonymised with *S. zebra* by Swinhoe (1912).

It is distinguished by the discal band on the underside hindwing being continuous with the outer spot in space 7, the inner spot being adjoined to the basal cell spot. On the underside, the hindwing discal band is straight and directed to the tornus. On the upperside, the basal cell spot is absent (Evans, 1949).

On the Indian subcontinent, it is reported from the “Margalla hills; the northern part of Punjab, “Azad Kashmir” = Pakistan occupied Kashmir; Islamabad and south-eastern part of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa” in Pakistan (Tshikolovets & Pages, 2016). According to them, the habitat is dry xerophite (*sic.*) places and cultivated areas in lowlands or arid foothills.

On 8.xi.2014, a specimen of *S. zebra* was photographed at Sagwara (23.6623 N; 74.0348 E), tehsil Sagwara, district Dungarpur, Rajasthan, India. Several individuals were

observed from 1.20 pm to 1.57 pm and one was collected and deposited in the collection of the Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, with a forewing length of 11 mm. This is an extension to the known distribution by more than 1100 km southwards. The butterfly is difficult to observe because it is quite small and flies rapidly low over the ground.

References

- Evans, W.H. 1949. *A catalogue of the HesperIIDae from Europe, Asia and Australia in the British Museum*. British Museum, London. 502 pp., 53 pl.
- Swinhoe, C. 1912-1913. Rhopalocera. Family HesperIIDae. Sub-families Celaenorrhinae, Hesperiinae, Pamphilinae, Astictopterine, Suastinae, Erionotinae, Matapinae, Notocryptinae, Plastingiinae, Erynninae. *Lepidoptera Indica* 10. L. Reeve & Co., London. 363 pp, 757-823 pl.
- Tshikolovets, V. & J. Pages. 2016. The butterflies of Palaearctic Asia. XII. The butterflies of Pakistan (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera). Privately published by V. Tshikolovets, Pardubice, Czechia. 318 pp., 67 pl.



Fig.1: *Spialia zebra* upperside

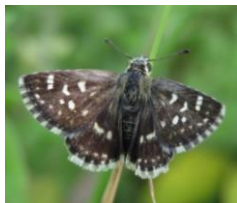


Fig.2: *Spialia zebra*