

AN ADDITION TO THE KNOWN AGANAINAE FAUNA (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: EREBIDAE) OF INDIA

B. LALNGHAHPUI¹ & PETER SMETACEK²

¹*Systematics and Toxicology Laboratory, Department of Zoology, Mizoram University, Aizawl
796004, Mizoram, India.*

lalnanaui@gmail.com

²*Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, India 263 136*

Reviewer: Jatishwor Irungbam

Introduction

According to Holloway (1998), the genus *Agape* Felder, 1875 is characterized by the bright yellow ground colour with orange spots or fasciae on the forewing. At the base of the forewing and on the thorax occur small black spots, the abdomen is banded with yellow and blue-black, often with the apex broadly the latter colour. The male lacks a retinaculum; the antennae are filiform, with short cilia.

The genus includes five species of which only *A. chloropyga* (Walker, 1854) occurs on the Asian mainland; remaining the four found on Pacific islands. *A. chloropyga* is also known from Sundaland, Moluccas, New Guinea, Queensland (Holloway, 1998) and Cambodia (Bayarsaikhan *et al.*, 2016).

Although in the generic treatment, Bayarsaikhan *et al.* (2016) noted that species of the genus are light yellow, with orange spots or fascia on the forewing, yet in describing the species *chloropyga*, it is noted that *A. chloropyga* differs from any other Aganaine by having golden yellowish wings with five brown spots at the median area and two black spots at the basal area of the forewing.

It is possible that the description of the genus followed Holloway (1998) but the description of the species was based on the material before the author and described in their own language.

Material Examined

India, Mizoram, Aizawl District, Hmuifang, 23°27'01''N 92°45'26''E, 1472 m, 4.xi.2019, 12.30 h IST. 1 male, Leg. Peter Smetacek, Coll. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

Forewing length: 31 mm: Expanse: 70 mm.

Differs from the generic and specific description by Holloway (1998) in that the spots on the forewing are brown, as noted by Bayarsaikhan *et al.* (2016) in their description of the specimens they examined from Laos.

This is an addition of a genus as well as species to the known Indian fauna. Only a single specimen was seen and recorded in over a week of surveys in the Hmuifang area. It was attracted to a mercury vapour lamp reflected off a white sheet.

Acknowledgement

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References

Bayarsaikhan, U., S.-M. Na & Y.-S. Bae. 2016. Review of the subfamily Aganainae (Lepidoptera: Erebidae) from Cambodia. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity* 9(2): 219-229.

Holloway, J.D. 1998. *Moths of Borneo*, Part 6. Arctiidae, Syntominiinae, Euchromiinae, Arctiinae, Aganainae (to Noctuidae). Southdene Sdn. Bht., Kuala Lumpur. 101 pp., 168 figs, 6 pl.



Fig.1: Adult of *Agape chloropyga* (Walker, 1854), dorsal view



Fig.2: Adult of *Agape chloropyga* (Walker, 1854), ventral view