

FIRST RECORD OF *PONTIA DAPLIDICE MOOREI* ROBER, 1907 (LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE) FROM BIHAR, INDIA

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INTRODUCTION

Within India, *Pontia daplidice* has a known distribution range from Jammu and Kashmir to Uttarakhand (Kehimkar 2008; Singh 2010); Kehimkar (2016) reported it from Arunachal Pradesh; Naro & Sondhi (2013) recorded it from Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh; Singh & Gogoi (2013) reported it from Assam and Manipur. Smetacek (2002) found this as a very common species in the Himalayan foothills of Kumaon (Uttarakhand) and mentioned that this species can be observed on the wing from March to July.

In Bihar, we observed this species in February 2024 for the first time and photographed it successfully on 02 March 2024, while it was nectaring on flowers of *Coriandrum sativum* near Sirsa village (Block Motihari and district East Champaran).

DISCUSSION

The present observation is significant since the species has been mostly recorded at

high elevations, while we recorded *P. daplidice* at 65m elevation (26.61177483°N 84.98377036°E. Subsequently a total of four individuals of *P. daplidice* were observed in two different localities, namely Sirsa and Madhubanighat (Block Motihari and district East Champaran). The species has been recorded throughout Nepal at all months except January, from 140 -3700 m elevation (Poel & Smetacek, 2022). Its appearance in East Champaran district is therefore not surprising, since this district borders Nepal to the north and it is possible that the specimens recorded descended to the plains of Bihar from Nepal.

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Fig 1: *Pontia daplidice* nectaring on *Coriandrum sativum*.



Motihari - Madubanighat - Pakridayal Rd, Sirsamal, Bihar 845416, India

Latitude
26.61178141°

Local 04:53:13 PM
GMT 11:23:13 AM

Longitude
84.9837737°

Altitude 65 m
Saturday, 02.03.2024

Fig 2: GPS tagged photograph of *Pontia daplidice*.