

SIGHTING OF COMMON CERULEAN *JAMIDES CELENO* (CRAMER, [1775]) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN ARAVALLIS OF HARYANA BORDERING DELHI, INDIA

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The butterfly Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno* is distributed in most parts of India including Peninsular India, West Bengal, Uttarakhand to North East India, eastern part of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh (Sharma, 2014; Varshney, 2015; Kehimkar, 2016; De, *et al.* 2023). It has been recently reported from Jammu & Kashmir (Sheikh, 2019). There is no published or confirmed record of this butterfly from Haryana, and a report mentioning this butterfly from Delhi does not provide photographic evidence or voucher evidence (Biswas, *et al.* 2017). *J. celeno* keeps itself low among bushes and prefers partly shady habitat; has a weak fluttering type of flight and rests on leaves (Wynter-Blyth, 1957).

On the cloudy afternoon of 23.09.2023, a female *J. celeno* was sighted in partly shady surroundings at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Gurugram, Haryana (28°29'08"N, 77°06'52"E). The park – an ecological restoration area, is situated in Aravalli hills along the administrative boundary of Delhi and Haryana. The butterfly was observed for 5-7 minutes and photographed with a digital camera (Figure 1). It fluttered for a few minutes

close to its larval host plant (*Abrus precatorius*), after which it settled on a nearby plant. The present communication therefore provides the photographic evidence of *Jamides celeno* from Aravalli landscape of Haryana-Delhi.

It would be interesting to keep track of natural history and sighting records of this butterfly to elucidate if the sighted individual is a stray or accidentally transported; or the butterfly is in the process of expanding its range to this part of North West India.

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Figure : Female *Jamides celeno* sighted in Aravallis of Haryana bordering Delhi.