

## REPORT ON A LIVE GYNANDROMORPH OF THE COLOR SERGEANT BUTTERFLY *ATHYMA NEFTE INARA* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM INDIA

KURBAN KHAN<sup>1</sup>, RAJIB DEY<sup>2</sup>, ATANU BOSE<sup>3</sup>, SHANTANU DEY<sup>4</sup>, ANITAVA ROY<sup>5</sup> AND SOURABH BISWAS<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Fairy Bluebird Homestay, Jainiti, Alipurduar 735227, West Bengal, India.

<sup>2</sup> Amarabati Road, Madhyamgram, Kolkata 700130, West Bengal, India

\* [rajibdev88@gmail.com](mailto:rajibdev88@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup> Sadananda Nagar, Salbari, Bongaigaon 783380, Assam, India

<sup>4</sup> 1A-Anupama Apartment, 40C, Dharmatala Road, Bosepukur, Kolkata 700042, West Bengal, India

<sup>5</sup> Birsingha, Bonbirsingha, Bankura 722209, West Bengal, India

<sup>6</sup> Behaviour and Ecology Lab, Dept. of Biological Science, Indian Institute of Science and Research Kolkata, Nadia 741246, West Bengal, India.

Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

### Abstract

A gynandromorph of *Athyma nefte inara* (Westwood, 1850) was photographed in West Bengal, India. Gynandromorphism in *Athyma nefte inara* was first reported by Wankhar (2020), based on a single, unlabelled museum specimen from India. The present study confirms gynandromorphism in *Athyma nefte inara* in India.

**Keywords:** *Athyma nefte*, Colour Sergeant, developmental architecture, gynandromorphism, India.

### Introduction

Gynandromorphism is an abnormal architecture, resulting in chimeric individuals, which combine patches of both genetically male and female type tissues (Narita *et al.*, 2010). Based on an unlabelled museum specimen, Wankhar (2020) reported gynandromorph specimens of *Athyma nefte inara* (Westwood, 1850) and *Ixias pyrene* (Linnaeus, 1764) from the Wankhar Memorial Museum of Entomology at Riatsamthiah, Shillong, Meghalaya, India. Prior to this, Chaturvedi (1992) reported a gynandromorphy of *Curetis thetis* from India. To date, multiple papers have enlarged the knowledge of the occurrence throughout the world of butterfly individuals presenting phenotypically male and female parts (Emmel & Boender, 1990; Narita *et al.*, 2007; Bolino & Padron, 2016).

An opportunistic field survey was undertaken from 21.xi.2021 to 23.xi.2021 in low elevation dense forest of the Jayanti area in West Bengal, India. A single basking half female-half male *A. nefte inara* was sighted and photographed by all authors at the Indo-Bhutan Asiatic Elephant Corridor (26°42' N; 89°36' E), Jayanti river bed, West Bengal, India on 22.xi.2021 at about 12:30 PM. It was observed for more than two hours at the same place. This identity was confirmed using Kehimkar (2016).

### Results

The sex-related traits of the gynandromorph of *A. nefte inara* examined in the study, show that all distinguishing characteristics (Forewing (Fw) cell streak, Fw spot beyond cell, Fw and Hw discal band) of the left wing are female (bright orange), while all those of the right wing are male.

The authors observed that the female wings are rather larger than the male wings, as is normal for the species. Thus, the present record confirms the presence of gynandromorphism in *Athyma nefte inara* in India.

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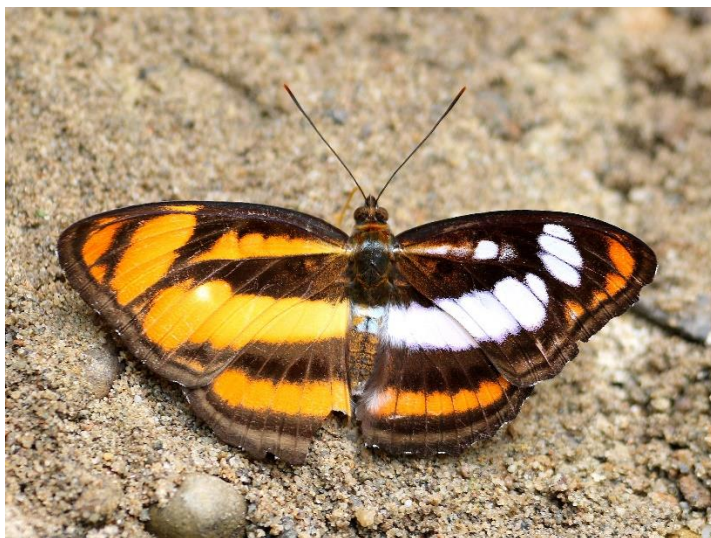


Fig.1: Gynandromorph butterfly of *Athyma nefte inara* from Jayanti riverbed, West Bengal, India.