

# Bugs & ALL

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the  
Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

## Red Helen of the evergreen forests found for the first time in western West Bengal



Red Helen *Papilio helenus* sighted in Raibaghini in West Bengal, India

This paper presents the first record of Red Helen *Papilio helenus* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Papilionidae) from Bankura in western West Bengal.

*Papilio helenus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is a black-bodied swallowtail butterfly. This butterfly is very common in evergreen heavy rainfall forests (Wynter-Blyth 1944; Gupta & Majumdar 2012). It was reported from western, eastern, and central Himalaya and from northeastern and peninsular India (Evans 1932; Wynter-Blyth 1957; Varshney & Smetacek 2015).

Opportunistic survey (Williams 2015) was carried out in Raibaghini (23°025N &

87°559E), a village under Kotulpur Block of Bankura District in West Bengal. On 15 August 2017, the author photographed a butterfly. The image was identified as Red Helen according to Evans (1932), Kehimkar (2008), and Bhakare & Ogale (2018).

There is no record of the species from Odisha and western or southern West Bengal (Goswami et al. 2018). The species was also not reported from Purulia District which is situated most west side of West Bengal and Kolkata which is situated on the East bank of Hoogly river (Mukherjee et al. 2015; Samanta et al. 2017). Therefore, this is the first record of the species from western West Bengal.

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## Raibaghini in Bankura, West Bengal, India

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