

# Bugs & All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

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

## First record of Vagrant *Vagrans egista sinha* from Uttar Pradesh, India



**Vagrant *Vagrans egista sinha* perching**

The butterfly diversity of Uttar Pradesh is still unexplored and relatively less studied by the researchers. There are only a few checklists from the state that are deficient to represent the complete order Lepidoptera (Sharma 2007; Kumar 2012).

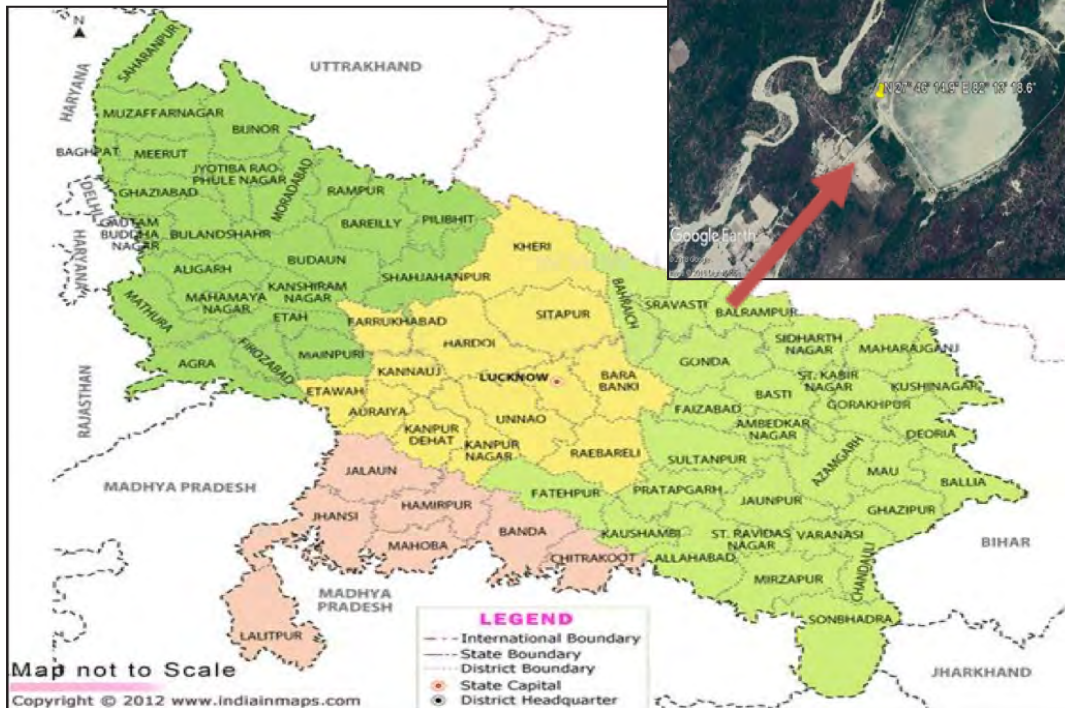
This paper reports the first record of the Vagrant *Vagrans egista sinha* (Kollar, 1844) (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea: Nymphalidae) from Uttar Pradesh, India. The species is

known from Himachal Pradesh (Kirti et al. 2016), Uttarakhand to northeastern India, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Odisha (Varshney & Smetacek 2015).

During a field study on 29 December 2018, *V. egista sinha* was recorded along the Khairman Reservoir in Balrampur District of Uttar Pradesh, India. The reservoir is located at 27.770N & 82.221E and spread over 185.27ha. Balrampur is a part of the

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Map of Uttar Pradesh showing Khairman Reservoir located in Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Balrampur.

Terai region ecosystem, which is made up of tall wet grasslands and swamps where many threatened species thrive and the area is top priority for conservation (Rahmani 1992; Javed 1996; Rahmani & Islam 2000). The region is an important biodiversity hotspot for the state and plays a vital role in housing rich biodiversity within the three protected areas of Dudhwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary, and Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary (Kumar et al. 2002).

The butterfly was observed perching and feeding on *Lantana camara*. The

photographs were taken using 7D DSLR Canon camera. The species was identified as Vagrant *V. egista sinha* on the basis of the cell that has three black sinuous lines and a line along the disco-cellulars. The interspaces beyond the apex of the cell are dark brown, the dark colour continues out in interspace 4 and joins a broad oblique short band from the costa. The dusky-brown shading at the bases of interspaces 1–3 darkens outwards; other identifying features incorporate a transverse postdiscal series of dark brown spots, intervallic by large quadrate dark brown marks in interspace 4



and below costa; a subterminal lunular line and a broad terminal band dark brown or black (Bingham 1905).

This first record of *Vagrans egista sinha* shows that there are gaps in our information on the current knowledge on the distribution of butterflies in Uttar Pradesh. Further extensive biodiversity surveys and systematic studies are required to update the butterfly fauna of the state.

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