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Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South-Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

Butterflies of Tatamari Eco Centre, Chhattisgarh, India

Silver Royal *Ancema blanka* is a species of the Lycaenidae family commonly known as blue butterflies, chiefly reported from the Indomalayan realm. The species was first described by Lionel de Niceville in 1894. It was first recorded in the Indian subcontinent at Nilgiri in 1941 and reported in 1943 by Wynter-Blyth (1957). It is a rare butterfly recently recorded from Kunjappanni in 2015 by Jeevith et al. (2017) and now it is legally protected in India under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. In the present survey during a trip for discovery of medicinal plants in Keshkal Forest Division and Kanger Valley National Park, Chhattisgarh, the species was first photographed from central India.

The Chhattisgarh State shows abundant diversity of butterflies with 164 species documented (Chandra 2006; Chandra et al. 2014; Sharma & Chandra 2009; Sisodia 2019; Sisodia & Kshirsagar 2020; Tandan et al. 2020). Chhattisgarh has more diversity of butterflies in its tropical, hot, and humid climate; the bordering highlands and plateaus between the Eastern and Western Ghats are good habitats for butterflies with a dense forest and water bodies. Present study was done in the trip 'Jal-Jangal Yatra: For the

discovery of medicinal plants' organized by Keshkal Forest Division of Kondagaon District in association with Chhattisgarh Vigyan Sabha (CGVS), a non-governmental organisation working for developing scientific temper among the people and exploring biodiversity in the state Chhattisgarh. During this trip of 10 km long trekking, 73 species of medicinal plants were observed which are used traditionally by local tribes to treat various diseases and 42 species of butterflies were also recorded. One of them was a rare species, listed under schedule II of WPA-1972 in India.

Tatamari is a plateau and historical heritage site in Keshkal FD spread over 150 acres. The forest type at the study area is classified as mixed forest about 16,346.02 ha of sal forest, cane and bamboo brakes, reserve area, and indistinct forest area. The climate is hot-humid to dry in this area whereas March to May shows hot, June to September is rainy, autumn in October and November to February is cold season.

Tatamari is a hill station where the Eco Center is developed to promote ecotourism and explore biodiversity with sustainable development and enhancement of livelihood

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Table 1. List of the butterflies recorded from Tatamari Eco Centre, Keshkal Forest Division, district-Kondagaon, Chhattisgarh, India (09–11 October 2020).

	Family	Subfamily	Common name	Scientific name	Distribution in India (Varshney & Smetacek 2015)
Order: Lepidoptera					
1	Papilionoidea	Papilioninae	Lime Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demoleus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India below 2000 m elevation
2			Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India below 2000 m elevation
3			Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i> Cramer 1775	Peninsular India as far north as West Bengal and Bangladesh, to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.
4			Common Banded Peacock	<i>Papilio crino</i> Fabricius 1793	Peninsular India as far north as West Bengal.
5			Common Mime	<i>Papilio clytia</i> Linnaeus 1758	Throughout India except Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan, elevation. below 2750 m.
6			Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i> (C & R. Felder 1864)	Jammu & Kashmir to N.E India. South India to W. Bengal
7	Pieridae	Coliadinae	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius 1775)	Throughout India
8			Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India
9			Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India including Andaman & Nicobar Islands
10			Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i> (Stoll 1780)	Throughout India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
11		Pierinae	Indian Wanderer	<i>Pareronia hippia</i> (Fabricius 1787)	Throughout India except Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Rajasthan.
12	Lycaenidae	Polyommatae	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i> (Fabricius 1775)	Throughout India including Andaman and Nicobar Islands
13			Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i> (Fabricius 1787)	Throughout India, W. Bengal and Sikkim to N.E India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
14			Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i> (Moore 1865)	Throughout India; Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
15			Angled Pierrot	<i>Caleta decidia</i> (Hewitson 1876)	Peninsular India; Sikkim to N.E India
16			Common Lineblue	<i>Prosotas nora</i> (C. Felder 1860)	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (All Nicobars).
17			Pointed Ciliate Blue	<i>Anthene lycaenina</i> (R. Felder 1868)	Gujarat southwards to Kerala and eastwards to Odisha and West Bengal.
18			Dingy Lineblue	<i>Petrelaea dana</i> (de Nicéville 1884)	Uttarakhand to N.E India; Maharashtra to Kerala; Jharkhand and Andaman Islands.

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	Family	Subfamily	Common name	Scientific name	Distribution in India (Varshney & Smetacek 2015)
19	Lycaenidae	Polyommatae	Common Hedge Blue	<i>Acytolepis puspa</i> (Horsfield 1828)	Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Nicobar and central Nicobar Islands).
20		Theclinae	Common Shot Silverline	<i>Spindasis ictis</i> (Hewitson 1865)	Rajasthan northwards to Himachal Pradesh, eastwards to West Bengal and southwards to Kerala.
21			Monkey Puzzle	<i>Rathinda amor</i> (Fabricius 1775)	Kerala to N.E India.
22 #			Silver Royal	<i>Ancema blanka</i> (de Nicéville 1894)	Sikkim to N.E India.
23	Hesperiidae	Coeliadnae	Common Banded Awl	<i>Hasora chromus</i> (Cramer 1780)	Throughout India and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
24	Nymphalidae	Danainae	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India
25			Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i> (Cramer [1780])	Throughout India, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
26		Satyrinae	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India
27			Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i> (Linnaeus 1763)	Maharashtra to Kerala.
28			Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i> (Fabricius 1775)	Himachal Pradesh to N.E India.
29			Dark-branded Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis mineus</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	
30		Heliconiinae	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i> (Drury 1773)	Throughout India.
31		Limnitiidinae	Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hylas</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Andaman Island, Uttarakhand to N.E India, southern Nicobar Island, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand southwards to Kerala
32			Colour Sergeant	<i>Athyma inara</i> Westwood 1850	Uttarakhand to N.E India; Karnataka to Kerala and northwards to Odisha.
33			Staff Sergeant	<i>Athyma selenophora</i> (Kollar 1844)	N.E India.
34			Baronet	<i>Euthalia nais</i> (Forster 1771)	Tamil Nadu to Gujarat and Rajasthan, eastwards to West Bengal and along the Himalaya from Uttarakhand to West Bengal
35			Grey Count	<i>Tanaecia lepidea</i> (Butler 1868)	Uttarakhand to N.E India.
36			Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India
37		Gray Pansy	<i>Junonia atlites</i> (Linnaeus 1763)	Throughout India	
38		Nymphalinae	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Sikkim to N.E India, Jammu & Kashmir to Uttarakhand, Rajasthan to Kerala and eastwards to Jharkhand
39		Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i> (Cramer [1779])	Jammu & Kashmir to N.E India	

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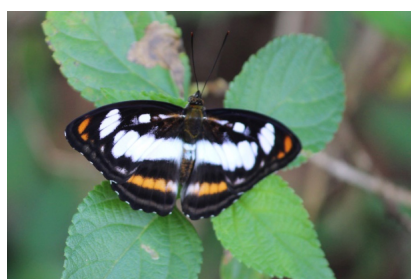
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	Family	Subfamily	Common name	Scientific name	Distribution in India (Varshney & Smetacek 2015)
40	Nymphalidae	Nymphalinae	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Sikkim to N.E India, Nicobar Islands, J&K to Kerala and W. Bengal
41			Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnys bolina</i> (Linnaeus 1758)	Throughout India except very arid region
42		Acraeinae	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea violae</i> (Fabricius 1793)	Throughout India

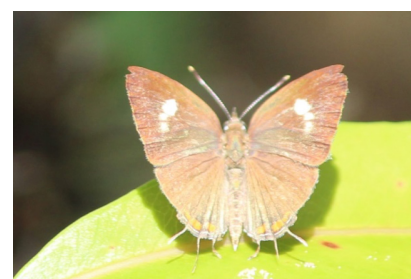
New record added to the state fauna of butterflies, Chhattisgarh in the present study.



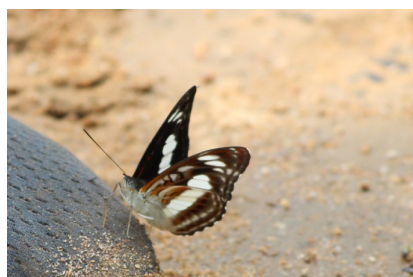
Angled Pierrot © H.N. Tandan.



Colour Sergeant © H.N. Tandan.



Monkey Puzzle © H.N. Tandan.



Staff Sergeant © H.N. Tandan.



Common Shot Silverline © Gulab Chand.



Silver Royal © H.N. Tandan.



Common Hedge Blue © H.N. Tandan.

of 'Paradhee' and other local tribes. Tatamari and other plateaus are not only rich in biodiversity but there is evidence of residence, cave painting, stone paintings and boundary wall of primitive man eater tiny men, locally

known as 'Uikas'.

The Jal Jangal Yatra started started at approximately 0530 h, from the base camp Tatamari. The track of 10 km was covered in deep forest. The butterflies were photographed in random

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survey in the study area using Canon 1300D DSLR Cameras and mobile camera iPhone 6S. Field identification was made with the help of Wynter-Blyth (1957), Haribal (1992), Kehimkar (2016), and Smetacek (2016).

During the study, a total of 42 species of butterflies belonging to five families were observed, photographed and systematically placed under 12 subfamilies. Family Nymphalidae dominated with 19 species of 13 genera, family Lycaenidae with 11 species of 11 genera, followed by family Papilionoidea with six species of two genera, family Pieridae with five species of three genera, and family Hesperioidea with one species of one genera. Silver Royal *Ancema blanka* had not been recorded earlier by either Chandra et al. (2014) or Sisodia (2019) from Chhattisgarh, while it is reported here as a new species to the state fauna of butterflies.

The one addition to the butterfly fauna of Chhattisgarh State is as follows:

***Ancema blanka* (de Nicéville 1894) – Silver Royal**

Specimen Photographed: 02.x.2020, 10.x.2020.

Known Distribution: Sikkim to northeastern India (Varshney & Smetacek 2015).

Remarks: The species was photographed

by H.N. Tandan on 10.x.2020, at Tatamari Eco Center (20.1164° N & 81.5906° E) and Ravi Naidu on 02.x.2020, at Kanger Valley National Park (18.9369° N & 82.1361° E), Bastar. The specimen was found highly active and flew out within seconds. It took just a few seconds to take photographs and go away from the site. Ravi Naidu found it puddling on dry animal dung and H.N. Tandan observed it on vegetation at about 3 m height in dense forest near the waterfall.

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H.N. Tandan¹, Ravi Naidu², Gulab Chand³ & Ganveer Dhamshil Sampat⁴

¹ Department of Zoology, S.G.G. Govt. P.G. College, Kurud, Chhattisgarh 493663, India.

² Ornithologist, C.R.O.W. Foundation, Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh 494001, India.

³ Research Scholar, Department of Botany, N.P.G. College of Science, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001, India.

⁴ 5-Divisional Forest Officer, Keshkal, Kondagaon District, Chhattisgarh 494331, India.

Emails: ¹tandanhn79@gmail.com (corresponding author),

²ravinaidu0001@gmail.com, ³gulab.s.sahu@gmail.com,

⁴dsganvir@gmail.com

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