

Bugs R All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

First record of Blackvein Sergeant from southern West Bengal



Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* sighted in Gobaria Forest of Ajodhya Hill, Purulia, West Bengal, India.
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Sergeant butterflies belong to the *Athyma* genus. This genus belongs to the brush-footed butterflies of the subfamily Limenitidinae under the family Nymphalidae (Saji & Ogale 2021). This species is also legally protected under Schedule II of Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 (Saji & Ogale 2021).

The butterfly Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* Moore 1858 has a distribution in India along Western Ghats from Karnataka to Kerala,

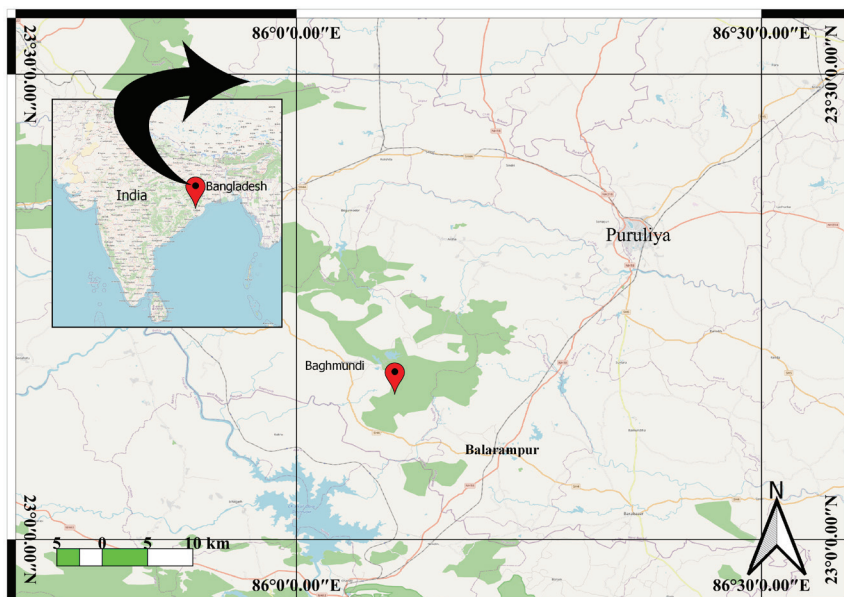
central India and North-East India in Arunachal Pradesh, northeast Sikkim, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya (Smetacek 2017; Kehimkar 2016; Saji & Ogale 2021)).

The author photographed a single specimen of Blackvein Sergeant during a field study on 07 December 2020 at 1401h from Gobaria Forest of Ajodhya Hills in Purulia, West Bengal using a Nikon D5600 camera with 70–300 lens. The specimen was not collected from the study area.

The species was identified on the basis of UP single prominent broad white band on wings crossed by black veins, no cell streak but obscure bluish spots on UPF, discal spot in 1b not joined to spot in 2 (Kehimkar 2016). Also, the image of the species was uploaded on the Butterflies of India website with media code fx184 (Saji & Ogale 2021). The area Gobaria Forest where the species was sighted is under Ajodhya Hills of Purulia District. The Gobaria Forest

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Study area where Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* was sighted.

is a dense forest of Ajodhya Hill & Chota Nagpur Plateau. According to Google Earth, Gobaria Forest where Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* was sighted is located at 23.10°N & 86.06°E, 361 m elevation. The study area is a dry deciduous forest with some moist patches & the temperature varies between 2.8°C to 52°C (Samanta et al. 2017). The average annual rainfall of the area ranges 1,100–1,500mm (Das 2016).

The species Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* is reported from north Bengal

Sinha et al. 2019) but there is no mention of the species from the districts of West Bengal under Chota Nagpur Plateau Area: Purulia, Bankura, and Midnapur (Samanta et al. 2017; Das 2018; Mukherjee & Mondal 2020; Mahata et al. 2020). As well as *Athyma ranga* was not reported from Howrah, Kolkata, Nadia, North & South 24 Parganas (Mukherjee et al. 2015). So, this is the first record of Blackvein Sergeant *Athyma ranga* from southern West Bengal.

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