

A rare intergeneric mating between Pea Blue and Forget-me-not butterflies

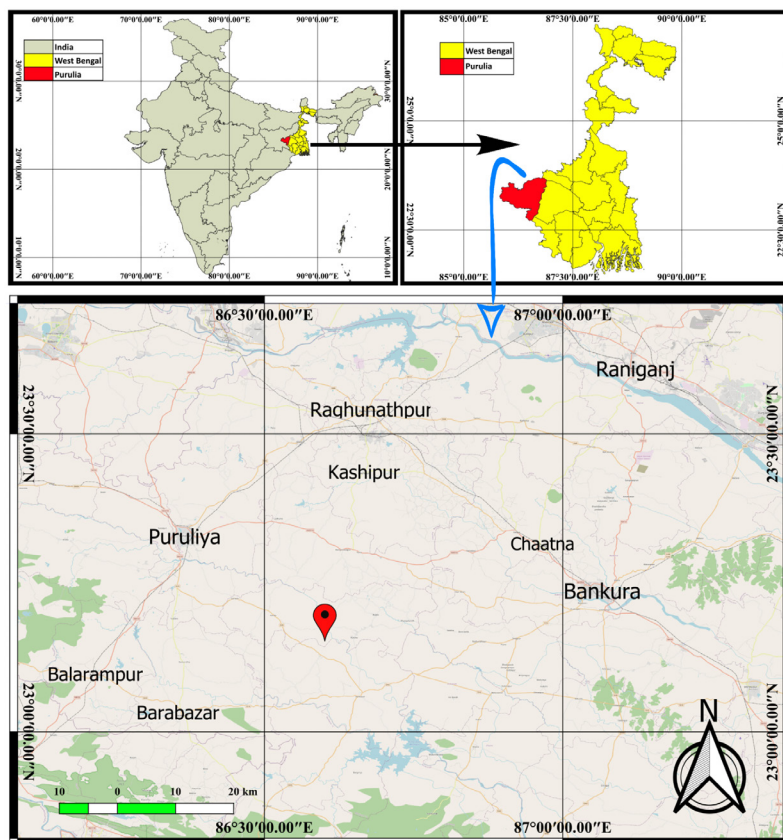


Intergeneric mating between Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus, 1767) and Forget-me-not *Catochrysops strabo* (Fabricius, 1793). © Supriya Mahato.

During a field visit in Delang village of district Puruliya, West Bengal on 13 February 2018 at 11:09 AM, the author found two butterflies flying above the ground. After some time this pair came down to ground level and sat on a dry branch. In the field, the author could not recognize the pair but it seemed unnatural, so he took some photos with his mobile camera.

For the next 5–8 min the pair seemed very calm and hardly moved, and suddenly the pair flew away. The images revealed that both

of the butterflies were from different genera, one was *Lampides boeticus* commonly known as Pea Blue and the other was *Catochrysops Strabo* commonly known as Forget-me-not (Bhakare 2021; Saji & Chhaya 2021). The place along river Kangsabati (23.186 N; 86.607 E) contains lots of host plants, and some small waterbodies nearby which makes the place a perfect habitat for butterflies. This place receives rainfall of 1,100–1,500 mm with the temperature varies between 2.8°C to 52°C and according to google earth the elevation



Location of the sighting of the intergeneric mating between Pea Blue and Forget-me-not.

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of the study area is 172m (Samanta et al. 2017).

The study by Samanta et al. 2017 observed good species to genera ratio which indicating towards strong intra-generic competition. So from the present study it can be conclude that it is the same type of inter-generic competition between *Lampides boeticus* and *Catochrysops strabo*.

References

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Supriya Mahato

Department of Agriculture Science
Doon (P.G) College of Agriculture
& Allied Science (Sri Dev Suman
University) Selaqui, Dehradun,
Uttarakhand 248197 India
supriyamahato876@gmail.com

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