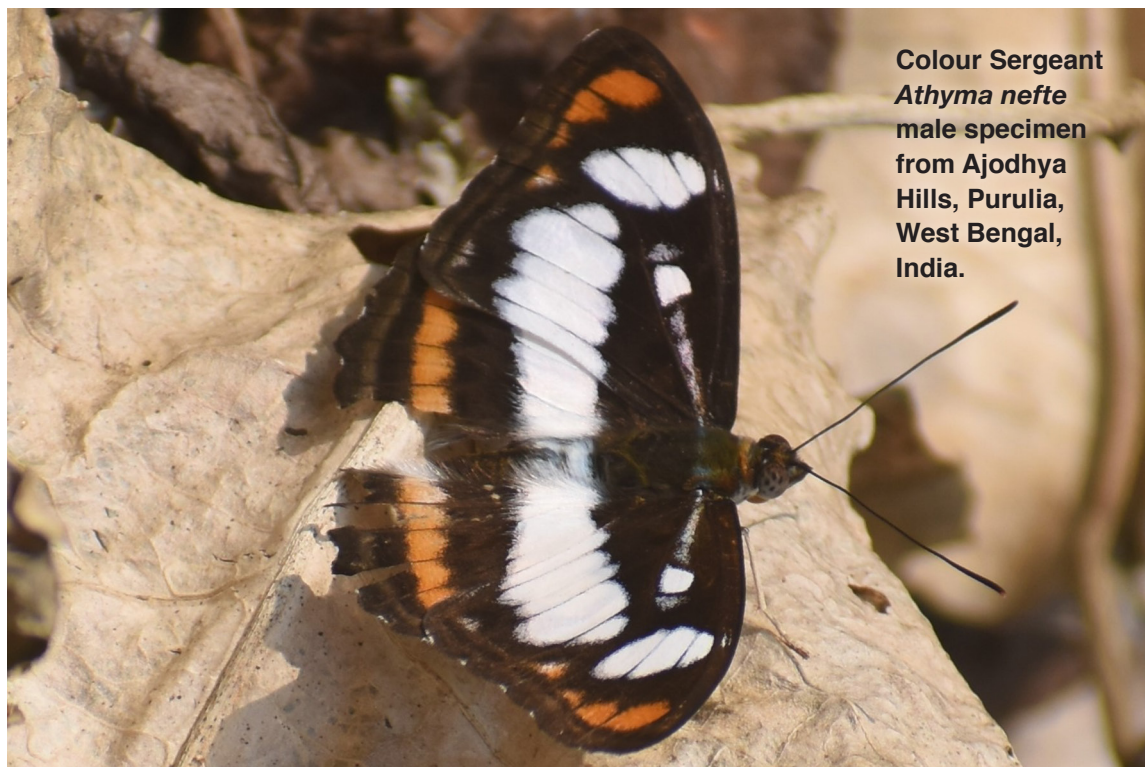


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## First photographic documentation of Colour Sergeant from Purulia, West Bengal, India



Colour Sergeant  
*Athyma nefte*  
male specimen  
from Ajodhya  
Hills, Purulia,  
West Bengal,  
India.

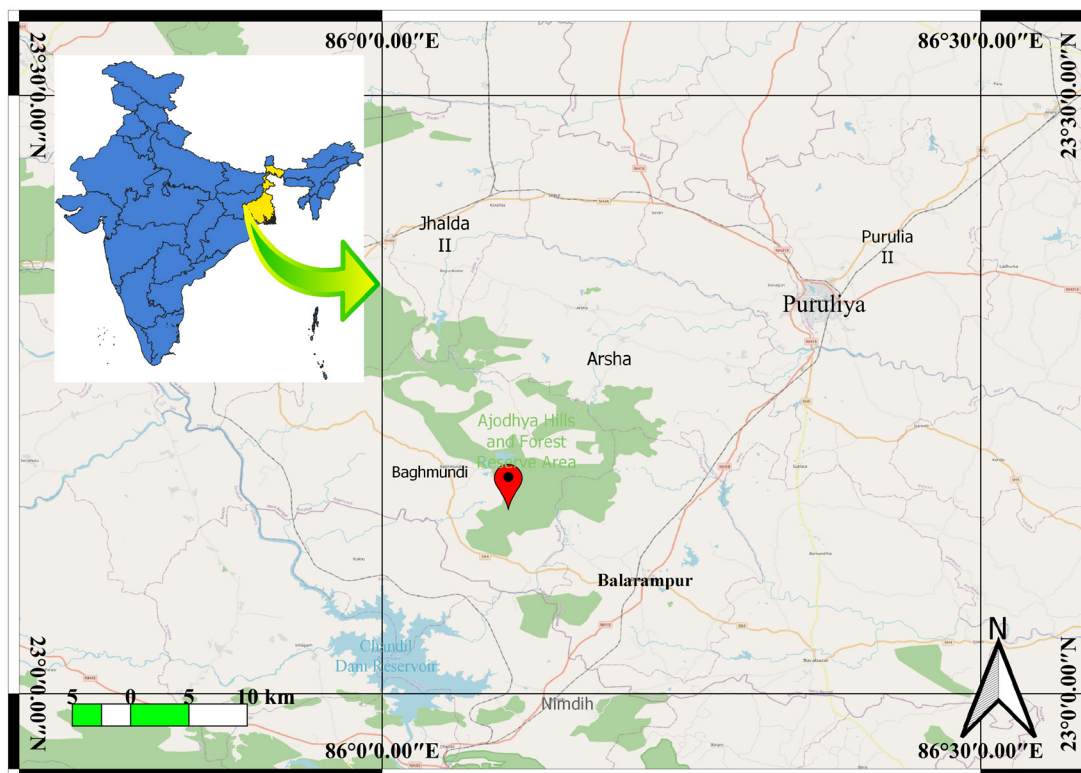
The butterfly Colour Sergeant *Athyma nefte* Westwood, 1850 has a localised distribution throughout India from Uttarakhand to Arunachal Pradesh, the Western Ghats (Maharashtra southwards), and West Bengal, Jharkhand, & Odisha (Singh 2010; Kehimkar 2016; Khan et al. 2021; Anonymous 2022).

The Colour Sergeant is a species under the genus *Athyma* which belongs to the Limenitidinae subfamily under the family Nymphalidae; belongs to the brush-footed butterflies.

Authors photographed a single specimen of Colour Sergeant during a field study on 16 February 2022 at 1420 h from Gobaria Forest of Ajodhya Hills in Purulia, West (23.10°N & 86.06°E, at 361 m) using a Nikon D5600 camera with 70–300 mm lens. The specimen was not collected from the study area. During the time of the observation, the specimen was busking on a dry leaf. It was identified on the basis of UP (upper wing) velvety black with a white band and orange markings, UPF or upper forewing white band continues on UPH or upper hindwing, presence of orange

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Map of the study area where Colour Sergeant *Athyma nefte* was sighted.

markings at UPF apex & UPH with orange band near outer edge (Kehimkar 2016).

The species is usually reported from low elevation & can fly up to 1,150m (Kehimkar 2016). They are mainly confined to forested regions. Flight is powerful and swift, using a snappy flap-and-glide technique. Males are often found in wet sand, while females rarely leave the forest. Both sexes are fond of flowers (Smetacek 2017).

The area is a dry deciduous forest with some moist patches in it, the temperature varies between 2.8°C to 52°C & the average annual rainfall of the area ranges 1,100–1,500 mm (Das 2016; Samanta et al. 2017).

There are no past records of the species from Purulia District before (Samanta et al. 2017; Das 2018). So, it can be concluded that this is the first record of Colour Sergeant *Athyma nefte* from Purulia District, West Bengal, India.

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