

Bugs & All

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

First photographic documentation of Large-spotted Oakblue from West Bengal, India

The butterfly *Arhopala nicevillei* (Bethune-Baker, 1903) is commonly known as Large-spotted Oakblue and it belongs to the family Lycaenidae under the genus *Arhopala*. *Arhopala nicevillei* is very rarely distributed all over India. Only few records from West Bengal (Jalpaiguri), Sikkim, Assam & Manipur are found till date (Evans 1957; Gogoi 2015; Varshney & Smetacek 2015). The present



Large-spotted Oakblue *Arhopala nicevillei* sighted at Turga Falls in Baghmundi, Purulia, W.B, India. © Adarsha Mukherjee



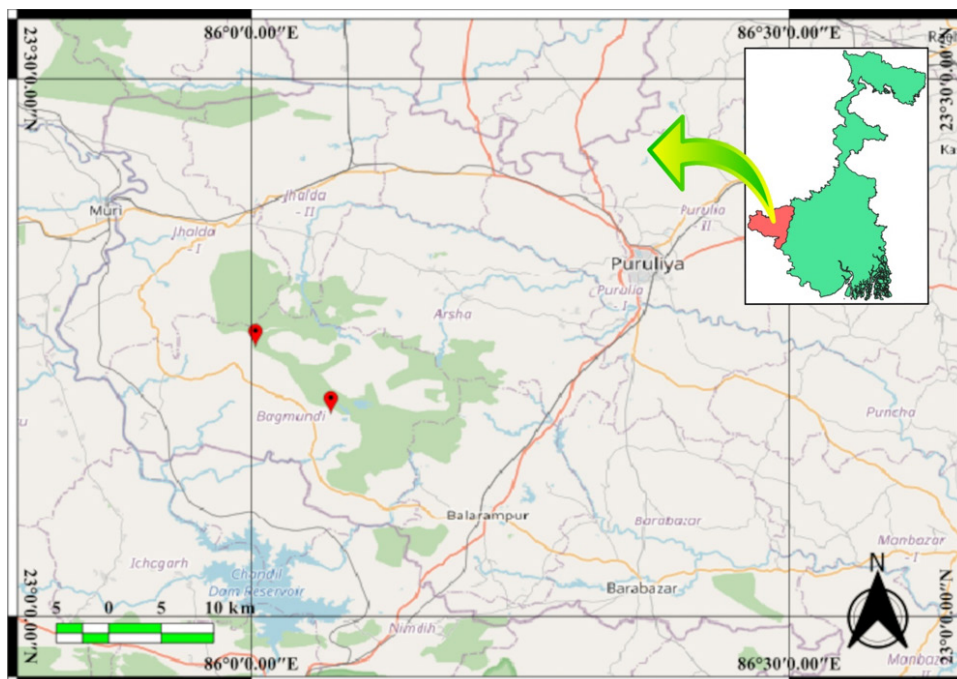
Large-spotted Oakblue *Arhopala nicevillei* sighted in Khairabera Dam under Ajodhya Hill range, Purulia, West Bengal, India. © Binay Kuiry.

study reports first photographic record and rediscovery of *A. nicevillei* from West Bengal, India.

Both of the areas where *A. nicevillei* was sighted are under Ajodhya Hills. According to Google Earth, the study areas Thurga Falls & Khairabera Dam are located at 23.12°N & 86.04°E with 370 m elevation and 23.15°N & 86.00°E with 300 m elevation, respectively. Ajodhya Hills is a dry deciduous forest with

Bugs & ALL

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



Study areas Khairabera Dam and Turga Falls in Ajudhya Hills, Purulia, West Bengal, India.

some moist patches in it and the temperature varies between 2.8–52°C (Samanta et al. 2017). The average annual rainfall of the area ranges 1,100–1,500mm (Das 2016).

During recent field studies on 13 October 2020 and 16 January 2021, the authors photographed one specimen of *A. nicevillei* from Thurga Falls and another specimen from Khairabera Dam of Ajudhya Hills, Purulia, West Bengal, India. Both of the specimens were photographed using Nikon D5300 and 5600 camera with 70–300 mm lens. Authors were not able to get any dorsal or open wing photographs due to its puddling position.

The species was identified on the basis of unf discal band sinuous at vein 4 and unf spot in space 6 was much larger than the

spot in space 5 (Evans 1957). The images of the species were uploaded on the Butterflies of India website with media code fw642 and fw286 (Anonymous 2022).

There is no previous record of *A. nicevillei* from Purulia, Bankura, Jhargram & Mednipur districts under Chotanagpur Plateau area (Samanta et al. 2017; Dwari & Mondal 2020; Mukherjee & Mondal 2020) as well as other districts under south Bengal such as Kolkata, Birbhum, Nadia, North-24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas (Mukherjee et al. 2015, Mitra et al. 2018). But the species was reported by Evans 1957 from Jalpaiguri, situated at the northern part of West Bengal. Therefore, it can be concluded that this is the rediscovery of Large-spotted Oakblue *Arhopala nicevillei*



Bugs R All

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

from West Bengal after 63 years. As well as this is the first photographic documentation of *Arhopala nicevillei* from West Bengal & It also belongs to one of the first photographic documentation from India.

References

- Anonymous (2022.)** *Arhopala nicevillei* Bethune-Baker, 1903 – Large-spotted Oakblue. Kunte, K., S. Sondhi, and P. Roy (Chief Editors). *Butterflies of India*, v. 3.28. Indian Foundation for Butterflies. Available online at: <http://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/sp/3297/Arhopala-nicevillei> Accessed on 18.iii.2022.
- Das, D. (2016).** Above ground arthropod diversity in a tropical deciduous forest in Ayodhya Hill, Purulia, India. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* 69(1): 141–145.
- Dwari, S. & A. K. Mondal (2020).** Diversity of Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) of Jhargram, Paschim and Purba Medinipur Districts, West Bengal, India. *Global Journal of Science Frontier Research: C Biological Science* 20(1): 34-61.
- Evans, W.H. (1957).** A revision of the *Arhopala* group of Oriental Lycaenidae (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Entomology* (5):85–141. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.1508>.
- Gogoi, M.J. (2015).** Observations on lycaenid butterflies from Panbari Reserve Forest and adjoining areas, Kaziranga, Assam, northeastern India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 7(15): 8259–8271. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2467.7.15.8259-8171>
- Mukherjee, K. & A. Mondal (2020).** Butterfly diversity in heterogeneous habitat of Bankura, West Bengal, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 12(8): 15804–15816. <https://doi.org/10.11609/jott.513612.8.15804-15816>.
- Mukherjee, S., S. Banerjee, G.K. Saha, P. Basu & G. Aditya (2015).** Butterfly diversity in Kolkata, India: An appraisal for conservation management. *Journal of Asia-Pacific Biodiversity* 8(3): 210–221. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.japb.2015.08.001>
- Mitra, B., A. B. Roy, A. Das, S. K. Shah, S. Baidya, D. R. Chaudhury, D. Mukherjee, B. Panja (2018).** Insect faunal diversity of chintamani kar bird sanctuary and other protected areas of West Bengal. *International Journal of Entomology Research* 3(2): 180-189.
- Samanta, S., D. Das & S. Mandal (2017).** Butterfly fauna of Baghmundi, Purulia, West Bengal, India: preliminary checklist. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 9(5): 10198–10207. <http://doi.org/10.11609/jott.2841.9.5.10198-10207>
- Varshney, R.K. & P. Smetacek (eds.) (2015).** *A Synoptic Catalogue of the Butterflies of India*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal and Indinov Publishing, New Delhi, 106 pp.

Acknowledgements

The authors are thankful to all the members of Green Plateau, a non-government organization for their support & encouragement and to Dr. Arijit Ganguly for his continuous encouragement, support & helping hand.

Binay Kuiry¹, Soumen Chandra Kuiry², Adarsha Mukherjee³

¹Department of Zoology, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia, West Bengal, 723104.

³Department of IT (Cyber Security), Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, Haringhata, Nadia, West Bengal, 741249.

¹⁻³Green Plateau, Hatirampur, Bankura, West Bengal, 722121.

Email: ¹binaykuiry05@gmail.com (corresponding author), ²soumenchandrakuiry454@gmail.com ³adarsha8158@gmail.com.

Citation: Kuiry B., S.C. Kuiry & A. Mukherjee (2022). First photographic documentation of Large-spotted Oakblue from West Bengal, India. *Bugs R All* #250, In: *Zoo's Print* 37(7): 17–19.

Bugs R All is a newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

