

Records of two butterflies Silverstreak Blue and Bamboo Treebrown from Magadh, Bihar



Iraota timoleon is sucking nectar on lantana flower.

Bihar has healthy floral and faunal diversity and is home to many scheduled butterflies and animals protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. But due to lack of continuous field observation data, there is a big gap between the status of species and need of conservation for the many rare species found in Bihar. In the context of Magadh division, there is no accurate data about

butterfly species diversity and their status available till now.

During our field observation in the month of August to December 2021 in Nawada District, we observed *Iraota timoleon* on a lantana plant in the afternoon hours and *Lethe europa* in a mango garden during morning hours at Narhat Village on 4 and 5 November respectively.

One of *Lethe europa* was also observed by us in Rajgir region on 28 August 2021. Varshney et al. (1981) reported *I. timoleon* from Hazaribagh Wildlife Sanctuary while Bihar was undivided; and after the separation, the place of observation comes under Jharkhand. In the context of new Bihar, Van Gasse (2018) reported the distribution of *I. timoleon* and *L. europa* only

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Lethe europa sucking water drops on dry leaves in a mango garden.

from Champaran. None of the literature indicate the distribution of *I. timoleon* or *L. europa* or images available on citizen science platforms in relation with *I. timoleon* and *L. europa* from Magadh or nearest divisions till now. We report *I. timoleon* and *L. europa* for the first time from Magadh division in Bihar.

***Iraota timoleon* (Stoll, 1790)**

Synonym: *Papilio timoleon* (Stoll, 1790)

Distribution: India: Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar (Champaran

and Magadh (Narhat)), Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal.

Comments: *Iraota timoleon*, commonly known as Silverstreak Blue is a blue butterfly or Lycaenid species found in India. Recorded at 24.7708 N, 85.4270 E on 04 November 2021.

***Lethe europa* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Synonym: *Papilio europa* (Fabricius, 1775)

Distribution: India: Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar (Champaran

and Magadh (Narhat)), Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

Comments:

Lethe europa, commonly known as Bamboo Treebrown is a species of Satyrinae butterfly found in India. In some literatures

L. europa is considered as a Critically Endangered species (Lodh & Agarwala 2015) but information available on IUCN, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Red Data Book- Butterflies of India do not consider it as an endangered species.

Specimen identified by Arjan Basu Roy and Souparno Roy (Nature Mate- Nature Club, Kolkata). Recorded from Narhat, Bihar on 28 August 2021 & 05 November 2021 at 24.7752 N, 85.4272 E & 24.9919 N, 85.4075 E.



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