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

First photographic documentation of Common Quaker from Purulia, West Bengal, India

The butterfly
Common Quaker
Neopithecops zalmora
(Butler, [1870]) has a
localised distribution
throughout India
from Uttarakhand to
Arunachal Pradesh,
northeastern India,
Western Ghats
(Maharashtra
southwards), West
Bengal, Jharkhand,
and Odisha
(Anonymous 2023;
Biswas et al. 2019;
Kehimkar 2008;
Mukherjee et al.

2016; Mukherjee & Mondal
2020; Patra et al. 2022;
Smetacek 2017). The present
study reports the distribution
of Common Quaker from
Purulia, West Bengal, India.

The species *Neopithecops
zalmora* belongs to the
family Lycaenidae. Authors
photographed a single
specimen during a field study



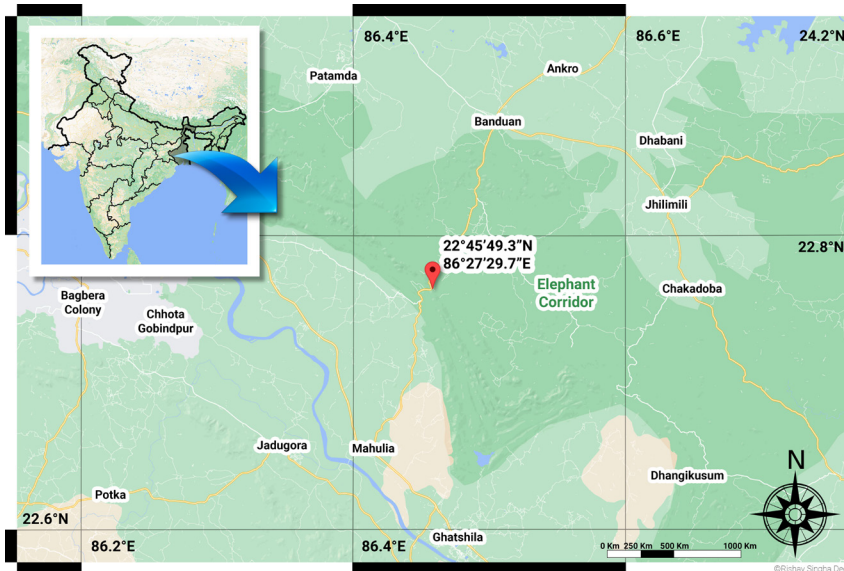
Common Quaker *Neopithecops zalmora*
from Duarsini Forest, Purulia, West
Bengal, India. © Suraj Kumar Singha Deo.

on 26 December 2021 at
1309 h from Duarsini Forest
of Bandwan in Purulia, West
Bengal using a Samsung SM-
A207F. The specimen was
not collected from the study
area. During the time of the
observation, the specimen
was basking on a green
leaf. It was identified on the
basis of HW (hindwing). It is
tailless. Forewing (FW) costa

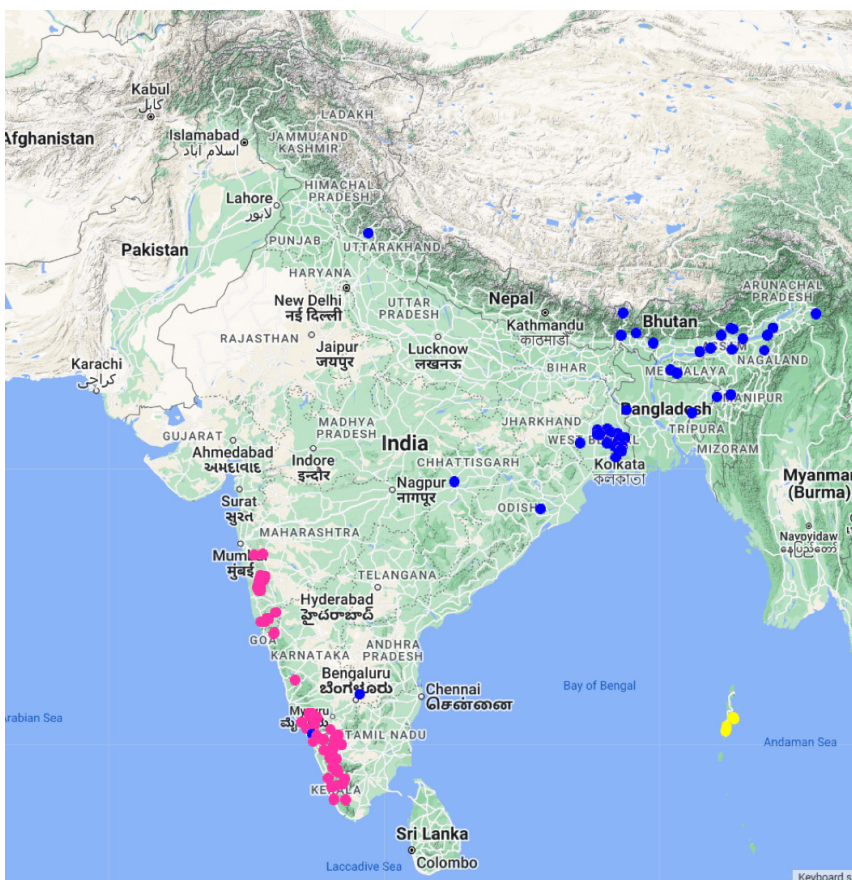
and termen are rounded.
While underside (US) with a
prominent large black spot
present near UNF (under
forewing) costa, and another
small black spot on dorsum of
UNH (under hindwing), also
there are three small basal
spots and outer discal band on
UNH. No costal spots on UNF,
except as part of outer discal
band. Broad FW is dark brown

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Common Quaker *Neopithecops zalmora* sighting location.



Distribution of Common Quaker in the Indian subcontinent (Captured on 12.iii.2023 from the Butterflies of India website; Anonymous 2023).

or black with discal areas white on UP (upperside). Markings vary from four small white discal patches on UPF (upper forewing) in WSF (wet season form), to larger white discal area on UPF (upper forewing) and white UPH in extremes DSF (dry season form) (Kehimkar 2008).

The species is usually reported from low elevation & ascends up to 1,500m (Kehimkar 2008; Smetacek 2017). This Lycaenidae butterfly is common in high humidity areas and sometimes also seen in agricultural areas. Within the forest, flight is weak and fluttering, with butterflies settling frequently on leaves, low-grounding flowers or wet mud. Males are avid mudpuddlers (Kehimkar 2008; Smetacek 2017).

The Common Quaker was sighted at 22.7636 & 86.4582, 142 m elevation. The area is a dry deciduous forest of *Sal Shorea robusta*, *Pial Buchanania lanzan*, *Teak Tectona grandis*, *Bahera Terminalia bellirica*, and *Kusum*



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Schleichera oleosa. 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 (Samanta et al. 2017; Das 2018).

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