

Some Notable Records of Butterflies in Kaptai National Park, Rangamati District, Bangladesh

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Kaptai National Park is situated in the south-eastern part of Bangladesh in Rangamati district. This park with a great biodiversity rich forest is a major habitat for butterflies. Soil structure, diverse vegetation, climatic condition and geographical position of this forest make the Kaptai National Park a unique habitat and breeding place for large variety of butterfly species. Some notable butterfly species namely *Artipe eryx* Linnaeus, 1771 (Green Flash), *Tajuria jehana* Moore, 1883 (Plains Blue Royal), *Suada swerga* de Nicéville, 1883 (Grass Bob), *Libythea myrrha* Godart, 1819 (Club Beak) and *Scobura isota* Swinhoe, 1893 (Swinhoe's Forest Bob) were recorded during the survey. These species were previously recorded from the forest of north-eastern part (Srimangal forests, Lawachara National Park and Teliapara) and central part (Jahangirnagar University Campus) of Bangladesh. This paper presents the range extension and rediscovery of these species from north-eastern and central part to south-eastern part (Kaptai National Park) of Bangladesh. Observations of these species are described below:

1. *Artipe eryx* Linnaeus, 1771 (Green Flash), Family - Lycaenidae: Previously Larsen 2004 have mentioned about its occurrence in the Srimangal forests and Khandokar *et al.* (2013) recorded in Lawachara National Park (24°20'51.96" N & 91°48'06.19" E).



Artipe eryx Linnaeus, 1771 (Green Flash) © Shihan

Only one individual recorded from the hill beside Balurchar Chara (22°29'49.94" N & 92°11'07.98" E), Kaptai National Park. It was found busking on a leaf. Observed date: 14/02/2015

2. *Tajuria jehana* Moore, 1883 (Plains Blue Royal), Family - Lycaenidae: This species also mentioned by Larsen (2004), about its probable occurrence in Bangladesh. Chowdhury and Hossain (2013) recorded it from Jahangirnagar University Campus (23°52'42.81" N & 90°16'13.51" E).



Tajuria jehana Moore, 1883 (Plains Blue Royal) © Shihan

One individual was recorded beside New Rangamati Road (22°30'36.29" N & 92°12'22.24" E), Kaptai National Park. This individual was resting on a *Citrus* sp. leaf. Observed date: 26/04/2015

3. *Suada swerga* de Nicéville, 1883 (Grass Bob), Family - Hesperidae: It was quite common in Lowacharra and also seen in Teliapara in March 2002. It was considered not rare at Cheringa in the Chittagong Division by Emmet (1948). It will only be found in good forest (Larsen 2004).

Two individuals were recorded in the Balurchar Chara (22°29'50.95" N & 92°11'05.08" E) and Marma Para (22°30'09.86" N & 92°11'44.01" E), Kaptai National Park. First one was observed resting beside watery trail and second one was found busking in a lower



Suada swerga de Nicéville, 1883 (Grass Bob) © Shihan

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part of herbs. Observed date: 18/04/2014 & 16/11/2014

4. *Libythea myrrha* Godart, 1819 (Club Beak), Family - Nymphalidae: Previously it was found at Dowki and was mapped from the Chittagong Hill Tracts by Tsukuda (1982-1991).



***Libythea myrrha* Godart, 1819 (Club Beak) © Shihan**

Libythea myrrha were recorded in Balurchar Chara (22°29'50.95" N & 92°11'05.08" E), Kaptai National Park. During the observation period five individuals were found absorb minerals from wet rocks, stones, damp-rotten leaves in the running watery trail in the park. Observed date: 26/04/2015

5. *Scobura isota* Swinhoe, 1893 (Swinhoe's Forest Bob), Family - Hesperidae: It is a forest skipper that was found in very small numbers in March and April 2003 in Lawachara (24°20'51.96" N & 91°48'06.19" E). There are no further records (Larsen 2004).

One individual was seen in the Balurchar Chara (22°29'50.95" N & 92°11'05.08" E) puddling in the droppings of bird in a shady place on the underside of



***Scobura isota* Swinhoe, 1893 (Swinhoe's Forest Bob) © Shihan**

a plant leaf. Observed date: 04/06/2015
Findings of these five species are very significant addition for the distribution of butterflies of Bangladesh. Kaptai National Park facing threat such as human settlement, over use of forest products, reducing trees for fuel and furniture, extension of cultivation land and burning of under growth of forest floor. Existence of these butterflies indicate that this forest has a good habitat of this butterfly species host plant and proper conservation tools are recommended for saving this butterfly habitat.

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