

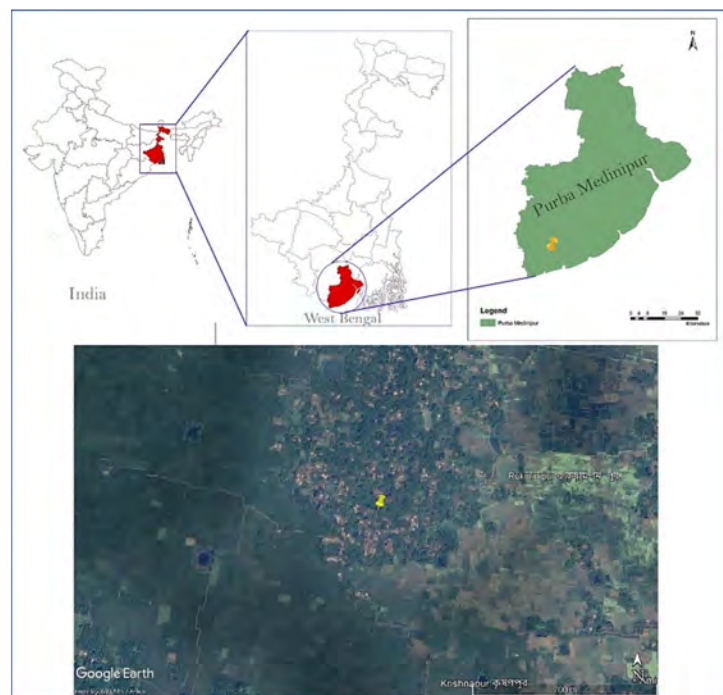
Painted Jezebel recorded for the first time from Purba Medinipur district of West Bengal, India

The Painted Jezebel *Delias hyparete* (Linnaeus, 1758) is a beautiful butterfly with mainly yellow in colour with red marginal spots which belongs from Pieridae family. Global distribution of this species is Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, and India (Kehimkar 2008; Wynter-Blyth 2009; Smetacek 2017). And its Indian distribution is known from Uttarakhand to Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Andaman Islands (Kehimkar 2008; Varshney 2015; Smetacek 2017).

On 23 April 2020, while we were roaming around in search of birds and other wildlife in the small forest patch (21.9005 N, 87.5380 E) inside Rukminipur village of Egra-II block, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, we saw this beautiful butterfly flying lazily and sat on a leaf. We took a few



Painted Jezebel *Delias hyparete* from Rukminipur village of Purba Medinipur district, West Bengal. © Asim Giri.



Location where Painted Jezebel *Delias hyparete* was photographed at Rukminipur village of Egra-II block, Purba Medinipur.

photographs of this and later it was identified as *Delias hyparete* following the keys from field guides and books (Evans 1932; Kehimkar 2008; Wynter-Blyth 2009). The major characters— not ringed red marginal spots on hind wing and the row outwardly bordered by black are the primary keys which differentiate it from the most similar species, Common Jezebel *D. eucharis* (Kehimkar 2008).

Though *D. hyparete* is not rare in northern part of West Bengal like Alipurduar district, there also few records from southern part too. After accessing the literature and inaturalist.org & ifoundbutterflies.org portals we found that there are only four recent records of this species in last five years from Purulia, Bankura and Howrah district of southern West Bengal (Dutta et al. 2019; Anonymous 2023; iNaturalist 2023).

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Asim Giri¹ & Tarak Samanta²

¹ Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal 734104,, India.

² Nature Mates – Nature Club, Kolkata, West Bengal 700032, India.

Emails: ¹giriasim2013@gmail.com (corresponding author), ²taraksamanta995@gmail.com

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