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### Project on Invertebrate Assessment and Redlisting in South Asia

#### IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group / Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia.

To fulfil one of the objectives of the South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group we are in the process of compiling information of selected invertebrates for assessing risk of extinction. The objective is to prioritise the threatened species and to assign a status utilizing existing information with the intention of including highly threatened invertebrate species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as also work out conservation action plans either individually and for the taxonomic group.

For more information on this project and to be part of it, please write to

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## MIMUSOPS ELENGI LINNAEUS (SAPOTACEAE), A NEW LARVAL FOOD PLANT OF EUPLOEA CORE CORE (CRAMER) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)

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The Common Indian Crow, *Euploea core core* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) is the commonest butterfly species found both in plains and hills in India. It is a polyphagous insect, known to lay eggs on several species belonging to families Moraceae, Asclepiadaceae and Apocynaceae plants such as *Ficus benghalensis*, *F. racemosa*, *F. arnottiana*, *F. religiosa*, *F. elastica*, *Streblus asper*, *Cryptolepis elegans*, *C. buchmanii*, *Hemidesmus indicus*, *Tylophora indica*, *Holarrhena pubescens*, *Ichnocarpus frutescens*, *Carissa carandas*, *Nerium odoratum* and *N. oleander* (Wynter-Blyth (1957); Gay *et al.* (1992); Kunte (2000); Jafer Palot and Radhakrishnan (2001)).

*Mimusops elengi* Linnaeus of the family Sapotaceae is a medium-sized tree found mostly in the forested areas of the Western Ghats and the sacred groves of Kerala. The tree is locally known as 'Elangi' and is noted for its gregarious flowering and fragrance.

During our study on the butterflies of Kerala, we observed the Common Indian Crow laying eggs on the leaves of *Mimusops elengi*. The butterfly completed its life cycle on the tree during the later part of southwest monsoon in August and September. The present record of *Mimusops elengi* Linnaeus is a new addition to the list of larval food plants of the Common Indian Crow Butterfly, *Euploea core core* (Cramer).

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