

Table 4. Species diversity of Odonata in six selected provenances of sandal

Sandal provenances	Species diversity (H')
Bengaluru	2.277
Thangali	2.077
Mandagadde	1.762
Chitteri	1.743
Javadis	2.440
Marayoor	2.080

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NEW LARVAL FOOD PLANTS OF *PRECIS (JUNONIA) ALMANA* L. AND *LEPTOSIA NINA* FABR. (LEPIDOPTERA)

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Observations on new records of host for two species of butterflies, the Peacock Pansy *Precis (Junonia) almana* Linnaeus and the Psyche *Leptosia nina* (Fabricius) are presented here.

While working on the butterflies of the Wyanad hills of the southern Western Ghats, on 12 May 2005, we came across a larva feeding on the foliage of *Cleome monophilla* (locally known as *Vaal kaduku* due to its long mustard like seed pods), near a paddy field at Kunnamangalam vayal, about 4km from Meppady. This plant is common along the edges of the road and also found among the paddy fields. The larva pupated two days later. The pupa was black and white in colour and the adult emerged after six days. It was later identified as the Peacock Pansy *Precis almana*. Caterpillars of the Peacock Pansy are known to feed on *Acanthus* sp., *Barleria* sp., *Gloxinia* sp., *Hygrophila auriculata*, *Phyla nodiflora* of the Families Acanthaceae, Gesneriaceae and Verbenaceae (Wynter-Blyth, 1957; Kunte, 2000; Palot *et al.*, 2003). In the present communication, we are reporting *Cleome monophilla* (Family: Capparidaceae) as a host plant of the Peacock Pansy for the first time.

The Psyche *Leptosia nina* is one of the smallest butterflies in the family Pieridae. This species is widespread and active almost throughout the year. On 13 February 2006, while observing the butterflies of the MSSRF garden, Puthurvayal, Kalpetta, Wyanad district we observed a Psyche butterfly laying eggs on the underside of the *Cardamine hirsute* (Brassicaceae) plant. After three days it pupated. The pupa was green in colour with yellowish-brown spots. On 20 February 2006, after a gap of four days adult emerged out of the pupa.

The larvae of the Psyche butterfly *Leptosia nina* are known to feed on *Capparis rheedii*, *C. spinosa*, *C. zeylanica*, *Cleome viscosa* and *Crateva adamsonii*, all belonging to the family Capparaceae (Wynter-Blyth, 1957; Kunte, 2000; Palot *et al.*, 2003). The present record of *Cardamine hirsute* (Family: Brassicaceae) is a new addition to the list of larval food plants of the Psyche butterfly.

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