



## Short Communication

### LIST OF BUTTERFLIES (INSECTA : LEPIDOPTERA) OBSERVED IN BOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, MAHARASHTRA

#### INTRODUCTION

Bor Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Wardha District in the state of Maharashtra. The Sanctuary covers an area of 121.1 km<sup>2</sup>, which includes the drainage basin of the Bor Dam. The Sanctuary is located at a distance of around 60 km from Nagpur city. It is situated in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, which is characterized by mild winters and extremely hot summers. The Sanctuary has South Deccan Plateau dry deciduous forests.

Many species of animals including major species such as the Bengal Tiger and the Indian Leopard are found here. Among invertebrate fauna, butterflies are probably the most conspicuous. They are mostly diurnal in habit and are well admired for their striking colours and flight. Many species of butterflies play an important role in nature by pollinating various species of plants and a few species are economically important as pests of cultivated plants.

The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has some important conservation areas. Tiple (2011) has listed the butterflies of Vidarbha region. Sharma and Radhakrishnan (2005, 2006) have reported the Lepidoptera of Pench National Park and Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, respectively. Chandrakar *et al* (2007) have studied the butterflies of Melghat region.

Currently no information is available regarding the butterflies of Bor Wildlife Sanctuary. During the present study, 33 species of butterflies belonging to 22 genera of 5 families of order Lepidoptera, observed in and around Bor Wildlife Sanctuary are reported. The study was carried out during the year 2013. The butterflies were observed around road-side vegetation in the buffer zone of the Sanctuary and were identified using the handbook by Kehimkar (2008).

#### A Checklist of Butterflies found in Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra

##### Family HESPERIIDAE (SKIPPERS)

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. Common Banded Awl | <i>Hasora chromus</i> (Cramer)             |
| 2. Dark Palm Dart    | <i>Telicota ancilla</i> (Herrich-Schäffer) |

##### Family PAPILIONIDAE (SWALLOWTAILS)

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 3. Common Rose    | <i>Atrophaneura aristolochiae</i> (Fabricius) |
| 4. Tailed Jay     | <i>Graphium agamemnon</i> (Linnaeus)          |
| 5. Common Jay     | <i>Graphium doson</i> (C. & R. Felder)        |
| 6. Lime Butterfly | <i>Papilio demoleus</i> Linnaeus              |
| 7. Common Mormon  | <i>Papilio polytes</i> Linnaeus               |

## Family PIERIDAE (WHITES AND YELLOWS)

- |                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8. Lemon Emigrant       | <i>Catopsilia pomona</i> (Fabricius)  |
| 9. Mottled Emigrant     | <i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> (Linnaeus) |
| 10. Common Gull         | <i>Cepora nerissa</i> (Fabricius)     |
| 11. Common Jezebel      | <i>Delias eucharis</i> (Drury)        |
| 12. Small Grass Yellow  | <i>Eurema brigitta</i> (Cramer)       |
| 13. Common Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> (Linnaeus)       |

## Family LYCAENIDAE (BLUES)

- |                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 14. Common Pierrot  | <i>Castalius rosimon</i> (Fabricius) |
| 15. Common Cerulean | <i>Jamides celeno</i> (Cramer)       |

## Family NYMPHALIDAE (BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES)

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16. Tawny Coster         | <i>Acraea violae</i> (Fabricius)      |
| 17. Common Castor        | <i>Ariadne merione</i> (Cramer)       |
| 18. Plain Tiger          | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus)   |
| 19. Striped Tiger        | <i>Danaus genutia</i> (Cramer)        |
| 20. Common Indian Crow   | <i>Euploea core</i> (Cramer)          |
| 21. Baronet              | <i>Euthalia nais</i> (Forster)        |
| 22. Great Eggfly         | <i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> (Linnaeus)   |
| 23. Danaid Eggfly        | <i>Hypolimnas misippus</i> (Linnaeus) |
| 24. Grey Pansy           | <i>Junonia atlites</i> (Linnaeus)     |
| 25. Peacock Pansy        | <i>Junonia almana</i> (Linnaeus)      |
| 26. Yellow Pansy         | <i>Junonia hierta</i> (Fabricius)     |
| 27. Chocolate Pansy      | <i>Junonia iphita</i> (Cramer)        |
| 28. Lemon Pansy          | <i>Junonia lemonias</i> (Linnaeus)    |
| 29. Blue Pansy           | <i>Junonia orithiya</i> (Linnaeus)    |
| 30. Common Evening Brown | <i>Melanitis leda</i> (Linnaeus)      |
| 31. Common Sailer        | <i>Neptis hylas</i> (Linnaeus)        |
| 32. Common Leopard       | <i>Phalanta phalantha</i> (Drury)     |
| 33. Blue Tiger           | <i>Tirumala limniace</i> (Cramer)     |

**SUMMARY**

In this faunistic study, 33 species of butterflies belonging to 22 genera of 5 families of order Lepidoptera have been reported from Bor Wildlife Sanctuary, Maharashtra.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I am thankful to the Principal, S.M. Mohota College of Science, Nagpur, for facilities.

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