

Material examined: 1 ♀, Rest house site, 26.ii.1999, coll. A.K. Hazra and A.K. Sanyal.

Diagnosis: Antenna and palpus brown; cell R5 narrowly open; abdomen yellowish with black bands posteriorly on terga 1 and 2, and with a median longitudinal black stripe.

Distribution: Southern West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Manipur and Uttar Pradesh.

Family: Tachinidae

Subfamily: Tachininae

15. *Thelaira macropus* (Wiedemann)

1830. *Dexia macropus* Wiedemann, *Aussereur. Zweiflugel. Ins.*, 2: 375.

Material examined: 1 ♂, Rest house site, 28.vii.1998, coll. B. Mitra.

Diagnosis: Medium size (body 11.5-15.0 mm, wing 9.0-16.5 mm). Black subdorsum and sides of abdomen from near base to middle T_4 yellow. Face wider than frons; epistome not raised; vibrissae bifurcated at epistomal margin; facial ridge with a few hairs close to vibrissae; arista plumose; orbitals not differentiated; scutellum with a pair of discal and three pairs of marginal setae, of which the apicals are raised, cruciate and slightly shorter than subapicals; 3+3

Ac , 3+3 dc and 1+3 ia setae; R more than half way to apex and R_{4+5} upto r-m setulose. Abdomen with T_{1+2} excavate nearly to its hind margin; segments T_{1+2} and T_3 each with a pair of median marginal setae, segments T_3 and T_4 each with a pair of median discal setae.

Distribution: West Bengal, Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. J.R.B. Alfred, Director, Zoological Survey of India for placing the material at our disposal for study. We are grateful to Dr. S.K. Mitra, Joint Director, for facilities and to Dr. M. Datta, Scientist 'SE' and Officer-in-charge, Diptera section for valuable advice; to Dr. A.K. Hazra and Dr. A.K. Sanyal Scientist 'SE' for the opportunity to work with them under the project in Nayachar Island.

January 8, 2001

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33. NEW LARVAL FOOD PLANT OF THE BLUE TIGER BUTTERFLY

TIRUMALA LIMNIACE (CRAMER), LEPIDOPTERA: DANAIDAE

While studying butterflies near the Botanical Garden of the Government College campus, Madappally, Vatakara, Kerala from October to November 1999, I came across a plant on which I observed a large number of small eggs and larvae of a butterfly. Rearing the larvae to maturity, I identified the butterfly as *Tirumala limniace* (Cramer). The plant was later identified as *Cosmostigma racemosa* (Asclepiadaceae). According to Wynter-Blyth (1957), the food plants of *T. limniace* are *Dregea volubilis*, *Calotropis gigantea*, *Marsdenia tenacissima*, *Hoya carnosia*, *Tylophora indica* and *Asclepias*

curassavica (all Asclepiadaceae). Thus, *Cosmostigma racemosa* is a new larval food plant for *Tirumala limniace*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. A.K. Pradeep, Dept. of Botany, University of Calicut for identifying the host plant.

July 26, 2000

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REFERENCE

WYNTER-BLYTH, M.A. (1957): Butterflies of the Indian Region. Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay.

34. NEW LARVAL FOOD PLANT OF THE GRASS DEMON
UDASPES FOLUS CRAMER AND THE RESTRICTED DEMON
NOTOCRYPTA CURVIFASCIA FELDER & FELDER, LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE

While studying the butterfly fauna near the Botanical Garden of the Government College Campus, Madappally, Vatakara, Kerala, in October-November 1999 and August-October 2000, I recorded a new larval food plant for the larvae of the Grass Demon *Udaspes folus* Cram. and Restricted Demon *Notocrypta curvifascia* Felder & Felder, Lepidoptera.

Udaspes folus and *Notocrypta curvifascia* larvae were found to feed on the leaves of *Alpinia calcarata* Rosc. (Zingiberaceae). The recorded food plants of Grass Demon are *Curcuma domestica*, *C. aromatica*, *C. amada*, *C. caesia*, *C. zedoaria*, *C. decipiens*, *C. angustifolia*, *Zingiber officinale*, *Hedychium coronarium*, *Elettaria cardamomum*, *Aframomum melegueta* (all Zingiberaceae), *Maranta arundinacea* (Marantaceae) and *Tigridia pavonia* (Iridaceae) Seitz (in Sevastopulo, 1973) noted *Fagraea racemosa* (Loganiaceae) and Kershaw (in Abraham *et al*, 1975) noted *Alpinia nutans* Rosc., (in Hong Kong) as the food plant of the Grass Demon. According to Mackinnon (in Wynter-Blyth 1957), it also feeds on grasses.

Restricted Demon larva has been recorded to feed on *Kaempferia rotunda*, *Zingiber purpureum* (= *Z. cassumunar*) and *Curcuma decipiens* (all Zingiberaceae). Wynter-Blyth (1957) does not mention *Alpinia calcarata* Rosc., occurrence and successful rearing of Grass Demon *Udaspes folus* Cram., and Restricted Demon *Notocrypta curvifascia* Felder & Felder on *Alpinia calcarata* confirms it as a new larval food plant for both the species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Dr. A.K. Pradeep, Department of Botany, University of Calicut for identifying the host plant, and Chandrika Mohan. Scientist, CPCRI (RS), Kayamkulam for literature.

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35. BIODIVERSITY OF MANTIDS, INSECTA: MANTODEA,
 IN PUNE (WESTERN GHATS) WITH NOTES
 ON OTHER REGIONS OF MAHARASHTRA

Accelerating rates of biodiversity loss and signing of international agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and

Agenda 21, have called for the world's biodiversity to be inventoried and monitored. Such inventories provide the basic information



Nair, Vinayan P. 2002. "New Larval Food Plant of the Blue Tiger Butterfly Tirumala Limniace (Cramer), Lepidoptera: Danaidae." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 99, 347–348.

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