

islands during that period and established itself here, then it must be a very rare species or one with cryptic habits, as we have not found any more specimens during our dung beetle surveys on these islands. This is likely as *S. longipes* is known to inhabit obscure places like the nests of ants (Arrow, 1931). In case the species has not yet established itself on these islands, the specimen collected by us may be part of the waif biota arriving on these islands or a vagrant, just like the dozen or so species of butterflies that Ferrar (1948) identified as vagrants on these islands. Further studies can establish the status

of this species on the Andaman Islands.

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## 22. LARGE SCALE EMERGENCE AND MIGRATION OF THE COMMON EMIGRANT BUTTERFLIES *CATOPSILIA POMONA* (FAMILY : PIERIDAE)

During my journey on June 17, 1999, through the forest tracts between Mahasamund (Dist. H.Q.) to Tumgaon and Jhalap (NH 6), Madhya Pradesh, no less than five to six thousand Common Emigrant butterflies (*Catopsilia pomona*) were observed flying south to north at a moderate height of 0.60 m to 4 m above ground. At that time (1230 hrs to 1330 hrs) the sun was shining. This forest tract surrounds a big man-made reservoir named Kodar and has teak plantation patches in between the forest, on NH 6.

Interestingly, in the teak (*Tectona grandis*) patches, the butterflies were almost absent, whereas in mixed deciduous forest patches they were present in large numbers.

A few Mottled Emigrants (*Catopsilia pyranthe*) and Lime Butterflies (*Papilio demoleus*) were also flying with the Common

Emigrants. It was noted that the swarm of butterflies seemed to be on a northward migration. During my return journey (1600 hrs to 1700 hrs) the sky was heavily clouded and it was drizzling; hardly 200 to 300 butterflies were seen on the same route.

Butterflies usually migrate northward to avoid the southwest monsoon. In this case, the migration may be due to premonsoon rain in the month of June. The locality had moderate rains in the past 15 days, but the monsoon was yet to set in. The large scale emergence and migration appeared to have started three months in advance. Also, the marked absence of the species in teak patches was interesting.

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