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34. ON DISTRIBUTION OF SPOT SWORDTAIL BUTTERFLY *PATHYSA NOMIUS NOMIUS* ESPER

In the month of July 1987 we observed the spot swordtail butterfly *Pathysa nomius nomius* Esper in Jaipur city. We were on a survey of the rhopaloceran fauna of Jaipur city and in the process found this species in the nursery of the University of Rajasthan. Though the global distribution range of this butterfly covers the entire Oriental region, its occurrence still surprised us as none of the earlier workers have reported its occurrence in this particular region. According to Talbot (THE FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA: BUTTERFLIES, 1939) and Evans (THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDIAN BUTTERFLIES, 1927) the distribution range of the spot swordtail is – Sikkim, Sri Lanka and south India. Both Talbot and Evans give a 'not rare' status to this butterfly. A wider distribution range (peninsular India to Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra, Lucknow, Simla to Sikkim, Assam, Burma and Ceylon) is reported by Wynter-Blyth (BUTTERFLIES OF THE INDIAN REGION, 1957) but that too does not include Jaipur or any other district of Rajasthan.

Wynter-Blyth's work also gives a 'not rare' status for this butterfly.

This butterfly was observed in many other localities in the same year (1987) but the maximum

density was recorded in the above mentioned nursery. The other localities where swordtails were observed include certain busy roads, the garden of one of us (D.D.), and a few public gardens.

The spot swordtail butterfly is known to migrate long distances and to fly at altitudes as high as 2000 + m. It is quite possible that these butterflies observed in Jaipur were on their migratory route and were resting. There are certain facts which support this migration (irregular?) hypothesis. These are:

(a) All the swordtails disappeared after 15 August 1987.

(b) The reported food plants of this butterfly are *Saccopetalum tomentosum* and *Polyalthia longifolia*. Of these two, the latter occurs in Jaipur. No larvae of the swordtails could be found on *Polyalthia* plants.

(c) We again failed to find the spot swordtail during the next rainy season (July-August 1988) in all the localities where they were observed in the previous year.

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35. RECORD OF *PLEBEJUS EVERSMANNI* (STGR.) (LYCAENIDAE: LEPIDOPTERA) FROM INDIA

Malari lies in the dry, trans-Himalayan zone of Chamoli district in northern Uttar Pradesh (30° 41' N, 79° 54' E), at an elevation of c. 3000 m.

On 21 August 1987, a collection of butterflies was made along the motor road a kilometre north-east of Malari. A single male specimen of an unusual Lycaenid was recorded at a mud puddle gathering of Lycaenids, mainly *Polyommatus* Latreille. This was forwarded to the Rev. Alan Bean at the Oxford

University Museum for identification. Unfortunately, the genitalia was damaged in preparation, so it is not diagnostic.

His observations on the specimen are as follows: "Forewing expanse: 12 mm. The aedeagus shows alulae. The labides are long, straight and terminally hooked. The falces are about the same length. The valvae were damaged."

"There is no spine on the upper side of the



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