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NOTE

A RECORD OF BLUE POSY *DRUPADIA SCAEVA CYARA* (HEWITSON, 1878) (LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE: THECLINI) FROM DIBANG VALLEY, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

Gaurab Nandi Das, Subrata Gayen & Rohit Kumar Jaiswal

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Drupadia Moore, 1884 is a widely-distributed Indo-oriental genus and ranges from the northeastern Himalaya to the Philippines (Cowan 1974). The genus *Drupadia* consists of 12 species, of which only *D. scaeva* (Hewitson, 1863) is known from mainland India (Savelle 2016). *D. scaeva* includes four subspecies, of which only one, *D. s. cyara* (Hewitson, 1878) is reported from India. The other three subspecies of *D. scaeva* are confined to Indo-China and the Malayan region: *D. s. cooperi* (Tytler, 1940) (northern Myanmar; northern Thailand); *D. s. melisa* (Hewitson, 1869) (southern Myanmar); *D. s. scaeva* (Hewitson, 1863) (Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo) (Cowan 1974). In 1878, Hewitson described a female specimen of *cyara* from Darjeeling under the genus *Myrina* Fabricius, 1807 as *Myrina cyara*, but the detailed morphology of the holotype was redescribed by de Nicéville in 1890 under the genus *Biduanda* Distant, 1884. Later on, a male specimen was reported in Dudgeon's collection from Bhutan (Riley & Godfrey 1921). As per Evans (1932), the status of *D. s. cyara* is very rare and it is distributed across Sikkim to northern Myanmar. Eventually, in 1974, Cowan reviewed the genus *Drupadia* and included *cyara* as a subspecies of *Drupadia scaeva*. He reported two male specimens from Sikkim (Gangtok) in Eliot's

A RECORD OF BLUE POSY *DRUPADIA SCAEVA CYARA* (HEWITSON, 1878) (LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE: THECLINI) FROM DIBANG VALLEY, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

Gaurab Nandi Das¹, Subrata Gayen² & Rohit Kumar Jaiswal³

^{1,2,3} Zoological Survey of India, Prani Vigyan Bhawan, M-Block, New Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal 700053, India
¹ gaurab68nandidas@gmail.com (corresponding author),
² gayensubrata89@gmail.com, ³ rohitjaiswal013@gmail.com

collection made in 1934. Recently, Varshney & Smetacek (2015) stated its distribution from Sikkim to Arunachal Pradesh. There have been no confirmed sightings of the subspecies from Arunachal Pradesh, northeastern Himalaya, however, till date.

A single female individual of *Drupadia scaeva cyara* was recorded and photographed (Image 1 & 2) on 12 December 2016 at 12:21hr near the village Atali (28.53535000°N & 95.69583333°E; 692m), Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh (Fig. 1). The individual was sighted in sub-tropical, broad-leaved evergreen forest, where it was basking at a height of about 3m from the ground.

Drupadia scaeva cyara is morphologically distinguished from other *D. scaeva* subspecies by whitish ground colour with irregular chocolate markings and a

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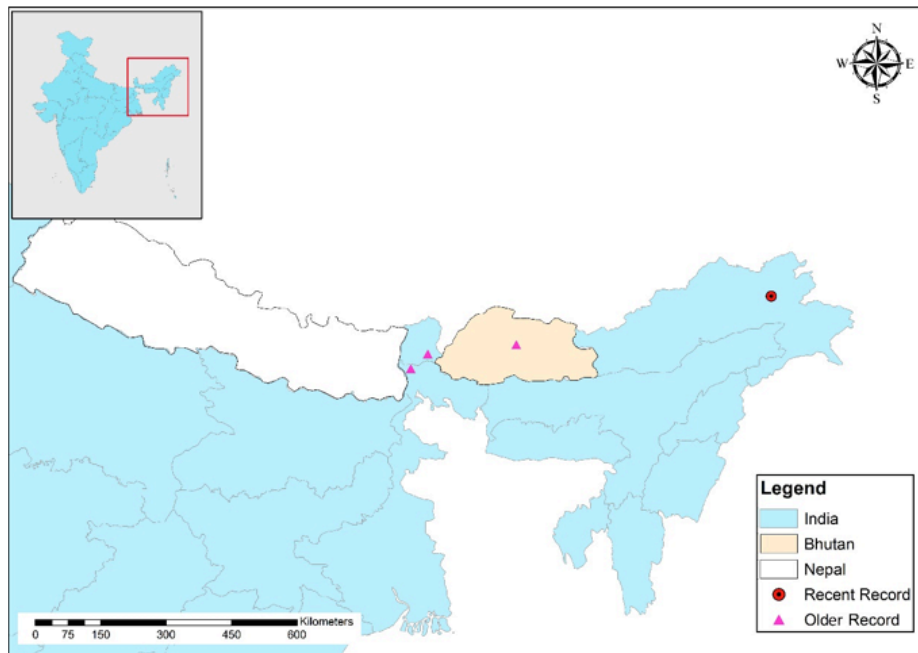
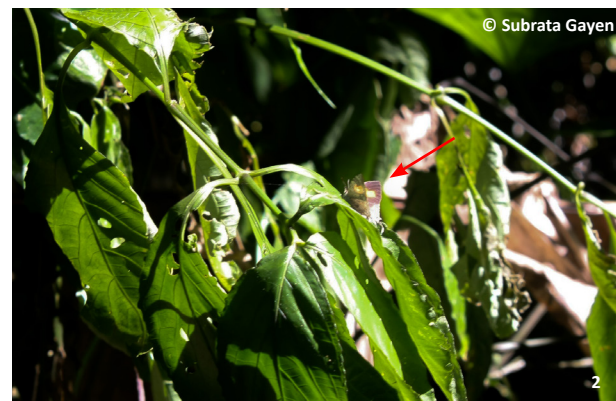
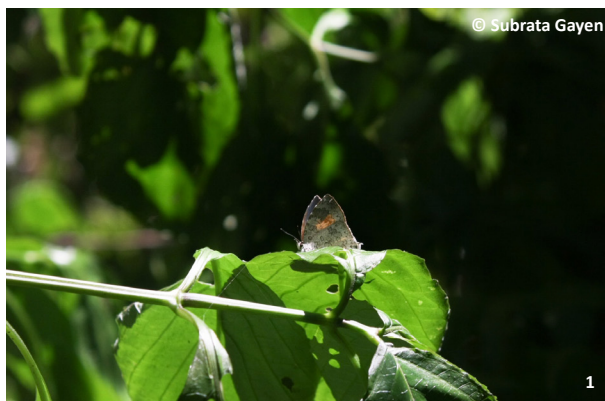


Figure 1. Records of *Drupadia scaeva cyara* (Hewitson, 1878 from) India



Images 1–2. A female *Drupadia scaeva cyara* (Hewitson, 1878) from Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh.

prominent chocolate spot in forewing cell on the under side, among both the sexes. In females, the wing is dark brown in colour and a distinct orange discal patch on the upper side of the forewing differentiates the sexes (Evans 1932; Cantlie 1963).

The state of Arunachal Pradesh, located in northeastern Himalaya, one of India's biodiversity hotspots, is home to approximately 700 butterfly species (Singh & Das 2016). A detailed literature review on butterflies of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim (Hewitson 1862–1878; de Nicéville 1890, 1894; South 1913; Evans 1914, 1932; Betts 1950; Cantlie 1963; Arora & Mondal 1981; Bhattacharya 1985; d'Abrera 1986; Gupta & Shukla 1988; Haribal 1992; Borang et al. 2008; Gogoi 2012; Sarma et al. 2012; Sondhi & Kunte 2014, 2016; Singh

2015, 2017; Kehimkar 2016; Singh & Das 2016) revealed no published record of *Drupadia scaeva cyara* from India since 1934. The current record confirms its distribution from Arunachal Pradesh and is the first record in India after 83 years.

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