other two species. The females had more extensive black markings than males and were encountered only inside the forest. These were seasonal, emerging in great abundance only during the wet-dry transition period. During 1991 and 1996, there was an explosion in numbers and they were seen mud-puddling in unusual places like vertical rock faces and wherever there was water trickling down.

This species has a disjunct distribution, being restricted to the southern Western Ghats, south of the Palghat Gap and then occurring in the Northeast Himalayas. Scanty records of this species in Western Ghats, South India, are largely due to the lack of adequate survey work. After Ferguson's collection, which was mostly confined to the western slopes, more than a century ago, no detailed study was made in this area. The species appears to be found only in the southern Western Ghats. Intensive field survey over small spatial scale all over the Western Ghats is essential to evaluate the distributional range and present status.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I thank Dr. R.K. Varshney, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for confirming the identification of the butterfly.

June 13, 1998 M. SOUBADRA DEVY
Sálim Ali School Of Ecology & Environmental Sciences Pondicherry University, Pondicherry-14.

REFERENCES

FERGUSON, H.S. (1891): A list of the butterflies of Travancore. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* VI: 433-449.

LARSEN, T.B. (1987a): The butterflies of the Nilgiri mountains of Southern India (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 84(1)*: 26-54.

LARSEN, T.B. (1987b): The butterflies of the Nilgiri mountains of Southern India (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 84(2)*: 291-316.

LARSEN, T.B. (1987c): The butterflies of the Nilgiri mountains of Southern India (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 84(3)*: 560-584.

LARSEN, T.B. (1988): The butterflies of the Nilgiri mountains of South India (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc. 85(1)*: 26-43.

SATHYAMURTHY, S.T. (1966): Descriptive catalogue of the butterflies in the collection of Madras Government Museum. *Bulletin of Madras Govt. Museum.*

TALBOT, G. (1938): The Fauna of British India. 1: 367.

WYNTER-BLYTH, M.A. (1957): Butterflies of the Indian region, Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay, pp 523.

27. *FICUS HISPIDA* (L.F.): A NEW FOOD PLANT OF THE COMMON MIME *CHILASA CLYTIA DISSIMILIS* AND *CHILASA CLYTIA CLYTIA*

The larva of the Common Mime is known to feed on laurels and cinnamon, *Alseodaphne semecarpifolia, Cinnamomum zeylanicum, Litsea deccanensis, L. sebifera* and *L. chinensis.*

On August 14, 1997, while conducting a nature trail at Tungareshwar, Thane dist., Maharashtra, I came across four caterpillars feeding on a plant which I could not identify at first. The caterpillars were collected and reared on the same plant. All the four caterpillars pupated successfully on August 23, and emerged as adults of the Common Mime *Chilasa clytia dissimilis* on September 8, 1997.

Subsequently in November 1997, I collected two caterpillars of the Common Mime on the same plant at Yewoor, Thane dist. Both these caterpillars pupated successfully and emerged as *Chilasa clytia clytia,* which could be identified by their distinct markings.

The food plant was later identified as *Ficus*

hispida. Wynter-Blyth (BUTTERFLIES OF THE INDIAN REGION 1957) does not mention this as the food plant of the Common Mime.

The occurrence and successful rearing of both the subspecies of the Common Mime on *Ficus hispida* confirms it as a new food plant.

June 17, 1998

DEEPAK APTE
Education Officer,
Bombay Natural History Society,
Hornbill House, Dr. Sálim Ali Chowk,
Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road,
Mumbai-23.

28. FRESHWATER ROTIFERA: EUROTATORIA FROM ASSAM, NORTHEAST INDIA

(*With eleven text-figures*)

Rotifers have been documented from all conceivable aquatic micro- and macro-environments in all parts of the world, but these organisms are, so far, poorly recorded from subterranean waters (Pejler 1955). This also holds true for the Indian Rotifera (Sharma 1991). Taxonomic studies on the rotifers of this country were initiated more than a century ago. However, till now only two reports by Naidu (1967) and Sharma (1993) refer to their distribution in domestic water wells of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal respectively.

The present study deals with the species composition of rotifers in various domestic wells located in and around Tezpur (26° 40' N, 92° 46' E). Upper Assam. Plankton samples were collected from 34 domestic wells in April, 1990 (summer) and from 32 domestic wells during December, 1990 (early winter). The collections were obtained by vertically towing a nylobolt plankton net (No. 25). The material so obtained was preserved in 5% formalin. Various species were isolated and identified (list below) following Koste (1978) and Sharma (1987).

The sampled domestic wells were about 20-30 years old and were characterized by acidic water (pH: 5.0 - 6.5) and low specific conductivity (71.4 - 196.4 µS/cm).

ROTIFIER SPECIES EXAMINED

Phylum : Rotifera
Class : Eurotatoria
Superorder : Monogononta
Order : Ploimida

Family: Lecanidae

Lecane bulla (Gosse, 1851) (Fig. 1)
L. closterocerca (Schmarda, 1859) (Fig. 2)
L. hamata (Stokes, 1896) (Figs. 3 & 4)
L. inermis (Bryce, 1892) (Fig. 5)
L. luna (O.F. Müller, 1776) (Fig. 6)
L. pyriformis (Daday, 1905) (Fig. 7 & 8)

Family: Mytilinidae
Mytilina bisulcata (Lucks, 1912) (Fig. 9 & 10)

Family: Colurellidae
Lepadella patella (O.F. Müller, 1776) (Fig. 11)

Eight species of monogonont rotifers belonging to 3 genera, representing three eurotatorian families are documented. The recorded species richness compares well with the observations from West Bengal (Sharma 1993) but our study revealed comparatively lower generic diversity. Lower qualitative abundance of Rotifera in the domestic wells of Assam conforms with earlier investigations and with the results of Ronenberger (1975) and Pejler (1995). The paucity may be attributed to the pristine subterranean environs.

Three species, namely, *Lecane bulla, L. inermis* and *L. pyriformis,* represented new reports from these biotopes, bringing the known species of monogononts from domestic wells in India upto 16.

All the presently recorded species are euryecious cosmopolitan elements. Of these,



Apte, Deepak. 1998. "Ficus hispida (L.F.): A new food plant of the common Mime Chilasa clytia dissimilis and Chilasa clytia clytia." *The journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* 95, 523–524.

View This Item Online: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/189682
Permalink: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/155989

Holding Institution
Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by
Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse
Copyright Status: In Copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder
License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/
Rights: https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions/

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org.

This file was generated 18 August 2024 at 05:55 UTC