

Butterfly fauna of Risod tahsil, district Washim of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, India

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Abstract

The present study was carried out to record the species diversity of butterfly in nearby area of Risod Tahsil. Risod is situated in Washim District of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. The survey study has revealed a total 16 species of butterflies belonging to 13 genera and 4 families (Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Papilionidae and Lycaenidae). Among these recorded butterflies' family Nymphalidae is represented by 8 species, family Pieridae by 4 species, family Papilionidae and family Lycaenidae each by two species. The entire butterfly's species recorded in this district are very common and found in different area of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. During the study and observation not, any rare threatened species were recorded in a given area.

Key words: Butterfly, family, species, Risod.

Introduction

Butterflies belong to Phylum-Arthropoda, Class-Insecta, and Order-Lepidoptera. Order Lepidoptera is a order of insect including butterflies and moth that undergoes complete metamorphosis [1]. Many species of butterflies play an important role in pollination of different flowers. Butterflies are also found to be a good indicator of environmental changes as they are very sensitive to habitat degradation and climate changes [2]. Butterflies are also found to be prey of birds, bats and other insectivorous animals and thus play an important role in the food chain [3]. Tiple [4] have reported

166 species of butterflies from Vidarbha region of Maharashtra out of which 15 species were found to be protected under Indian Wild Life Protection Act 1972. Wadatkar and Shirbhate [5] also reported 47 species of butterflies belonging to 38 genera and 5 families from Amravati University campus (Maharashtra). Patil and Shende [6] have reported total 92 species of butterflies belonging to 59 genera and 5 families from Gorewada International Bio-Park, Nagpur of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Gajbe [7] also reported 53 species of butterflies belonging to 34 genera of 5 families from Karhandle region of Umred-Karhandla Wildlife Sanctuary of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Barsagade *et al.* [8] also reported 30 species of butterfly belonging to 20 genera and 5 families from Gadmandir forest area of Ramtek (Maharashtra).

Diversity of butterflies in various Vidarbha region of Maharashtra has been studied by various workers however not specific study of species diversity of butterfly was carried out in Risod Tahsil of Washim District. Therefore, the present study was carried out to prepare a list of butterfly species to understand the diversity of butterfly in nearby area of Risod.

Methodology

The present study was carried out during July 2019 to December 2019 for a period of six months. The area selected for study was Risod and nearby area of Risod Tahsil. The observations were made during morning time from 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The Butterflies found were observed, photographed and captured if possible, with the help of butterfly net and after identification were released at the same site. The butterfly species observed was identified with the help of photograph and through various reference of research paper on butterflies by different workers. The Scientific names of the butterfly species given was accordance to Varshney. The observed butterflies were categories according to their family.

Results and Discussions

The present study was the first study to report the diversity of butterfly in Risod tahsil. Total 16 species of butterflies belonging to 13 different genera and 4 families (Nymphalidae, Pieridae, Papilionidae and Lycaenidae).

Table.1 List of butterflies recorded in Risod Tahsil of Washim District with common and scientific name

Sr. No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Family
1.	Commander	<i>Moduza procris</i>	Nymphalidae
2.	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>	Nymphalidae
3.	Great Egg Fly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	Nymphalidae
4.	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Nymphalidae
5.	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	Nymphalidae
6.	Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>	Nymphalidae
7.	Danaid Egg Fly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i>	Nymphalidae
8..	Peacock Pancy	<i>Junonia almana</i>	Nymphalidae
9.	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	Pieridae
10.	Spotless Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema laeta</i>	Pieridae
11.	Mimosa Yellow	<i>Pyrisitia nise</i>	Pieridae
12.	Pioneer White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>	Pieridae
13.	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	Papilionidae
14.	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	Papilionidae
15.	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>	Lycaenidae
16.	Indian Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i>	Lycaenidae



Commander (*Moduza procris*)



Blue Tiger (*Tirumala limniace*)



Great Egg Fly ♂ (*Hypolimnias bolina*)



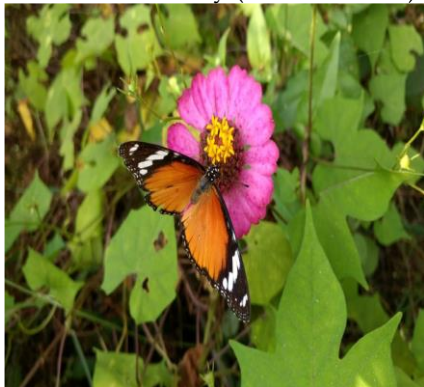
Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)



Lemon Pansy (*Junonia lemonias*)



Common Crow (*Euploea core*)



Danaid Egg fly ♀ (*Hypolimnias misippus*)
(Upper side view)



Danaid Eggfly ♂ (*Hypolimnias misippus*)
(Upper side view)



Danaid Eggfly ♂ (*Hypolimnias misippus*)
(Side view)



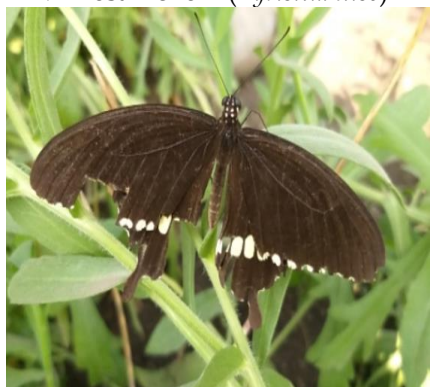
Peacock Pansy (*Junonia almana*)



Common Emigrant (*Catopsilia pomona*)



Spotless Grass Yellow (*Eurema laeta*)

Mimosa Yellow (*Pyrisitia nise*)Pioneer White (*Belenois aurota*)Lime Butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*)Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*)Pale Grass Blue (*Pseudozizeeria maha*)Indian Lesser Grass blue (*Zizina otis*)

Among these recorded butterflies' family Nymphalidae is represented by 8 species, family Pieridae by 4 species, family Papilionidae and family Lycaenidae each by two species. (Table.1). All the butterfly's species recorded in this area are very common and found in different area of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra as reported by various researchers in their research papers. During the study and observation not, a single rare threatened species was observed in a given area.

Pund *et al* [9] also reported total 9 species of butterfly belonging to family Nymphalidae, Pieridae and Papilionidae from Washim region. Therefore, the present list of butterflies was very helpful to study the diversity of butterfly of Washim District.

Conflicts of interest: The authors stated that no conflicts of interest.

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