

Report on
3rd NORTHEAST BUTTERFLY MEET- 2016

Venue:

Tale Wildlife Sanctuary, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

Date:

16th to 19th September 2016

Organized by:

Butterflies of North-Eastern India Group



Butterflies of North-Eastern India Group

Local Host:



Ngunu Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

In collaboration with:

Department of Environment & Forests, Arunachal Pradesh

District Administration, Ziro

Ziro Butterfly Meet

Arunachal Tourism

Supported by:

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)

WWF-India

Aaranyak

BAMOS Nature Conservation Society

flutters.org

Apatani Youth Association

Collaborators:



Organizers of Northeast Butterfly Meet-2016:

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Deputy Commissioner, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

D. Raji, District Tourism Officer, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

Isaac Kehimkar, Deputy Director (Natural History), Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India

Young James, Chairman, Hong Kong Lepidopterists Society, Hong Kong

Dr. Sarala Khaling, Regional Director, ATREE, Gangtok

Dr. Bibhab Talukdar, Secretary General, Aaranyak, Guwahati

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Dr. Bibhuti Lahkar, Program Secretary, Aaranyak, Guwahati

Kishen Das, Founder, flutters.org

Ms. Chong Shong Wu, Finance Secretary, Hong Kong Lepidopterists Society, Hong Kong

Dr. Tage Kanno, Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

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Rohit George, ATREE and

Ngunu Ziro Team

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1. BACKGROUND

Northeast India (NE India) has one of the richest diversity of butterflies in the oriental region. 962 species of butterflies have been reported from this region (Evans, 1932) but the expected species diversity is more than 1000 species based on recent records. Although Northeast represents only 7.7 % of Indian landmass, it has 66.85% of butterfly diversity of the Indian region (*Pers. Comm.* Gogoi 2015). Around 66.81% is under forest cover of the total geographic area of Northeast India (<https://data.gov.in>) with number of important protected areas. Much of these areas still need faunal documentation especially for the lesser known fauna.

Butterflies of North-eastern India is a group created on 2013 with a vision of increasing the knowledge of butterflies in Northeast India by creating a network of individuals across all the 8 states of the region. The focus of the group is to document the butterfly diversity and to identify butterfly hotspots in the states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Sikkim. The group also aims to motivate young students in their academic research by teaching them identification techniques and other tools necessary for Lepidoptera research. So far the Facebook page of this group has more than 6000 members. The members of the group regularly post photographs of butterfly species with their location. The group has an expert panel to identify butterflies with proper identifications keys if members find it difficult to identify butterflies.

The major objective of the group is to make a baseline database from important butterfly sites in Northeast India, which will help in conservation evaluation of the region. The group also aims to increase the knowledge of butterflies among local communities.

One of the main activities of the Butterflies of North-eastern India group is to organise the Northeast Butterfly Meet which is an annual gathering of butterfly enthusiasts in the region. The meet encourages participation of young students at minimal cost so that the students get the opportunity to study butterflies in best sites with special training from experts. Most sites of Northeast India are data deficient. The annual event aims to conduct meetings in best sites in different landscapes which will further provide database and help in conservation of the landscape.

The Northeast Butterfly Meet, Season-I was conducted in 2014 in Jeypore/Dihing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary with an objective to bring together butterfly enthusiasts from across the country to initiate interaction and exchange knowledge and ideas on butterflies, their distribution and conservation efforts. The main aim of the meet was to discuss the current trend and status of butterflies in Northeast India. The meet also wanted to highlight the lesser known sites of the region that need conservation priority. Jeypore rainforest is the home to endemic butterflies like Pallid Forester and 290+ butterflies (Gogoi, 2013), but the area was not known despite its rich potential. Jeypore rainforest is the only undisturbed and last remaining forest lin upper Assam. 30 people participated in this two-day programme. The main components of the meet were field tour and interactions among the participants and researchers working on butterfly specifically distribution, discovery of new species, extension of range distribution and conservation efforts. In this meet, key participants included students (M.Sc. and PhD), nature enthusiasts and wildlife photographers.

The meet focused on the rich biodiversity of Jeypore with especial reference to butterflies and added 10 new butterfly species to Jeypore butterfly diversity list and one new record for India.

The Northeast Butterfly Meet, Season-II was organized in Bornadi Wildlife Sanctuary and Khalingduar Reserve Forest, Assam. The broad objectives, of the Meet were i) to provide a common platform to the butterfly enthusiasts, and wildlife professional to discuss, interact and exchange knowledge and ideas on butterfly diversity, range distribution and conservation ii) to explore lesser known protected areas with rich butterfly diversity iii) to provide preliminary concept on use of technical tools for wildlife related work. This was a four-day long program with field tours and with technical sessions on Photography, butterfly taxonomy and with preliminary concept of statistics, ecological monitoring software and GIS mapping. 47 participants from across the country participated in this meet.

2. OBJECTIVES OF NORTHEAST BUTTERFLY MEET-2016

The key objectives of the Meet are:

- i) to provide a common platform to the butterfly enthusiasts, and wildlife professionals to discuss, interact and exchange knowledge and ideas on butterfly diversity, range distribution and conservation
- ii) to explore lesser known protected areas with rich butterfly diversity with documentation of butterflies of that protected area during field trips
- iii) to provide preliminary concept on use of technical tools for wildlife related work for new comers who want to develop a career on wildlife conservation.

3. OUTCOMES

The following outcomes are achieved during Northeast Butterfly Meet:

1. A list of butterfly will be prepared after the meet. As part of the vision of this season-III meet the group will come up with a booklet of butterflies of Ziro valley:

During the Meet butterfly documentation was conducted in the Talle Valley Wildlife Sanctuary. 112 species of butterflies were documented by the participants. Some of the significant species recorded during meet were Scarce Evening Brown (Very Rare, photographed for the second time from India in this meet), Bhutan Glory (rare and threatened), Brown Gorgon (rare), Confusing Threering (lesser known species), Yellow Owl (rare), Manipur Jungle Queen (rare). A list of butterflies is attached in the Annexure2.

2. **New to science?** A specimen of an interesting species of Zygaenid moth was collected during the meet. The moth was first photographed in 2010 and is awaiting description.



Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi

3. A network of researchers will be established to share knowledge, ideas and career opportunities for wildlife conservation

46 participants from the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Karnataka, Kerala, Sikkim and West Bengal participated in this meet. Mr. James Young, Chairperson and Ms. Chong Shong Wu, Finance Secretary of the Hong Kong Lepidopterist Society, Kishen Das from flutters.org, Dr. Sarala Khaling and Rohit George from Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), Dr. Rajib Rudra Tariang, Assistant professor, Digboi College were participated as experts in the program. The list of participants is attached in the Annexure1.

Several conservation organizations working in the region viz. ATREE, WWF-India, Aaranyak, BAMOS Nature Conservation Society, flutters.org, and Help Tourism along with District Administration Ziro, District Tourism Office Ziro, Department of Environmet and Forest Arunachal Pradesh, Apatani Youth Association (AYA) have participated in the Northeast Butterfly Meet.

4. Mr. James Young, Chairperson of the Hong Kong Lepidopterist Society has conducted a technical session on butterfly taxonomy. During his presentation he elaborated the use of morphological tools like spots, scales and genitalia, genetics and photography in different wavelength of light in identification of butterfly species. Rohit George from ATREE has conducted a session on Indian Biodiversity Portal and a small session on QGIS.

5. WHAT NEXT

The next Northeast Butterfly Meet- 2017 was decided to organize in Sikkim and BAMOS Nature Conservation Society will be the Local host of the Meet.

6. REFERENCES

Evans,W. H.(1932).The Identification of Indian Butterflies. (2nd Ed), Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai, India. 464pp.

Gogoi, M.J. (2013). A preliminary checklist of butterflies recorded from Jeypore-Dehing forest, eastern Assam, India. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 5(2): 3684–3696; doi:10.11609/JoTT.o3022.3684-96.

7. ANNEXURE 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

SI No	Name of Participants	Address of participants
1	Dr. Rajib Rudra Tariang	Digboi, Assam
2	Prajwal Ray	Jalpaiguri, West Bengal
3	Rishab Kumar Modi	Jalpaiguri, West Bengal
4	Ishwar Maanay	Bangalore, Karnataka
5	Sujith Karad	Kerala
6	Gopala krishnan	Kerala
7	Sandex varghese	Kerala
8	Rubul Baruah	Guwahati, Assam
9	Dhiman Baruah	Guwahati, Assam
10	Bhaskor Barukial	Bokakhat, Assam
11	Brojo Kumar Basumatary	Borpeta Road, Assam
12	Swapna D Ray	Bongaigao, Assam
13	Mary Anto	Kerala
14	Francis Anto	Kerala
15	Saurav Gupta	Dulia jaan, Assam
16	Rupalim Sarma	Nalbari, Assam
17	Pratibha Riswadkar	Pune, Maharashtra
18	Debanga Mahalia	Tangla, Assam
19	Jitumani Mahanta	Guwahati, Assam
20	Aditya Das	Digboi, Assam
21	Pramod Saikia	Dehradun/WII
22	Swati Bhadra	Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
23	Manas Sarama	Tezpur, Assam
24	Abhijit Kowar	Titabar, Assam
25	Gayatri Dutta	North Lakhimpur, Assam
26	Nalini Konch	North Lakhimpur, Assam
27	Jaspreet Kaur	North Lakhimpur, Assam
28	Gaurab Nandi Das	Kaziranga, Assam
29	Manjit Gogoi	Bokakhat, Assam
30	Kuru Tubin	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
31	Tadu Dobyu	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
32	Liter Ingo	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
33	Kishen Das	USA
34	Young James	Hong Kong
35	Chong Shong	Hong Kong
36	Dr. Sarala Khaling	Gangtok, Sikkim
37	Rohit George	Gangtok, Sikkim
38	Tajum Yomcha	Namdapha National Park
39	Kamal Azad	Guwahati, Assam
40	Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi	Bokakhat, Assam

41	Arif Hussain	Bokakhat, Assam
42	Nawangla Bhutia	Yoksum, Sikkim
43	Firoz Hussain	Jorhat, Assam
44	Punyo Chada	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
45	Dr. Tage Kanno	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh
46	Hibu Tatu	Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh

8. ANNEXURE 2. CHECKLIST OF BUTTERFLIES OBSERVED DURING NEBM-2016

SL No	ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE		
1	Lesser Batwing	<i>Atrophaneura varuna astorion</i>
2	Common Windmill	<i>Byasa polyeuctes polyeuctes</i>
3	Great Windmill	<i>Byasa dasarada dasarada</i>
4	Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon sarpedon</i>
5	Redbreast	<i>Papilio alcmenor alcmenor</i>
6	Great Mormon	<i>Papilio memnon agenor</i>
7	Common Peacock	<i>Papilio polyctor ganesa</i>
8	Paris Peacock	<i>Papilio paris paris</i>
9	Blue Peacock	<i>Papilio arcturus</i>
10	Yellow Helen	<i>Papilio nephelus chaon</i>
11	Red Helen	<i>Papilio helenus helenus</i>
12	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus demoleus</i>
13	Veined Jay	<i>Graphium chironides chironides</i>
14	Glassy Bluebottle	<i>Graphium cloanthus</i>
15	Brown Gorgon	<i>Meandrusa lachinus lachinus</i>
16	Bhutan Glory	<i>Bhutanitis lidderdalii</i>
FAMILY PIERIDAE		
17	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia indica</i>
18	Large Cabbage White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
19	Hill Jezabel	<i>Delias belladonna lugens</i>
20	Dark Jezabel	<i>Delias berinda</i>
21	Green vein White	<i>Pieris napi montana</i>
22	Chocolate Albatross	<i>Appias lyncida hippoides</i>
23	Tree Yellow	<i>Gandaca harina</i>
24	Plain Puffin	<i>Appias indra indra</i>
25	Spot Puffin	<i>Appias lalage lalage</i>
26	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
27	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta</i>
28	Three spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>
FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE		
29	Chestnut Tiger	<i>Parantica sita</i>
30	Chololate Tiger	<i>Parantica melaneus plateniston</i>

31	Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea melanoides</i>
32	Striped Blue Crow	<i>Euploea mulciber mulciber</i>
33	Lilacine Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis francisca</i>
34	Lilacfork	<i>Lethe sura</i>
35	Straight banded Treebrown	<i>Lethe verma</i>
36	Rusty Forester	<i>Lethe bhairava</i>
37	Himalayan Fiverring	<i>Ypthima sakra</i>
38	Large Threering	<i>Ypthima newara</i>
39	Three-ring sp	<i>Ypthima sp.</i>
40	Confusing Threering	<i>Ypthima confusa</i>
41	Khasi Fiverring	<i>Ypthima affectata</i>
42	Scarce Evening Brown	<i>Cyllogenes janetae</i>
43	Manipur Jungle Queen	<i>Stichophthalma sparta</i>
44	Popinjay	<i>Stibochiona nicea</i>
45	Common Nawab	<i>Charaxes athamas athamas</i>
46	Brown Prince	<i>Rohana parvata</i>
47	Blue Admiral	<i>Kaniska canace canace</i>
48	Black Prince	<i>Rohana parisatis</i>
49	Circe	<i>Hestinalis nama</i>
50	Grand Duchess	<i>Euthalia patala</i>
51	Panther	<i>Neurosigma doubledayi</i>
52	Commodore	<i>Auzakia danava danava</i>
53	Bicolour Commodore	<i>Parasarpa zayla</i>
54	Green Commodore	<i>Sumalia daraxa daraxa</i>
55	White Commodore	<i>Parasarpa dudu dudu</i>
56	Red Lacewing	<i>Cethosia biblis tisamena</i>
57	Orange Staff Sergeant	<i>Athyma cama</i>
58	Bhutan Sergeant	<i>Athyma jina</i>
59	Studded Sergeant	<i>Athyma asura</i>
60	Broad banded Sailer	<i>Neptis sankara</i>
61	Pale Green Sailer	<i>Neptis zaida</i>
62	Great Yellow Sailer	<i>Neptis radha radha</i>
63	Pallas Sailer	<i>Neptis sappho</i>
64	Common Lascar	<i>Pantoporia hordonia hordonia</i>
65	Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnia shypermenestra undularis</i>
66	Scarce Tawny Rajah	<i>Charaxes aristogiton</i>
67	Common Map	<i>Cyrestis thyodamas thyodamas</i>
68	Tabby	<i>Pseudergolis wedah</i>
69	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>
70	Striped Ringlet	<i>Ragadia crito</i>
71	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita iphita</i>
72	Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica indica</i>
73	Indian Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>

74	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
75	Spotted Jester	<i>Symbrenthia hypselis</i>
76	Common Jester	<i>Symbrenthia lilaekhasian</i>
77	Himalayan Sergeant	<i>Athyma orientalis</i>
78	Major Sergeant	<i>Abrota ganga</i>
79	Large Silverstripe	<i>Argynnis childreni</i>
80	Cruiser	<i>Vindula erota erota</i>
FAMILY RIODINIDAE		
81	Punchinello	<i>Zemeros flegyas indicus</i>
82	Lesser Punch	<i>Dodona dipoea</i>
83	Tailed Punch	<i>Dodona eugenus</i>
84	Striped Punch	<i>Dodonia adonira</i>
85	Dark Judy	<i>Abisara fylla</i>
FAMILY LYCAENIDAE		
86	Forest Pierrot	<i>Taraka hamada</i>
87	Malayan	<i>Megisba malaya</i>
88	Blue Tit	<i>Chliaria kina cachara</i>
89	Common Hedgeblue	<i>Acytolepis puspa</i>
90	Pale Hedge Blue	<i>Udara dilecta</i>
91	Albocerulean	<i>Udara albocaerulea</i>
92	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>
93	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis otis</i>
94	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>
95	Common Lineblue	<i>Prosotas nora nora</i>
96	BhuliaLineblue	<i>Prosotas bhutea</i>
97	Pointed Lineblue	<i>Lonolyce helicon merguiana</i>
98	Green Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus tamu</i>
99	Purple Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus epicles</i>
100	Golden Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus brahma major</i>
101	Bispot Royal	<i>Ancema ctesia</i>
102	Common Flash	<i>Rapala nissa ratna</i>
103	Shot Flash	<i>Rapala buxaria</i>
FAMILY HESPERIIDAE		
104	Mussorie Spotted Flat	<i>Celaenorrhinus pero</i>
105	Tytler's Multispotted Flat	<i>Celaenorrhinus ratna tytleri</i>
106	Spotted Demon	<i>Notocrypta feisthameli alysos</i>
107	Restricted Demon	<i>Notocrypta curvifascia curvifascia</i>
108	Austen Swift	<i>Caltoris cahira austeni</i>
109	Large Branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas sinensis</i>
110	Blank Swift	<i>Caltoris kumara kumara</i>
111	Himalayan Swift	<i>Polytremis discreta</i>
112	Yellow Spot Swift	<i>Polytremis eltola</i>

9. PHOTOGRAPHS (SOME) OF BUTTERFLY SPECIES OBSERVED DURING NEBM-2016



Brown Gorgon, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Bhutan Glory, Photo: Kishen Das



Hill Jezabel, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Yellow Owl, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Manipur Junglequeen, Photo: Gaurab N. Das



Lilacfork, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Major Sergeant, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Scarce Evening Brown, Photo: Gaurab N. Das



Indian Fritillary, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Bhutan Sergeant, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Panther, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Large Silverstripe, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Chestnut Tiger, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Green Commodore, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Commodore, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Lilacine Bushbrown, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Himalayan Fivering, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Confusing Threering, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Forest Pierrot, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Bi-spot Royal, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Blue Tit, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Lesser Grass Blue, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Albocerulean, Photo: Rishab K. Modi



Pale Hedge Blue, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Golden Sapphire, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Golden Sapphire, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Azure Sapphire, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Common Flash, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Striped Punch, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Tailed Punch, Photo: Monsoon J. Gogoi



Yellow spot Swift, Photo: Gaurab Nandi Das



Himalayan Swift, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia



Large Branded Swift, Photo: Nawangla Bhutia

10. PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE EVENT



Inaugural session of NEBM-2016 at Ziro, Arunachal Pradesh, Photo: Sujith Karad



Group Photo of the Participants of NEBM-2016



Mothing, NEBM-2016, Photo: Sujith Karad



Pange Valley Base Camp, NEBM-2016, Photo: Sujith Karad



Participaants, during Field work, Photo: Rubul Baruah



Group Discussion, Photo: Sujith Karad