Record of *Ampelopteris prolifera* (Family: Thelypteridaceae) as a new larval host plant of *Euchrysops cnejus* Fabricius, 1798 butterfly from Chuadanga, Bangladesh

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*Euchrysops cnejus* Fabricius, 1798 (Gram Blue) is a small Lycaenidae and distributed all over Bangladesh. Country wise previous records of larval host plants are *Butea monosperma*, *Acacia* spp., *Paracalyx scariosa*, *Ougeinia ooeinensis*, *Pisum sativum*, *Vigna cylindrica*, *Vigna trilobata*, *Cicer arietinum* and *Canavalia gladiate* in India; *Macroptilium lathyroides*, *Pueraria phaseoloides*, *Vigna marina*, *Vigna trilobata* and *Vigna unguiculata* in Sri Lanka; *Pueraria phaseoloides* and *Vigna reflexipilosa* in Singapore; *Vigna unguiculata*, *Butea monosperma*, *Ougeinia dalbergioideae*, *Paracalyx scariosa*, *Pisum sativum* and *Cicer arietinum* in Bangladesh (Kunte 2000; Dasgupta 2006; Saji 2016; Jayasinghe et al. 2014; Tan 2014; Chowdhury & Hossain 2013; Akand et al. 2015).

All of these plants belonging to Family Fabaceae and most of the recorded host plants are pulses, which are cultivated. Therefore Larsen (2004) mentioned as it is a minor pest of several cultivated pulses. However, it was not considered as a pest in Chuadanga (South-western part of Bangladesh) since this species is rarely seen. On 05 December 2015 at noon in a fruit Garden of Chuadanga (23°37’53.90” N & 88°51’0.53” E) the author observed a Gram Blue laying eggs on both upper and underside of the leaves of *Ampelopteris prolifera* (Retz.) Copel. (Family: Thelypteridaceae).

It took seven minutes to lay six eggs (Fig. 1-4). After laying eggs it was busking on the leaves of the plant. Four days later one 1st instar larvae was found on the underside of a leaf of the same plant. The host plant was scrambling fern and grown in full sunlight. Record of this new larval host plant is a significant addition to the butterfly-larval host plant relationship study in Bangladesh.
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References


