

Bugs R All

Newsletter of the
Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Notes on *Papilio krishna krishna* Moore, [1857] of Sikkim Himalaya



Papilio krishna krishna Moore.
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Not only is *Papilio krishna* Moore, [1857] commonly found in sub-tropical forest, but it is also found in sub-temperate forest of Sikkim. There are two intraspecific subspecies of this large Swallowtail Butterfly, namely, *Papilio krishna* ssp. *manipuri* Tytler, 1939 and *Papilio krishna* ssp. *krishna* Moore, [1857] (Kishimoto 2021; Sagara & Tokushige 2021). The species, *Papilio krishna* Moore, [1857], is distributed in China, Bhutan, India, and Vietnam (Alfred 2003).

Its status is 'Not Rare' (Gupta & Majumdar 2012). The species represents an altitudinal range of 915–2,750m (Table 1), have charismatic

appearance, and educational value among students and butterfly lovers.

Papilio krishna ssp. *manipuri* Tytler, 1939. BMNH(E)149341, 149340 Kabur, Manipur, NHMUK (Natural History Museum, London).

Papilio krishna ssp. *krishna* Moore, 1857. K-24193, Sandakper (Sandakhphu?), Darjeeling, HCSM, Himeji City Science Museum.

Habitat: Sunny place, not moist, east-west facing hills.

Distribution: India (Sikkim: Dzongu, Rhenock,

Table 1. Distribution matrix of *Papilio krishna krishna* recorded in Sikkim during the study.

Place	Altitude	GPS	Suitable host plants
Rimbi, West Sikkim	1,227 m	27.316 N 88.196 E	<i>Citrus</i> [Rutaceae]
Passingdong Dzongu, North Sikkim	820 m	27.533 N 88.514 E	<i>Citrus rotunda</i> Blanco [Rutaceae]
Linko, North Sikkim	1,511 m	27.549 N 88.485 E	<i>Belamcanda chinensis</i> L. (D.C) [Iridaceae], <i>Tagetes</i> L. [Asteraceae]
Rhenock, East Sikkim	938 m	27.171 N 88.648 E	<i>Citrus</i> [Rutaceae]
Namprick, North Sikkim	1,398 m	27.545 N 88.479 E	<i>Evodia fraxinifolia</i> (Hook) Benth. [Rutaceae], <i>Citrus sinensis</i> (L.) Osbeck [Rutaceae], <i>Zanthoxylum acanthopodium</i> DC. [Rutaceae]
Yuksum, West Sikkim	1,738 m	27.381 N 88.214 E	<i>Zanthoxylum acanthopodium</i> DC. [Rutaceae], <i>Evodia fraxinifolia</i> (Hook) Benth. [Rutaceae]

Yuksum, Rimbi); China; Bhutan; Myanmar; and Vietnam.

In India, many states have reported butterfly species as their state species, such as *Troides minos* Cramer, 1779 the Southern Birdwing in Karnataka, *Papilio polymnestor* Cramer, 1775 the Blue Mormon in Maharashtra, *Papilio bianor* Cramer, 1777 the Common Peacock in Uttarakhand.

This short communication deals with the distribution matrix of *Papilio krishna krishna* Moore, 1857 recorded in Sikkim along with the host plants species.

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