

Records of Some Butterflies from Chuadanga, Bangladesh

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Chuadanga district (23°35'13.67" N & 88°49'56.59" E) is situated in south-western part of Bangladesh. It is an important habitat for butterflies with many fruit gardens, agricultural fields, homestead vegetation, flower garden, weeds, wild herbs and shrubs contain large number and variety of plants which act as source of food for larvae and adult butterflies (Shihan 2014). Industrial developments, constructions, logging, extension of roads, and destruction of homestead vegetation are associated with habitat degradation including decreased larval host plant, nectar plants and butterfly diversity. In a recent survey, author recorded seven species of butterflies namely *Virachola isocrates* Fabricius, 1793 (Common Guava Blue), *Eurema brigitta* Stoll, 1780 (Small Grass Yellow), *Eurema latea* Boisduval, 1836 (Spotless Grass Yellow), *Charaxes solon* Fabricius, 1793 (Black Rajah), *Tarucus venosus* Moore, 1882 (Veined Pierrot) *Creon cleobis* Godart, 1824 (Broad-Tail Royal) and *Leptotes plinius* Fabricius, 1793 (Zebra Blue) during October 2015 to January 2016 which are not recorded earlier from the south-western part of Bangladesh. Documentation of these species is very important for its distributional records and range extension.

1. *Virachola isocrates* Fabricius, 1793 (Common Guava Blue), Family-Lycaenidae:

It was bred from 'East Pakistan' (Now Bangladesh) by Alam (1962). Larsen (2004) mentioned that he has never seen this in Bangladesh, but sure about its occurrence. In India it is a common species distributed in Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu (Kehimkar 2008; Bhakare 2016). However, Alam (2009) reported about its occurrences in Bangladesh but not mentioned the region. Four individuals were recorded on 06, 17, 20 and 23 October 2015 in the Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90" N & 88°51'0.53" E), Chuadanga. During the observation period all individuals were feeding nectar from *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Family-Rhamnaceae) flower.



Virachola isocrates Fabricius, 1793 (Common Guava Blue) © T.R. Shihan



Eurema brigitta Stoll, 1780 (Small Grass Yellow) © T.R. Shihan

2. *Eurema brigitta* Stoll, 1780 (Small Grass Yellow), Family-Pieridae:

Previously Larsen (2004) recorded it in Balda Garden (23°43'1.82" N & 90°25'10.02" E), Dhaka in 1977 and mentioned that it should be at least in the west and in the Dinajpur area (25°43'39.43" N & 88°41'8.95" E), northwest Bangladesh. Sarker (2009) reported about its occurrences in Bangladesh but not mentioned the region. Neighbouring country in India it is common and distributed in Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Manipur (Kehimkar 2008; Saji & Bhakare 2016). Only one individual was spotted on 10 October 2015 from a flower garden in the Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90" N & 88°51'0.53" E) sat on a grass leaf.

3. *Eurema latea* Boisduval, 1836 (Spotless Grass Yellow), Family-Pieridae:

Larsen (2004) described that it should be in Bangladesh since it is known from Calcutta and 'from all levels' in the Khasi Hills. *E. laeta* Boisduval, 1836 was described from Bengal; sub species *sikkima* is from Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttarkhand, Meghalaya, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Manipur (Bhakare 2016) and status mentioned common in India (Kehimkar 2008). Sarker (2009) also reported about its occurrence in Bangladesh but not mentioned the region.

One individual was recorded on 10 October 2015 under a leaf of *Colocasiasp.* (Family- Araceae) in a garden in the Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90" N & 88°51'0.53" E).

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***Eurema latea* Boisduval, 1836 (Spotless Grass Yellow)**
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4. *Charaxes solon* Fabricius, 1793 (Black Rajah), Family-Nymphalidae:

Larsen (2004) noted: "*Charaxes solon* was found with many other butterflies on sap oozing from the crown of a low palm in Bhawal National Park (24°5'23.81" N & 90°24'27.87" E) in March 2002". Khandokar *et al.* (2013) and Bashar (2014) recorded in Lawachara National Park (24°20'51.96" N & 91°48'06.19" E), central part of Bangladesh and Rema-Kalenga (24°6'40.61" N & 91°37'24.44" E), northeast part of Bangladesh respectively. Chowdhury and Hossain (2013) recorded it from Jahangirnagar University Campus (23°52'42.81" N & 90°16'13.51" E), central part of Bangladesh. It is common in India and distributed in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Meghalaya, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Assam (Kehimkar 2008; Patel &



***Charaxes solon* Fabricius, 1793 (Black Rajah)**
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Haneesh 2016). Two female individuals were recorded on 17 and 26 November 2015 laid eggs on leaves of a *Tamarindus indica* (Family-Fabaceae) near human settlement in Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90" N & 88°51'0.53" E).

5. *Tarucus venosus* Moore, 1882 (Veined Pierrot), Family-Lycaenidae:

Previously Larsen (2004) noted: "*Tarucus venosus* was recorded from Rajshahi by Alam (1962) and independently from Bangladesh by D'Abrera (1986)".

Khan and Neogi (2014) also recorded it from central, northwest and northeast part of Bangladesh, but there was no record from south-western part of Bangladesh. However, compared to India, it was recorded from Meghalaya, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand (Churi 2016).

Two individuals were recorded on 27 October 2015 in a fruit garden basking on leaf of *Ampelopteris prolifera* and ground in Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90"N & 88°51'0.53"E), Chuadanga.



***Tarucus venosus* Moore, 1882 (Veined Pierrot)**
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6. *Creon cleobis* Godart, 1824 (Broad-Tail Royal), Family-Lycaenidae:

Creon cleobis was recorded from northern part of Bangladesh, Dinajpur by de Nicéville (1890). It flies in drier forests and should be elsewhere in Bangladesh (Larsen 2004). Selim (2013) reported it from National Botanical Garden (23°48' 57.53" N & 90° 20'54.33" E) of Dhaka, which are in the north-west and central part of Bangladesh. Compare to India it is not rare (Kehimkar 2008) and distributed in Assam, West Bengal, Karnataka and Kerala (Baiju 2016). However, on 17 October 2015 one individual was observed on a leaf of *Ziziphus mauritiana* in a garden in the Belgachi Railgate Para (23°37'53.90" N & 88°51'0.53" E) in south-western part of Bangladesh.



***Creon cleobis* Godart, 1824 (Broad-Tail Royal)**
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7. *Leptotes plinius* Fabricius, 1793 (Zebra Blue)

Family-Lycaenidae:

In India it is a migrant that may be common in Calcutta and has been recorded from the Khasi Hills and the Arakan, it was also recorded from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi and Tripura (Larsen 2004; Saji & Churi 2016). In Bangladesh it was recorded from Lawachara National Park, Rangpur, Netrokona, Tangail, Bandarban, Rangamati (Chowdhury & Hossain 2013, Hossain *et al* 2014), which are distributed from northwest, central, northeast and southeast part of Bangladesh. On 29 January 2016 one specimen was recorded from Buzruk Gargari, Chuadanga.



Leptotes plinius Fabricius, 1793 (Zebra Blue)

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