

Scientific Note

Rediscovery of Popinjay, *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae) from Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India

Redescubrimiento de Popinjay, *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae) en el territorio de la Unión de Jammu y Cachemira, India

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ZooBank: urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:76C0FFC7-C1E5-4C93-833E-624100CE3682
<https://doi.org/10.35249/rche.47.3.21.07>

Abstract. *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846), known as Popinjay, is rediscovered from Sarthal area in Tehsil Bani of Jammu and Kashmir, India after 123 years.

Key words: Bani; butterflies; *Rubus ellipticus*; Sarthal.

Resumen. *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846), conocida como Popinjay, es redescubierta después de 123 años en el área de Sarthalen Tehsil Bani de Jammu y Cachemira, India.

Palabras clave: Bani; mariposas; *Rubus ellipticus*; Sarthal.

Stibochiona nicea (Gray, 1846) (Popinjay) is found commonly in Indian Himalayas up to 2500 m altitude. It is recorded from East Kashmir through Himachal, Uttarakhand, Nepal, Sikkim, Northern part of West Bengal and also found in Bhutan moving towards Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India, Northeast and Southeast Bangladesh (Gasse 2018). In the Indian part of Kashmir, Moore (1896) sighted this butterfly and later Gasse (2018) he also cited her based on Moore's reference (Sheikh *et al.* 2021). After 1896 up to 2019 no one sighted or reported this butterfly in any part of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. According to I Found Butterflies website, this species is distributed in Indian states of Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Tripura, Assam, Sikkim, Manipur, West Bengal, and Nagaland (Karmakar & Sarkar 2021).

Discussion

On 12 May 2019, first author during a survey of flora of Sarthal area (Fig. 1) in Bani Tehsil of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory where he found this Popinjay butterfly (Fig. 2) perching on leaf of *Rubus ellipticus* Smith, 1815 (Rosaceae). He photographed this butterfly with the help of Nikon D3300 DSLR camera. Sarthal is located at an altitude of more than 2100 m and area coordinates were noted after sighting this butterfly as 32°51'12.6" N, 75°45'24.1" E. Specimen (Fig. 2) was identified with the help of available literature of Evans

Received 29 May 2021 / Accepted 14 July 2021 / Published online 30 July 2021
Responsible Editor: José Mondaca E.

(1932), Wynter-Blyth (1957), Kehimkar (2016) and Smetacek (2018). And the record was also crosschecked with previous publications of Jammu and Kashmir Himalaya (Sheikh & Parey 2019a, 2019b). The gap from 1896 to 2019 is 123 years and in between these years no one reported this species and the reason behind this long gap may be ignorance of butterfly's field in research in Jammu and Kashmir and thus, this can be easily said as rediscovery of this species for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



Figure 1. Map shows Sarthal area in Jammu and Kashmir, India. Source: Google Earth. / Mapa muestra la zona de Sarthal en Jammu y Cachemira, India. Fuente: Google Earth.

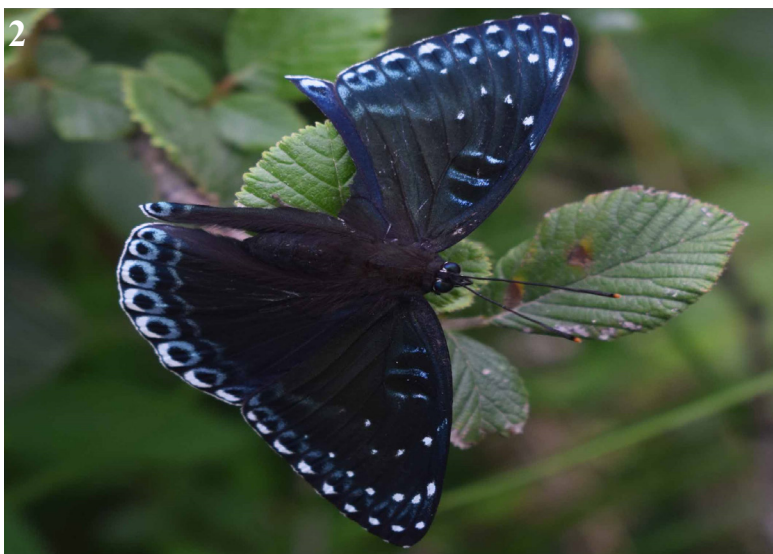


Figure 2. *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846) Popinjay in Sarthal area in Jammu and Kashmir, India. / *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray, 1846) Popinjay en el área de Sarthal en Jammu y Cachemira, India.

Acknowledgements

Authors are very thankful to Mr. Akram Awan for his kind help in finding the literature, identification and for his proper guidance in this rediscovery.

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