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NOTE

A CONFIRMATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *EUPLOEA SYLVESTER HOPEI* FELDER & FELDER, 1865 (DOUBLE-BRANDED BLUE CROW) FROM KAPTAI NATIONAL PARK, RANGAMATI DISTRICT, BANGLADESH

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A CONFIRMATION OF THE OCCURRENCE OF *EUPLOEA SYLVESTER HOPEI* FELDER & FELDER, 1865 (DOUBLE-BRANDED BLUE CROW) FROM KAPTAI NATIONAL PARK, RANGAMATI DISTRICT, BANGLADESH

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The Double-branded Blue Crow *Euploea sylvester hopei* Felder & Felder, 1865 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Danaeinae) is a member of the genus *Euploea* Fabricius, 1807 and ranges through South Asia, Southeast Asia and parts of Australia.

Previously *Euploea sylvester hopei* was reported by Larsen (2004) in Bangladesh from Sylhet, the northeastern part and Bengalia (part of Bangladesh, with the location not clearly mentioned). Larsen (2004) also mentioned that it should occur in the eastern part of Bangladesh. However, the distribution of this species as recorded from the Indian subcontinent is listed as eastern Nepal to Arunachal, West Bengal, Sikkim, northeastern India and Burma to the southern Shan States (Evans 1932; Talbot 1947; Wynter-Blyth 1957; Larsen 2004; Kunte et al. 2012; Varshney & Smetacek 2015; Anonymous 2016). But there are no recent published records of this species from Bangladesh (Ahmad et al. 2009; Chowdhury & Hossain 2013; Khandokar et al. 2013; Bashir 2014; Feeroz 2014; Hossain et al. 2014).

Other closely related subspecies, *Euploea sylvester*

coreta is known from Dhaka (as *coreoides* Moore 1877; Alam 1962). It ranges from southern India to northern Maharashtra and northern Andhra Pradesh and Evans (1927) mentioned it was “not rare”.

Chowdhury & Mohiuddin (2003) reported *Euploea sylvester harrisii* in Rangamati, Bangladesh. It ranges from Karen Hills to southern Myanmar, is reported as “not rare” and a “straggler” in the Andamans (Evans 1932). Another subspecies of *Euploea sylvester* was recorded as *Euploea sylvester montana* (= *lankana*) in Sri Lanka as “common” (Evans 1932; Talbot 1947; Wynter-Blyth 1957).

A field study was conducted from 12 June to 14 June 2014 in the Kaptai National Park to survey butterflies. Kaptai National Park is situated in Kaptai, Rangamati District, Bangladesh (22°30'08"N & 92°16'02"E) (Nishorgo 2007). The park was originally a natural mixed semi-evergreen forest in the hills, but most of the natural forests were replaced by *Tectona grandis* (Teak) plantation by the British in 1873. The area was declared a National Park by the Government of Bangladesh in 1999. Other than mixed evergreen forests and plantations, the area has diverse habitats for butterflies.

During the course of a field visit to the Park, the author recorded an individual of *Euploea sylvester hopei* on 14 June 2014 at the Rampahar balurchar (22°30'29.57"N & 92°11'36.60"E) in Kaptai National Park of Rangamati District, Bangladesh (Image 1). The male individual was caught at 12:40+6GMT and photographed (Images 2–4). Two other individuals of the subspecies were observed during the field visit period, suggesting that this is not a



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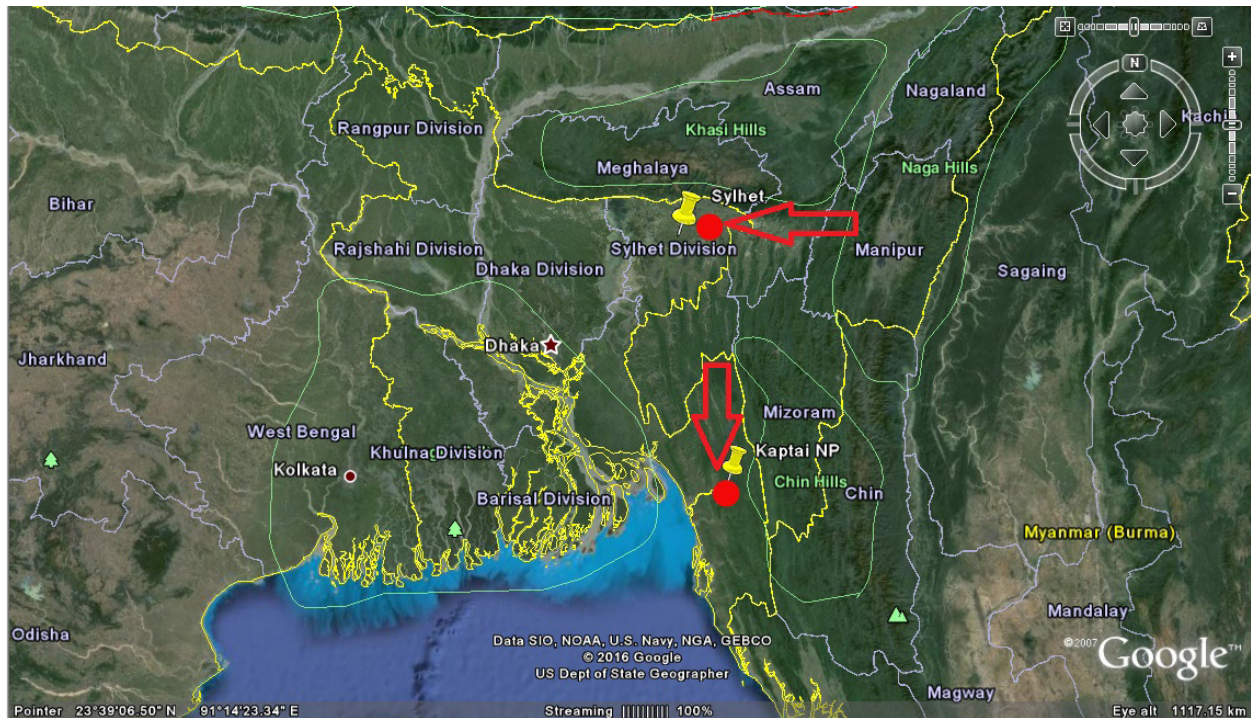


Image 1. Distribution records of *Euploea sylvester hopei* in red markings in Bangladesh.

common species in that area. However, no specimens were collected, due to a lack of collection permits.

According to Talbot (1947), a comparison of three subspecies of "*Euploea sylvester*" is as follows:

***Euploea sylvester coreta* Godart, 1819:** Upperside dark brown, paler over the discal areas. Forewing with a sub-marginal series of yellowish-white spots. Blue gloss absent.

***Euploea sylvester harrisi* Felder & Felder, 1865:** Upperside dark velvety brown. Fore wing glossed with blue from base to upper margin; a sub-marginal series of bright blue spots; an ante-marginal series of dots, not extending above veins 4 or 5. Hind wing only glossed with blue over the disc; sub-marginal and ante-marginal series of white spots, the latter smaller and the series generally incomplete. Underside dark umber brown. Fore wing slightly glossed with blue over the disc; markings as on upperside, but with the following additional spots on both wings: A spot at apex of cell; five to seven bluish-white discal spots, one or more being minute or absent. Antennae black; head, thorax and abdomen dark brown, the head and thorax slightly and minutely spotted with white.

***Euploea sylvester hopei* Felder & Felder, 1865:** Upperside of fore wing in addition to sub-marginal and ante-marginal spot with *harrisi*, a spot in apex of cell, and a row of from two to seven discal spots. Hind wing



Image 2. Upperside of *Euploea sylvester hopei* Double-branded Blue Crow.

with the sub-marginal and ante-marginal spots reduced to two or three apical ones. Underside of both wings with the sub-marginal and ante-marginal spots reduced to dots, the former commencing at the tornus and not reaching the apex.

The observed individuals match with the description of *Euploea sylvester hopei* and there is no doubt about the identity of the butterfly, since the characteristic double brands and other distinguished spots and dots are clearly visible in the forewing and hind wing.

The current record extends the known distribution of the subspecies to eastern Bangladesh and confirms



Image 3. *Euploea sylvester hopei* Double-branded Blue Crow - male basking on a leaf of a plant.



Image 4. Underside of *Euploea sylvester hopei*.

what was already suspected (Larsen 2004). However, it is worthy of note in that there is now a known locality for the subspecies in Bangladesh in addition to Sylhet in northeastern Bangladesh (Larsen 2004).

The community of butterfly species of Kaptai National Park is still unknown and the discovery of this butterfly there suggests that there are further discoveries to be made in that area.

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