



Polyommatus dux in Sikkim Himalaya

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Abstract

Polyommatus dux Riley is recorded in the Gurudongmar wetland of North Sikkim and its information is presented.

Keywords : Butterfly , *Polyommatus dux* , Sikkim Himalaya.

Introduction

Out of the 21 species of *Polyommatus*, the ten species reported from India (Bálint, 1995; Tshikolovets, 2005; Varshney and Smetacek, 2015). The sighting of *Polyommatus dux* Riley recorded in the Gurudongmar wetland of North Sikkim. It is less known species. This species was described by the H.G. Champion in his male holotype specimen which was collected during June-July along Gori River, Milam village, in 1924 (Riley, 1926) and paratypes (Balint, 1999). However, no such description was found in the literatures from Sikkim Himalaya regarding its presence in Sikkim (Haribal, 1992).

Thus, the short note on this species included.



Fig 1: *Polyommatus dux* Riley

Taxonomy

Polyommatus dux Riley, 1926: 278. D'Abrera, 1995: 500; Bálint, 1999: 28.

Polyommatus eros dux: Evans, 1932: 232.

Polyommatus (group *stoliczkanus*) *dux*: Bálint, Johnson, 1997: 24.

Habitat: Around the wetland areas, sandy place; **Distribution:** BRITAIN, IRELAND, INDIA: SIKKIM

G.P.S : 28° 02' 08 N 88° 38' 37" E **New record** : Found at Khangla, Near Gurudongmar route, North Sikkim

♂, Khangla, Near Gurudongmar route, North Sikkim, 4930 m, 5.06.2011.

Results and Discussion

During the field visit in the Gurudongmar Wetland complex, the species, *Polyommatus dux* Riley, was sighted basking in the alpine priare during month of July. It is first record of sighting of this species in Sikkim Himalaya.

It is identified with structural colouration in the ventral wing surface of hingwing. It is vulnerable due to the climatic effect (Das et al., 2019). Hence, it is considered as flagship species for ecological studies in nature in Kumaon Himalaya.

No literatrues on the ecological services of this species in the Himalayan region found which is equally significant so the nature care can be taken properly.

Unavailbility of the literatures of this species relating to the Sikkim Himalaya, it warrants further researches on ecological services of it.

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