

Callerebia hybrida Butler, 1880 – (Lepidoptera; Nymphalidae) a new addition to the butterflies of union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India

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From Varshney & Smetacek (2015), this butterfly has range extension from Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand. According to Gasse (2018), this is often seen in Himalayas from 900 to 3900m, in west Kangra (Himachal Pradesh) and eastern Uttarakhand upto central Nepal and has been recorded from Bhutan also. The species is written as *Erebia hybrida* (Hybrid Argus) in Evans, 1932, and in Talbot, 1947. Dachal area lies in the foothills of Pir Panjal range within the Himalayas. The highest summer temperature is in between 19-35°C.

Material and Methods:

On 05-vi-2021, first author N.A.K has done survey on the butterflies of Dachal area in Mendhar city (Fig. 1) in district Poonch of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory where he observed *Callerebia hybrida* butterfly (Fig. 2) puddling on soil. He photographed this butterfly with the help of Canon EOS 200D II, and noted down the coordinates of that area (33°36'02'' N, 74°08'52'' E) at an altitude of around 1580m. This butterfly individual was further identified with the help of following literatures: Evans (1932), Talbot (1947), Wynter-Blyth (1957), Kehimkar (2016) Smetacek (2018). We also checked the recent publications on butterfly diversity of Jammu and Kashmir Himalaya i.e., Sheikh & Parey 2019a, 2019b; Gupta & Sheikh, 2021; Sheikh, 2021; Singh & Sheikh, 2021 and Parey & Sheikh, 2021.

This butterfly was not seen or observed earlier from Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, India (Sheikh *et al.* 2021) and thus occurrence of this butterfly species can be stated as new report from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. After this find of butterfly, Jammu and Kashmir Butterflies checklist has reached its number to 311.

Taxonomy:

Order: Lepidoptera

Superfamily: Papilionoidea

Family: Nymphalidae

Subfamily: Satyrinae

Features: The species can be identified by observing two eyespots on underside hindwing and a series of white discal spots above. In the central area and sub marginal area brown band or dark line can be seen. Marginal dark line of underside hindwing does not touch the eyespots. Forewing apex rounded.

Conclusion:

This addition of species has increased the butterfly checklist number to 311. More observation of this species can tell us the diversity status of this butterfly in UT of J&K. More studies should be carried out to find its host plant as well as nectar plants.



Source: Google earth maps
Fig 1: Map showing *Callerebia hybrida* location



Fig 2: *Callerebia hybrida* Butler

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