



# Pakistan Butterfly Society Quarterly Bulletin

Explorations  
Research  
Species  
Events



Newsletter of Butterflies of Pakistan:  
Spring 2024 Issue



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# Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Pakistan Butterfly Society's Quarterly Bulletin (PBSQB). This online issue of our newsletter will take you on a journey through the vibrant world of butterflies, that grace our surroundings with their colourful wings. Beyond their aesthetic attraction, butterflies are crucial to maintaining the balance of our ecosystem, since they serve as the second most effective pollinators after bees and their protein-packed caterpillars and *imagos* are integral parts of the food chain.

As we explore the story of evolution imprinted on their wings, we come to understand the complex network of life surrounding us. Their sensitivity to environmental changes, offering early warnings of ecological threats, makes them an instrumental bio-indicator. Butterfly watching, akin to birdwatching, is not just a hobby; it is an insightful connection to nature that not only conveys invaluable lessons about our environment but also helps us identify declining populations and map out measures for the conservation of endangered species.

Pakistan, a country with growing environmental challenges, is home to approximately 440 species of butterflies, 13 of which are endemic. Many of the butterflies were last documented even before Pakistan's independence, in the times of British India, while some species remain undiscovered. Caterpillars of butterflies are being deprived of food due to urbanization and deforestation, which is aggravating the threat brought on by climate change and jeopardizing their habitats in Pakistan.

This newsletter marks just the beginning of our collective efforts. We invite you to join us in celebrating the colors of nature and contributing to the preservation of our butterfly populations. Whether through simple observations captured with your mobile phone or active engagement with our society via email, website, or social media, there's a role for everyone in safeguarding our natural heritage. Let's appreciate the beauty of butterflies as a community and take responsibility for conserving their future in our country by exploring, studying and safeguarding them.

Editorial Team, PBSQB

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# تعارف

پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی کے سہ ماہی بلیٹن میں خوش آمدید۔ یہ آن لائن نیوز لیٹر آپ کو تتلیوں، جو ہمارے گردونواح کو اپنے رنگ برنگے پنکھوں سے خوبصورت بناتی ہیں، کی دنیا کے دلفریب سفر پر لے کر جانے والا ہے۔ اپنے جمالیاتی حسن کے علاوہ تتلیاں ہمارے قدرتی ماحول کو متوازن رکھنے میں بھی اپنا اہم کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ یہ نا صرف شہد کی مکھیوں کے بعد دوسرے نمبر پر مستعد ترین پولی نیٹرز ہیں بلکہ انکی پروٹین سے بھرپور سنڈیاں (بچے) اور جوان تتلیاں پرندوں اور دیگر جانوروں کی خوراک بن کر غذائی زنجیر میں کلیدی کردار ادا کرتی ہیں۔ انکی پنکھوں پر درج ارتقاء کی داستان پڑھ کر ہمیں اپنے اردگرد پھیلے متنوع حیاتیاتی نظام سے آگاہی حاصل ہوتی ہے۔ تتلیاں انتہائی حساس مخلوق ہیں جو منفی ماحولیاتی تبدیلیوں کے باعث سب سے پہلے متاثر ہوتی ہیں۔ ہم انکی آبادی کے مطالعہ سے اپنے قدرتی ماحول کو لاحق خطرات کی پیشنگوئی کر سکتے ہیں اسی لیے ان کو سب سے مفید بائیو انڈی کیٹر کے طور پر جانا جاتا ہے۔

تتلیوں کا مشاہدہ برڈ واچنگ کی طرح ایک صحت بخش مشغلہ ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ ہمیں قدرت سے بھی جوڑتا ہے۔ بٹرفلائی واچنگ نا صرف اپنے قدرتی ماحول سے ہمارا تعلق استوار کرتی ہے بلکہ تتلیوں کی کم ہوتی آبادیوں کی جانکاری اور معدومیت کے خطرے سے دوچار انواع کی بقاء کے لیے لائحہ عمل تشکیل دینے میں بھی معاونت فراہم کرتی ہے۔ پاکستان جو بے شمار ماحولیاتی مسائل سے دوچار ملک ہے، میں 440 انواع کی تتلیاں پائی جاتی ہیں جن میں سے 13 نسلیں ایسی بھی ہیں جو دنیا کے کسی اور ملک میں نہیں ملتیں۔ ان میں سے بہت سی اقسام آخری دفعہ پاکستان کی آزادی سے بھی پہلے برطانوی دور میں یہاں دیکھی گئی تھیں جبکہ کچھ نسلیں ابھی بھی دریافت ہونا باقی ہیں۔ پاکستان میں کلائمٹ چینج کے مسائل اور شہروں کی آبادکاری کے نام پر جنگلات کا بے دریغ کٹاؤ تتلیوں کو انکی مسکن اور انکی سنڈیوں (بچوں) کو خوراک سے محروم کرنے کا باعث بن رہے ہیں جن کی وجہ سے انکی آبادی مین تیزی سے کمی ہو رہی ہے۔

یہ نیوز لیٹر ہماری سماجی کاوش کی شروعات ہے۔ ہم سب مل کر قدرت کے رنگوں سے محظوظ ہونے کے ساتھ ساتھ مقامی تتلیوں کے تحفظ میں بھی اپنا حصہ ڈال سکتے ہیں چاہے وہ تتلیوں کے مشاہدے اور اپنے موبائل کے کیمرہ سے بنائی تتلی کی تصویر کی صورت میں ہو یا پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی کیساتھ ای میل، ہماری ویب سائٹ یا سوشل میڈیا کے توسط سے جڑنے کی شکل میں۔ اپنے قدرتی ورثے کے تحفظ میں ہم سب اپنا انفرادی کردار ادا سکتے ہیں۔ آئیے ہم سب قدرت کی اس تخلیق (تتلیوں) کی خوبصورتی کو خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے انکی مستقبل کو محفوظ بنانے کا بیڑہ اٹھائیں اور پاکستان بٹرفلائی سوسائٹی کے ساتھ مل کر انکی کھوج، تعلیم و آگاہی اور بقاء کے لیے کام کریں۔

ایڈیٹوریٹل بورڈ پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی سہ ماہی بلیٹن

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# Butterfly-Watching: A Rewarding Hobby

Zafar Mansoor Tipu

The butterflies are among my earliest childhood memories. They frequented our garden which used to have many seasonal flowers and other plants. I vividly remember the dexterity with which I could catch them and put them in glass jars for a while. After admiring their beauty these wondrous insects were freed. These were my pre-school days and I am talking about the late 1960s. I do not remember any particular species at all and just remember them to be beautiful, attractive and harmless creatures which added to the vibrancy and beauty of our home garden. Butterflies were just one facet of my interaction with nature in my childhood and my association with nature has continued in one way or the other till today.



© Zafar Mansoor Tipu

Plains Cupid *Luthrodes pandava* - Dry Season Form

I am not sure why my close interaction with butterflies ended as I grew up. I somehow stopped seeking them out and they just faded away in the background. My interest in seriously observing the fauna was renewed in the mid-90s when I started birding. Working in the coastal waters and adjacent areas of Pakistan gave me ample opportunities to observe seabirds and it soon developed into a hobby which I immensely enjoyed. It was not only a renewal of my link with nature but it also jelled well with my passion for photography. Fast forward about two decades I was still birding and suddenly I stumbled upon the butterflies again. This time too they were frequenting my garden right next to the butterfly haven of Margalla Hills in Islamabad.

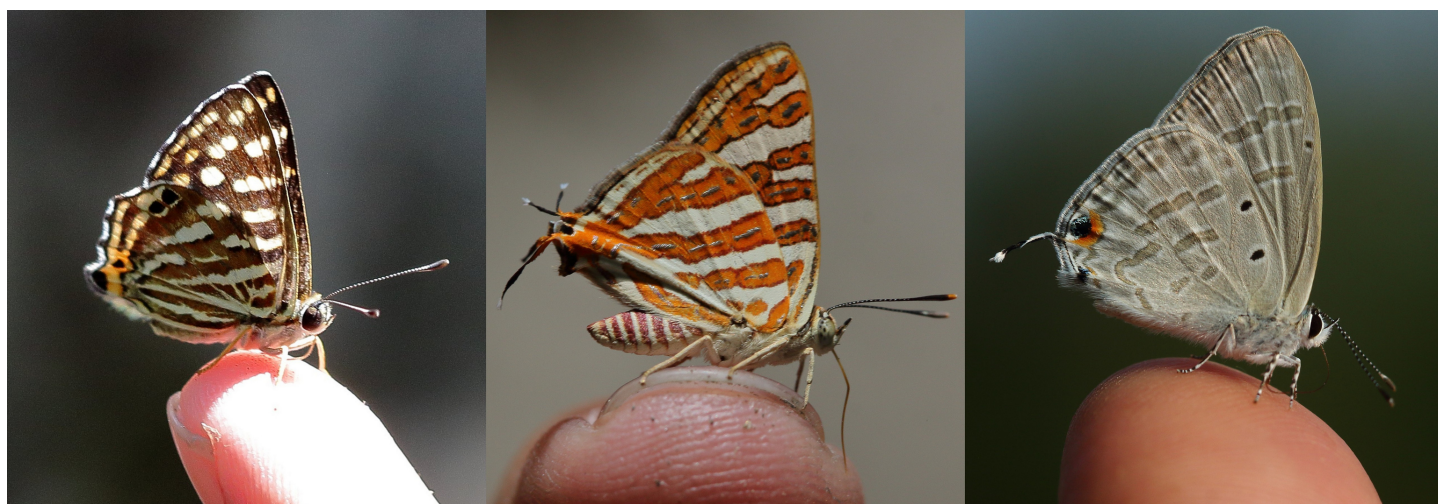


© Zafar Mansoor Tipu

Plains Cupid *Luthrodes pandava* - Wet Season Form



My interest in butterflies may have remained limited to photographing them had I not been fortunate enough to meet Akram Awan early on. He is the force, energy and knowledge behind this enterprise. It won't be wrong to say that he is the face of butterflies and almost everything that is being done about them in Pakistan nowadays. Anyway, he was very forthcoming and we soon met in the sprawling F-9 Fatima Jinnah Park in Islamabad. That one meeting was enough to lure my focus away from birding to butterflying. Amongst the butterflies we saw that day was Eastern Grass Jewel too, one of the smallest butterflies in Pakistan. Since my first meeting with Akram Awan, who will henceforth be referred to as *Ustad Ji* (the teacher, in Urdu/Punjabi), I have had a regular interaction with him and we have become good friends. He is one of the unsung heroes of the current generation and has contributed much to the knowledge about Pakistani fauna, especially the birds and butterflies. I have learned so much from him (hence *Ustad Ji*) and more importantly, his enthusiasm and drive are so infectious that one cannot remain unaffected by it. Another strong characteristic of Ustad Ji is his readiness to share knowledge which shows a lot about his personality. His contribution and dedication towards the butterfly fauna of Pakistan can be gauged from the fact that Jerome Pages, one of the authors of the book *The Butterflies of Pakistan*, named a subspecies after him, the Chitral Odd-spot Blue as *Turanana chitrali akramawani*.



© Zafar Mansoor Tipu

**Left-to-Right:** Common Punch *Dudona durga*, Common Silverline *Spindasis vulcanus* and Forget-me-not *Catochrysops strabo*

My interest in butterflies has grown in many different directions and aspects. Firstly, it has not remained restricted to observations in my garden only. Now I maintain a lookout for butterflies everywhere, may it be a walking track, hikes on the trails or a casual stroll through a park. It has gone beyond that. Now the hikes and visits are planned for the specific purpose of butterfly watching in different locations and seasons. Like for me this hobby has spread amongst many, especially the younger generation and due to this new awareness and interest, we now have new finds and redrawing of the coverage maps. Secondly, I had the opportunity to develop a new garden in my home and have tried to make it inviting for the butterflies. Butterfly gardening is a serious undertaking and people have written books about it. My garden is not a butterfly garden in the true sense but it does have plants whose nectar attracts butterflies and it also has some host plants where butterflies lay eggs. Ustad ji has discussed this aspect with me very recently to improve it further to have more host plants so that we can record the breeding cycle of certain species as well.



Thirdly, I have undertaken studying books and literature to learn about butterflies. My endeavour is not to seek hardcore scientific knowledge but to know more about our beautiful friends in layman's terms. There is so much that one can read and learn. Much has been penned and recorded by the early lepidopterists in South Asia from colonial times down to the present era. Foreigners as well as local enthusiasts and scientists have contributed in this regard. As an enthusiast and a hobbyist, anyone can contribute also by keeping records and sharing them. Photographs also help a lot. A website/app like *iNaturalist.org* is an excellent example of sharing personal observations. Moreover, the records help a person maintain their life lists and compile other details and observations. Fourthly, there are many challenges during the field observations. The biggest challenge in the field and even later is the identification of the butterflies. This calls for keen observation and noting its key features like colour and design etc. A field book and a butterflying binocular come in handy in the field. Different books and literature list the key features of butterflies differently.



© Zafar Mansoor Tipu

Creamy Sailer *Neptis soma butleri*

For a hobbyist, it sometimes gets tedious to sift through that information, especially for species which have subtle differences in their wing patterns etc. Photographs are a key to identification but still many times the help of Ustad ji and some other experts is the solution to identifying a butterfly. A correct identification is necessary for records and the urge to label an unidentified butterfly must be resisted until one is sure about its identity. For me, half the fun is in the field observation and butterfly photography and the other half is the identification and recordkeeping etc.



Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*Zebra Blue *Leptotes plinius*

The weather, terrain and the environment are another challenge. One must be equipped to deal with a long time in the field carry the drinking water and some food, and must be dressed appropriately. Another unconventional challenge that birders and butterfly watchers face in the field is the bewilderment that people show. Sometimes they will interrupt to ask what is being done. The looks are distracting and may be discouraging for some. The answer to this is to just ignore them and to politely reply to those who bother to ask. Lastly, I have equipped myself with field guides, a binocular suitable for butterflying and by upgrading my macro photography kit to be able to take butterfly pictures to record these beautiful creatures in their natural habitat as well as to record their feeding behaviour and reproduction cycles etc.

Photographing butterflies is what I enjoy as it combines my love for nature, and butterflies, and my passion for photography. Once I started doing that I realized that photographing butterflies is very challenging. They seldom sit still and fly off at the slightest distraction which may be as subtle as some shadow falling on them. The results are nevertheless so rewarding and beautiful that it is worth all the effort. I must mention here that modern smartphones even of simpler make and design have provided the camera in the hands of enthusiasts and casual observers and one now sees stunning photographs and videos of butterflies and other animals shot by these camera phones. Having a macro lens with a DSLR or a mirrorless camera is an advantage but smaller phone cameras are equally handy and sometimes better for photographing butterflies. There are some tips and techniques to improve butterfly photography and I have intentions to share those in some future editions of PBS Quarterly Bulletin.

Butterflies are found all over the world, except the polar regions, and they have a peculiar life cycle. What interests a casual observer is its beautifully patterned and colourful wings with which they flutter around in the gardens and the meadows and orchards looking for their food.



The females also lay their eggs in the same surroundings. It may be a surprise to the readers that flower nectar is not their only source of food. They also get nourishment from rotting fruits, moist leaf litter, bird droppings animal scat and mud and puddles. The whole life cycle of butterflies is a wonder of nature and one must read about it to understand the complexity of their reproduction and development cycles, food chain, wing colouring, migration and their role in the complex biodiversity web. We will discuss these aspects in layman's terms in subsequent issues of PBSQB. I have deliberately touched upon these aspects to show that the butterflies come to our gardens and orchards for a reason. They are either looking for their food or a place to lay their eggs. Some may be there to look for shelter from harsh weather and to spend their nights. Different butterflies show up at different times of the year and different regions and climates understandably have different butterfly fauna.

Although butterfly life is short, some varieties also undertake migration which may be restricted to limited distances or it may be very long such as the famed multigenerational migration of Monarch butterflies in the Americas. In short, the butterfly world is a world of its own and it is as beautiful and complex as they are. And this beauty of their world is the thing that has captivated me since my fresh handshake with them. The more I learn about it through reading and discussion more awed I am. We are fortunate to be in an era where knowledge and information are at our fingertips and we only have to make little effort to find it. One comes across and hears many myths and tales about nature and most are not true. It is therefore necessary to read about it from authentic sources. My message for those interested in this beautiful world of butterflies is to read and learn from the experts in the field.

Butterflies undoubtedly add to the beauty and vitality of a garden and they are a pleasure to watch. They feature in the folklore as well as in the literature and art. They enjoy a privileged place in my daily affairs and much activity in the garden and with my camera revolves around them, not to mention the books and the internet. It is truly a pleasure as my life list of butterflies grows. True pleasure is in seeing a species for the first time and then photographing it for my record. They make me sweat for it but the reward is worth the effort. I am lucky to be living in an area which is still not fully developed and my garden extends beyond my home's perimeter walls. Within a circle of half a kilometre radius, I find so much variety without much effort. In the last six years that I have lived here, I have been able to record over 60 butterfly species and every year I find new ones. A large chunk of these have been observed inside my home garden (a list of 50 species I have recorded in my garden is given at the end of this article). Once I start looking for them they seem to be elusive and then after a while, they start coming and posing for me to be discovered and recorded. I no longer make any attempts to catch them with my hands but do so with my camera. I can then look at them whenever I wish to and share the pleasure with other friends and enthusiasts too. Butterfly watching or butterflying is a relaxing and rewarding hobby. The thrill of discovery, the dance of nature and the freshness of the air wash away all the stresses and tensions too.



The sense of triumph in discovering a new species is untold and the expanding life list is a proud achievement. Good and happy memories keep a person in good stead and help in diluting the stresses of life that everyone faces. It provides not only an excellent pastime for me in my retired life as I make new memories with butterflies, they is also a link to my childhood full of joy and happiness. Age is not a barrier in this endeavour. Give butterflying a try and you will find it to be addictive. Make butterflies part of your beautiful memories too as they are for me.

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Himalayan Bath White	<i>Pontia (endusa/daplidice) moorei</i>
2	Bevan's Swift	<i>Pseudoborbo bevani</i>
3	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>
4	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>
5	Bright Babul Blue	<i>Azanus ubaldus</i>
6	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>
7	Common Banded Awl	<i>Hasora chromus</i>
8	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>
9	Common Crow	<i>Euploea core</i>
10	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>
11	Common Grass Dart	<i>Taractrocera maevius</i>
12	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
13	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>
14	Common Lineblue	<i>Prosotas nora</i>
15	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>
16	Common Red Flash	<i>Rapala airbus</i>
17	Common Threering	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>
18	Dark Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias fieldii</i>
19	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>
20	Dull Babul Blue	<i>Azanus uranus</i>
21	Easter Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria putli</i>
22	Forget-Me-Not	<i>Catochrysops strabo</i>
23	Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cnejus</i>



24	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia</i>
25	Indian Fritillary	<i>Argyreus hyperbius</i>
26	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i>
27	Jewel Fivering	<i>Ypthima avanta</i>
28	Kashmir Fourring	<i>Ypthima kasmira</i>
29	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>
30	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i>
31	Lesser Threering	<i>Ypthima inica</i>
32	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>
33	Little Orange Tip	<i>Colotis etrida</i>
34	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>
35	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
36	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>
37	Pallas' Sailor	<i>Neptis sappho</i>
38	Pea Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>
39	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>
40	Pioneer White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>
41	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>
42	Plains Cupid	<i>Luthrodes pandava</i>
43	Slate Flash	<i>Rapala manea</i>
44	Small Cupid	<i>Lachides contracta</i>
45	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>
46	Yellow Spot Swift	<i>Poytremis eltola</i>
47	Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes plinius</i>
48	Large Pied Flat	<i>Pesudocoladenia fatih</i>
49	Pierrots	<i>Tarucus sp.</i>
50	Darts	<i>Potanthus sp.</i>

List of butterflies I have observed in/around Naval Anchorage



# Expedition Sindh: Chasing Jokers

Azan Karam

Sindh is a culturally and historically rich province of Pakistan, dissected by the mighty Indus River that flows to the Arabian Sea. It shares a northern border with Pakistan's most populated province Punjab and the western border with the largest province of the country, Baluchistan. In September 2023, we ventured out on a three-day expedition as part of Pakistan's first "Big Butterfly Month 2023" – a citizen-science initiative spanning countries of the Indian Subcontinent. Starting from the threatened Malir – colloquially called the "lungs of Karachi", to moments spent at Thaddo Dam, then upwards at the wintering bird's honeymoon resort – the Haleji Lake and lastly to the semi-arid desert realm and surprisingly biodiverse Jhimpir Community Reserve Zone. Others may visit Sindh for its rich historical sites, its unique cultural vibes and Karachi's Biryani, but we were after something different in this hub of ancient civilization: to explore the kaleidoscopic diversity of butterflies!



© Salman Baloch

Spotted Joker *Byblia ilithyia*, Jhampir, Sindh - 24 September 2023



### Malir – 22 nd September:

If there is one name that comes to mind when hearing the word Malir, that would be Salman Baloch. A well-known environmental activist, fighting at the forefront, raising awareness about the threats to this sensitive ecosystem due to ecocidal development. Salman's weapons are a wildlife photography camera, social media handles and unbreakable resilience. He joined us and Zafeer Ahmed Shaikh – a prodigy with zealous passion for wildlife conservation, pan country. Malir's future is hanging on a thread, as it is being bulldozed to clear up space for our species while eliminating their original inhabitants. We, the four-horsemen went out in search of butterflies (and birds!) before this chapter meet its unfortunate but evitable fate.



© Azan Kararam

A mating pair of Dull Babul Blue *Azanus uranus*, Malir, Sindh - 22 Sept 2023

The area has unique reddish mud, Acacia forests and organic farmlands of various crops. Some of the notable flora include, Egyptian Acacia *Vachellia nilotica*, Eshvarak *Rhazya stricta*, Karira *Capparis decidua*, Tamarind *Tamarindus indica*, Sandpaper Raisin *Grewia flavescens* and Desert Mimosa *Mimosa zygophylla*.



We found a Little Orange-tip *Colotis etrida*, a small papery white butterfly with forewing tips that look like dipped in orange paint and burned slightly at the margins. In a few moments, we found Danaid Eggfly *Hypolimnna misippus* in fields – a trickster of the butterfly world mimicking its cousin, the Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*. Named for its host plants, the chequered Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus* was occasionally seen near Citrus plants.



© Azan Karam

Little Orange-Tip *Colotis etrida*, Gadap Town - 22 Sept 2023

Besides the black-veined Pioneer White Belenois *aurota*, the siblings, Dark Grass Blue *Zizeeria karsandra* and Tiny Grass Blue *Zizula hylax* were observed at grasses, not usually flying higher than knee height. Dingy *Gegenes nostradamus* and Parnara Swifts are hard to locate unless it make a quick jump from one grass blade to another, which we mainly see near the grown grasses near a pool's leaking water. Dull Babul Blue *Azonus uranus*, Zebra Blue *Leptotes plinius* and the Small Grass Jewel *Freyeria putli*, with its gem-bordered hindwing were common in Acacias whereas the difficult-to-ID Pierrots were surprisingly common sharing same habitat.



© Salman Baloch

Danaid Eggfly *Hypolimnna misippus*, Malir - 22 Sept 2023

Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata* and Large Salmon Arab *Colotis fausta* are like two emperors reigning same kingdom, former being uncommon and later was common. In the wilder area with patches of Acacia where the scrubs grow on the reddish mud towards Thaddo Dam, we saw one of the smallest butterflies that look more like a drunk fly, the Indian Grizzled Skipper *Spialia galba*. It can be easily mistaken for the rarest of the rare, Sind Skipper – a subspecies. Common Rose Butterfly *Pachliopta aristolochiae* utilizing the whole landscape, flying high among trees to the low-lying vegetation. It is a graceful species to watch, with combination of dark black wings and rosy patches on hind-wing surrounding a group of white bars.



In shades of yellow and green, the Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*, Lemon Emigrant *Catopsilia pomona* and Mottled Emigrant *Catopsilia pyranthe* took the stage at the agricultural lands of Malir. Among pansies, the Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya* Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta*, like flying flowers, were not difficult to find.

We crossed Thado River in search of Spotted Joker *Byblia ilithyia*, a species recently found in Pakistan, distributed in just a few spots in Sindh. Last time it was recorded by Salman here in October 2020, but we failed to find any, as it is not a joke to find the Joker. We were now near Thaddo Dam when the euphoria of finding one species after another faded into sorrow by seeing the massive destruction of habitat at Malir by housing societies. In wide sections, entire ecosystems were removed as cleanly as pencil sketch erased from a canvas, with just hints of the past visible.



© Salman Baloch

A mega Housing Society at what Cost? Bahria Town's Encroachment on nature's rich tapestry in Kirthar National Park. Once it used to have a healthy habitat of Spotted Joker, now tracks of bulldozers greet the eyes.



**Thaddo Dam:** A brief time was spent here later on that day. We saw Osprey with stretched-out wings flying high above us. For minutes our heads were up, soaking the graceful visuals of Osprey and Terns. While we were looking up, something else was looking at us from the ground. There were patches of Worm Killer *Aristolochia bracteolata*, ironically inhabited by the larva, it couldn't kill. There were bunch of caterpillars at each such plant, that looked like edible red and-black gummies, the next generation of the Common Rose Butterfly. The day ended with mixed feelings of awe and worry – the rich biodiversity awaiting executioners blow, sooner or later.



© Muhammad Akram Awan

Caterpillars of Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae* feeding on larval host plant *Aristolochia bracteolata*. Thaddo Dam, Sindh - 22 Sept 2023.

**Haleji Lake – 23rd September:** We met Waja Sadiq Baloch, a popular name amongst Pakistan's birding community. With Waja's spotting skills equipped with raptorial vision, I bagged record number of bird lifers at Haleji Lake. This is a birding hotspot where birders and birds flock in different seasons. One can also get a glimpse of national reptile of Pakistan here – the Mugger Crocodile. The marshes of the lake are home to the elusive Fishing Cat – about which Zafeer is spearheading one of its kind, scientific project for its conservation. While he was checking the camera-traps, we were exploring the lake shores for birds, butterflies and other notable lifeforms. Due to short stay, we only managed to document Small Salmon Arab. The Common Picture Wing dragonflies fluttered in hundreds strong – a spectacle to behold, not less than the flickering of fireflies. We wrapped up the trip and went for Jhimpir.



© Muhammad Akram Awan

Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata*. Haleji, Sindh - 24 Sept 2023.



**Jhimpir:** It was dusk, and we were welcomed by Kamal Palari and Haroon Palari, whose hospitality was matchless and whose love for wildlife was exemplary. We split into small groups and without further ado, started looking for life before nightfall. In this unique, semi-arid habitat we only found Blue-spotted Arab *Colotis phisadia* – uncommon amongst all Arabs during the trip. Some of the unique flora of Jhimpir were Leafless Milk Hedge *Euphorbia caducifolia*, Ber *Ziziphus nummularia*, Gum Acacia *Senegalia senegal*, Karira *Capparis decidua* and *Indigofera oblongifolia*. For next morning, we had planned for a species few people have seen in Pakistan.



© Azan Karam & Zafeer A. Shaikh

A collage showing Spotted Joker in its habitat, having patches of Spurgecreeper *Dalechampia scandens* just at the base of one of the wind turbines at windfarm.

It is the morning of 24th September, our eyes opened to an open sky after an adventurous nocturnal birding and herping previous night. Haroon led us to the outskirts of Jhimpir over an hour drive, to one particular patch of greenery under the rolling fans of wind turbine. His unshakeable faith in the species fidelity to the site made the trip worth it. We met not just one but over a dozen Jokers – this time it was serious business, not a prank. This species underwings is reminiscent of “Sindhi AjraKh”, an interesting coincidence with the species sole occurrence in Sindh.

We took videos and photos of many of them, their shockingly small habitat and their larval host Spurgecreeper *Dalechampia scandens*. It was not something to get tired of, but we had to go forward to explore the ridge above this green corner. There we met the Grizzled Skipper, again! We kept chasing it with five pairs of eyes following its moves, until it disappeared like a ghost before our surveillance. The entire expedition ended with checklists of butterflies and the concerns of what was at stake in what we explored.



# Preliminary Checklist of the Butterflies of Pakpattan District

Usman Ghani

Pakpattan is a district located in the east of the Punjab province of Pakistan. It holds historical importance as it is home to the shrine of Baba Farid, a revered Sufi saint. The district is known for its agricultural activities, and its economy is largely based on farming. Pakpattan City serves as the district headquarters, and the region is characterized by a blend of rural and urban communities. The shrine of Baba Farid attracts pilgrims and visitors from various parts of the country, making Pakpattan a significant cultural and religious centre.

© Usman Ghani



White Arab *Colotis vestalis*

© Usman Ghani



Small Salmon Arab *Colotis amata*

© Usman Ghani



Gram Blue *Euchrysops cnejus*

© Usman Ghani



Tiny Grass Blue *Zizula hylax*



**Climate and Elevation:** Pakpattan, being in the Punjab region of Pakistan, experiences a hot and dry climate, especially during the summer months. Summers are typically hot with temperatures often exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit). Winters are cooler, with temperatures ranging from mild to cold. The elevation of the Pakpattan district is generally low, ranging from about 142 meters (466 feet) to 152 meters (499 feet) above sea level.

**The Checklist:** Based on two years of observations, a preliminary checklist of butterflies of the Pakpattan district is provided below. Since February 2022, when I started gathering butterfly records, 37 species are currently added to the list: 2 "Swallowtails" (Papilionidae: Sr. No. 1-2), 10 species of "Whites and Yellows" (Pieridae: Sr. No. 3-12), 12 species of "Blues" (Lycaenidae: Sr. No. 13-24), 8 species of "Brush-foots" (Nymphalidae: Sr. No. 25-32) and 5 "Skippers" (Hesperiidae: Sr. No. 33-37). November has been the most productive month of the year with the most number of species seen, while the least number of species were recorded in February. (See figure.1)



© Usman Ghani

Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*

This is the first report of butterflies from this part of the Punjab province and it will not only grow in future but we will also get to know more about their seasonality in the district. The flight period of these butterflies is entirely based on my observations.



No.	Species	Recorded Flight Period
1	Lime Butterfly <i>Papilio demoleus</i>	All months except Jan-February
2	Mormon Butterfly <i>Papilio polytes</i>	July-October
3	Indian Cabbage White <i>Pieris brassicae</i>	March-June
4	Large Cabbage White <i>Pieris canidia</i>	November-May
5	Himalayan Bath White <i>Pontia (endusa/daplidice) moorei</i>	Once in May
6	Pioneer White <i>Belenois aurota</i>	April; October-December
7	Small Salmon Arab <i>Colotis amata</i>	May-October
8	White Arab <i>Colotis vestalis</i>	May-October
9	Crimson-tip <i>Colotis danae</i>	Once: 21st June 2023
10	Lemon Emigrant <i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	July-October
11	Mottled Emigrant <i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	Flies throughout the year
12	Common Grass Yellow <i>Eurema hecabe</i>	All months except January-March
13	Pea Blue <i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Feb-April; November-December
14	Zebra Blue <i>Leptotes plinius</i>	May; August-December
15	Forget-me-not <i>Catochrysops starbo</i>	November
16	Bright Babul Blue <i>Azanus ubaldus</i>	June-October
17	Dull babul Blue <i>Azanus uranus</i>	October-December
18	Tiny Grass Blue <i>Zizula hylax</i>	October-November
19	Lesser Grass Blue <i>Zizina otis</i>	April-May
20	Dark Grass Blue <i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	March-November
21	Pale Grass Blue <i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>	All months except January
22	Small Cupid <i>Lachides contracta</i>	April-May
23	Small Grass Jewel <i>Freyeria putli</i>	Seen twice (March & September)
24	Gram Blue <i>Euchrysops cnejus</i>	Once in December
25	Plain Tiger <i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Documented in all months
26	Painted Lady <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Jan-June; October; December
27	Blue Pansy <i>Junonia orithya</i>	Seen in all months



28	Yellow Pansy <i>Junonia hierta</i>	Once in November
29	Lemon Pansy <i>Junonia lemonias</i>	Seen once by Ali Haider (brother) - 19 Dec 2022
30	Peacock Pansy <i>Junonia almana</i>	Seen in all months except March
31	Leopard <i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	October-January
32	Tropical Fritillary <i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>	Once in November
33	White-branded Swift <i>Pelopidas thrax</i>	June-August; November-December
34	Dark-branded Swift <i>Pelopidas mathias</i>	July-August; October-November
35	Ceylon Swift <i>Parnara bada</i>	All months except hot (June) & cold (Dec-Mar)
36	Dingy Swift <i>Gegenes nostradamus</i>	Once in August
37	Pale Palm Dart <i>Telicota colon</i>	August-September; November

**Fig.1** Preliminary Checklist of Butterflies of District Pakpattan, Punjab, Pakistan



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**Top-Left Clockwise:** Himalayan Bath White *Pontia (endusa/daplidice) moorei*, Small Cupid *Lachides contracta*, Small Grass Jewel *Freyeria putli*, Forget-Me-Not *Catochrysops starbo*, Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana* and Dingy Swift *Gegenes nostradamus*.



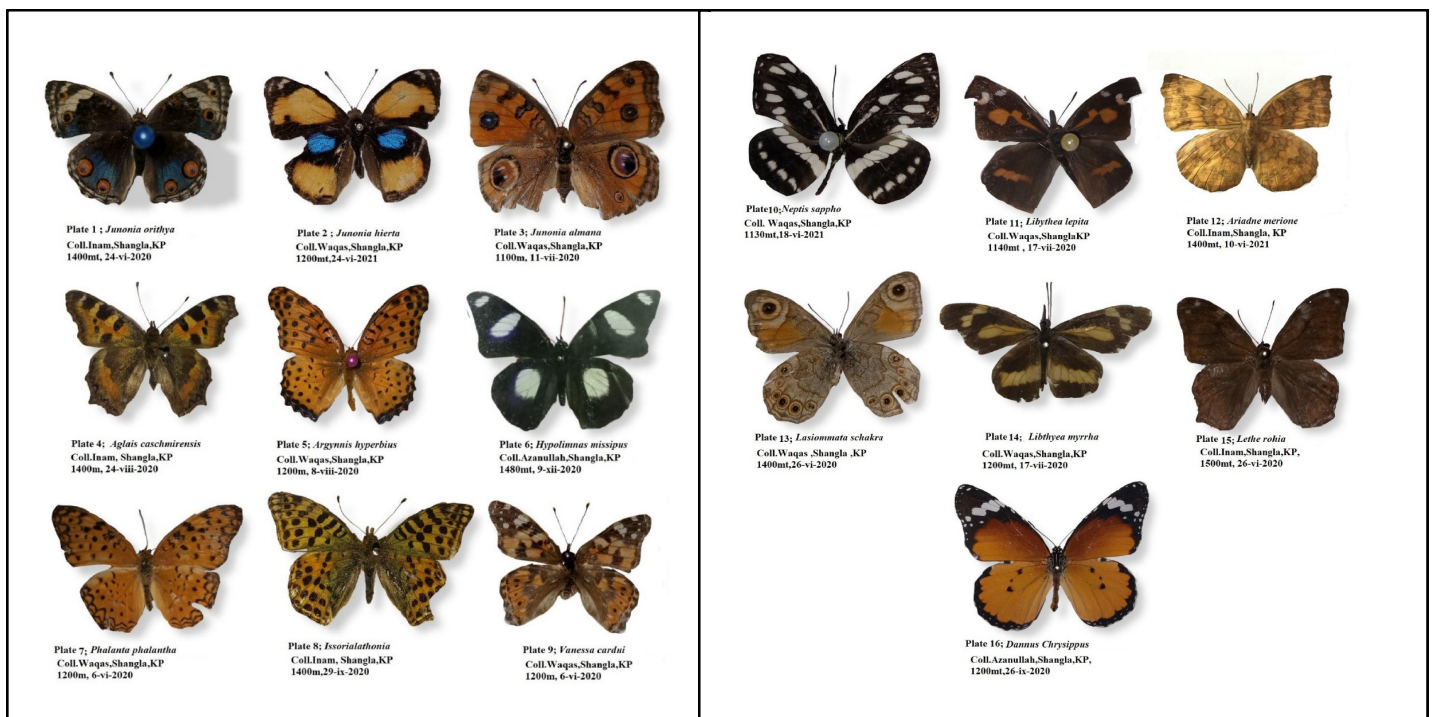
# Nymphalids of District Shangla

Waqas Ahmad

Shangla is a district in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province of Pakistan and located in the Hindukush region (*Khan et al., 2013*). However according to *Dong et al. (2010)*, since the climate and vegetation of the eastern Hindu Kush are increasingly like those of the neighbouring Himalayas, most bio-geographers refer to these mountain ranges as the Hindu Kush-Himalaya (HKH) group. Shangla is a high mountain landscape with moist temperate and coniferous vegetation that covers 11,528 acres (*Swati et al., 2002*).

Surveys were conducted from June 2021 to June 2022 to explore the fauna of Brush-footed butterflies (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) of District Shangla, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa- Pakistan. The butterflies were photographed using a Smartphone camera (Xiaomi A3), from five Tehsils of the District Shangla. Namely; Alpuri, Besham, Chakesar, Martung and Puran. As a result, 20 species, 15 genera under four subfamilies of Nymphalidae were identified. All the species were reported for the first time from Shangla. It is concluded that district Shangla has diverse butterfly fauna.

Present study is the baseline study of the district and will be helpful in identification of butterfly fauna for future researches.



**Fig. 1.** Plates of Nymphalids specimens, collected from District Shangla, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Photos by the author)

\*\*The author is a published researcher in entomology, currently doing MPhil in Zoology at the University of Peshawar. The specimens collection is an important part of his research area, and were not collected solely for the purpose of this article\*\*



No.	Common Name	Scientific Name
1	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>
2	Yellow Pansy	<i>Junonia hierta</i>
3	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>
4	Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais caschmirensis</i>
5	Indian Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>
6	Large Silverstripe	<i>Argynnis children</i>
7	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnys misippus</i>
8	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>
9	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
10	Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>
11	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
12	Pallas's Sailer	<i>Neptis sappho</i>
13	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>
14	Common Wall	<i>Lasiommata schakra</i>
15	Common Treebrown	<i>Lethe rohria</i>
16	Great Satyr	<i>Aulocera padma</i>
17	Club Beak	<i>Libythea myrrha</i>
18	Common Beak	<i>Libythea lepita</i>
19	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>
20	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>

Figure. A table compiling list of Nymphalids recorded from District Shangla



© Waqas Ahmad

Common Treebrown *Lethe rohria*. Chakesar, District Shangla - 14 Sept 2021.





Indian Fritillary *Argynnis hyperbius*. Chakesar, District Shangla - 4 July 2021. Background shows a hint of District Torghar mountain in the middle while the foreground shows a summer habitat for various species of butterflies, including Nymphalids.

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# اونیکس تتلی کا پاکستان سے پہلا ریکارڈ

First Record of Common Onyx *Horaga onyx onyx* from Pakistan

مریم مجید ڈار، سعدیہ کاظمی

**تعارف:** کامن اونیکس تتلی بھارت، نیپال، بھوٹان، بنگلہ دیش اور سری لنکا سے جنوب مشرقی ایشیاء میں انڈونیشیا تک پائی جاتی ہے۔ بھارت میں اس کی تین زیلی انواع (سب-سپیشز) پائی جاتی ہیں جن میں سے س-س اونیکس کا 2017 تک مغربی ہمالیہ میں ہماچل پردیش تک ملنا معلوم شدہ تھا۔ 2018 میں یہ تتلی بھارت کے زیرانتظام کشمیر میں ریکارڈ ہوئی اور اب تک یہ کشمیر کے اضلاع ڈوڈا، راجوڑی، سامبا اور جموں کے اضلاع میں دیکھی جا چکی ہے۔ پاکستان بٹرفلائی سوسائٹی نے 100 سے زائد ایسی تتلیوں کی فہرست مرتب کی ہے جو ہمارے پڑوسی ممالک بھارت، افغانستان اور ایران کے پاکستان سے متصل صوبوں/ریاستوں میں بارڈر کے قریب تک ملتی ہیں اور مستقبل میں پاکستان میں ریکارڈ ہو سکتی ہیں۔ اس لسٹ میں اونیکس تتلی کی پیشنگوئی بھی کی گئی تھی لیکن یہ خیال ظاہر کیا گیا تھا کہ ہمارے ہاں یہ سیالکوٹ (براستہ جموں) یا آزاد کشمیر میں کوہ ہمالیہ کے کم بلندی والے پہاڑوں میں (براستہ راجوڑی) ملے گی۔ لیکن اس سال اس تتلی کا پہلا قومی ریکارڈ واہ کینٹ سے موصول ہوا۔



@ Sadia Kazmi

Common Onyx *Horaga onyx onyx*. Wah Cantt, Tehsil Taxila, District Rawalpindi. 31 October 2023



**تفصیل:** واہ کینٹ ضلع راولپنڈی کی تحصیل ٹیکسلا کا ایک شہر ہے جو کوہ ہمالیہ کے فٹ ہلز (مرگلہ) کے جنوب میں واقع ہے۔ پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی کا مرکز ہونے کی وجہ سے اس علاقے کی تتلیوں پر پچھلے 11 سال سے تحقیق جاری ہے اور اب تک تحصیل بھر سے 110 سے زائد انواع کی تتلیاں ریکارڈ ہو چکی ہیں۔ مون سون کی بارشوں کے بعد خصوصاً اکتوبر اور نومبر کے مہینوں میں ہمارے خطے میں نئی نئی تتلیوں کی آمد کا سلسلہ شروع ہو جاتا ہے۔ 31 اکتوبر 2023ء کو سعدیہ کاظمی نے واہ کینٹ میں واقع اپنے گھر سے گامن اونیکس تتلی کو فوٹوگراف کیا جو پاکستان میں اس تتلی کا پہلا ریکارڈ ہے۔ اسی نوع کے نمونے نومبر اور دسمبر میں بھی نظر آتے رہے۔ آخری دفعہ اونیکس کو 21 دسمبر 2023ء کے دن ریکارڈ کیا گیا۔ واہ کینٹ سے قریب ترین مقام جہاں سے یہ تتلی ریکارڈ ہو چکی ہے وہ بھارت کے زیرانتظام کشمیر کے ریاسی ضلع میں بھمبلا نامی گاؤں ہے جو کہ یہاں سے لگ بھگ 180 کلومیٹر کے فاصلے پر واقع ہے لہذا مستقبل میں اس تتلی کے سیالکوٹ سے آزاد کشمیر اور اسلام آباد تک ملنے کے امکانات کافی روشن ہیں۔

اونیکس ایک خوبصورت اور نایاب تتلی ہے جس کو بھارت میں وائلڈلائف پروٹیکشن ایکٹ 1972 شیڈول-2 کے تحت قانونی حیثیت حاصل ہے۔ پاکستان میں ابھی تک نایاب تتلیوں سے متعلق کوئی نا تو کوئی ڈیٹا جمع کیا گیا ہے نا ہی ایسی تتلیوں کے بچاؤ کیلئے کوئی قانون موجود ہے۔ پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی ملک میں تتلیوں کے تحفظ کیلئے پرعزم ہے۔

**اردو نام:** پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی پاکستان میں پائی جانے والی تمام تتلیوں کی انواع کے اردو نام رکھنے کا کام کر رہی ہے۔ گامن اونیکس کا نام سنگ سلیمانی تتلی تجویز کیا گیا ہے جو کہ اسکے پنکھوں کے ڈیزائن کو ظاہر کرتا ہے اور اسکے انگلش نام کا لغوی ترجمہ بھی ہے۔

**پہچان:** گامن اونیکس ایک بادامی بھورے رنگ کی چھوٹی تتلی ہے جسکا سائز 3-3 سینٹی میٹر تک ہوتا ہے۔ بند پنکھوں میں اگلے پنکھ پر ایک بڑا سفید دھبا جبکہ پچھلے پنکھ پر ایک موٹی سفید پٹی موجود ہوتی ہے۔ اسکے پچھلے دونوں پنکھوں پر تین تین دھاگہ نما دمیں موجود ہوتی ہیں جن میں سے درمیانی دمیں سب سے لمبی ہوتی ہیں۔

**چند الفاظ کی وضاحت:** ذیل میں اس تحریر میں شامل کچھ الفاظ قارئین کی آسانی کیلئے انگریزی میں واضح کیے جا رہے ہیں:

English	اردو	English	اردو
Subspecies	زیلی انواع (سب-سپیشز)	Common Onyx	گامن اونیکس
Foothills	فٹ ہلز	Subspecies <i>H.o.onyx</i>	س-س اونیکس
Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Schedule-II	وائلڈلائف پروٹیکشن ایکٹ 1972 شیڈول-2	Individuals of the same species	اسی نوع کے نمونے
Ferruginous-brown	بادامی بھورے رنگ	Dictionary Meaning	لغوی ترجمہ
Forewings	اگلے پنکھ	Underside/Side-view of the wings	بند پنکھ
		Hindwings	پچھلے پنکھ



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# پاکستان کا قدرتی ورثہ

## Pakistan's Natural Heritage

محمد اکرم اعوان

اس سیکشن میں ہم ان تتلیوں کا مختصر تعارف پیش کریں گے جو پاکستان کے علاوہ دنیا کے کسی اور ملک میں نہیں پائی جاتیں۔ ایسی انواع کو اینڈیمک سپیشز کہا جاتا ہے۔ پاکستان میں تتلیوں کی 13 سے زائد اینڈیمک تتلیاں پائی جاتی ہیں۔

### چترالی بھوری آرگوس / *Chitral Brown Argus Kretania csomai*

چترالی بھوری آرگوس پاکستان میں صرف چترال اور گلگت بلتستان میں پائی جاتی ہے۔ چترال میں اسکو دروش، ترچ میر، چترال گول اور شندور سے ریکارڈ کیا گیا ہے جبکہ گلگت بلتستان میں یہ تتلی اب تک تیرو، اسطور اور سوست میں ملی ہے۔ میں نے اس نوع کی ایک مادہ کو پھنڈر (ضلع غدر) سے ریکارڈ کیا تھا جسکی تصویر زیر نظر ہے۔ اس سے پہلے فرنچ محقق چارمیکس نے 1990 کی دہائی میں اس تتلی کی تصویر اسکے قدرتی ماحول میں لی تھی۔

چترالی آرگوس کے پنکھوں کا پھیلاؤ 30 ملی میٹر کے لگ بھگ ہوتا ہے۔ یہ جون سے اگست تک چترال اور گلگت بلتستان میں پتھریلے علاقوں میں 2500 سے 3500 میٹر تک کی بلندی پر دیکھی جا سکتی ہے۔ اس تتلی کی عادات، میزبان پودوں اور علاقوں کے بارے میں مزید تحقیق کی ضرورت ہے۔ یہ ممکنہ طور پر اسٹراگیلس جنس کے پودوں کو اُندے دیتی ہے۔ اگر آپ کبھی چترال اور گلگت کے اوپر بیان کردہ علاقوں میں جائیں تو اس نایاب اور خالصتا پاکستانی تتلی کو ڈھونڈنے کی کوشش کر سکتے ہیں۔

اس تتلی کا پہلا نمونہ 21 جون 1902ء کو دروش سے پکڑا گیا تھا اور 90 سال تک اسکو لارج جیول بلیو کی مادہ کے طور پر پہچانا جاتا رہا۔ 1992 میں بیلنٹ نامی سائنسدان نے اسکو ایک الگ نوع کے طور پر بیان کیا جس کا نام اس نے ایک ہنگرین اورنٹلسٹ سینڈور کوروسی سوما کے نام پر کریٹانیا سومائی رکھا۔ پاکستان میں لارج جیول بلیو اور بلوچی جیول بلیو نامی دو انواع اس تتلی سے کافی مشابہت رکھتی ہیں لیکن اسکو مندرجہ ذیل خصوصیات کی بناء پر با آسانی پہچانا جا سکتا ہے۔ اردو زبان میں تتلی کے خدوخال کی ٹرمز کے عام فہم نا ہونے کی وجہ سے انکو انگریزی میں بیان کیا جا رہا ہے اور تصاویر میں کلیدات پہچان کو نمبرز کے ساتھ واضح کیا گیا ہے:





1. Under forewing orange pre-marginal band (Large Jewel Blue has dusky-brown, Baluchi Jewel Blue is similar but found only in Balochistan).

2. Orange pre-marginal spots all along the under hindwing with more than 2 blue metallic spots behind them (only 2 orange and blue metallic spots in Large Jewel Blue, a complete row of orange spots in Baluchi Jewel Blue with no blue metallic spots at all).



3. Males are brown above (Baluchi Jewel Blue and Large Jewel Blue males are blue above).



چند الفاظ کی وضاحت: ذیل میں اس تحریر میں شامل کچھ الفاظ قارئین کی آسانی کیلئے انگریزی میں واضح کیے جا رہے ہیں:

English	اردو	English	اردو
Charmeux	چارمیکس	Endemic species	اینڈیمک سپیشز
Orientalist Sandor Korosi Csoma	اورنٹلسٹ سینڈور کوروسی سوما	Large Jewel Blue	لارج جیول بلیو
<i>Astragalus</i>	اسٹراگیلس	<i>Kretania csomai</i>	کریٹانیا سومائی
		Terms	ٹرمز



Potential habitat site of Chitral Brown Argus *Kretania csomai*. Phandar Lake, Ghizer District, Gilgit-Baltistan - 8 July 2018

### References:

1. Vadim Tshikolovets and Jerome Pages (2016): The Butterflies of Pakistan. Pardubice, Czechia.
2. Vadim Tshikolovets, Igor Pliushch, Oleg Pak and Yuriy Skrylnik (2018): The Butterflies of Afghanistan. Pardubice, Czechia.
3. Zsolt Balint (1992): New taxa of the Polyommatus section (sensu Eliot, 1973) from Central Asia. Studies on Central Palaeartic Lycaenids II. (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae). Linneana Belgica XIII, No. 8, december 1992.



# Big Butterfly Month: A Walk For Butterflies

## Azan Karam

Pakistan's first butterfly walk was conducted on 11th September 2023 from 8:00-12:00 PM at Kohistan Gat, in Saidu Sharif, Swat Valley, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was part of a transborder citizen-science project on *iNaturalist.org* to collate data on butterflies in September 2023 from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and now Pakistan.

Butterflies are widely lovable for their attractive patterns and colours, and they were a good choice to engage students and teachers in documenting their diversity, indulging them in citizen-science and educating them about its key ecological roles and intrinsic values. This walk and other such events will lay the foundation for ambitious projects in future, such as national butterfly counts, which is an essential source for massive data retrieval with the help of the public to understand the population dynamics of butterfly species in the long run and to form a proper conservation plan accordingly. This walk is the first step forward to highlight the importance and value of butterflies like never before.

Talks were given to media, organizers requested the government to elevate butterflies to legal status by making them part of Wildlife Acts.



Students of grades 8th and 9th attending a brief lecture on ecological importance of butterflies.



After the classroom session, the walk was then led by RI member, Azan Karam alongside PBS members, Taimur Khan and Abdur Rehman, with the generous support of Rewilding Indus (RI) and the valuable guidance of Pakistan Butterfly Society (PBS).



© Junaid Ibrahim

Students and teachers posing with the event's poster during the walk at Kohistan Gat, Aqba Road, Saidu Sharif, Swat

**The event consisted of five segments, in the following order:**

a) Classroom lecture by team members to students and teachers about ecological roles, conservation and intrinsic values of butterflies.

b) Interactive one-on-one session of teaching citizen-science platform, iNaturalist App to students.

c) A walk on a hillside trail, nearby school for documenting butterflies by engaging students and teachers, guided by team members.

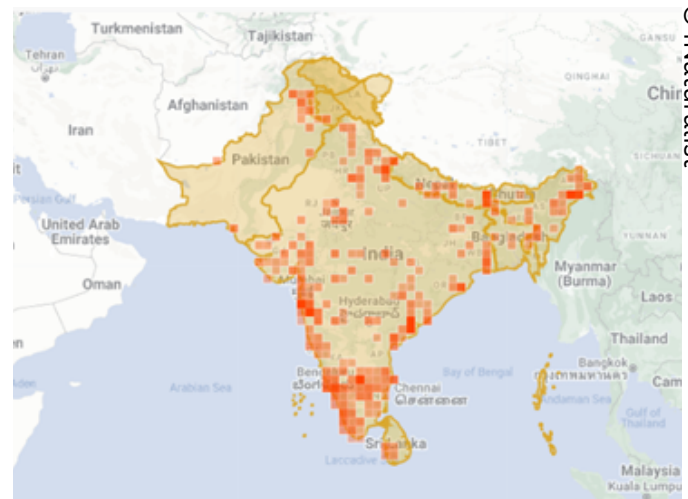
d) Talks were given to different electronic media channels and radios about the event's various purposes.

e) Certificates of participation were awarded to students at the end.



© Junaid Ibrahim/WeNews

One of the participant is attempting to click a Dark Grass Blue *Zizeeria karsandra*, a small species often found at grass-level.



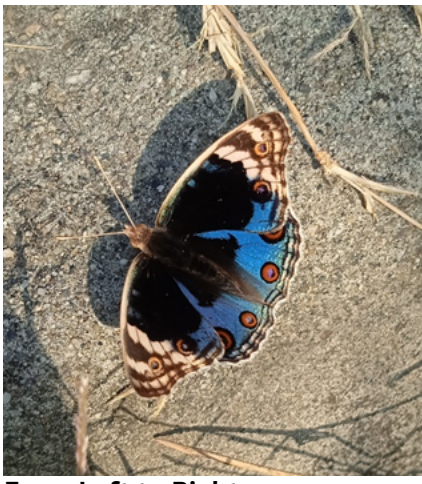
© iNaturalist

Map showing observations from across Indian Subcontinent for BBM-2023/ iNaturalist.org

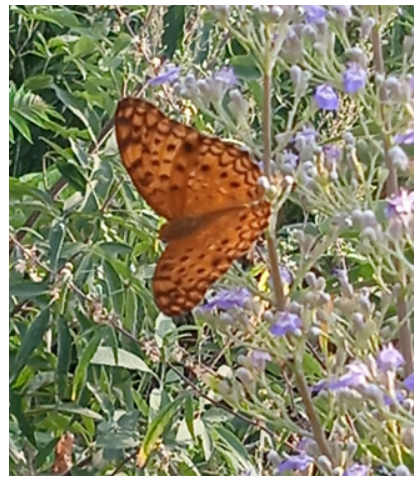
**The following species were documented and seen during the walk:**

Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*, Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha*, Dark Grass Blue *Zizeeria karsandra*, Pale Grass Blue *Pseudozizeeria maha*, Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*, Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus*, Common Castor *Ariadne merione*, Chinese Peacock Butterfly *Papilio bianor*, Indian Cabbage White *Pieris canidia* and Sorrel Sapphire *Heliophorus sena*.





© Abdurehman Jani



© Azan Karam



© Taimur Khan

From Left to Right:

Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*, Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha* and Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*.

**Acknowledgement:**

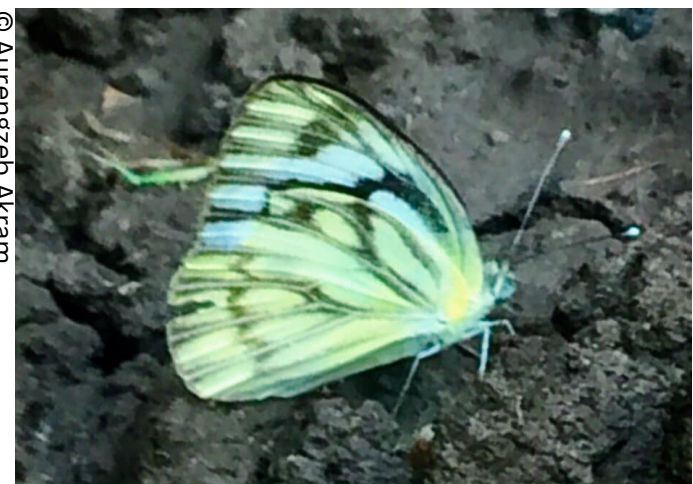
Sincerely thankful to reporters & electronic media for covering our event & helping in spreading awareness about butterflies. Our immense thanks to principal Sikandar Nawaz Khan of The Maple School & College, Swat for participating & providing us platform for this event.

# Rarity Notes

Compiled by Muhammad Akram Awan

This section focuses on some significant and rare butterfly sightings documented in Pakistan throughout 2023.

Common Gull *Cepora nerissa* was recorded from Lahore district (Punjab) after 48 years, by Aurenzgeb Akram on 29 May 2023. It was the last time reported from the city in 1975. This is also the first photographic record of this butterfly from Lahore. The Common Gull is a rare species in Pakistan and has only been reported from Narowal, Lahore, Bahawalpur (Punjab) and Abbottabad districts (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).



© Aurenzgeb Akram

Common Gull *Cepora nerissa*. Lahore, Punjab - 29 May 2023.



© M. Ayaz Mahmood

Chitral Purple Emperor *Mimathyma chitralensis*. Taobat, Neelum district, Azad Kashmir - 15 July 2023.



Chitral Purple Emperor *Mimathyma chitralensis* was photographed by M. Ayaz Mahmood at Taobat (Neelum district, AJK) on 15 July 2023. This is the first photographic record of this insect from Pakistan. This species has a very restricted global range, with definite records only from Chitral, Swat and Kaghan in Pakistan and a few records from the Indian side of Kashmir Valley. This is also the first documentation of this butterfly from AJK. Old records from Murree (1886) and recent records from Margalla Hills (2016-17) could be of the similar-looking species, Indian Purple Emperor *M. ambica*.



© Muhammad Tayyab

Black Rajah *Charaxes solon*. Deva Vatala National Park, Azad Kashmir. July 2023

Muhammad Tayyab documented the first Black Rajah *Charaxes solon* of Azad Kashmir, from a photographic record taken from Deva Vatala National Park, Bhimber district, in July 2023. This species is rare in Pakistan and so far only known to fly in the Margallas (Islamabad district), Lehtar (Murree district) and Sherwan (Abbottabad district).

In August 2023. Great Satyr *Auloera padma burnetti* was recorded by Muneer Marri in the hills of Kohlu district (Balochistan) at an altitude of about 1500-1800 meters. This subspecies was previously known to occur only in Parachinar, Kurram district (KPK), adjacent parts of Afghanistan (Nangarhar province) and Shingarh in Zhob district (Balochistan). The discovery of this butterfly from Kohlu extends its range southward by 150 km.

Chestnut Tiger *Parantica sita* was photographed for the first time from Pakistan by Uzair Gardezi on 4 September 2023 at Ayubia National Park (Abbottabad district, KPK). This is the overall 2nd record of this danaid from Pakistan. The first specimen of this species from Pakistan was collected by Jerome Pages in July 2015, in the same National Park (at Dunga Gali).



A female Common Wanderer *Pareronia hippia* was photographed by Maria Mushtaq from Sialkot (Punjab) on 12 September 2023. This is the first photographic and overall 3rd record for the country. Previously recorded only from Lahore district on our side, this beautiful pierid is abundant across India and has been observed flying up to Jammu, approximately 40 km northeast of Sialkot.



© Muneer Marri

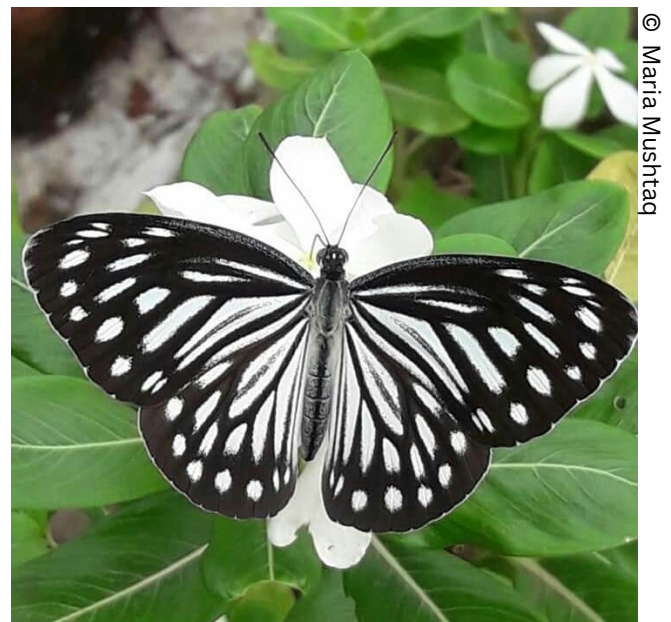
Great Satyr *Auloera padma burnetti*.  
Kohlu district, Balochistan - August 2023

The Spangle *Papilio protenor* was clicked at Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) by Akram Awan on 21 October 2023 at an altitude of 500 m. This record identifies the species' range as extending to its lowest altitude and southernmost locality in Pakistan.



© Uzair Gardezi

Chestnut Tiger *Parantica sita*. Ayubia National Park, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - 4 September 2023



© Maria Mushtaq

Common Wanderer *Pareronia hippia*.  
Sialkot, Punjab - 12 September 2023.

Common Fivering *Ypthima baldus* was photographed by Akram Awan, from Margalla Hills, Islamabad on 12 October 2023. This is 4th National record (After Sherwan, Abbottabad by Saghir Hassan in June 2019, Margalla Hills by M. Shahzaib in October 2019 and Kahuta, Rawalpindi by Abdul Hadi in July 2020) and 2nd record of this 'Ring' from Islamabad capital territory.

Orangetail Awl *Bibasis sena* was photographed at Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) by Akram Awan on the 6 and 9 November 2023 (at 500 meters). The lowest altitude and southernmost locality of this species' range in Pakistan are documented with this record.



A female Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber* was seen in Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) on 27 November 2023. It was 4th national record of this rare autumn visitor (and 2nd from Taxila). In Pakistan, the Striped Blue Crow has only been found in Margallas, Islamabad and Taxila, so far.

On 24 and 28 November 2023, Vagrant or Tailed Rustic *Vagrans egista* was recorded first from Punjab province. Akram Awan photographed two individuals at two different localities in Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab). Margalla Hills (Islamabad) was the only locality in Pakistan where this butterfly was known to be found, before this sighting. This record also marks Taxila as the westernmost locality of its global range.



**Top-Left Clockwise:**

Orangetail Awl *Bibasis sena*. Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) - 6 and 9 November 2023.

Vagrant or Tailed Rustic *Vagrans egista*. Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) - 24 and 28 November 2023

Common Fivering *Ypthima baldus*. Margalla Hills, Islamabad - 12 October 2023.

Spangle *Papilio protenor*. Taxila (Rawalpindi district, Punjab) - 21 October 2023.

(Photos by the author)



# Pakistan Butterflies Society - Quarterly Bulletin (PBSQB)

## Guidelines for Submissions

Pakistan Butterfly Society Quarterly Bulletin (PBSQB) is a platform dedicated to celebrating and creating awareness about the rhopaloceros diversity of Pakistan. We invite submissions from all butterfly enthusiasts, entomology students, researchers, nature lovers and writers who wish to share their insights, observations, and experiences related to butterflies and butterfly-watching in Pakistan. Here are some basic guidelines for submitting your work:

- 1. Scope:** PBSQB accepts any writing related to butterflies and butterfly-watching in Pakistan.
- 2. Language:** We encourage submissions in both English and Urdu to spread our message of butterfly conservation to a wider audience.
- 3. Format:** Email submissions to [pakbutterflysociety@gmail.com](mailto:pakbutterflysociety@gmail.com) with Submission: [Title] in the subject line. Attach your submission as a Word document and send in relevant figures and photographs separately.
- 4. Review Process:** Our editorial team will review submissions for quality and adherence to guidelines.
- 5. Publication:** Accepted submissions will be featured in PBSQB. Contributors will be credited.
- 6. Copyright:** Contributors retain the copyright to their work but permit us to publish it.

BACKGROUND: Showing a Dark Grass Blue *Zizeeria karsandra* from Gadap, Karachi by Salman Baloch.



**FRONT COVER:**  
Featuring Common Onyx *Horaga onyx* from Himachal Pradesh, India. Photographed by Rajesh Kumar on 22 November 2023.



**BACK COVER:**  
Featuring Common Jezebel *Delias eucharis*, captured by M. Akram Awan at Taxila, Rawalpindi on 13 November 2023.





© Muhammad Akram Awan



Rewilding Indus (RI) is a body of like minded individuals concerned with the crippling loss of biodiversity in Pakistan. This young initiative is a collective effort towards making a dent in Wildlife Research and Conservation in Pakistan. This Bulletin has been made possible through RI's technical support.