



PAKISTAN BUTTERFLY SOCIETY QUARTERLY BULLETIN

A NEWSLETTER OF BUTTERFLIES OF PAKISTAN



SUMMER-MONSOON 2025
COMBINED ISSUE (VOLUME 06)

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Plains Cupid
Luthrodes pandava



Pakistan Butterflies Society - Quarterly Bulletin (PBSQB)

Guidelines for Submissions

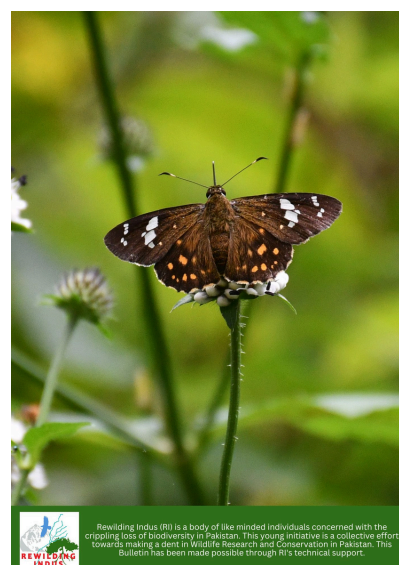
Pakistan Butterfly Society Quarterly Bulletin (PBSQB) is a platform dedicated to celebrating and creating awareness about the rhopaloceros diversity of Pakistan. We invite submissions from all butterfly enthusiasts, entomology students, researchers, nature lovers, and writers who wish to share their 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. One write-up in each issue in any of the provincial (or regional) languages may also be included.
- 3. Format:** Email submissions to 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: Pallas's Sailer *Neptis sappho* from Taxila (Punjab) by Akram Awan



FRONT COVER:
Featuring Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, captured by Akram Awan from Taxila (Punjab).



BACK COVER:
Featuring Tytler's Multispotted Flat *Celaenorrhinus ratna*, captured by Saghir Hassan Tanoli from Ayubia (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa).

پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی کے سہ ماہی جریدے میں تحریر جمع کرانے کیلئے ہدایات

پاکستان بٹر فلائی سوسائٹی کا سہ ماہی جریدہ پاکستان کی تتلیوں کے بارے میں شعور بیدار کرنے کے لئے وقف ایک پلیٹ فارم ہے۔ ہم تتلیوں سے محبت کرنے والوں، علم حشرات کے طلباء، محققین اور فطرت کے دلدادہ خواتین و حضرات سے درخواست کرتے ہیں کہ وہ پاکستانی تتلیوں سے متعلق اپنے خیالات، مشاہدات، اور تجربات پی بی ایس کے سہ ماہی جریدے کے توسط سے دنیا کے ساتھ شیئر کریں۔ اس جریدے میں تحریر جمع کرانے کے لئے کچھ بنیادی ہدایات درج ذیل ہیں:

دائرہ کار: اس جریدے میں پاکستان کی تتلیوں سے متعلق ہر قسم کی تحریر شامل کی جاتی ہیں۔

زبان: پاکستان کی تتلیوں کے تنوع اور تحفظ کے بارے میں شعور و آگاہی وسیع پیمانے پر پہنچانے کے لئے ہمارے جریدے میں اردو اور انگریزی دونوں زبانوں میں تحریر شامل کی جاتی ہیں۔ ہر شمارے میں صوبائی (یا علاقائی) زبانوں میں لکھی (ایک) تحریر بھی شامل ہو سکتی ہے جو کہ مقامی لوگوں تک ہمارا پیغام پہنچانے میں معاون ثابت ہوگی۔

فارمیٹ: اپنی تحریر کو مائیکروسافٹ ورڈ ڈاکومنٹ میں لکھیں اور متعلقہ مواد (تصاویر وغیرہ) علیحدہ فائل کی صورت میں منسلک کر کے مندرجہ ذیل ایڈریس پر ای میل کریں (میل کے سبجیکٹ باکس میں تحریر کا عنوان ضرور لکھیں)۔

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جائزہ کا عمل: ہماری ادارتی ٹیم موصول شدہ تحریر کے جائزہ اور ان میں مناسب ترامیم تجویز کرنے کے بعد انکی اشاعت کا فیصلہ کرتی ہے۔

اشاعت: ادارتی ٹیم کی جانب سے قبول شدہ تحریر سہ ماہی جریدے میں مصنفین کے ناموں کے ہمراہ شائع کی جاتی ہیں اور ان میں شامل کردہ ہر تصویر کیساتھ فوٹو گرافر کا نام بھی دیا جاتا ہے۔

حقوق اشاعت: پی بی ایس کے سہ ماہی جریدے میں شامل شدہ ہر تحریر اور تصویر کے جملہ حقوق اسکے مصنف اور فوٹو گرافر کے پاس رہتے ہیں اور ہم انکی اجازت سے انکو اس جریدے میں شائع کرتے ہیں۔

BACKGROUND: Anomalous Nawab Polyura agraria rom Taxila, Punjab by Akram Awan



© Muhammad Ayaz Mahmood

Green Copper
Lycaena kasyapa,
from Nathiagali
(Khyber Pakhtunkhwa)

Tracking the recent influx of the Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* in Pakistan

Akram Awan

The Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*, once called the Red Admirable, ranges across Europe, Western Asia, North Africa, and North America. Though it has yet to be reported from Afghanistan, it is established in parts of Iran. In Pakistan, this butterfly was long known only from one old record (from Sherani district, Balochistan), but since 2022, a surprising series of new sightings have been made in Northern Pakistan. Table 1 compiles these confirmed records (verified by PBS), with a recent Indian record **marked in red**.

Table.1 All known records of Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* from the Indian Subcontinent

Sr. No. & Locality	District & Province/State	Date of Sighting	Observer/Reference
Shingarh	Sherani, Balochistan	27 August 1929	Col. C.H. Stockley (Evans, 1932)
Ayun Fort	Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18 June 2022	James Eaton (Awan et al. 2022)
Madaklasht	Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	9 July 2022	Yasir Ali Hamza
Wah	Rawalpindi, Punjab	9 March 2024	S. Kazmi
Larkiya'n Banda, Bahrain	Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	23 May 2024	Azan Karam, Abdur Rehman
Nowshera	Nowshera, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	29 May 2024	Zulfiqar Ali Sanbhal
Panjpeer	Rawalpindi, Punjab	1 June 2024	Shaheer Niazi, Isha Mudassir
Palanchai forest	Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	26 July 2024	Azan Karam, Abdur Rehman (7 individuals)
Taxila	Rawalpindi, Punjab	22 November 2024	Akram Awan
Booni	Upper Chitral, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	13 March 2025	Syed Inzimam Ali Shah
Jamrud	Khyber, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	18 April 2025	Ameer Hamza
Dharamshala	Himachal Pradesh, India	22-28 April 2025	Lovish Garlani
Saidu Sharif	Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	27 April 2025	Hafsa Karam
Ghoragali, Murree Hills	Rawalpindi, Punjab	18 May 2025	M. Ayaz Mahmood (3 individuals)
Thandiani	Abbotabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	29 May 2025	Uzair Gardezi
Surgan Valley	Neelum, Azad Jammu & Kashmir	4 July 2025	M. Ayaz Mahmood
Forward Kahuta	Haveli, Azad Jammu & Kashmir	7-12 July 2025	Marium Majeed Dar
Jagran Valley, AJK	Neelum, Azad Jammu & Kashmir	22 July 2025	Sarwar Bin Muzaffar
Kalam	Swat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	27 July 2025	Azan Karam, Abdur Rehman, Taimur Khan

The Indian Red Admiral *Vanessa indica* (Figure 1), a close relative of *V. atalanta* (Figure 2), is a pretty widespread species in Pakistan. Its distribution stretches from the high valleys of Chitral and Swat in the Hindu Kush, through the plains of Charsadda in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to the foothills of Attock and Rawalpindi in Punjab. The species also inhabits the entire Himalayan belt from 700 to 3000 m. altitude, ranging from Islamabad to Kashmir and Gilgit regions. The expansion of the (European) Red Admiral is still being studied, but more sightings are expected as the species explores new parts of the country. To make identification easier for newcomers to butterfly watching, Table 2 highlights the main differences between these two close relatives.

Table. 2 Key differences between Indian Red Admiral *V. indica* and (European) Red Admiral *V. atalanta*

Sr. No. & Feature	<i>Vanessa indica</i>	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Upperwings bases	Brown with golden gloss	Velvety-black
Upper Forewing band	Wider, irregular margins	Narrower, compact
Upper Forewing band color	Paler, scarlet-red, 3 bold black patches inside the bands	Darker, crimson-red, without any black patches
Costal subapical spot color	Orange	White
Upper Forewing spot in space 3	Absent	Present

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Figure 1. *Vanessa indica*

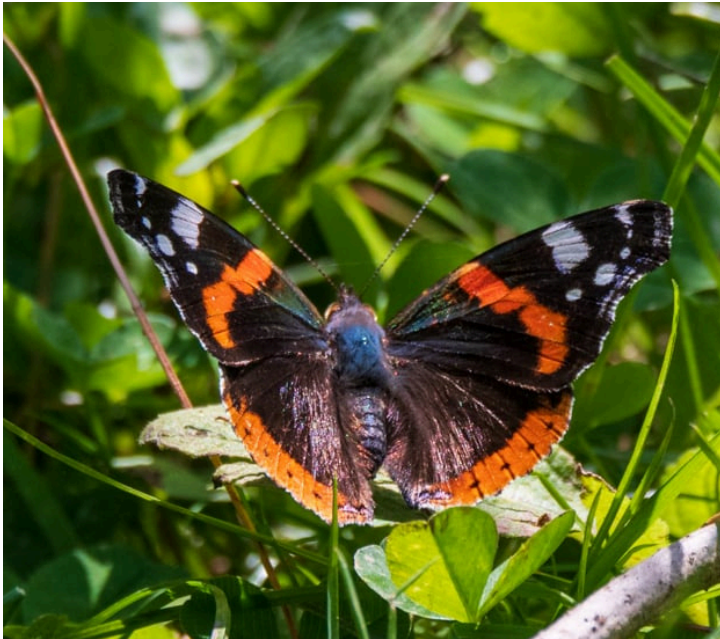


Figure 2. *Vanessa atalanta*

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Analysis of the Influx of the Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*:

The Red Admiral has shown an unexpected influx in Pakistan, marking a significant event in the country’s lepidopterological records. Of 19 documented Subcontinental records, 16 were reported within just 14 months (23 May 2024 – 27 July 2025), reflecting a rapid range expansion (see Figure 3 on the next page)

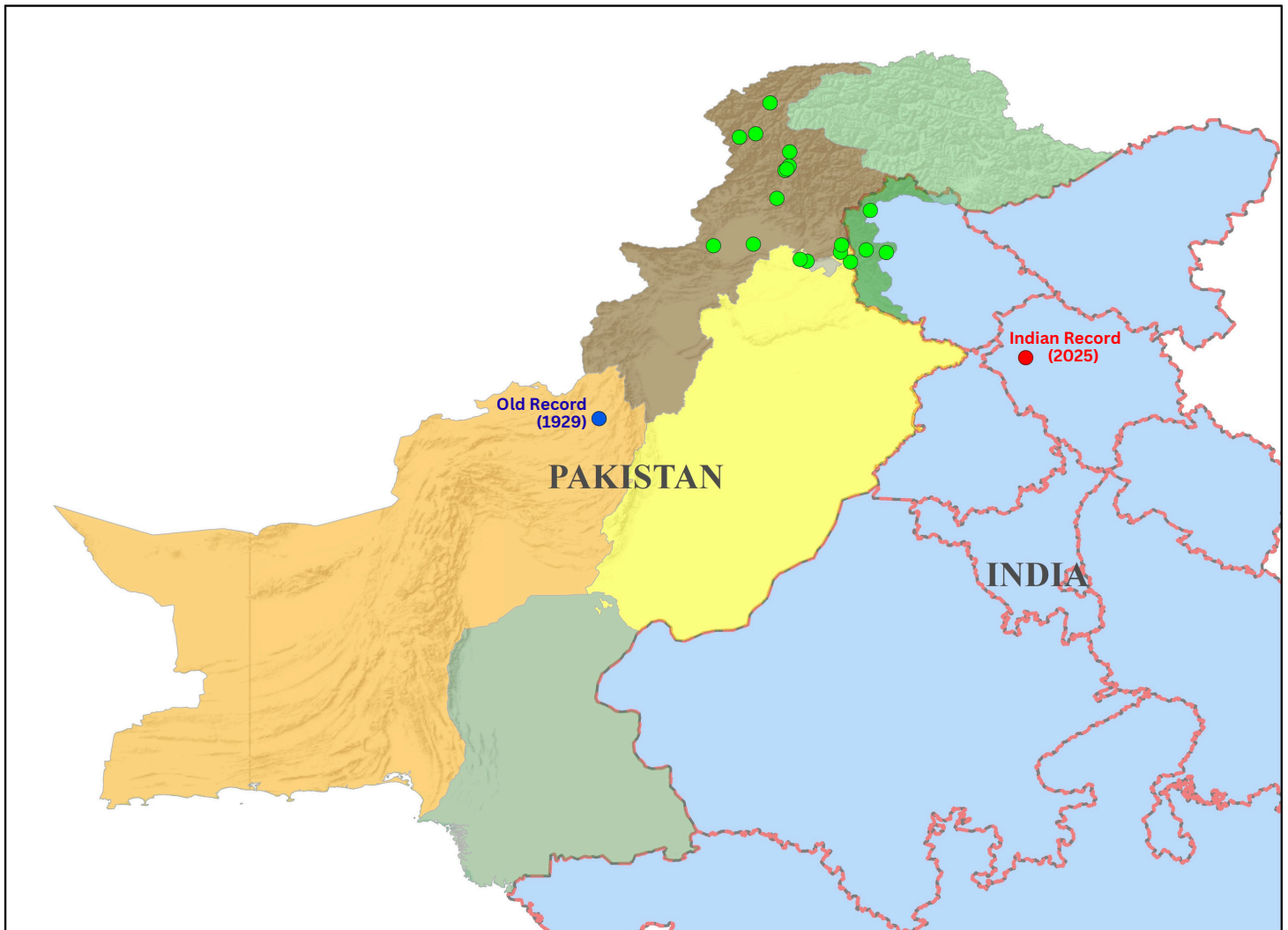


Figure 3. Map showing the records of European Red Admiral from Pakistan and India.

This butterfly has been recorded across a wide stretch of northern Pakistan, from Chitral to Taxila and Neelum Valley to Jamrud. The reasons behind this sudden spread remain unclear. Globally, *V. atalanta* is a well-known long-distance migrant and, like its close relative *V. indica* (Indian Red Admiral), breeds on nettle family plants (Urticaceae). Its expanding range in Pakistan broadly overlaps with that of *V. indica*, hinting at ecological parallels.

The surge in sightings may also be linked to greater observer activity. The Pakistan Butterfly Society's promotion of citizen science has encouraged wider recording and reporting, making it possible that *V. atalanta* was previously misidentified as *V. indica*. These findings underline the importance of long-term monitoring and public participation in understanding butterfly distributions.

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A Preliminary Checklist of the Butterflies of Jamrud, Khyber Dist.

Ameer Hamza

Jamrud, a small town in Khyber District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), lies just west of Peshawar. About six months ago, through Azan Karam and Akram Awan, I learned of the occurrence of a very rare butterfly, the Violet Coal Blue *Praephilotes violacea*, reported from the Afghan side of Torkham. It was suggested that this species might also be present around Landikotal, one of the three tehsils of District Khyber (the others being Jamrud and Bara). Motivated by this possibility, I visited Landikotal with my father on 2 April 2025 in search of this ‘mega-rarity.’ Although the Violet Coal Blue was not found, the excursion sparked a deeper interest in butterflies, which ultimately led to the present checklist.

Over the past six months, I have documented 32 butterfly species from my native village in Jamrud. Each record is supported by photographs, and all identifications have been confirmed by the Pakistan Butterfly Society. Additionally, one species, Roberts’ Fritillary *Melitaea robertsi*, though not observed by me personally, has been historically reported from Jamrud by British authors in pre-Partition literature.

Table 1. Species Checklist of Butterflies Documented from Jamrud (April–September 2025)

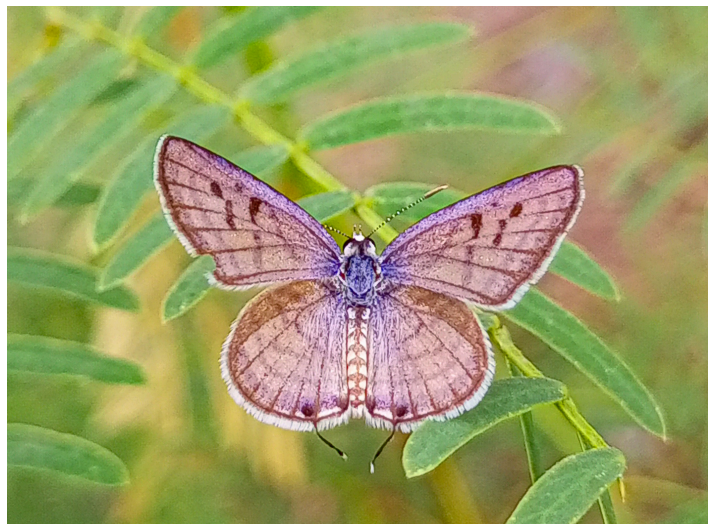
No.	English Names	Scientific Names	Months of Observation
1	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i>	April and June
2	Small Branded Swift	<i>Pelopidas mathias</i>	July to September
3	Pygmy Skipper	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i>	August and September
4	Lime Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	March to September
5	Small Cabbage White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	March and April
6	Large Cabbage White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	March and April
7	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice/endusa</i>	April and May
8	Pioneer White	<i>Belenois aurota</i>	April, May and September
9	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	July to September
10	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	August and September

No.	English Names	Scientific Names	Months of Observation
11	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	May to September
12	Dark Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias fieldii</i>	April
13	Common Shot Silverline	<i>Spindasis ictis</i>	April, May, June and July
14	Common Red Flash	<i>Rapala iarbus</i>	October
15	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	April to September
16	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>	May to September
17	Small Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria putli</i>	August and September
18	Plains Cupid	<i>Luthrodes pandava</i>	August and September
19	Small Cupid	<i>Lachides contracta</i>	May and June
20	Bright Babul Blue	<i>Azanus ubaldus</i>	April, May, August and September
21	Balkan Pierrot	<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i>	April to September
22	Indian Pierrot	<i>Tarucus indica</i>	June to September
23	Striped Pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i>	July
24	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	March to September
25	Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	July
26	Common Three Ring	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>	March to September
27	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	April to September
28	Peacock Pansy	<i>Junonia almana</i>	June, August and September
29	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	March, April, May and September
30	European Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa indica</i>	April and May
31	Indian Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	May
32	Indian Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>	August and September
33	Roberts' Fritillary	<i>Melitaea robertsi</i>	Unknown (Moore, 1901)

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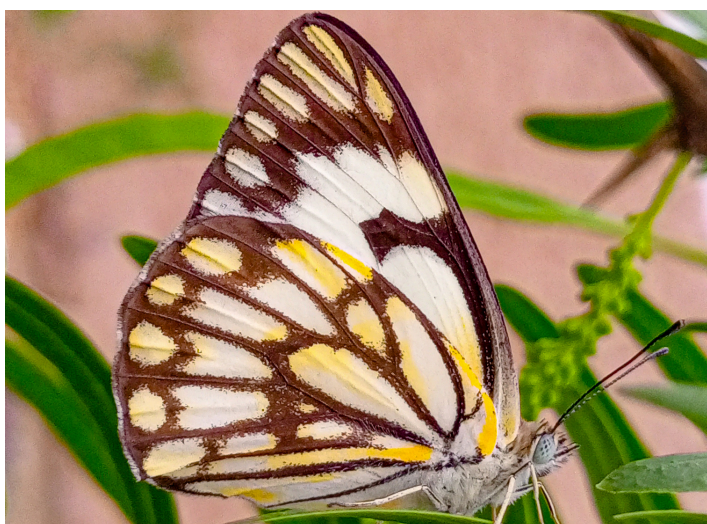


Common Shot Silverline *Spindasis ictis*



Balkan Pierrot *Tarucus balkanicus*

© Ameer Hamza

Dark Cloud Yellow *Colias fieldii*Lime Butterfly *Papilio demoleus*Pioneer White *Belenois aurota*Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*

Conclusion:

The documentation of 32 (& 33 including the historic record) butterfly species within just six months and an area of about 200 m² in my village (Samar Bagh, Jamrud) highlights the remarkable diversity present in this region. These findings suggest that Khyber district may host many more species than previously recognized, with the potential total likely exceeding 70 if further exploration and observer participation are encouraged.

Looking ahead, I plan to continue my surveys and gradually extend them into other tehsils of District Khyber. For the immediate future, my personal goal is to document 45–50 species from Jamrud by the end of this year, contributing further to our understanding of local butterfly fauna.

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3. Vadim Tshikolovets, & Jérôme Pagès. (2016). The Butterflies of Palaearctic Asia. XII. *The Butterflies of Pakistan*. Vadim Tshikolovets publisher, Pardubice (Czechia).

Butterfly-watching from Khunjerab to Margalla

Salman Baloch and Azan Karam

From 12 to 20 June 2025, we undertook a field trip from Gilgit-Baltistan to Islamabad with the primary objective of exploring birds, particularly rare species, along with other wildlife, including butterflies. Our survey began in the disjunct thickets of hardy Sea-Buckthorn *Hippophae rhamnoides* encroached by agricultural fields adjacent to the Naltar Nullah of Naltar Valley, Gilgit-Baltistan, at an elevation of 3,000 meters. Naltar is sandwiched by two contrasting mountainous terrains with melting glaciers on top feeding the murky stream, one predominantly covered with coniferous forest and the other with sparse Junipers *Juniperus* sp. In its lap, small patches of potato fields, hamlets and hotels dot the landscape. Although wildflowers, tree cover, and arid lands were present, the cloudy and rainy weather with temperatures below 25 °C was not favourable for butterflies. During our exploration, we documented all wildlife encountered. On the first day, we observed two butterfly species in flight but were unable to record them. On the second day, **13 June**, we continued from the field station by jeepable road towards Bishgari Forest and Satrangi Lake. This region supported wildflowers, shrubs, pine trees and birch forests, and an algal lake. However, the cloudy and rainy conditions, with limited sunlight, again restricted butterfly activity, and only a few species were noted, mostly in flight.

On the third day, **14 June**, we surveyed Upper Naltar (Nagral area). This site was less productive for butterflies due to lower temperatures and persistent cloudy and rainy weather, although it featured green patches, wildflowers, and some agricultural fields. Later, we travelled towards Nagar's Natural Stadium Forest, located at 2,800–3,000 meters above sea level. Here, despite a suitable temperature of around 28 °C under cloudy skies, no notable butterfly activity was recorded in the valley and forest habitat.

On the fourth day, **15 June**, we visited Borit Lake in Upper Hunza (2,600 m) and Khunjerab Pass (4,693 m). Borit Lake and the track to Passu Glacier contained rich vegetation and wildflower habitats. On the Passu Glacier track, the second author -



Gilgit Mountain Blue *Iolana gigantea gilgitica*



Astor Argus *Bozanonia astorica*

- recorded a monotypic species and one of the endemic butterflies of Pakistan, Astor Argus *Bozanonina astorica*, while both observers documented Sea/Baltistan Jewel Blue *Plebejus samudra*, which was common in the cultivated patches near Borit Lake. The weather at Borit Lake was ideal (28–30 °C, sunny), resulting in average butterfly activity, whereas Khunjerab Pass was cloudy and cold (10–12 °C), limiting observations.

On the fifth day, **16 June**, we travelled from Gilgit to Shogran. Although reasonable butterfly activity was observed along the route, no species was photographed.

On the sixth day, **17 June**, we surveyed Siri and Paye meadows at altitudes between 2,590 and 3,050 meters. This habitat proved highly productive, with mixed weather (sunny, cloudy, and rainy) and ideal temperatures of 24–28 °C. The meadows contained diverse floral communities and microhabitats, including wildflowers, fruiting plants and forest edges. A substantial number of butterfly species were recorded here, as detailed in the checklist with collective observations throughout the trip.

© Salman Baloch



Common Wall *Lasiommata schakra*



Kashmir Yellow Wall *Kirinia (eversmanni) cashmirensis*

© Salman Baloch

On the seventh day, **18 June**, we explored the Malkandi Forest Trail, situated between Shogran and Kaghan Valley, at 2,300–2,500 meters. We spent the morning until midday in this area, which proved to be one of the most productive habitats of the trip. Sunny weather with temperatures between 23–28 °C supported high butterfly diversity and abundance. Many of the species recorded here were also observed in Siri and Paye meadows, with additional unique species also documented. This habitat, rich in wild plants, tall trees, shrubs, wild fruits, and wildflowers, supported abundant butterfly activity.

On the eighth day, **19 June**, we visited Margalla Trail 5 in Islamabad. Temperatures ranged between 38–45 °C, which was excessively hot for butterflies. Although many butterflies were present, they were highly active, and overall activity was lower compared to the trail's usual conditions.

On the ninth day, **20 June**, we spent the morning at Lake View Park, Islamabad. The weather was extremely hot and humid, with temperatures between 40–48 °C, which significantly reduced butterfly activity.

Table 1. The following butterfly species were recorded during the trip:

S.n.	English Names	Scientific Names	Areas
1	Astor Argus	<i>Bozanonia astorica</i>	Passu Glacier Track, Gojal, Hunza
2	Common Argus	<i>Callerebia nirmala</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
3	Common Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
4	Common Three-ring	<i>Ypthima asterope</i>	Margalla, Islamabad
5	Common Wall	<i>Lasiommata schakra</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
6	Dark Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias fieldii</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
7	Dusky Blackvein	<i>Aporia nabellica</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
8	Great Satyr	<i>Aulocera padma</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
9	Green Copper	<i>Lycaena kasyapa</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
10	Hill Hedge Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
11	Himalayan Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa moorei</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
12	Himalayan Blackvein	<i>Aporia leucodice soracta</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
13	Himalayan Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx nepalensis</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
14	Himalayan Meadow Blue	<i>Polyommatus stoliczkana</i>	Bishgari Forest, Naltar Valley
15	Himalayan Queen Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia isaea</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
16	Himalayan Sailer	<i>Neptis mahendra</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
17	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i>	Margalla, Islamabad
18	Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia caschmirensis</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
19	Indian White Admiral	<i>Limenitis trivena</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
20	Kashmir Meadow Blue	<i>Polyommatus pseuderos</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
21	Kashmir Meadowbrown	<i>Hyponephele cheena kashmirica</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
22	Kashmir White Admiral	<i>Limenitis ligyes</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
23	Large Cabbage White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Borith Lake, Gojal, Hunza
24	Large Meadow Blue	<i>Iolana gigantea</i>	Passu Glacier Track, Gojal, Hunza
25	Moore's Fivering	<i>Ypthima nikaia</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
26	Mountain Argus	<i>Paralasa shallada</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
27	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
28	Pea Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
29	Baltistan Jewel Blue	<i>Plebejus samudra</i>	Borith Lake, Gojal, Hunza
30	Silvery Hedge Blue	<i>Celastrina gigas</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
31	Jerdon's Silverspot	<i>Clossiana jerdoni</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran

No.	English Names	Scientific Names	Locations and Months of Observation
32	Tawny Meadowbrown	<i>Hyponphele pulchella</i>	Malakandi Trail
33	Tropical Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
34	Walnut Blue	<i>Chaetoprocta odata</i>	Malakandi Trail, Shogran
35	Western Blue Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus bakeri</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
36	Yellow Wall	<i>Kirinia eversmanni</i>	Siri Paye, Shogran
37	Zebra Blue	<i>Leptotes plinius</i>	Shakarparian, Islamabad
38	Satyr sp	<i>Pseudochazara</i> sp	Passu Glacier Track, Hunza

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Mountain Argus *Paralasa shallada*

© Salman Baloch



Common Argus *Callerebia nirmala*

© Salman Baloch



Walnut Blue *Chaetoprocta odata*

© Salman Baloch



Baltistan Jewel Blue *Plebejus samudra*

© Salman Baloch



Kashmir White Admiral *Limenitis ligyes*

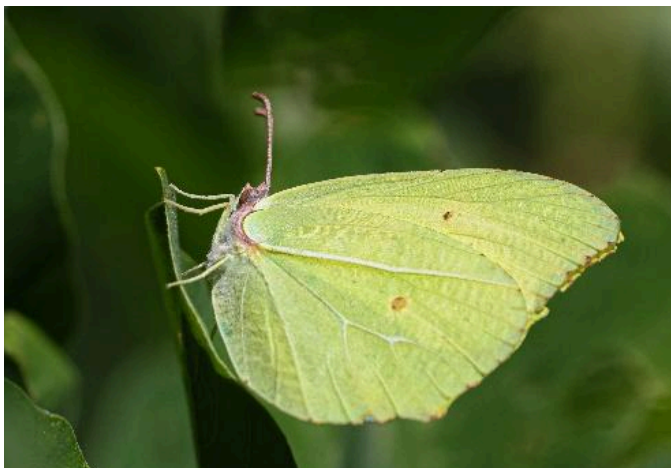
© Salman Baloch



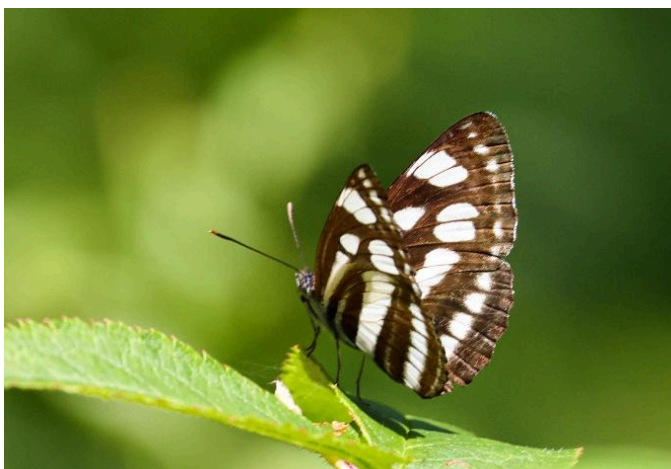
Great Satyr *Aulocera padma*



Dusky Blackvein *Aporia nabellica*



Himalayan Brimstone *Gonepteryx nepalensis*



Himalayan Sailer *Neptis mahendra*



Dark Clouded Yellow *Colias fieldii*



Common Three-ring *Ypthima asterope*



Green Copper *Lycaena kasyapa*

Acknowledgement: Special thanks are extended to Muhammad Akram Awan for his assistance with identification and support in preparing this report.

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1. Brigadier William Harry Evans (1932). *The identification of Indian Butterflies*. Second Edition (Revised). Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai (India).
2. Vadim Tshikolovets, & Jérôme Pagès. (2016). *The Butterflies of Palaearctic Asia. XII. The Butterflies of Pakistan*. Vadim Tshikolovets publisher, Pardubice (Czechia).

Tytler's Fritillary *Melitaea balbina*

Akram Awan

The Pak–Afghan endemic *Melitaea balbina* was described in 1926 by Major-General Sir Harry Christopher Tytler, after whom its trivial (English) name is derived. The first specimen of Tytler's Fritillary, deposited in British Museum of Natural History (London) was caught on 3rd July 1922 from Shandur pass (Upper Chitral). Beyond Pakistan, this range-restricted species is known only from Barg-i-Matal district of Nuristan province, Afghanistan, whereas within Pakistan it is better represented in Chitral (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Ghizer (Gilgit-Baltistan). It is particularly common on the Shandur Plateau and is on the wing from June to August, when temperatures in the Hindukush remain between 25–30 °C.



Tytler's Fritillary *Melitaea balbina*



Habitat of Tytler's Fritillary (Shandur, Upper Chitral, KP)

The female Tytler's Fritillary is bigger than the male, measuring about 18 mm compared to 15 mm, and has stronger markings. The upper side of the wings is orange-yellow to reddish-orange, with thin black veins and wide black borders. The wing bases and upper body are also black. The underside of the hindwings is mostly white, with small black dashes near the edge and two bands. The basal band is irregular and holds a round white spot, while the post-discal band is sharply defined, edged in black, and filled with darker-orange spots.

Tytler's Fritillary prefers dry alpine meadows, rocky slopes, and steppe habitats between 3,500 and 4,400 m altitude. Despite being known to science for a century, its larval host plant has yet to be identified. Although not regarded as a rare butterfly, unsustainable grazing in its habitats may become a serious threat in the future.

An archival record of Orange Oakleaf *Kallima inachus* from Qadirnagar, Buner, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by Mahmuda Durrani Aziz (on 5 September 2022) was documented in the past quarter. The species was previously known only from Islamabad, Abbottabad, and Azad Jammu & Kashmir. This discovery extends its range to District Buner, now the westernmost point of occurrence globally.



© Mahmuda Durrani Aziz

Orange Oakleaf *Kallima inachus*

On 3 April 2025, Ameer Hamza documented the Indian Palm Bob *Suastus gremius* from Jamrud, Khyber District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Previously, this hesperiid was known only from Rawalpindi, Islamabad, Hazara, Swat, parts of Punjab, and Karachi. This record indicates a westward extension in the species' range.



© Ameer Hamza

Indian Palm Bob *Suastus gremius*

On 24 July 2025, Hamza reported the Common Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus* from Jamrud, Khyber District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the first record from the district. Earlier records were limited to Islamabad and surroundings, Hazara, parts of Punjab, and a single sighting from Peshawar. This new record represents the westernmost occurrence of the species, close to the Pak-Afghan border, suggesting its probable presence in Afghanistan.



© Ameer Hamza

Common Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus*

Tytler's Multispotted Flat *Celaenorrhinus ratna* (ssp. *daphne*) has been recorded for the first time in the Galiyat region, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Previously, this species was known in Pakistan only from Shogran Valley, Mansehra District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



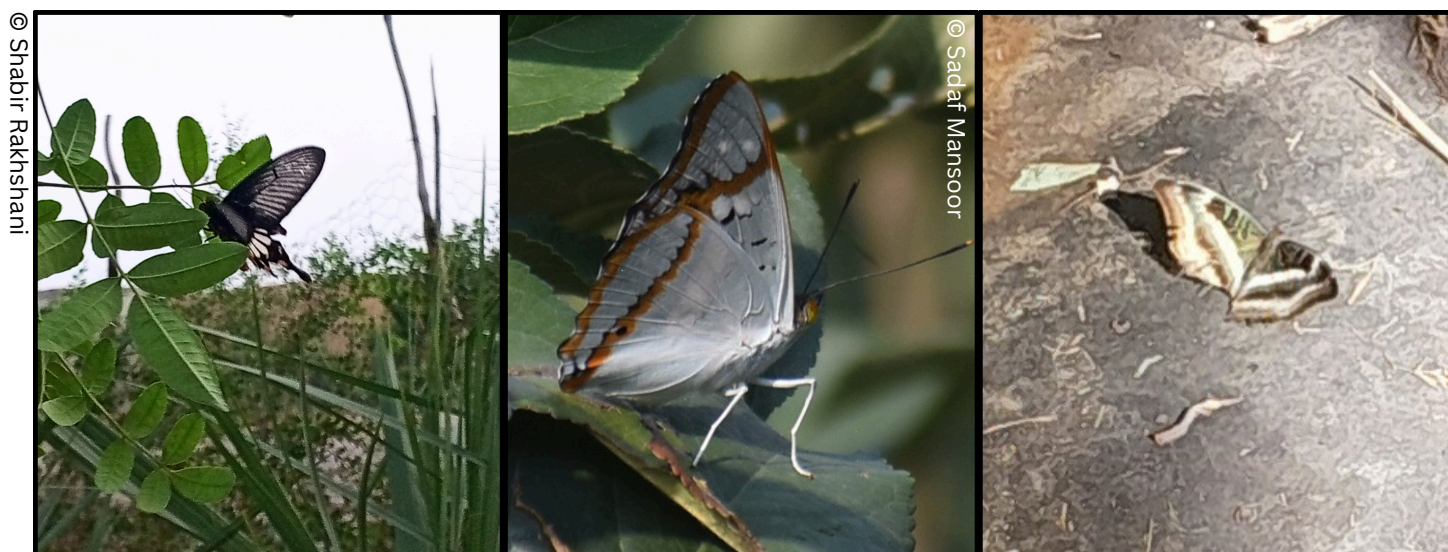
Tytler's Multispotted Flat *Celaenorrhinus ratna*

New observations were made in Ayubia (by Saghir Hassan Tanoli and Amir Hussain Tanoli) and along the Mushkpuri track (by Muhammad Ayaz Mahmood) on 21–22 August 2025. On both occasions, 7–8 individuals were observed, indicating an established population in Abbottabad District. These findings also extend the global distribution of this butterfly south-westwards.

On 12 September 2025, the Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae* was recorded for the first time from Awaran District, Balochistan, by Shabir Rakhshani. While widespread in Punjab and Sindh, the species is rare in Balochistan, previously known only from Zhob and Lasbela. This new record represents a southwestward extension of its global range.

Sadaf Mansoor documented the Indian Purple Emperor *Mimathyma ambica* from Jhelum Valley, Hattian Bala district, Azad Jammu & Kashmir on 14 September 2025. This represents the third record for Pakistan, following two earlier records from Haveli District, Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

Marium Majeed Dar reported Pakistan's second and Azad Jammu & Kashmir's first Commadore *Auzakia danava* at Haveli on 29 September 2025.



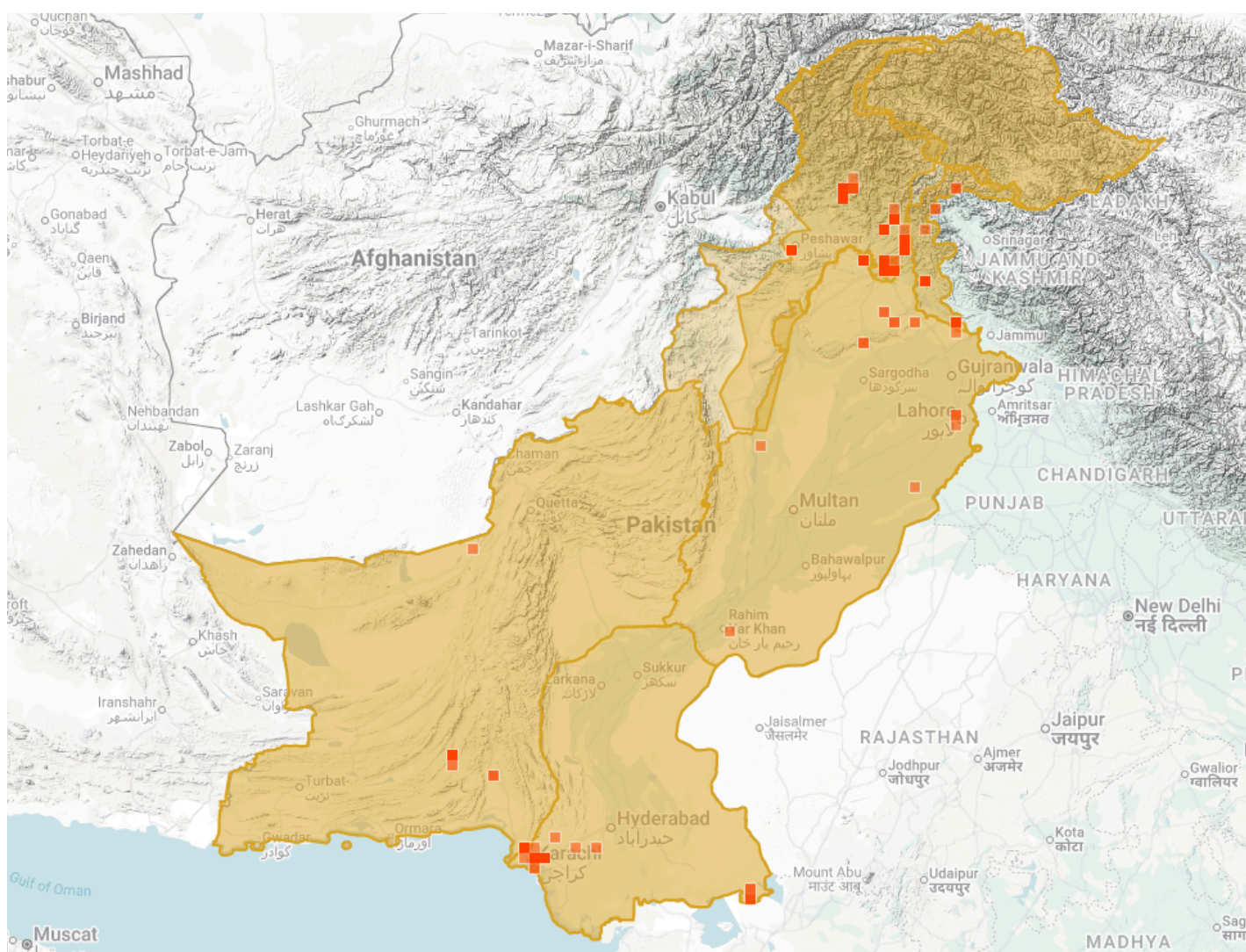
Left to Right: Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*, Indian Purple Emperor *Mimathyma ambica* and Commadore *Auzakia danava*.



Big Butterfly Month 2025

Azan Karam

The term "Citizen Science" describes the active involvement of the general public in scientific research projects by making use of their tools, resources, local knowledge, or intellectual abilities. Through citizen science, people provide experimental data to biologists, as simple as taking photos with accurate date, time and coordinates, who then use that data to generate new questions and contribute to the development of a forward-thinking scientific culture. The recent Big Butterfly Month 2025 (BBM 2025), an annual bioblitz that takes place in September in countries primarily in South Asia, is one notable example. Nature lovers of all ages and backgrounds unite at this event to document the vivid beauty of butterflies in their nearby areas and make a significant contribution to scientific study. BBM does not require long-distance travelling, thus the localized nature of this event makes it a low-carbon footprint activity without putting further pressure on the environment.



Source: iNaturalist.org/Big Butterfly Month 2025 Pakistan

Figure 1. A map showing observation sites in red squares from around Pakistan in Big Butterfly Month 2025.

In 2023, BBM officially partnered with the Pakistan Butterfly Society (PBS), and this year, in September, the event continued for the third year in a row. This initiative's preliminary goal is to close the gap between humans and nature by using an environmentally beneficial, engaging, and enlightening activity which is the simple observation and recording of any stage of butterflies in their natural habitat, from egg, larva, pupa to adult forms. This not only helps researchers better understand this intriguing group of insects, but it also cultivates a deeper appreciation for these fragile ecological indicators.

Beyond only identifying species, Big Butterfly Month is a powerful tool for raising awareness of the critical role butterflies play in maintaining ecological equilibrium. Participants who record butterflies give scientists information that will help them monitor butterfly populations, spot changes in their behavior, migration patterns, and distribution, and assess the long-term impacts of habitat loss and climate change. The observations made by each participant could result in the addition of a new dot to the map for a species that had not been previously represented. Every dot on the map, whether at the district, provincial, or national level, contributes to our better comprehension of the high-resolution distribution of species (see Fig. 1).

Big Butterfly Month's accessibility is among its most impressive features. No prior knowledge of science or specific equipment is needed to participate; anyone with an interest in the outdoors and a natural curiosity can do so. Equipped with cellphones or cameras, volunteers provide meaningful information to regional and national butterfly databases by recording sightings through easy-to-use platforms such as iNaturalist.org or the iNaturalist Mobile App. BBM can turn a park stroll into an interactive science lesson, providing families and educators with an entertaining method to introduce kids to biodiversity. Shabir Rakhshani, a district coordinator of PBS and a school teacher in Awaran, Balochistan, conducted one such interactive session in BBM 2025. He engaged students and teachers in an awareness session on the life cycle of butterflies, their key roles in ecosystems and how we can help conserve them in individual capacities (see Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Shabir Rakhshani is conducting a presentation on the occasion of BBM 2025 at Govt. Boys High School Lanjar, Tehsil Jahoo, District Awaran, Balochistan.

©Tauheed Ahmed

Since 2023, Pakistan has contributed significantly to this effort, and the information gathered offers important new perspectives on the nation's butterflies. The event has seen encouraging progress in 2025, with gains in species reported, and total observations (see Fig. 2). Amongst notable observations were the national third record of Indian Purple Emperor *Mimathyma ambica* from Jhelum Valley, Hattian Bala District, Azad Jammu & Kashmir and a southwest extension of Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae* global distribution range through the first-ever observation from Awaran District, Balochistan (see **Rarity Notes on page. 16, 17**). Besides, two new additions to district-level records, a Common Banded Awl *Hasora chromus* in Nushki, Balochistan and a Kashmir Four-ring *Ypthima kasmira* in Swat District, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Over two thousand sightings of 160 butterfly species were made by citizen scientists throughout the event, and almost all of the data were confirmed by professional identification experts (see Fig. 3). The top 10 most observed species in BBM 2025 had a minimum of 25 observations per species (see Table 1). Compared to last year, there were fewer participants. All provinces and administrative regions took part in the event, except Gilgit-Baltistan; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had the most species and more than half of the observations on record. The highest number of species reported by observers during BBM is a primary criterion for winners. This year, Saghir Hassan Tanoli took first place, followed by Muhammad Ayaz Mahmood as second and S. Kazmi as third on the ranking, respectively.

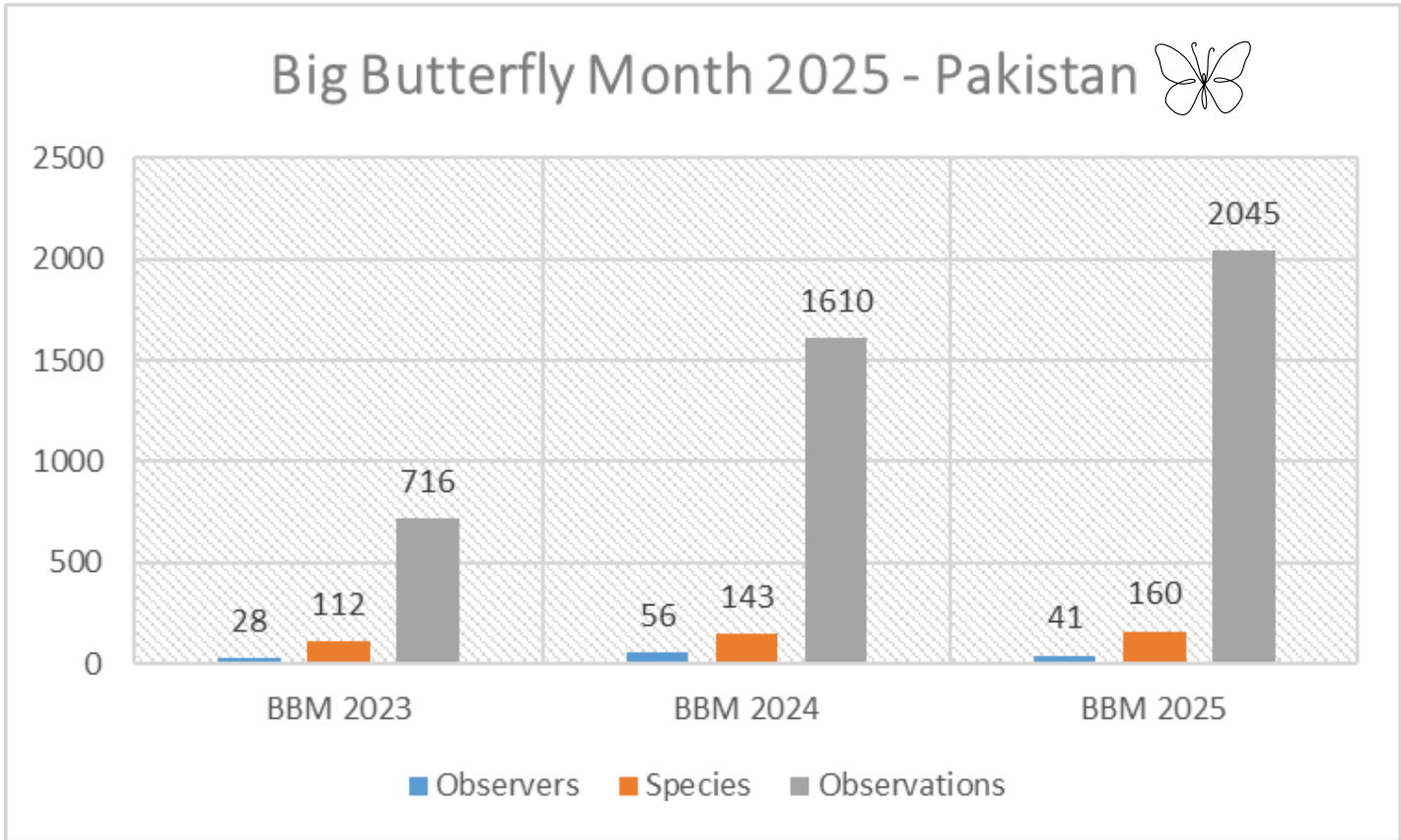


Figure 3. Bar graphs showing comparative analysis of Big Butterfly Month September 2023-25- Pakistan.

Table 1. Top ten species reported in Big Butterfly Month 2025 with the highest number of observations in descending order. Total observations per species only indicate encounters, and not total counts per species.

No.	English Names	Scientific Names	Total Observations
1	Lime Swallowtail	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	198
2	Plain Tiger Butterfly	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	178
3	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	60
4	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>	56
5	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	51
6	Common Leopard	<i>Phalanta phalantha</i>	51
7	Dark Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i>	39
8	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	36
9	Plains Cupid	<i>Luthrodes pandava</i>	34
10	Tropical Fritillary	<i>Argynnis hyperbius</i>	32

Pakistan Butterfly Society (PBS) provides community support and guidance to new participants through its active experts and coordinators for BBM.

PBS will conduct Big Butterfly Month 2026 with the ambition to engage more participants to set new records.



© Shabib Asghar

A heartwarming family effort by Shabib’s son and nephew, eagerly assisting in finding, rescuing and releasing butterflies in Karachi during BBM 2025

New to Butterfly-watching? Start Here!

Below are some relevant links for you if you are interested in learning more about the Butterflies of Pakistan and PBS activities:

Facebook:

Group: <https://web.facebook.com/groups/131718433700946>

Page: <https://web.facebook.com/butterfliesofpakistan>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/pakbutterflysociety>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/pakistan-butterfly-society>

X:

<https://twitter.com/PakButterflySoc>

iNaturalist:

https://www.inaturalist.org/observations?project_id=28750

Email:

pakistanbutterflies@gmail.com

Website:

Pakistan Butterfly Society: <https://pakbutterflysociety.com>

Rewilding Indus Library: <https://rewildinginduslibrary.org>

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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.