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OVIPOSITION BY *JAMIDES BOCHUS* (STOLL, [1782]) (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

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Reviewer: Peter Smetacek

Several individuals of the Dark Cerulean (*Jamides bochus*) were sighted 3-4 times daily between 30. viii.2020 to 20.ix.2020, fluttering over the crown of *Millettia pinnata* (L.) Panigrahi (Fabaceae). On two occasions, more than two individuals were sighted at a time. On 22.ix.2020, a female *J. bochus* was observed laying eggs on nascent buds and leaves of *M. pinnata*, in the Rohini area of New Delhi. It was observed for 5 minutes from a distance of 2.5-3 m and the events were photographed (Figures 1). The butterfly returned twice to the same spot to lay eggs after fluttering for about 1 minute in the vicinity of the twig, where it had laid the first batch of eggs.

M. pinnata is a medium sized tree planted commonly alongside many roads in Delhi.

Sightings of *Jamides bochus* in Delhi are rare. However, during the past few years it has been sighted several times. It was so far not known to breed in Delhi (Chaudhary *et. al.*, 2019, Dr. Surya Prakash, *pers. comm.*). The present observation provides supporting evidence towards the assertion by Chaudhary & Kumar (2019) that the records of the *J. bochus* in Delhi are of a breeding population rather than of migrants.

Reference

Chaudhary, R. & V. Kumar. 2019. Sightings of *Jamides bochus* (Stoll, [1782]) and *Prosotas nora* (C. Felder, 1860) (insecta: Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from urbanized parts of New Delhi. *Bionotes* 21 (1): 3-4.



Fig.1 & 2: Oviposition by *Jamides bochus* on nascent buds and leaf of *Millettia pinnata* in Delhi.