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Cover Photo by Peter Smetacek of a *Salassa mizorama* Moth

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FIRST REPORT OF THE GENUS *CALLEREBIA* BUTLER, 1867 (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE: SATYRINAE) FROM MIZORAM, INDIA

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Within India, the genus *Callerebia* Butler, 1867 is known from the Himalaya and hills of north eastern India. Six species in the genus have been recorded north of the Brahmaputra and 2 species south of that river. The latter two are *C. orixa* Moore, 1872, which is known from N.E. India and *C. suroia* Tytler, 1914 which is so far known only from Manipur (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015). Although Varshney & Smetacek (2015) report *C. orixa* from N.E. India and there are records from Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya, but it has not so far been reported from Mizoram.

During surveys in Phawngpui National Park (1500 m), Lawngtlai district; Murlen (1600 m) in Champhai district and Hmuifang (1500 m) in Aizawl district, several individuals of the genus were noted flying about. One individual of *C. orixa* was photographed in Phawngpui National Park on May 3, 2014 and several were photographed in Murlen in the last week of October and first week of November, 2017. More specimens were observed in Hmuifang in November, 2019. The presence of tornal ocelli on the underside hindwing confirmed that the species is *C. orixa*, not *C. suroia*.

C. orixa appears to have at least two annual generations in Mizoram, the first in May and the second in October and November.

The genus is found in hilly areas at moderate elevation and although other members of the genus are known to feed on grasses, yet they are found along the edges or in the vicinity of dense forest and not often on open, grassy hillsides (P. Smetacek, *pers. comm.*). *C. orixa* displays the same habitat preference.

For the present, *C. orixa* is the only known member of the genus recorded from Mizoram. Perhaps further surveys in other parts of the state discover the presence of *C. suroia* eventually. However, *C. suroia* is known from higher elevation, around 2500 m elevation on Mount Shirui in Manipur. Since the highest elevation in Mizoram is Mt. Phawngpui at 2157 m, it is possible that *C. suroia* does not occur in Mizoram.

References

Varshney, R.K. & P. Smetacek (eds.) 2015. *A Synoptic Catalogue of the Butterflies of India*. Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal and Indinov Publishing, New Delhi, ii + 261 pp., 8 pl.



Fig.1: *C. orixa*, verso view.



Fig.2: *C. orixa*, recto view.



Fig.3: *C. orixa* at Phawngpui National Park.



Fig.4: *C. orixa*'s habitat, Hmuifang