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Address for Correspondence

Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand 263 136, India. Phone: +91 8938896403.

Email: butterflyresearchcentre@gmail.com

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***PSILOGRAMMA VATES* (LEPIDOPTERA: SPHINGIDAE) IN GUJARAT**

PETER SMETACEK¹, RAJASHREE BHUYAN² & PRATIKSHA PATEL³

^{*1 & 2}*Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand, 263 136, India*

¹*petersmetacek@gmail.com*

²*27, Jaldeep-5 Ghuma, Ahmedabad 380 058, India*

Reviewer: Jatishwor Irungbam

Introduction

The hawk moth *Psilogramma vates* was described by Butler (1875) from Sri Lanka as *Diludia vates*. Butler (1876) inversely synonymized this species with *D. abietina*. Moore (1882) also reported it from Sri Lanka. Kirby (1892) corrected the inverted synonymy made by Butler (1876). Swinhoe (1892) included *D. vates* from India but only on the basis of hearsay. Hampson (1892) treated it as junior synonym of *Pseudosphinx discistriga* (Walker, 1856) along with *Psilogramma increta* (Walker, [1865]), *Psilogramma melanomera* (Butler, 1875), *Meganoton rubescens* (Butler, 1876), *Megacorma obliqua* (Walker, 1856) with a distribution “China and throughout India and Ceylon”. Rothschild & Jordan (1903) placed *vates* as a synonym of *Psilogramma menephron* (Cramer, [1780]) from the “Oriental Region”. Bell & Scott (1937) followed this treatment and noted that it occurred “throughout the Indian Sub-region, China and eastwards to the Solomon Islands”. D’Abrera (1986) did not include *P. vates*. Kitching & Cardiou (2000) synonymized *P. vates* with *P. increta*.

Eitschberger (2001) reinstated *vates* as a valid species in the genus *Psilogramma*. Rothschild & Jordan. The distribution of the species on the Indian mainland remains unclear, evident from the chaotic taxonomic history of the species.

Observation

On 2 October, 2017, a series of 10 male and 5 female specimens of *Psilogramma* were attracted to a mercury vapour lamp reflected

off a white wall in Bakore, Mahisagar district, Gujarat. Since it was unclear which *Psilogramma* species it was or whether there were more than one species, all the variants available were taken. On examination of the collected materials, they turned out to consist of a single species, *P. vates* (Fig. 1-4) with pale, intermediate and dark forms, active at the same time and further confirmed by Ian Kitching, NHM, London)

Material Examined

15 exs. (10 males; 5 females). Forewing Length: 39-42mm; expanse: 86-92mm. 2.x.2017, Bakhore, Mahisagar district, (23° 35’N 73° 58’E), Gujarat, India. Leg. et Coll. Smetacek, Bhimtal.

Result and Discussion

Hitherto, this taxon was not reported from Gujarat previously and the present records constitute a westward extension to the known distribution of the species. The number of individuals attending the light suggest that it is well established in the area.

Acknowledgement

We are grateful to Ian J. Kitching, The Natural History Museum, London, for confirmation of the identity of this species.

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Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3



Fig.4

Fig.1, 2, 3 & 4: *Psilogramma vates*, Bakhor, Gujarat, 2017, showing different color morphs