

FIRST REPORT OF THE NORTHERN JUNGLEQUEEN BUTTERFLY (*STICHOPHTHALMA CAMADEVA*) FROM MIZORAM, INDIA

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The Northern JungleQueen (*Stichopthalma camadeva* (C. & R. Felder, 1862)) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Morphinae) occurs from Nepal through the eastern Himalaya, south to Meghalaya and Nagaland and eastwards to northern Myanmar. Although Kimura *et al.* (2016) included this species in the butterfly fauna of Thailand, they state that, "In Thailand, there are some capturing (*sic.*) records in the northern mountainous districts (from Doi Suthep by Godfray (1930) and Pinratana (1983) and Wang-Chin by Ek-Amnuay (2006; 2012))". This seems to be all that is known of the presence of this species south of India. It is not included by Yutaka Inayoshi (*online resource*; accessed on 12.viii.2020). It occurs between 700 and 1000 m and is on the wing from May to July (Kehimkar, 2016). The genus is found in hilly areas at moderate elevation both in dense forest and on open, grassy hillsides. Although it is known from Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya in India, there is no record of this butterfly from Mizoram.

S. camadeva was first recorded and photographed in Mizoram on June 2013 at Dampa (800-1100m; 23° 34'N 92° 22'E) by Zakhuma. A days later, it was recorded at Lunglei (722m; 22° 88'N 92° 73'E) in July, 2013 by R. Zoramchhuana. The most recent record was in June, 2020 at Lunglei town by R. Zoramchhuana.

Given the uncertainty of the Thai records of this species noted above, the record from Lunglei would seem to extend the global distribution of this species southwards from Nagaland. Since the exact location of the specimens known from Nagaland are not recorded, it is safe to say that the present record from Lunglei is almost 4° of latitude south of the southernmost part of Nagaland (26°6' N).

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Fig.1: *Stichophthalma camadeva*