

***CHALCOSIOPSIS VARIATA* (INSECTA: LEPIDOPTERA: ZYGAENIDAE) IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA**

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Introduction

The little known moth *Chalcosiopsis variata* Swinhoe, 1894 was described on the basis of four female specimens from Shillong, Meghalaya, India. The present whereabouts of this series of specimens is unknown according to the card index in the Natural History Museum, London, U.K. A single specimen of what appears to be a male was recorded from the Mishmi Hills of Arunachal Pradesh. Following the data of specimen:

Chalcosiopsis Swinhoe, 1894

C. variata Swinhoe, 1894

Material Examined:

1 Male; Forewing 14 mm, expanse 32 mm. 8.v.2019. Km 17 on Hunli to Anini road, 600 m, Lower Dibang district, Arunachal Pradesh, India. *Leg., det. et Coll.* Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal.

Remarks: The present record extends the known distribution of this species to Arunachal Pradesh from the type locality in Meghalaya. It was attracted to artificial light at night, although it might also be active during the daytime. If the type series was indeed obtained in Shillong (1520 m) rather than in some nearby location, then this taxon

inhabits the altitudinal belt between 600 m and 1520 m. There is no information available about the flight time of the type series.

The specimen examined is 4 mm smaller than the type series, which had an expanse of 36 mm.

In the type series, the extent of the broad black border to the hindwing *recto* was noted to be variable. In the specimen examined, the antennae are minutely ciliated and appear shorter than those of the specimen illustrated by Hampson (1896). On the forewing, the oblique white band from the costa is straight, not slightly curved as illustrated in Hampson (1896).

Acknowledgement

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Reference

Hampson, G.W. 1896. *The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma*. Moths Vol. 4. Taylor & Francis, London. xxviii+ 594 pp.



Fig 1: *Chalcosiopsis variata* verso surface



Fig 2: *Chalcosiopsis variata* recto surface