

***ORSOTRIAENA MEDUS MEDUS*
(LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) FROM EAST
GODAVARI DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA**

PETER SMETACEK¹, ANANT SHANKAR, I.F.S.²,
NANDANI SALARIA, I.F.S.², ANUPAM SISODIA³,
C. SUSANTHKUMAR⁴

¹Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal 263 136, Uttarakhand
petersmetacek@gmail.com

² Divisional Forest Officer's Residence,
Madhava Nagar Kakinada 533003, Andhra Pradesh

³409, Royal Exotica, Opposite TV Tower,
Shankar Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh. 492007.

⁴Warblers & Waders, Prakriti, SNRA 20 Souhrada Nagar
Indira Nagar, Peroorkada P.O., Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

The Nigger *Orsotriaena medus* (Fabricius, 1775) is a widespread Asian butterfly, reported from Sri Lanka and Uttarakhand in the west to Papua New Guinea and New Britain in the east. Along this range there are several described subspecies. On the Indian subcontinent, two subspecies are found, i.e. *O. medus medus* (Fabricius, 1775) from the west Himalaya to China and Papua New Guinea and *O. medus mandata* (Moore, 1857) from Sri Lanka and southern India. The subspecies are distinguished primarily by the white discal line on the underside, which is broad and tapers towards the costa in *O. m. mandata* and is narrow and of even width in *O. m. medus*.

The geographical dividing line between these two subspecies is not very clear. Although Varshney & Smetacek (2015) reported *O. m. mandata* from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh south to Kerala and *O. m. medus* from Uttarakhand

to N.E. India; Haryana to Odisha; Andaman Is., the inclusion of Madhya Pradesh and Chhatisgarh in the distribution of *O. medus mandata* appears to be erroneous, since Chandra et al. (2007) report *O. m. medus* from Dantewara and Bastar districts of Chhatisgarh and there appear to be no reliable records from Madhya Pradesh.

A.S.S. photographed an individual of *O. medus medus* near Nagalsar village, Kanger Valley National Park, Bastar district, Chhatisgarh on 21.x.2017, thereby confirming the presence of this subspecies in the area.

On 9 March, 2018, a specimen of this species was recorded in the Junglestar Eco Camp (latitude 17.63470 N longitude 081.63283 E; elevation 438m above msl), G.M. Valasa Panchayat, Maredumili Mandal near Papikonda National Park, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

Orsotriaena medus medus (Fabricius, 1775)

Material examined: 1 male; Forewing length: 23 mm; wing expanse: 50 mm; 9.iii.2018. Leg. et Coll. Peter Smetacek, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.

The appearance of this subspecies in Andhra Pradesh extends its known distribution southwards from Bastar and Dantewara districts in Chhatisgarh to East Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. Since there do not seem to be any reports of this butterfly from Madhya Pradesh in its present form, i.e. after Chhatisgarh was separated from it, this species is hereby taken off the list of Madhya Pradesh butterflies until it is physically recorded from there.

Although the species feeds on rice, *O. medus* appears to have a somewhat restricted distribution on the Indian subcontinent, with no reports so far from the drier parts of the peninsula.

Acknowledgement

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References

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