

GAEANA CONSORS (ATKINSON, 1884) (HEMIPTERA:CICADIDAE) IN CENTRAL NEPAL

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Introduction

The taxon *Gaeana consors* (Atkinson, 1884) has been reported from the north eastern part of India, Myanmar (=Burma), Thailand and the south eastern part of China (Price *et al.*, 2016). The areas from which the species has been reported from both China and India are east of Nepal. Earlier, *G. consors* was considered a synonym of *Gaeana maculata* (Drury, 1773)(Distant, 1892) and therefore the geographical distribution of the two species is not clear.

Observation

A Chiroptera and Lepidoptera survey was conducted from 26th to 29th April, 2018 in a small town called Kushma (824 m elevation; 28°13'06"N, 83°40'45"E) in Parbat district, central Nepal. During the survey, the remains of insects in caves were collected to get a general idea about the prey of bats. Other insects around the area were also photographed.

A colourful, large cicada was photographed on 26th and 27th April, 2018. The first sighting was near the Laleshwor cave and only one live individual was observed. The second sighting was near Kushma Bridge where many individuals were found dead on the side of the road. Firstly, three dead individuals were

collected assuming the cicada was a moth but later, when it was confirmed that it was not a Lepidoptera, we didn't take the specimens with us.

Result and Discussion

The identity of the cicada was established as *Gaeana consors* Atkinson after comparing the photographs of the Nepalese specimens with material at the Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, India. It turned out that this was a range extension for the species to Nepal, westwards from its previous known distribution east of Sikkim. The species was not reported in two publications on cicadas of Nepal (Naruse & Takagi, 1977; Sanborn, 2015), hence the need to report the presence of this species. The specimen recorded near Laleshwor cave was perhaps a straggler, since the species is usually found in low river valleys with dense forest cover (Peter Smetacek, *pers. comm.*).

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