

**REDISCOVERY OF THE NARROW SPARK BUTTERFLY
SINTHUSA NASAKA PALLIDIOR FRUHSTORFER, 1912
(LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE)
FROM UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**

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Abstract

Sinthusa nasaka pallidior is reported from Bageshwar district in Uttarakhand, the first published report from the western Himalaya in over a century.

Intoduction

In India, *Sinthusa* Moore, 1884 is represented by three species i.e. *S. nasaka* (Horsfield, [1829]), *S. chandrana* (Moore, 1882) and *S. virgo* (Elwes, 1887). *S. nasaka pallidior* Fruhstorfer, 1912 and *S. chandrana chandrana* (Moore, 1882) are known from the western Himalaya. Within India, *S. nasaka pallidior* is reported from Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015).

Evans (1932) listed this subspecies as “Rare” with a distribution from Kangra to Kumaon. Mackinnon & de Niceville (1899) recorded this species in July-August from Mussoorie and July-September from Dehradun in Garhwal. After these initial records, there is no record of this butterfly from Garhwal (Singh & Sondhi, 2016). Hannynghon (1910) found this species common at Nalena, Nainital on the flowers of *Machilus odoratissima* (Wall. ex Nees) during April and May, 1909. It was the last report of this species from the Western Himalaya.

Material and Methods

A survey was conducted to understand the ecology and status of butterflies in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, India. A single individual of *Sinthusa nasaka pallidior* Fruhstorfer, 1912 was recorded from Song (Saung) village (30°2'16.8"N & 79°57'16.56"E, 1585 m) of Kapkot Block in Bageshwar district in the month of May, 2017. Further surveys were organized in that area during June, 2017 and June, 2018.

Between May, 2017 and June, 2018, a total of 06 individuals of *S. nasaka* were recorded from Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, India. The first sighting was on 14 May 2017, when a single individual was observed resting on a leaf at 11:30 hrs (IST) near a path to village Song of Kapkote block in Bageshwar. It was feeding on flowers of *Machilus odoratissima*. Another male of this species was recorded at Sumgarh village (30°1'36.48"N & 79°57'19.44"E, 1418m) of Bageshwar district on 17th June, 2017 at 02:05 hrs (IST). Four individuals were also recorded alongside the river Saryu from Song village during the survey organized in June, 2018.

Conclusion

The present surveys resulted in the sighting of 06 individuals of *S. nasaka pallidior*. These records confirm the continued presence of this species in Uttarakhand after a century.

This butterfly appears to be inordinately fond of the flowers of *Machilus odoratissima*, although it is not clear whether it plays a role in pollinating the tree or not.

References

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