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# BIONOTES

**A Quarterly Newsletter for Research Notes and News  
On Any Aspect Related with Life Forms**

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**BURMEIA LEESI MINET, 2013 (LEPIDOPTERA:  
EPICOPEIIDAE): A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES FOR INDIA**  
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*Reviewer: Jatishwor Irungbam*

The genus *Burmeia* Minet, 2013 was erected for the taxon *leesi* from Myanmar. It was described on the basis of a pair taken in eastern Kachin state, Myanmar. Nothing was known about the biology of the species. According to Minet (2002), “The only specimens that I was able to find in BMNH collections are the holotype and paratype, both from Htawgaw (26°00’N, 98°20’E) in eastern Kachin (extreme N.-E. of Burma). They were caught at an elevation of about 3000 m. This moth flies by day in all probability. Indeed, the two specimens from Htawgaw were taken by Major-General Harry C. Tytler, who was a collector of butterflies (Talbot, 1939). Moreover, their date of capture – 27.vii.1927 – is also mentioned by Tytler (1940: 116) for a butterfly of the genus *Euthalia* Hübner (with a slightly different spelling of the locality in question: Hthawgaw).

“Female. Wingspan: 31.5 mm. Forewing length: 19 mm

“Male. Wingspan: 28.5 mm. Forewing length: 17 mm. Head.

“Type-series – Holotype male with four labels: “Htawgaw. N. Burma. 10,000 [feet]. 27-7-[19]27”, “Burma. H.C. Tytler. B.M. 1938-678”, “*Burmeia leesi* Minet. Holotype”, “[Uran.] genitalia slide No. 182”. Paratype, 1 female with three labels, the first two as above (“Htawgaw ...”, “Burma ...”), the third specifying “*Burmeia leesi* Minet. Paratype”. Both specimens in BMNH (The Natural History Museum, London).”

The species has recently been reported from China (Xizang and Yunnan provinces) at an elevation of 2500 to 3000 m in July (Huang *et*

*al.*, 2019). The authors mention that the species was found in company of *Psychostrophia nymphidiaria* (Oberthur, 1893) (Epicopeiidae) but we did not find any of the latter species in the present study.

**Material examined**

India, Arunachal Pradesh, Lower Dibang district, Mayodia, 28°13’58.08” N, 95°54’32.70” E, 2300 – 2600 m., 8 males, 2-9.vii.2019. *Leg. et Coll.* Peter Smetacek, Butterfly Research Centre, Bhimtal, Uttarakhand.

Forewing length: 17 – 19 mm; wingspan: 38 – 42 mm (see below for definition of wingspan).

Remarks: A day-flying species, usually found flying singly in the dense forest. The flight is weak and erratic, reminiscent of Zygaenidae. The moth settles frequently to visit flowers on bushes and small trees. Although Huang *et al.* (2019) report them visiting wet mud, artificial light, human faeces, etc.; we only found them flying erratically around the forest and twice visiting flowers. As noted by Huang *et al.* (2019), the moths are active on sunny as well as overcast days.

There appears to be a single annual brood, since the moth was not seen in March, April, May, October, November, or December. It is unlikely that there is a generation during January or February at that elevation, when it usually snows in that area. The original pair from Myanmar were taken on 27.vii.1927, the present specimens were taken in the first week of July, while Huang *et al.* (2019) recorded it throughout July.

The wingspan given by Minet (2002) appears to be measured in a straight line across the

forewing apices, while I have given the wingspan/expanse as the figure obtained by measuring from the centre of the thorax to the apex of a forewing and doubling the result *vide* Evans (1932). Minet's (2002) measurement can give different results for the same specimen, depending on the angle of the forewings to the body while Evans' (1932) measure will remain fixed regardless of the position of the forewings.

Huang *et al.* (2019) give a scale bar in their illustration of a pair of the species, which, when measured, gives one a forewing length of 19 mm for the male and 21 mm for the female and an expanse of 42 - 46 mm for the species.

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Fig.1 &2: *Burmeia leesi* from Mayodia, Arunachal Pradesh, India, Underside and Upperside