LEPIDOPTEROUS FAUNA OF GUJARAT, INDIA

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Butterflies have been reported earlier from Gujarat State by Nurse (1899), Aldrich (1946), Shull (1963, 1964), Shull and Nadkerny (1967), Nadkerny and Shull (1968), moths by Shull and Nadkerny (1964) and both butterflies and moths by Mosse (1929). Presently, 30 species and subspecies in 26 genera belonging to 11 families of butterflies and moths are dealt with from this area along with their common name, measurement of fore wing and geographical distribution. Of these, 11 species and subspecies constitute new locality records from seven Districts namely, Banas Kantha, Bharuch, Dangs, Mahesna, Panch Mahal, Rajkot and Sabar Kantha.

Family PAPILIONIDAE

1. Atrophaneura aristolochiae aristolochiae (Fabricius)

1939. Polydorus aristolochiae aristolochiae, Talbot, Fauna of British India (Butterflies), 1 : 86.


Distribution: India.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly called ‘The Common Rose’ was recorded from
Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as fairly common from Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). It is a new record for Sabar Kantha District.

2. *Graphium agamemnon menides* (Fruhstorfer)


*Distribution*: Peninsular India and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks*: The butterfly, popularly known as ‘The Tailed Jay’ was reported from Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as rare from Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and as very common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

Family PIERIDAE
Subfamily PIERINAE

3. *Delias eucharis* (Drury)


*Distribution*: India (Lower slopes of the Himalayas, Peninsular belts) and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks*: The butterfly, commonly known as ‘The Common Jezebel’ occurs in Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as fairly common in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and common throughout the year (abundant from November to February) in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

4. *Cepora nerissa phryne* (Fabricius)

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Material examined: Bharuch District, Rajpipla, 1 ex., 31.i.1975; Dangs District, Ahwa, 1 ex., 5.ii.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.). Fore wing length. - 24-26 mm.

Distribution: India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly called 'The Common Gull', occurs in Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929). This subspecies is common in Kheda District during October, November and December (Aldrich, 1946) and throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). Shull and Nadvkerny (1967) reported it from Surat and Dangs Districts.

5. Ixias marianne (Cramer)

Material examined: Bharuch District, 1 ex., 10.ix.1976 (Y P Sinha leg.). Fore wing length. - 26 mm.

Distribution: India and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, commonly known as 'The White Orange Tip' was reported from Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as common in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and fairly common in south Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

6. Colotis danae dulcis (Butler)
1939. Colotis danae dulcis, Talbot, Fauna of British India(Butterflies), 1 : 472.

Material examined: Bharuch District, Rajpipla, 1 ex., 31.i.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.). Fore wing length. - 23 mm.

Distribution: Pakistan (Sind to Baluchistan) and India (Kathiawar).

Remarks: The butterfly, commonly known as 'The Crimson Tip', was recorded from Kathiawar by Mosse (1929) and its common occurrence in Kheda District by Aldrich (1946). According to Talbot (1939) the nominative subspecies occurs in Peninsular India and Sril Lanka whereas C. danae dulcis (Butler) is distributed from Kathiawar and Sind to Baluchistan. Shull (1963) referred to this subspecies being uncommon in the Dangs District but common elsewhere in South Gujarat from October to April.

7. Catopsilia crocale crocale (Cramer)
1775. Papilio crocale Cramer, Pap. Exot., 1 : 87, pl. 55, figs. C, D, ♀
Material examined: Dangs District, Ahwa, 2 exs., 28.ix. 1976 (Y. P. Sinha leg.).

Fore wing length: 28-30 mm.

Distribution: South China, India, Burma, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Borneo, Sumatra and Java.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as ‘The Common Emigrant’, was recorded from Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), Surat and Dangs Districts (Shull and Nadkerny, 1967). The nominate subspecies is common in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and abundant throughout the year having two distinct female forms, one white and the other yellow (Shull, 1963).

8. Catopsilia florella gnomata (Fabricius)


Material examined: Banas Kantha District, 3 kms. west of Disa, Palanpur, 1 ex., 15.x.1964 (V. C. Agarwal leg.). Fore wing length: 31 mm.

Distribution: India, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as ‘The African Emigrant’ occurs in Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as common in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). Now, it is a new record for Banas Kantha District.

9. Eurema hecabe simulata (Moore)

1939. Eurema hecabe simulata, Talbot, Fauna of British India (Butterflies), 1 : 530.


Distribution: India, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as ‘The Common Grass Yellow’, was reported from Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929) and as very common from Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946). Shull (1963) referred that it is abundant throughout
the year sometimes crepuscular and occasionally captured at mercury vapour lamp in Ahwa. Shull and Nadkerny (1967) also collected it by mercury vapour lamp from Surat and Dangs Districts. This subspecies is a new record for Districts of Banas Kantha, Sabar Kantha and Mahesna.

Family DANAIIDAE

10. Danaus chrysippus chrysippus (Linnaeus)


Material examined: Dangs District, Ahwa, 2 exs., 7.ii.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.);
Bharuch District, Rajpipla, 7 exs., 10.ix.1976 (Y P. Sinha leg.). Fore wing length - 33-35 mm.

Distribution: Extreme south-east Europe eastwards to India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Malaya, Sumatra, Borneo, the Philippines, Japan, China to Asia Minor.

Remarks: The butterfly is popularly known as 'The Plain Tiger' This nominate subspecies occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as very common in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

11. Danaus genutia (Cramer)

1947 Danaus plexippus, Talbot, Fauna of British India (Butterflies), 2 : 25.

Material examined: Bharuch District, Rajpipla, 1 ex., 30.i.1975; Dangs District, Ahwa, 1 ex., 5.iI.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.), Dangs District, Ahwa, 6 exs., 28.ix.1976 (Y P Sinha leg.). Fore wing length - 38-43 mm.

Distribution: Afghanistan, Pakistan (Baluchistan), India, Burma, Yunnan to South China and the Riu-Kiu Islands, Tongkong, Annam, Thailand, Wetar, Timor and Australia.

Remarks: The butterfly, commonly known as 'The Common Tiger' was recorded
from Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), as rare in Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

12. Danaus limniace leopardus Butler


Material examined: Bharuch District, 4 exs., 31.i.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.). Fore wing length. - 46-48 mm.

Distribution: South China, Pakistan (Chitral), India, Burma, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly called ‘The Blue Tiger’, occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and is common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

13. Euploea core core (Cramer)

1780. Papilio core Cramer, Pap. exot., 3 : pl. 266, figs. E,F, σ


Distribution: India.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as ‘The Common Indian Crow’, was recorded from Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and as very common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

Family ACRAEIDAE

14. Acraea violae (Fabricius)

1947. Acraea violae, Talbot, Fauna of British India (Butterflies), 2 : 466-469.

Material examined: Sabar Kantha District, Himatnagar, 1 ex., 6.xi.1964 (R. N.
Bhargava leg.); Panch Mahal District, Godhra, 1 ex., 25.i.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.).
Fore wing length - 18-20 mm.

**Distribution**: Peninsular India and Indo-gangetic plains upto the lower hills of Himalaya, and Sri Lanka.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, popularly known as 'The Tawny Coster', was recorded from Kathiawar by Mosse (1929), and from Kheda District by Aldrich (1946). Both of them them included this species in the family Nymphalidae. Aldrich (loc. cit.) remarked that this species listed to the south-west and south of Kheda, but not to the west or north. The Kheda record may, therefore, represent its north-western costal limit. Shull (1963) referred to this species being common throughout the year in the Surat and Dangs Districts and fairly common at Bharuch. This species is a new record for the Districts of Sabar Kantha and Panch Mahal.

**Family NYMPHALIDAE**

15. *Euthalia nais* (Forster)


**Material examined**: Dangs District, Ahwa, 1 ex., 8.ii.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.).
Fore wing length. - 32 mm.

**Distribution**: India and Sri Lanka.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, commonly called 'The Baronet', was recorded as rare from Bhavnagar by Mosse (1929) and as common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

16. *Hypolimnas bolina* (Linnaeus)


**Material examined**: Dangs District, Ahwa, 5 exs., 28.ix.1975 (Y P. Sinha leg.).
Fore wing length. - 36-45 mm.

**Distribution**: Almost throughout the Oriental and Australian Regions.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, commonly called 'The Great Eggfly', occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and as common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

17. *Neptis hylas astola* Moore


Distribution: India, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as 'The Common Sailer' was reported as rare in Kheda District by Aldrich (1946) who also remarked that it has not been recorded to the south-west of Bhavnagar, nor to the west or north of Kheda District.

18. Precis orithya swinhoei (Butler)


Material examined: Banas Kantha, Palanpur 7 exs., 12.x.1964 (V. C. Agarwal leg.). Fore wing length. - 21-23 mm.

Distribution: Pakistan (Baluchistan), India and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The butterfly, commonly called 'The Blue Pansy' occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), and was recorded as very common in Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929), Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946) and as very common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). It is a new record for Banas Kantha District.

19. Precis almana almana, (Linnaeus)


Distribution: Japan, China, India, Burma, Sri Lanka and Malayan subregion.

Remarks: The butterfly, popularly known as 'The Peacock Pansy' was recorded from Kathiawar by Mosse (1929), Kheda District by Aldrich (1946). This nominate subspecies is common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). It is a new record for Banas Kantha District.

20. Cynthia cardui (Linnaeus)


**Material examined**: Dangs District, Ahwa, 1 ex., 28.ix.1976 (*Y. P. Sinha* leg.).

**Fore wing length**: - 30 mm.

**Distribution**: Almost Worldwide.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, commonly known as 'The Painted Lady' occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929) Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946), Surat and Dangs Districts (Shull and Nadkerny, 1967). It is found as very common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).

**Family**  
**LYCAENIDAE**

**Subfamily**  
**LYCAENINAE**

21. *Jamides celeno aelianus* (Fabricius)

**Material examined**: Panch Mahal, Godhra, 7 exs., 15.i.1975 (*T. G. Vazirani* leg.).

**Fore wing length**: - 14-18 mm.

**Distribution**: Pakistan, India and Burma.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, popularly called 'The Common Cerulean' is common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963). It is a new record for Panch Mahal District.

**Subfamily**  
**THECLINAE**

22. *Curetis dentata dentata* Moore

**Material examined**: Dangs District, Ahwa, 3 exs., 8.ii.1975 (*T. G. Vazirani* leg.).

**Fore wing length**: - 18-20 mm.

**Distribution**: India (Himalayas from Kulu to Assam; Madhya Pradesh, Pachmarhi; South India), and Burma.

**Remarks**: The butterfly, commonly known as 'The Toothed Sunbeam' was reported as fairly common throughout the year in South Gujarat (Shull, 1963).
Family    HESPERIIDAE

23. *Telicota augias augias* (Linnaeus)


*Material examined*: Dangs District, Ahwa, 4 exs., 5.i.1975, 4 exs., 7.i.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.). Fore wing length. - 16-18 mm.

*Distribution*: India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Saigon, Malaya, Java, Banka and Borneo.

*Remarks*: The butterfly is commonly known as 'The Pale palm Dart.' Shull (1963) referred to this nominate subspecies (especially the dark brown) as being common from November to May in South Gujarat. Shull and Nadkerny (1964) also reported its occurrence in South Gujarat.

24. *Pelopidas mathias mathias* (Fabricius)


*Material examined*: Kachchh District, Bhuj, Amisar tank, 5 exs., 19.x.1964, Rajrani tank, 1 ex., 25.x.1964 (V. C. Agarwal leg.). Fore wing length. - 16-18 mm.

*Distribution*: India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Siam (Thailand), malaya, Sumatra, Java, Batoe Is., Siberut, Mindoro, Celebes, Djampea, Lombok, Engano, Timor and Tenimber.

*Remarks*: The butterfly, popularly known as 'The Small Branded Swift' occurs in Kachchh (Nurse, 1899), Kathiawar (Mosse, 1929) and Kheda District (Aldrich, 1946). According to Shull (1963) the nominate subspecies is common throughout the year in South Gujarat.

Family    SATURNIIDAE

Subfamily    SATURNIINAE

25. *Antheraea paphia* (Linnaeus)

Material examined: Dangs District, Ahwa, 2 exs. 8.ii.1964 (T. G. Vazirani leg.).
Fore wing length: 62-70 mm.

Distribution: South China, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: The moth, popularly called "The Indian Tasar Moth", was recorded from Surat and Dangs Districts by Shull and Nadkerny (1964). The cocoon of this moth is a source of the economically important tasar silk.

Family ARCTIIDAE

26. Creatonotus gangis (Linnaeus)
1892. Creatonotus interruptus, Hampson, Fauna of British India (Moths), 2 : 26.


Distribution: India, Burma, Sri Lanka to China and Australia.

Remarks: This species represents a new locality record from Sabar Kantha District in Gujarat State.

Family NOCTUIDAE

Subfamily AGROTEINAE

27. Agrotis spinifera (Huebner)

Material examined: Rajkot District, Okha, Suraj Karari tank, 2 exs., 13.iii.1966 (V. C. agarwal leg.). Fore wing length: 15 mm.

Distribution: Persia, India, Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka.

Remarks: This species is a new record for Rajkot District in Gujarat.

Subfamily CATOCALINAE

28. Chalciope hyppasia (Cramer)
1894. Trigonodes hyppasia, Hampson, Fauna of British India (Moths), 2 : 527.
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*Material examined*: Banas Kantha District, Palanpur (Dak bungalow), 8 exs., 11.x.1964 (V. C. Agarwal leg.). *Fore wing length*: 23-25 mm.

*Distribution*: Africa, Mauritius, Aden, China, India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Java and Thailand.

*Remarks*: Shull and Nadkerny (1964) reported this species from Surat and Dangs Districts. It is a new record for Banas Kantha District.

29. *Fodina stola* Guenee


*Material examined*: Dangs District, Ahwa, 6 exs., 6.ii.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.).

*Fore wing length*: 20-22 mm.

*Distribution*: India, Bhutan, Burma and Sri Lanka.

*Remarks*: This species was recorded from Surat and Dangs Districts by Shull and Nadkerny (1964).

30. *Diaphania laticostalis* (Guenee)

1854. *Nargarodes laticostalis* Guenee, *Delt. & Pyral.*, : 303, no. 315, ♂


*Material examined*: Dangs District, Ahwa, 3 exs., 7.ii.1975 (T G. Vazirani leg.).

*Fore wing length*: 41-43 mm.

*Distribution*: India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Pulo Laut; Sumbawa, Ceram and New Hebrides.

*Remarks*: This species is a new record from the Dangs District in Gujarat State.

**SUMMARY**

The paper incorporates the account of thirty species and subspecies distributed over twenty six genera belonging to eleven families of Lepidoptera from Gujarat along with their common name, fore wing length and geographical distribution. Of these, eleven are new locality records from seven Districts of the State.

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