

Project Update: June 2015

The butterfly survey was carried out at different locations of Tsirang district of Bhutan during April and May 2015. During the survey, 2 weeks were disturbed by bad weather conditions. A total of 92 species was encountered belonged to five families; Lycaenidae (21 species), Papilionidae (8 species), Pieridae (11 species), Nymphalidae (47 species) and Hesperidae (4 species). Two specimens from the family Hesperidae were not able to be identified so far. Maximum species and individuals were recorded from Nymphalidae and abundant in all the habitat types of Tsirang.

Many important and significant species were encountered during the survey. Species like *Rohana parisatis*, *Libythea lepita*, *Chersonesia risa*, *Chitoria sordida*, *Elymnias malelas*, *Pseudergolis wedah*, *Lethe chandica*, *Troides helena*, *Graphium sarpedon*, *Papilio protenor*, *Atrophaneura polyeuctes*, *Delias belladonna*, *Eurema herla*, *Dercus verhuei*, *Allotinus drumila*, *Megisba malaya* were encountered during the study. These species are rare in all their distribution range. The species *Mota massyla*, *Apatura chevana*, *Libythea lepita* and *Chersonesia risa* are few species which are new addition to the known list of butterflies of Tsirang.



Left: *Apatura chevana* (Sergeant Emperor). Right: *Mota massyla* (Saffron).