

Project Update: May 2022

Project Result:

The first survey of butterflies which was conducted from 5th to 18th May 2022 has been completed. This survey covered the elevational ranges between 1650 m to 4500 of Gyamsunda (1650-2650 m) and Narphoo (2700 – 4500 m) valleys. During the survey periods, 28 butterfly species have been recorded with five butterfly species having new distribution sites (Table 1).

Table 1: List of butterflies; 1- Gyamsunda and 2- Narphoo Valleys

S.N.	Families/ Common Name	Scientific Name	Elevational ranges (m)	Valleys
A	Family: Nymphalidae			
1	Indian Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglaia cashmerensis</i>	1650-4500	1 & 2
2	Ladkha Tortoiseshell	<i>ladakensis</i> *	3870-4500	2
3	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria isaea</i>	3000	2
4	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	1650-4208	1 & 2
5	Red Admiral	<i>V. indica</i>	1650-3870	1 & 2
6	Glassy Tiger	<i>Parantica aglea</i> *	1650-4208	1 & 2
7	Small Twany Wall	<i>Raphicera moorei</i>	2650	1
8	Nepal Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album agnicula</i> *	4318	2
9	Himalayan Scarce Woodbrown	<i>Lethe siderae</i> *	2415	1
10	Common Satyr	<i>Aulocera swaha</i>	2360	1
11	Large Silverstripe	<i>Childrena childreni</i>	1650-2828	1 & 2
12	Himalayan Fourring	<i>Ypthima parasakra</i>	2360-2640	1
B	Family: Pieridae			
13	Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>	3870	2
14	Dark Clouded Yellow	<i>C. fieldii</i>	1650-4318	1 & 2
15	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	1650-4500	1 & 2
16	Sherpa White	<i>Synchlora sherpa</i> *	4500	2
17	Hill Jezebel	<i>Delias belladonna</i>	2150	1
18	Common Brimstone		2450	1
C	Family: Lycaenidae			
19	Powdery Green Sapphire	<i>Heliophorus tamu</i>	2828-3000	2
20	Peablu	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	1650-2828	1 & 2
21	Plain Hedge Blue	<i>Celastrina lavendularis</i>	2000-2828	1 & 2
D	Family: Papilionidae			
22	Common Yellow Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon Rinpoche</i>	2828- 4318	2
23	Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium cloanthus</i>	1650-2050	1
24	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	1650-2230	1
25	Spangle	<i>P. protenor</i>	1650-2230	1
26	Common Windmill	<i>Byasa polyeuctes</i>	1650-2230	1
27	Common Red Apollo	<i>Parnassius epaphus</i>	3870-4500	2
E	Family: Hesperidae			
28	Silver and Greenish Mountain Hopper	<i>Carterocephalus avanti avanti</i> *	2828-3000	2

*Indicates the first record in the respective valleys

Photos of High-altitude butterflies recorded in the study sites



Photos a-o: a. *Synchloea sherpae*; b. *Delias belladonna*; c. *Parnassius epaphus*; d. *Papilio machaon rinpoche*; e. *Carterocephalus avanti avanti*; f. *Celastrina lavendularis*; g. *Heliophorus tamu tamu*; h. *Childrena childreni*; i. *Lethe siderae*; j. *Issoria isaea*; k. *Aglais ladakensis*; l. *Raphicera moorei*; m. *Ypthima parasakra*; n. *Aulocera swaha*; o. *Polygonia c-album agnicula*. © Bimal Raj Shrestha.



Study Site: Northern view of Narphoo Valley. ©Bimal Raj Shrestha.



Research team heading toward study sites- Narphoo Valley. ©Abishek Shrestha



Study Site: NW view near Nar Village of Narphoo Valley; Alt: 3870 m. ©Abishek Shrestha

Field Activities



Recording butterflies through net capture in the transect; Alt: 3180 m. ©Ashant Dewan



Field Data Record. ©Ashant Dewan.



Post-field work activity- Rechecking field data and reconfirming the butterfly species with research assistant Mr. Ashant Dewan (Left).