

Butterfly species diversity from tirora, District Gondia of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra
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ABSTRACT

A study on butterfly diversity from Tirora, district Gondia of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra was undertaken. Total 36 species of butterflies belonging to 5 families were recorded from the given area. Maximum 16 species of butterflies were recorded from family Nymphalidae, followed by 6 species each from family Lycaenidae and Papilionidae, 5 species from family Pieridae and 3 species were recorded from family Hesperidae. In the above field survey 5 species of butterfly recorded come under Wild Life Protection Act 1972 of India. The butterfly species *Lethe europa*, and *Castalius rosimon* come under Schedule I While *Appias albina* and *Hylpolimnas misippus* are under Schedule II and *Euploea core* under Schedule IV of the Wild Life Protection Act 1972.

Figures : 36

References : 14

Table : 01

KEY WORDS : Butterfly, Gondia, Species, Tirora

Introduction

Butterflies belong to order Lepidoptera which is the one of the largest order of class Insecta of Phylum Arthropoda. They are also known as important pollinating agent and help to pollinate more than 50 economically important plant crops¹. Vidarbha region is situated on the eastern part of Maharashtra. Many researchers have studied the butterfly species diversity from different areas of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

From Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha region (Maharashtra) about 177 species of butterfly have been reported². 65 species of butterflies belonging to 52 genera and 7 families were recorded from Pench Tiger Reserve, Nagpur and 68 species belonging to 50 genera from Tadoba Andhari, Tiger Reserve, District Chandrapur respectively^{7,8}. 103 species were recorded from Melghat Tiger reserve, Amravati¹⁴. From Nagpur city 62 species were recorded⁹. From Tadoba National Park, Chandrapur 111 species were recorded¹⁰ and 167

species of butterflies belonging to 90 genera and 5 families form Vidarbha region of Maharashtra¹¹. About 69 species of butterflies belonging to 47 genera and 5 families were recorded from Sakoli talula District Bhandara⁴ and 114 species of butterflies belonging to 6 families from Bor Wild Life Sanctuary, District Wardha, Central India¹².

Tirora Taluka is situated in Gondia district of Nagpur division of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. Many workers have studied the butterfly's fauna from different tahsils of Gondia. Butterfly diversity in agroeco system of Arjuni Morgaon taluka, district Gondia was studied and recorded 44 species of butterflies belonging to 32 genera and 5 families⁵. About 28 species of butterfly belonging to 19 genera and 4 families were recorded from Amgaon Tehsil of Gondia District³. However not a single study has been carried out on the diversity of butterfly from Tirora tahsil of District Gondia. The present field survey was undertaken to study the diversity of

TABLE-1: List of butterfly's species recorded from Tirora tahsil, district Gondia of Vidarbha region (Maharashtra)

S. No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
		Family: Nymphalidae (16)	
1.	Tawny Coster	<i>Acraea terpsicore</i>	Common
2.	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i>	Common
3.	Striped Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	Common
4.	Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i> *	Common
5.	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i>	Common
6.	Danaid Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas misippus</i> *	Rare
7.	Chocolate Pansy	<i>Junonia iphita</i>	Common
8.	Lemon Pansy	<i>Junonia lemonias</i>	Common
9.	Blue Pansy	<i>Junonia orithya</i>	Common
10.	Bamboo Tree brown	<i>Lethe Europa</i> *	Rare
11.	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Common
12.	Common Bush brown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	Rare
13.	Common Sailor	<i>Neptis hylas</i>	Rare
14.	Smooth-eyed bush brown	<i>Orsotriaena medus</i>	Rare
15.	The Baronet	<i>Symphaedra nais</i>	Rare
16.	Blue Tiger	<i>Tirumala limniace</i>	Common
		Family: Lycaenidae (6)	
17.	Common Hedge Blue	<i>Acytolepis puspa</i>	Rare
18.	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i> *	Common
19.	Common Silverline	<i>Spindasis vulcanus</i>	Common
20.	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Pseudozizeeria maha</i>	Common

S. No	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
21.	Striped Pierrot	<i>Tarucus nara</i>	Common
22.	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i>	Common
		Family: Papilionidae (6)	
23.	Tailed Jay	<i>Graphium Agamemnon</i>	Common
24.	Common Jay	<i>Graphium doson</i>	Common
25.	Spot Swordtail	<i>Graphium nomius</i>	Common
26.	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i>	Common
27.	Blue Mormon	<i>Papilio polymnestor</i>	Rare
28.	Common Mormon	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	Common
		Family: Pieridae (5)	
29.	Common Albatross	<i>Appias albina</i> *	Very Rare
30.	Pioneer	<i>Belenois aurota</i>	Common
31.	Lemon Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>	Common
32.	Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i>	Very Rare
33.	Common Wanderer	<i>Pareronia hippia</i>	Rare
		Family: Hesperidae (3)	
34.	Rice Swift	<i>Borbo cinnara</i>	Common
35..	Indian Grizzled Skipper	<i>Spialia galba</i>	Rare
36.	Indian Palm Bob	<i>Suastus gremius</i>	Common

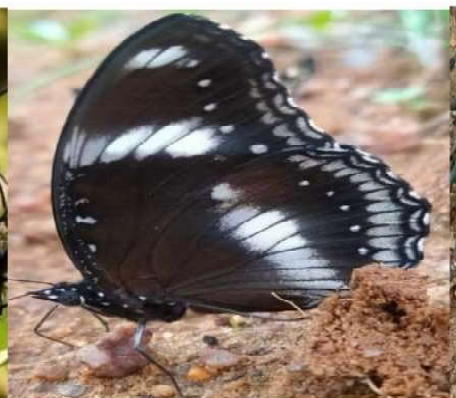
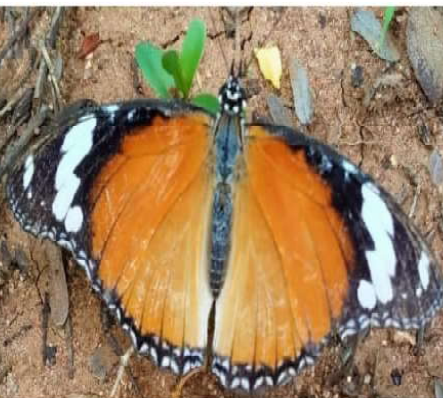
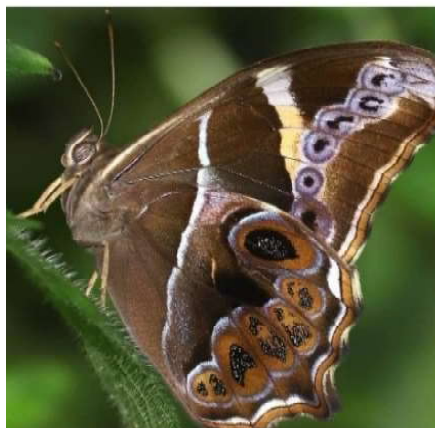
***Protected under Indian Wild Life Protection Act 1972**

butterflies from Tirora, of Gondia District of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

Materials and Methods

A study on butterfly diversity from Tirora, district Gondia of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra was undertaken from July 2021 to June 2022. A field survey

was carried out in and nearby area of Tirora. The butterflies observed in their natural habitat were recorded using photographic method by capturing the observed butterfly in a camera. The photographs of butterflies captured were identified using various research papers and reference books and also with the help of taxonomy experts. The scientific names of the butterfly species

Butterflies Reported1. Tawny Coster (*Acraea terpsicore*)2. Common Castor (*Ariadne merione*)3. Stripped Tiger (*Danaus genutia*)4. Common Indian Crow (*Euploea core*)5. Great Eggfly (*Hypolimnas bolina*)6. Danaid Eggfly (*Hypolimnas misippus*)7. Chocolate Pansy (*Junonia iphita*)8. Lemon Pansy (*Junonia lemonias*)9. Blue Pansy (*Junonia orithya*)10. Bamboo treebrown (*Lethe europa*)11. Com. Evening Brown (*Melanitis leda*)12. Com. Bushbrown (*Mycalesis perseus*)

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13. Common Sailor (*Neptis hylas*)



14. Smooth eye bushbrown (*Orsotriaena medus*)



15. Baronet (*Symphaedra nais*)



16. Blue Tiger (*Tirumala limniace*)



17. Common Hedge Blue (*Acytolepis puspa*)



18. Common Pierrot (*Castalius rosimon*)



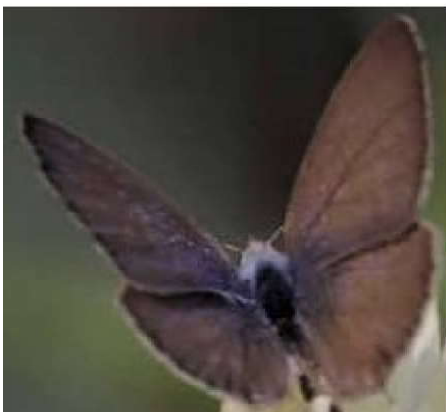
19. Com. Silverline (*Spindasis vulcanus*)



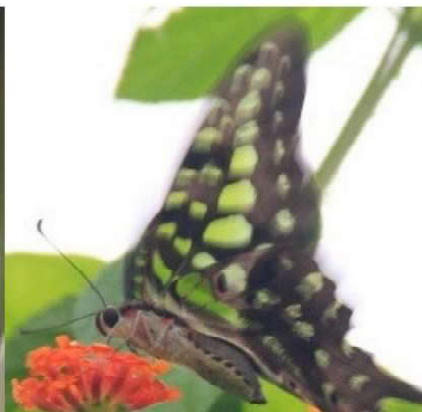
20. Pale Grass Blue (*Pseudozizeeria maha*)



21. Striped Pierrots (*Tarucus nara*)



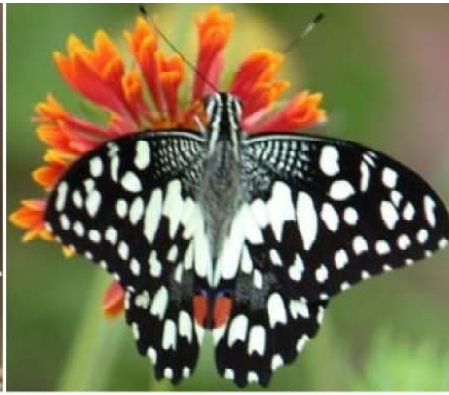
22. Lesser Grass Blue (*Zizina otis*)



23. Tailed Jay (*Graphium agamemnon*)



24. Common Jay (*Graphium doson*)

25. Spot Swordtail (*Graohium nomius*)26. Lime Butterfly (*Papilio demoleus*)27. Blue Mormon (*Papilio polymnestor*)28. Common Mormon (*Papilio polytes*)29. Common Albatross (*Appias albina*)30. Pioneer (*Belenois aurota*)31. Lemon Emigrant (*Catopsilia pomona*)32. Common Jezebel (*Delias eucharis*)33. Common Wanderer (*Pareronia hippia*)34. Rice Swift (*Borbo cinnara*)35. Indian Gizzard Skipper (*Spialia galba*)36. Indian Palm Bob (*Suastus gremius*)

were accordingly written^{6,13}.

Results and Discussion

During the diversity study of butterflies in Tirora about 36 species of butterflies belonging to 5 families were recorded. Maximum 16 species of butterflies were recorded from family Nymphalidae, 6 species each from family Lycaenidae and Papilionidae, 5 species were recorded from family Pieridae and 3 species were recorded from family Hesperidae. In the above study 5 species of butterfly recorded were under Wild Life Protection Act 1972 of India. The butterfly species *Lethe Europa*, and *Castalius rosimon* come under Schedule I

While *Appias albina* and *Hylpolimnas misippus* were under Schedule II and *Euploea core* were under Schedule IV of the Wild Life Protection Act 1972. (Table.1). About 14 species of butterflies were reported under the protected category of the Wild Life protection Act 1972 form Vidarbha region of Maharashtra¹¹.

The butterfly species such as Baronet butterfly, Danaid eggfly, Bamboo tree brown, Common bush brown, smoothed eyed bush brown, Common hedge blue, Common Wanderer and Indian Grizzled Skipper recorded were rare whereas the Common Albatross and Common Jezebel were rare in the given area as compared to the other recorded species.

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