

(Short Communication)

**First record of Common Red Flash, *Rapala iarbus* from the state of Rajasthan, India**

Anil Kumar Tripathi and \*Vijay Kumar Koli<sup>1</sup>

Aquatic Ecology and Biodiversity Research Lab,  
MLV Government College Bhilwara (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

<sup>1</sup>Wildlife Research Laboratory, Department of Zoology,  
M.L. Sukhadia University, UDAIPUR-313001 (RAJASTHAN) INDIA

\*Corresponding Author

E-mail: vijaykoli87@yahoo.in

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**ABSTRACT**

In this paper, we report a first record of Common Red Flash, *Rapala iarbus* butterfly from the state of Rajasthan. The specimen was observed in the residential area, located at the outskirts of the Bhilwara city, Rajasthan, India.

Figures : 02

References : 08

Table : 00

KEY WORDS : Bhilwara, Common Red Flash, India, *Rapala iarbus*, Rajasthan.

**Introduction**

The Common Red Flash (*Rapala iarbus*) is a common species of butterflies, widely distributed in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. In India, its observation is limited in northwest arid and northeast regions<sup>1</sup>. It is commonly seen in plains, but distribution in the Himalayas has been reported to 2,400m msl height<sup>2</sup>.

On 29 April 2020, during a walk in a residential area we observed a Common Red Flash butterfly perched on a branch of *Cassia fistula* at about 9ft above ground level (Location: 25°20'35.1" N and 74°39'30.9" E) (Fig.

1). The specimen was photographed at the spot and identified as a female Common Red Flash by using authentic field guides<sup>3,8</sup>. The individual was observed trying to lay eggs but after leaving the butterfly laid eggs were not observed (Fig. 2). The observation site was situated almost at the outskirts of Bhilwara city, intermixed with residential houses and open patches along the roadside with *Prosopis juliflora* bushes and *Alstonia scholaris* plantation.



**Fig. 1: The female Common Red Flash *Rapala iarbus* perch on *Cassia fistula* twig.**



**Fig. 2: The female Common Red Flash attempting to lay eggs.**

Lots of studies have been done to explore biodiversity of butterflies from different regions and varied ecosystems in the state of Rajasthan<sup>1,2,4-7</sup>, but the presence of Common Red Flash has not been reported

so far. Thus, the present observation of this species is the first record from the state. Continuous further observation is required to understand its status in the entire state.

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