

BUTTERFLIES OF THE GARO HILLS

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This book covers 320 species of butterflies from the Garo Hills in Meghalaya, northeastern India. The book contains photographs of each of the species, provides key features for identifying them in the field and notes on similar butterfly species to assist in identification. It also contains notes on the butterflies' natural history. Butterfly hotspots in the Garo Hills along with maps of these areas are provided for reference.



Sanjay Sondhi | Krushnamegh Kunte | Gaurav Agavekar
Rohan Lovalekar | Kedar Tokekar

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Cover Photographs (Clockwise from Top):

Silver Royal *Ancema blanka* ©Sanjay Sondhi

Four-bar Swordtail *Graphium agetes* ©Gaurav Agavekar

Red-base Jezebel *Delias pasithoe* ©Sanjay Sondhi

Green-striped Palmer *Pirdana major* ©Krushnamegh Kunte

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About the Organisations



Samrakshan (www.samrakshan.org) is a registered non-profit organisation working in India for sustainable livelihoods for forest dependent communities and ensuring a kinder world for non-human animals.



TITLI TRUST (www.titlitrust.com) is a nature conservation, non-profit organisation based in Dehradun, India. It is focused on conservation education, conservation research and action and community-based nature tourism.



Indian Foundation for Butterflies (<http://ifoundbutterflies.org>) is a group of professional butterfly biologists and amateur naturalists who are involved in research on the natural history, ecology, conservation needs and other aspects of the biology of Indian butterflies.



The India Foundation

The India Foundation is a non-profit organization primarily supporting economically challenged musician and other artists in India. It also provides support for a variety of research projects in India.



The Forests and Environment Department, Meghalaya is responsible for protecting and safeguarding the forests and its associated flora and fauna in Meghalaya.

About the Authors

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Family Hesperidae -Skippers

Small to medium-sized, usually fast-flying butterflies. They are called skippers on account of their “skipping” manner of flight. Some species are crepuscular (i.e., they are active at dawn and dusk) and also active during overcast weather, while others are diurnal and readily bask in sunlight. The larval host plants are usually palms, bamboos and grasses; only a small proportion of skippers feed on dicotyledonous plants as caterpillars.



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Zigzag Flat *Odina decoratus*

White-banded Flat

Celaenorrhinus asmara consertus de Nicéville, 1890

Description: 35-45 mm. Antennae and cilia plain. UPF: brown with hyaline discal band. Discal spot in 3 reaches base 3. Spots in 2,3 and cell, conjoined. Discal band does not extend to 1b. Sometimes a spot in 4, never in 5. UNF: as above. Diffused tornal patch. Additional yellowish-white spot near costa. UNH: plain brown, unmarked.

Similar species: Scarce Banded Flat *C. badia* UPF discal band extends into 1b.

Habits and habitats: Very rare. Behaviour typical of flats. Flies fast. Found near streams in forest.



Rohan Lovalekar

- Distr.: E. Himalaya, NE India
- Best seen at: Karwani
- Best seen in: Apr, May



Sanjay Sondhi

Brown Pied Flat

Coladenia agni de Nicéville, 1883

Description: 35-40 mm. Antennae plain. Brown above. UPH: series of small, black discal spots. UPH: cilia at apex yellowish. UNF: 2 white spots in 1b.

Similar species: Fulvous Pied Flat *P. dan* has diffuse yellow spots UPH, chequered cilia. Tri-coloured Pied Flat *C. indrani* has more fulvous wings and yellow-orange sub-marginal spot UP.

Habits and habitats: Very rare. Behaviour typical of flats. Flies fast. Found near streams in forest from the foothills up to 1,500 m.



Sanjay Sondhi

- Distr.: C. and E. Himalaya, NE India
- Best seen at: Gongrot
- Best seen in: Mar, Apr

Checklist of the Butterflies of the Garo Hills

This represents an up-to-date checklist of the butterflies of the Garo Hills, till the time of publication of this book. The checklist stands at 339 species of butterflies. It is hoped that further surveys will add to the species list of the Garo Hills.

FAMILY: HESPERIIDAE

Subfamily: Coeliadinae

1. *Badamia exclamationis*
2. *Bibasis sena sena*
3. *Burara gomata gomata*
4. *Burara oedipodea belesis*
5. *Choaspes benjaminii japonica*
6. *Hasora badra badra*
7. *Hasora taminatus bhavara*
8. *Aeromachus jhora creta*
9. *Ancistroides nigrita diocles*
10. *Baoris chapmani*
11. *Baoris farri*
12. *Baoris unicolor*
13. *Caltoris sp.*
14. *Cupitha purreea*

Subfamily: Hesperinae

15. *Gangara thyrasis thyrasis*
16. *Halpe spp.*
17. *Halpe zema zema*
18. *Hyarotis adrastus praba*
19. *Iambrix salsala salsala*
20. *Iton semamora semamora*
21. *Koruthaialos butleri*
22. *Matapa aria*
23. *Matapa cresta*

24. *Matapa sasivarna*
 25. *Notocrypta curvifascia curvifascia*
 26. *Notocrypta feisthamellii alysos*
 27. *Notocrypta paralyos asawa*
 28. *Oriens gola pseudolus*
 29. *Oriens goloides*
 30. *Parnara sp.*
 31. *Pelopidas agna agna*
 32. *Pelopidas assamensis*
 33. *Pirdana major*
 34. *Pithauria marsena*
 35. *Pithauria stramineipennis stramineipennis*
 36. *Polytremis lubricans lubricans*
 37. *Potanthus spp.*
 38. *Psolos fuligo subfasciatus*
 39. *Scobura isota*
 40. *Sebastonyma dolopia*
 41. *Spialia galba*
 42. *Suada swerga swerga*
 43. *Telicota bambusae bambusae*
 44. *Zographetus ogygia ogygia*
 45. *Zographetus satwa*
- ### Subfamily: Pyrginae
46. *Celaenorrhinus asmara consertus*
 47. *Coladenia agni*