

NOTE

BUTTERFLIES OF ORANG WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

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Orang Wildlife Sanctuary, where the second highest population of the Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros occurs, is situated in the northern bank of the river Bhahmaputra covering two districts of Assam namely, Darrang and Sonitpur. Area of the Sanctuary is 78.81 sq. km.; temperature ranges from 7° to 32°C; average annual rainfall is 3000 mm; humidity varies from 66 to 95%; and altitude ranges between 40 to 70 m above msl. Vegetation of the Sanctuary includes *Phragmites kark*, *Arundo donax*, *Imperata cylindrica*, *Andropogon* spp., *Nelumbo* spp., *Dalbergia sisso*, *Bombax ceiba*, *Acacia catechu*, *Ziziphus* spp., *Litsaea polyantha* etc. Of the total area of the Sanctuary grassland includes 59.7%, chapori (river islands) 11.95%, forest area 16.2% and swamps 12.60%.

A survey of the butterflies of the Sanctuary was conducted during the month of October, 1998. A total of 56 species could be recorded, of which, 10 species remained unidentified. Butterfly population was commonly encountered, near the human habitations in and around the Sanctuary like the forest range office, camps and the fringe areas. Very small population of different butterflies as well as individual species could be seen in the grassland areas which are suitable habitats for Rhinos.

Butterflies were identified and verified following Haribal (1992) and nomenclature according to Varshney (1983).

Butterflies species recorded in Orang Wildlife Sanctuary

Family: Papilionidae

1. Red Helen *Papilio helenus* L. c
2. Yellow Helen *P. chaon* Wd. c
3. Great Mormon *P. memnon* L. r
4. Common Mormon *P. polytes* Cr. vc
5. Red Breast *P. rhetenor* Wd. c
6. Blue-striped Mime *P. slateri* Hew. c
7. Common Rose *Atrophaneura aristolochiae* (F.) r
8. Common Birdwing *Troides helena* (L.) vr

Family: Pieridae

9. Small Grass Yellow *Eurema brigitta* (Cramer) a
10. Three Spot Grass Yellow *E. blanda* (Wallace) r
11. Redbase Jezebel *Delias pasithoe* (L) c
12. Mottled Emmigrant *Catopsilia pyranthe* (L) r

Family: Lycaenidae

13. Forest Pierrot *Taraka hamada* (Druce) c
14. White Northern Royal *Tajuria illurgis* (Hew.) c
15. Silver Royal *Pratapa blanka* (de N.) c
16. Dark Caerulean *Jamides bochus* (Cr) r
17. Glistening Caerulean *J. elpis* (Godart.) c
18. Common Caerulean *J. celeno* (Cr.) vc
19. Yamfly *Loxura atymnus* (Stoll) r
20. Spotless Oakblue *Narathura fulla* (Hew.) vr

Family: Riodininae

21. Punchinello *Zemerus flegyas* (Cr.) r

Family: Nymphalidae

22. Popinjay *Stibochiona nicea* (Gray) vr
23. Common Indian Crow *Euploea core* (Cr.) a
24. Striped Blue Crow *E. mulciber* (Cr.) r
25. Northern Jungle Queen *Stichophthalma camadeva* (Wd.) r
26. Common Sailer *Neptis hylas* (L.) a
27. Yellow Jack Sailer *N. viraja* M. r
28. Sullied Sailer *N. soma* M. r
29. Orange Staff Sergeant *Parathyma cama* (M.) vr
30. Common Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus* (F.) a
31. Brighteye Bushbrown *M. nicotia* Wd. c
32. Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda* (Cr.) vc
33. Common Three Ring *Ypthima asterope* M. r
34. Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* (L.) vc
35. Glassy Tiger *D. aglea* (Stoll) vc
36. Common Tiger *D. genutia* (Cr.) vc
37. Blue Tiger *D. limniace* (Cr.) vc
38. Commander *Limenitis procris* (Cr.) vr
39. Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina* (L.) c
40. Danaid Eggfly *H. misippus* (L.) c
41. Common Castor *Ariadne merione* (Cr.) c
42. Common Nawab *Polyura athamas* (Dry.) vr
43. Peacock Pansy *Precis almana* (L.) r
44. Gray Pansy *P. atlites* (L.) r
45. Clipper *Parthenos sylvia* (Cr.) vr
46. Nigger *Orsotrioena medus* (F.) r

Key

a = abundant ; vc = very common ; c = common ; r = rare ; vr = very rare

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