

New Record of *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from Jharkhand, India

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ABSTRACT

Rapala iarbus (Fabricius) was sighted in the mixed plantation area of Birsa Agricultural University Campus, Ranchi, Jharkhand and this *Lycaenid butterfly* species documents a new record from Jharkhand, India.

Keywords *Rapala iarbus*, New record, Jharkhand.

INTRODUCTION

Rapala iarbus (Fabricius), the common red flash, is one of the most amazing lepidopteron butterfly species belonging to the family Lycaenidae and widely distributed in different states and Union Territories of India viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and West Bengal (Bhakare *et al.* 2021). In the present finding, an endeavor has been

made to record *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius) for the first time from Jharkhand state of India.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During the course of study of terrestrial insect complex in the campus plantation site of Faculty of Forestry, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi (23.18° N, 85.19° E, alt 625 MSL) Jharkhand, a few active reddish butterflies were sighted during the month of December 2020 and photography were conducted in the field. One specimen was collected with the help of long handled insect catching net and released immediately after collection of necessary data. Lastly based on the photograph and collected data, the insect was identified as *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius) with the help of available literature (Gupta 1997, Kehimkar 2008, Boruah *et al.* 2019).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Incidence of *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius) was noticed in the cooler month of December, 2020 and they were found in flying condition just above the ground level vegetation of the plantation site and also resting in both close and open wing position (Fig. 1–2). Adult butterflies were active flier measuring 36 mm (wing span) and characterized by wing with brown bordered reddish upper side and grey underside without ochreous tinge, hind wing tailed and with two tornal black spots and legs white and black banded.

As there is no information of *Rapala iarbus* (Fabricius) in the existing literature on the butterfly

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Fig. 1. *Rapala iarbus* (close wing position).



Fig. 2. *Rapala iarbus* (open wing position).

species in Jharkhand (Verma 2009, Singh 2010, Hembrom and Sinha 2012, Sambath 2014, Singh and Ahmad 2017, Bhakare *et al.* 2021), this common red flash is the new record of butterfly in Jharkhand state of India.

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