

Project Update: March 2011

The three main activities of the project are reviewed below.

1) Conduct Lepidoptera survey

A 3-week survey was conducted in October 2010 covering the entire Kameng Protected Area Complex, namely Pakke Tiger Reserve (3 sites), Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary (2 sites) and Sessa Orchid WLS (1 site). The survey was conducted at altitudes starting from 50m up to 3000 m. A second survey was conducted from 21 to 30 March 2011 covering the Pakke Tiger Reserve and Sessa Orchid WLS.

Butterfly survey

As an outcome of the ongoing survey, over 300 butterfly species were photographed and identified. Population data were collated to support establishing a baseline.



Left: Fivebar Swordtail Graphium *antiphates*. Right: Paris Peacock *Papilio paris*.

Moth survey

An estimated 800 to 1000 distinct species of moths were photographed during the moth survey. Given the scant information available on Indian moths, a substantial amount of time was spent in putting together sufficient literature and books to identify the moths. At this point in time, over 100 species of moths have been identified and are available for online preview at <http://www.titlitrust.com/Moths.html>



Left: The Moth survey team at Bompu, Eaglenest WLS, Oct 2010. Right: *Oberthueria formosibia*, a Bombycid, previously known only from specimens from Taiwan.

Already we have recorded a Bombycid which was previous known only from Taiwan. Another Bombycid, which was only known to science through specimens collected in Sikkim was also recorded. Work to identify the moths continues on an ongoing basis.

The next survey is planned for 10-30 May 2011.

2) Initiate Lepidoptera Tourism

In October 2010, we presented our project at the 3rd Asian Lepidoptera Conference and Symposium. The presentation of the project won the "Best Presentation" Award at the conference, and the work we were doing was appreciated by all. In addition, awareness was created about the tourism component of the project.

A poster titled *Moths of Eaglenest* was created and distributed to the Arunachal Forest Department. This will be used to promote the tourism effort.

3) Establish baseline data

Butterfly population data is being recorded during the surveys.

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