

First record of orange oak leaf, *Kallima inachus* (Boisd) in Uttar Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT: A first record of butterfly species *Kallima inachus* was reported in Uttar Pradesh. A four-day preliminary visit to Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary from the 6th of March 2022 to the 9th of March 2022 was undertaken and photographs and coordinates of butterfly were taken. The present record confirms the presence of *K. inachus* in Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary and is the first record of this species from the state of Uttar Pradesh. © 2024 Association for Advancement of Entomology

KEY WORDS: *Kallima inachus*, first record, Lepidoptera, Suhelwa

The orange oakleaf *Kallima inachus* (Boisduval, 1844) (Lepidoptera, Papilionoidea, Nymphalidae) is distributed from Pakistan (Tschikolovets and Pages, 2016), Nepal (Smith, 2006), along the Himalaya to Central China (Lewis, 1973) and Taiwan (Shirozu, 1960). Within India, the known distribution of the butterfly is from Jammu and Kashmir to Uttarakhand and Sikkim to N.E. India; Jharkhand, Eastern Ghats, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat (Varshney and Smetacek, 2015). It is found in regions of heavy rainfall in the thick forests of mountainous (Wynter-Blyth, 1957). *K. inachus* is reported to be on the wing from April to November from sea level to 1800 m (Kehimkar, 2016). The larval host plants belong to the Acanthaceae (*Strobilanthes* genus) and Urticaceae (*Girardinia diversifolia*) (Robinson *et al.*, 2001). The unique topography of the area attributes to a mosaic of varied forest types, with deciduous forest dominated by *Sal Shorea robusta* interspersed with *Syzygium cumini*, *Terminalia tomentosa*, *Acacia catechu*,

and grass species of *Vetiveria*, *Themeda*, *Imperata*, *Saccharum*, and *Arundo* (Bhargav *et al.*, 2016).

A four-day preliminary visit to Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary from the 6th of March 2022 to the 9th of March 2022 was undertaken to study butterflies. *K. inachus* was photographed at near Hathiya Kunda naala of East Suhelwa Range, Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, U.P., India elevation of 100m. The GPS Coordinates for the reported butterfly were N-27°47'28.16¹¹ E-82°10'50.99¹¹. The present record confirms the presence of *K. inachus* in Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary and is the first record of this species from the state of Uttar Pradesh. It also extends the known flying time from April to March.

There are two known subspecies along the Himalayas, *K. i. inachus* which is known from eastern Uttarakhand to N.E. India and *K. i.*

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Fig.1: Upperside and underside of *Kallima inachus* from East Suhelwa range of Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh



Fig. 2: Underside of *Kallima inachus* from East Suhelwa range of Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh



Fig. 3: Landscape of East Suhelwa range of Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, Shravasti, Uttar Pradesh where the record was found

huegeli from the western Himalaya. Since these are distinguished on the basis of the relative shade of the colours on the wings between seasonal forms, it follows that a series of specimens is required to correctly place the specimens to the subspecies level. Further observation will be required to clarify whether there is a breeding population within the sanctuary or whether the individual was a straggler from known habitats along the foothills of the Himalayas in Nepal.

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