Butterfly Species Diversity, Occurrence and Abundance In Gandhi Park of Shivamogga, Karnataka, India

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Abstract: The survey was conducted to prepare a preliminary checklist of butterflies of Gandhi Park at Shivamogga, Karnataka. Shivamogga City Corporation is a heart land of Karnataka state. Climate of Shivamogga is tropically wet and dry. Majority of the rainfall occurs between June and early October. Butterflies were sampled from July to November 2016. This short term study recorded 36 species of butterflies in 27 genera from five families. Nymphalidae dominated the list with 16 species. Papilionoidea and Pieridae with 8 species each. Lycaenidae with three species and Hesperidae with only one species. It was found that two species of butterflies were rare in occurrence in Gandhi park of Shivamogga. This study will enlighten the information regarding the diversity of butterflies and forms a baseline data for future butterfly studies. **Key words:** Butterflies, Nymphalidae, Gandhi Park, Shivamogga

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I. Introduction

Arthropods are good indicators of habitats biodiversity because they respond quickly to environmental changes, and are highly diverse taxon. Lepidoptera (Butterflies and months) are the second largest order of arthropods and are most easily identified, making them particularly useful for biodiversity survey (Erhardt, 1985; Kremen, 1994; Inouve, 2001; Tiple and Arun, 2009). Butterflies are sensitive biota, which get severely affected by environmental variations and changes in forest structure (Pollard, 1991). Butterflies are the most beautiful and colorful creatures on the earth and have a great aesthetic value. They form an important part of the food chain of birds, reptiles, amphibians, spiders and predatory insects (Aneesh et al., 2013). Butterflies are also sociologically significant as they are morphologically and colorfully meaningful which has various effects to the culture to some groups of people (Alma et al., 2015). Butterflies serve the ecosystem especially by recycling nutrients (N,P & K)essential for crops (Schmidt and Roland, 2006). Their larvae release faeces while feeding on the agrestals and provide required nutrients to the crops(Marchiori and Romanowski, 2006) Butterflies and their caterpillars are dependent on specific host plants for food, thus the diversity of butterflies indirectly reflects overall plant diversity especially that of shrubs and herbs in the given area (Padhye et al., 2006). Most of them are strictly seasonal and prefer only particular set of habitats (Kunte, 1997). The adult butterflies act as pollinators and help in pollination of many native plants. To a large extent, butterflies contribute to the growth, maintenance and expansion of flora in the tropical regions where these insects show high abundance and species diversity. For many predators like birds, lizards these butterflies both in larva and adult stages act as their prey species. Diurnal butterflies are preferred indicators of habitat disturbance because of their sensitivity to environmental changes, diversity, advanced taxonomy, and lower economic and temporal costs of collection (Bonebrake et al., 2010; Daily & Erlich, 1995; Leon-Cortes et al., 2003; Bonebrake & Sorto, 2009). They also have been used as models to monitor temporal changes in plant-insect interactions, because climate change induces phenological mismatches between butterflies and their exploited plant species that can produce changes in trophic webs (Parmesan, 2006; Altermatt, 2010; Kocsis & Hufnagel, 2011). India is home to about 1504 species of butterflies (Triple, 2011) which is about 8.74% of total butterfly species of world and constitutes of 65% of total Indian fauna. Different species of butterfly are supported by different ecosystems of our country (Sprih et al., 2015). Appropriate abiotic and biotic factors such as climate condition, temperature and wind exposure, availability of host and larval plants (Barlow et al., 2007), food and vegetation (Ravindra et al., 1996; Khan et al., 2004; Jain & Jain, 2012; Kharat et al., 2012; Kumaraswamy & Kunte, 2013), topographic features (Amala et al., 2011), habitat quality (Barlow et al., 2007) are some of the most important parameters to determine butterfly composition in a community. Increased urbanization is one of the main cause of decrease in butterfly species richness, diversity and abundance (Blair and Launer, 1997; Clark et al., 2007; Pocewicz et al., 2009) In the present day scenario, due to fragmentation of habit and depletion of natural cover many species of

butterfly facing threat to their existence. The present study was conducted to estimate diversity and occurrence of butterfly community.

Study area

II. Materials And Methods

Gandhi Park is one of the biggest parks in Shivamogga with an area of 5 hectares. The park has a variety of flowering plants. Shivamogga City Corporation $(13^{\circ} 552 183 \text{ NL}, 75^{\circ}, 342 123 \text{ EL})$ is heart land of Karnataka state. According to the Shivamogga City Municipal Corporation, the city has a total area of about 50 km² (19.31 square miles). Climate of Shivamogga is tropically wet and dry. This means that the winter and the early part of the summer are typically dry periods. Majority of the rainfall occurs between June and early October.

Butterfly collection

Butterflies were sampled for a period of seven months from July to November 2016. Field observations were made once in a week. The survey was done every Sunday between 10.00 to 16.00 hours on Gandhi Park of Shivamogga. Observations were made through Pollard walk method by counting all the butterflies found in 10 meter, beside the observer and visual count method was also adopted (Kunte, 1997; Gupta et al., 2012; Kunte et al., 2012), during good weather conditions. Butterflies were observed, captured, indentified and released immediately at the spot of capture. The butterflies which were difficult to identify in the field were collected as voucher specimens using a hand net. The dead specimens were kept in butterfly collection box.

Determination of Abundance

The species were further divided in to 4 categories: Very Common (VC), Common(C), Not Rare (NR) and Rare (R) on the basis of their count from the study area. Any species with count less than 10 times were placed in rare category, count between 10 and 15 were placed in not rare category, count between 15 and 20 were categorized as common while species with count more than 20 times were placed in very common category.

Identifications of butterflies

The key characters used for identification were color pattern, wing span and mode of flight. Identifications were carried out with help of Evans(1932), Yalbot (1947), Photographic guides of Smith (2006), Van dr Poel & Wangchuk (2007) and internet references (www.flutters.org; www.ifoundbutterflies.org)

III. Results And Discussion

Many studies have been documented on the butterflies on India. Larson (1988) made a detailed survey of Butterflies of Niligiri Mountains and recorded nearly 300 species including endemics. Saurav Dwari and Amal Kumar Mondal (2015) recorded 29 species of butterflies from Agricultural fields of Howrah district of West Bengal. Alma et al. (2015) recorded 104 species of butterflies from open and close canopy forests of Cadaclan, San Fernando La union botanical garden of North Luzon, the Philippines. Abideen et al. (2015) recorded 57 species of butterfly in University of Ibandan Botanical Garden, Nigeria. Santhosh and Basavarajappa (2014) recorded 95 species of butterflies from Agro-horticultural ecosystems of Mysore, India. Sayeswara (2014) recorded 33 species of butterflies from Sahyadri College Campus, Shivamogga City, Karnataka. Irungbam and Meenakshi (2014) recorded 125 species of butterflies from Mendralgang of Bhutan. Prasanna Kumar et al. (2013) recorded 84 species of butterfly from tropical habitats of Eastern Ghats of Andra Pradesh. Monsoon Jyoti Gogoi (2013) recorded 292 species of butterflies from Jeypore-Dehing forest, Eastern Assam. Joseph (2013) reported 101 species of butterflies from Alagarhills, Tamil Nadu. Manendra Kaneria et al. (2013) reported 50 species of butterflies from Bilaspur District, Chhattisgarh. Sharmila and Chhattisgarh. Jeevan et al. (2013) recorded 41 species of butterflies from Mandagadde Bird Sanctuary of Shivamogga, Karnataka. Bubesh Gupta et al. (2012) recorded 50 species of butterflies from Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve, Andra Pradesh. Raghavendra Gowda et al. (2011) reported 54 species of butterflies from Lakkavalli range of Bhadra Wild Life Sanctuary, Karnataka. Venkataraman (2010) reported 70 species of butterflies in the Eastern Ghats. Arun Singh (2009) recorded 147 species of butterflies from Kedarrnath Musk Deer Reserve, Himalaya. Pramod Kumar et al. (2007) recorded 57 species of butterflies from Tiger- Lion Safari, Thyavarekoppa, Shivamogga, Karnataka. Soloman Raju (2004) recorded 68 species of butterflies from Visakhapatnam. Kunte (1997) recorded 103 species of butterflies from for tropical habitats in Northern Western Ghats.

A total of 36 species of butterflies belonging to five families were identified from the Gandhi Park of Shivamogga (Figures 1 & 2). Monthly variations of butterflies are given in Figures 3-8. Butterfly compositions of different families are given in Figure 9. Relative abundance of butterflies is given in Figure 10.

Nymphalidae recorded 12 genera and 16 species of butterflies constituting 44.4% of total butterfly population. In diversity, the genus Junonia is represented by 4 species, Danaus is represented by 2 species and *Hypolimnas*, *Tirumala*, *Elymnias*, *Euploea*, *Neptis*, *Ariadne*, *Orsotriaena*, *Mycalesis*, *Melanitis* and *Ideopsis* each represented by a single species. *Junonia iphita*, *Junonia lemonias*, *Danaus chrysippus*, *Danaus genutia*, *Ariadne merione*, *Orsotriaena medus*, *Mycalesis subdita* and *Melanitis leda* appeared in all the five months from July to November.

Papilionoidea supported 4 genera and 8 species of butterflies constituting 22.2% of total butterfly population. With regard to their diversity the genus *Papilio* was represented by 4 species, *Pachliopta* was represented by 2 species and *Graphium* and *Acraea* represented only by a single species. *Papilio polytes, Papilio polymester, Papilio demoleus, Papilio crino, Pachliopta hector Graphium agamemnon* and *Acraea* violae appeared in the five months.

Pieridae recorded 7 genera and 8 species of butterflies constituting 22.2% of total butterfly population. The genus *Catopsila* was represented by 2 species and *Hebomoia, Eurema, Cepora, Ixias, Belenois* and *Delias* each represented by a single species. *Catopsila pomona, Eurema hecabe, Cepora nerissa, Ixias pyrene, Belenois aurota* and *Delias eucharis* appeared in all the five months.

Lycaenidae recorded 3 genera and 3 species of butterflies constituting 8.33% of total butterfly population. With regards to their diversity, the genera *Jamides, Pseudozizzeeria* and *Chilades* was represented by a single species, *Jamides celeno* and *Chilades parrhasius* appeared in all the five months. Hesperidae supported only one butterfly *Notocrypta curvifascia* which appeared in all the five months from July to November.

It was found that two species of butterflies were very common, nine species are common, thirteen species are not rare and twelve species of butterflies were rare in occurrence in Gandhi park of Shivamogga.

IV. Conclusion

A total of 36 species of butterflies belonging to five families were recorded from Gandhi park of Shivamogga. Butterfly diversity of Gandhi park of this district is very high but cannot compare with past due to lack of previous data. The botanical garden and growth of natural trees are main causes of species richness and diversity of butterflies. Botanical parks are unique ecosystem that provides several services to butterflies. From our observations, we conclude that the butterfly community varied significantly among different habitats. Vegetation type played an important role in diversity patterns of butterfly community. Butterfly habitat protection should be given the first priority in any conservation programme. Attempts should be made to initiate conservation of butterflies in the National parks and Sanctuaries. Research efforts should be stepped up to gather information on the biology and ecology of all butterflies.

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SI.	Sciontific nomes	Common names	Occurrence				Abundance				
110.	Scientific names	Common names	VC	С	Ν	R	J	Α	Se	Oc	Ν
			, 0	Ũ	R		ul	u	D	t	0
								g	r	-	v
NYMI	VYMPHALIDAE										
01	Junonia almana Linnaeus, 1758	Peacock pansy-	-	-	-		-	2	1	3	2
02	Junonia iphita Cramer, 1779	Chocolate pansy	-		—	-	3	5	4	4	1
03	Junonia lemonias Linnaeus, 1758	Lemon pansy	-		—	-	5	2	4	2	2
04	Junonia hierta Fabricius,	Yellow pansy-	-	_		-	_	3	3	4	1
05	Hypolimnas bolina Linnaeus, 1758	Great egg fly -	-	-	-		2	1	2	1	—
06	Tirumala septentrionis Butler, 1874	Dark blue tiger-	-	-		-	3	3	2	4	-
07	Danaus chrysippus Linnaeus, 1758	Plain tiger-	-		-	-	2	6	4	5	1
08	Danaus genutia Crammer, 1779	Stripped tiger		Ι		Ι	1	3	2	3	1
09	Elymnias hypermnestra Linnaeus, 1763	Common palm fly -	-	-	V	-	2	4	3	3	-
10	Euploea core Cramer, 1780	Common crow-		-	-	Ι	4	5	4	6	2
11	Neptis hylas Linnaeus, 1758	Common sailer	-	-	-		2	1	3	2	-
12	Ariadne merione Cramer, 1777	Common caster	-		-	-	4	3	5	2	2
13	Orsotriaena medus Wallengren, 1858	Dark grass brown	-	-	-	V	1	2	2	1	2
14	Mycalesis subdita	Tamil bushbrown	-	_		-	3	2	2	1	3
15	Melanitis leda Linnaeus, 1758	Common evening	-	-	V	-	2	1	4	2	2
16	Ideopsis vulgaris Butler 1874	Blue glossy tiger	_	_	-		-	1	3	2	2
PIERI	DAE	Dide glossy uger						-	v	-	-
17	Catopsila pyranthe Linnaeus, 1758	Mottled emigrant-	-	-	-		1	2	2	1	_
18	Catopsila pomona Fabricius, 1775	Lemon emigrant-	_	_	_	v	2	2	1	1	1
19	Hebomoia glaucippe Linnaeus, 1758	Great orange tip-	-	-	-	Ń	1	-	2	2	1
20	Eurema hecabe Linnaeus, 1758	Common grass	-	-	V	-	3	1	4	2	2
21	Cepora nerissa Fabricius 1775	Common gull-	_		_	_	4	3	5	5	1
22	Irias pyrene Linnaeus 1775	Yellow orange-	_	_		_	2	3	2	5	2
23	Belenois aurota Fabricius 1793	Pioneer vellow-	_		_	_	3	5	5	2	2
24	Delias eucharis Drury, 1773	Common jezebel-	_	_		-	3	1	4	1	1
PAPII	LIONODAE	j					<u> </u>		-	_	
25	Papilio polytes Linnaeus, 1758	Common mormon-	-		-	_	2	3	5	3	3
26	Papilio polymnester Cramer, 1775	Blue mormon-	-		-	-	1	3	6	5	2
27	Papilio demoleus Linnaeus, 1758	Lime butterfly-	-	-		-	2	4	3	1	1
28	Papilio crino Fabricius 1792	Common banded peacock	-	-	V	-	1	3	2	4	2
29	Pachliopta aristolochiae Fabricius, 1775	Common rose-	-	-	-	V	-	3	2	1	-
30	Pachliopta hector Linnaeus, 1758	Crimson rose-		-	-	-	5	6	4	7	3
31	Graphium agamemnon Linnaeus, 1758	Tailed jay-	-	λ	-	-	2	5	4	4	3
32	Acraea violae Fabricius, 1775	Tawny coster-	-	_		-	3	1	2	4	3
LYCA	ENIDAE		•	•		•	•		•	•	
33	Jamides celeno Cramer, 1775	Common cerulean	-	-		-	2	3	1	3	2
34	Pseudozizzeeria maha Kollar, 1848	Pale grass blue	-	-	-		2	2	-	3	1
35	Chilades parrhasius Fabricius, 1793	Indian cupid	-	-	-	\checkmark	1	3	1	2	2
HESP	ERIDAE				•	•		•		.	
36	Notocrypta curvifascia Felder & Felder, 1862	Restricted demon	-	-	-	V	1	2	3	1	1

Table 1.	Butterflies	of Gandhi	Park o	f Shivamogga
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VC – Very common, C – Common, NR – Not rare, R – Rare









Common mormon

Tailed Jay

Common rose

Great egg fly









Bhie mormon

Tawny castor





Common palm fly

FIGURE 1. Butterflies of Gandhi Park of Shivamogga

Common crow

Lime butterfly





Figure 3: Monthly variations of butterflies



Figure 4: Monthly variations of butterflies 5 4 🗖 Jul 3 Aug 2 Sep 1 Oct 0 Great Yellow Nov Common Common Pioneer Common orange yellowjezebelgrass gullorangetipyellow-











Figure 7: Monthly variations of butterflies

Figure 8: Monthly variations of butterflies





Figure 10: Occurrence of butterflies

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