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**BUTTERFLY DIVERSITY OF ASSAM STATE ZOO-CUM-BOTANICAL GARDEN****Imdad Ali<sup>1</sup> and Sudip Kanta Basistha<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup> Ali Manzil, Tarun Nagar, Main Lane, Guwahati, Assam 781005, India<sup>2</sup> Arunudoy Path, Christianbasti, Guwahati, Assam 781005, India

Butterflies are the most beautiful and colourful creatures on the earth and have a great aesthetic value. About 1500 species of butterflies are found in India (Haribal, 1992). They vary greatly in colour, habit, size and form. The exact status of butterflies particularly of northeastern regions of India are still not clearly known due to lack of proper study.

The Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden (ASZCBG) was established in 1958, in the heart of Guwahati City ( $26^{\circ}11'N$  and  $91^{\circ}45'E$ ). The Zoo has a land area of about 130 ha., surrounded by two picturesque hills. The optimum temperature is  $24^{\circ}C$  with average rainfall of 136.43cm. The Zoo is designed for presenting all aspects of natural history and Animal Husbandry in an appropriate setting.

Due to its diversified habitat, butterflies from different families find representation in the Zoo campus. A study to compile the checklist of fauna and flora of the Zoo was carried out between August 1996 and April 1999. Besides butterflies, 63 species of mammals, 52 species of birds and 13 species of reptiles were also recorded. Among plants, 162 species of trees and 177 species of shrubs were identified. During the survey period a total of 79 species of butterflies were recorded (Table 1), of which seven species remain unidentified. Of the 72 species identified, nine belong to the family Papilionidae, 16 to Pieridae, 29 to Nymphalidae, 13 to Lycaenidae and five species to the Family Hesperiidae. The butterfly species have been identified and verified following Haribal (1992) and Gay, et. al. (1992). Nomenclature is after Varshney (1983).

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**Table 1. Butterflies recorded in Assam State Zoo-cum-Botanical Garden.**

#	Common Name	ScientificName
	Papilionidae	
1	Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i> (Linnaeus)
2	Glossy Bluebottle	<i>Graphium cloanthus</i> (Westwood)
3	Common Rose	<i>Atrophaneura aristolochiae</i> (Fabricius)
4	Crimson Rose	<i>Atrophaneura hector</i> (Linnaeus)
5	Common Mime	<i>Papilio clytia</i> (Linnaeus)
6	Lime Butterfly	<i>Papilio demoleus</i> (Linnaeus)
7	Great Mormone	<i>Papilio memnon agenor</i> (Linnaeus)
8	Common Mormone	<i>Papilio polytes</i> (Cramer)
9	Common Raven	<i>Papilio castor</i> (Jordan)
	Pieridae	
10	Psyche	<i>Leptosia nina</i> (Fabricius)
11	Indian Cabbage White	<i>Pieris canidia</i> (Sparrman)
12	Common Gull	<i>Cepora nerissa</i> (Fabricius)
13	Lesser Gull	<i>Cepora nadina</i> (Lucas)
14	Great Orange Tip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i> (Linnaeus)
15	Yellow Orange Tip	<i>Ixias pyrene</i> (Linnaeus)
16	Common Jezebel	<i>Delias eucharis</i> (Drury)
17	Common Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia crocale</i> (Cramer)
18	Mottled Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> (Linnaeus)
19	Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecate</i> (Linnaeus)
20	Small Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema brigitta rubella</i> (Wallace)
21	One-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema andersoni</i> (Moore)
22	Chocolate Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema sari</i> (Moore)
23	Three-spot Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema blenda silhetana</i> (Wallace)
24	Red-base Jezebel	<i>Delias pasithoe</i> (Linnaeus)
25	Yellow Jezebel	<i>Delias agastina</i> (Hewitson)
	Lycaenidae	
26	Forest Pierrot	<i>Taraka hamada</i> (Druce)
27	Assam Pierrot	<i>Tarucus waterstradti bethune</i> Baker
28	Yamfly	<i>Loxura atimnus</i> (Stoll)
29	Common Caerulean	<i>Jamides celeno</i> (Cramer)
30	Dark Caerulean	<i>Jamides bochus</i> (Cramer)
31	Glistening caerulean	<i>Jamides elpis</i> (Godart)
32	Metallic Caerulean	<i>Jamides alecto meilichius</i> Fruhstorfer
33	Common Pierrot	<i>Castalius rosimon</i> (Fabricius)
34	Gram Blue	<i>Euchrysops cneus</i> (Fabricius)
35	Grass Jewel	<i>Freyeria trochilus putli</i> (Horsfield)
36	Pale Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria maha</i> (Horsfield)
	Nymphalidae	
37	Blue Lime	<i>Chilades laius</i> (Cramer)
38	Lesser Grass Blue	<i>Zizina otis</i> (Fabricius)
	Hesperiidae	
39	Lemon Pansy	<i>Precis lemonias</i> (Linnaeus)
40	Yellow Pansy	<i>Precis hiera</i> (Fabricius)
41	Peacock Pansy	<i>Precis almana</i> (Linnaeus)
42	Grey Pansy	<i>Precis atlites</i> (Linnaeus)
43	Tabby	<i>Psedergolis wedah</i> (Horsfield)
44	Angled Castor	<i>Ariadne ariadne</i> (Linnaeus)
45	Common Castor	<i>Ariadne merione</i> (Cramer)
46	Sordid Emperor	<i>Apatura sordida</i> Moore
47	Black Prince	<i>Apatura parisatis</i> Westwood
48	Common Jester	<i>Symbrenthia hippoclus</i> (Cramer)
49	Leopard Lacewing	<i>Cethosia cyane</i> (Drury)
50	Red Lacewing	<i>Cethosia biblis</i> (Drury)
51	Common Palmfly	<i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i> (Linnaeus)
52	Blue-striped Palmfly	<i>Elymnias patna</i> Westwood
53	Common Evening Brown	<i>Melanitis leda ismene</i> (Cramer)
54	Common Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i> (Fabricius)
55	Dark-brand Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis mineus</i> (Linnaeus)
56	Long-brand Bushbrown	<i>Mycalesis visala</i> Moore
57	Common Five-ring	<i>Ypthima baldus</i> (Fabricius)
58	Common Tiger	<i>Danaus genutia</i> (Cramer)
69	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus)
60	Glossy Tiger	<i>Danaus aglea</i> (Stoll)
61	Blue Crow	<i>Euploea klugii</i> Henrich-Schaffer & Moore
62	Common Indian Crow	<i>Euploea core</i> (Cramer)
63	Great Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> (Linnaeus)
64	Chestnut-streaked Sailer	<i>Neptis jumbah</i> Moore
65	Common Sailer	<i>Neptis hydas</i> (Linnaeus)
66	Common Sergeant	<i>Parathyma perius</i> (Linnaeus)
67	Common Baron	<i>Euthalia garuda</i> (Cramer)