

## Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 01-Jun-16 07:00 AM GMT

Hi Everyone,

I am a nature enthusiast from Bhutan. I have documenting butterfly diversity of Bhutan for quite a long time. I would like to share my pics and info of Butterfly diversity of Bhutan. Hope you all enjoy them.

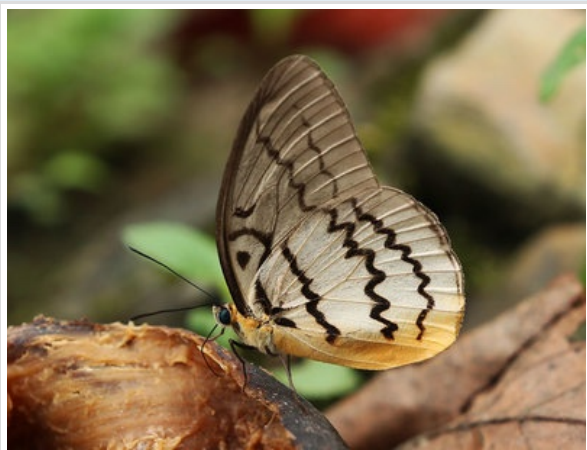
rgds,  
Sonam Dorji



*UN of yellow Kaiser. Zhemgang*



*Yellow Kaiser. Saw to of them and quite a large butterfly.*



*Pallid Faun. This species seems to appear from April to June.*



*I got these pics recently in May from South-Central Bhutan, Zhemgang (district).*

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 01-Jun-16 11:03 AM GMT

Hi Sonam, and welcome. A lot of us at UK Butterflies are fascinated by world butterflies and we look forward to more of your postings. Beautiful butterflies.

You must be able to guess which species we *really* hope you will post some pictures of ... 😊

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Tony Moore, 01-Jun-16 03:47 PM GMT

Bhutan Glory???

T.M.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 01-Jun-16 03:53 PM GMT

**Tony Moore wrote:**  
Bhutan Glory???

The same. 😊 Something I've dreamt of seeing since I was a child.

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by bugboy, 01-Jun-16 05:34 PM GMT

**Padfield wrote:**

**Tony Moore wrote:**  
Bhutan Glory???

The same. 😊 Something I've dreamt of seeing since I was a child.

Guy

\*goes into a dreamlike trance state\*

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 01-Jun-16 07:58 PM GMT

Thanks all, I don't have a good pic of Bhutan Glory but will do so soon. They fly quite high. But it is quite common. They appear from August till mid October.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by NickMorgan, 01-Jun-16 09:00 PM GMT

Welcome Sonam. Wow, what fantastic butterflies. Thank you for sharing them with us. I look forward to seeing more in the future.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Chris Jackson, 01-Jun-16 09:17 PM GMT

Hi Sonam,

I thought I lived in a different world (South of France), but you live on a different planet. 😊

Chris

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 02-Jun-16 04:30 PM GMT

Thanks Nick n Chris. Will keep u all updated with pics n info

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 02-Jun-16 08:05 PM GMT

Welcome from me in Scotland UK.

How popular is butterfly watching/photography in Bhutan?

Butterflies have become increasingly popular here since good digital cameras became available. Bird watching is probably more popular – birding is a all-year activity whereas butterflies are most obvious only in summer. Of course many people follow both interests.

Bhutan Glory looks fantastic. For those like me who didn't know of this amazing butterfly, here is a link:

<http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-1kyyUj6-y2s/VN7GlwdNfTI/AAAAAAAAAOM/kpdxFzFHDh0/s1600/Bhutanitis%2Bludlowi.png>

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 03-Jun-16 04:00 PM GMT

Hi Jack butterfly watching n photography is still at a nascent stage. It is better with people working in nature conservation in the govt but very less among the general public.

Birding is popular be coz of tourists.

Rgds

Sonam

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Tony Moore, 03-Jun-16 04:04 PM GMT

Another picture of the stunning Bhutan Glory courtesy of a member of the Singapore Butterfly Circle (well worth a look on Facebook).



Tony M.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 03-Jun-16 04:50 PM GMT

If I'm not mistaken, Jack and Tony have pointed us at two different species of Bhutan Glory – *B. ludlowi* and *B. lidderdalii* respectively.

Back to you, Sonam! We look forward to pictures of any species, as well as any tales you have to tell about them.

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 03-Jun-16 06:09 PM GMT

Dear Padfeild,

What u said is true. There are two species of bhutanitis. Bhutan glory is b. liderdellai (sorry for the spelling) n the other one is b.ludlowi. The second was declared as the national butterfly of Bhutan 2011. This species is recorded from one area in Bhutan n is quite rare. It was thought to be found in Bhutan only but it has been seen in India n Myanmar recently. The other n actual Bhutan glory is common n found in western, central, eastern Bhutan. The ludlowi appears earlier than the lider... Appear around August end.

Sure, more pictures will follow. Right now am in a place where the net is slow n am unable to upload pics.  
Sonam

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 07-Jun-16 06:58 AM GMT

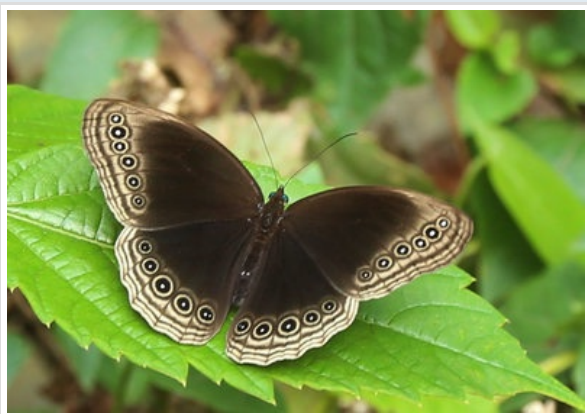
Hi everyone,

These are pics from my collections.

rgds,  
Sonam



*Red lacewing, Common, Central Bhutan*



*Dusky Diadem, common, Central Bhutan*





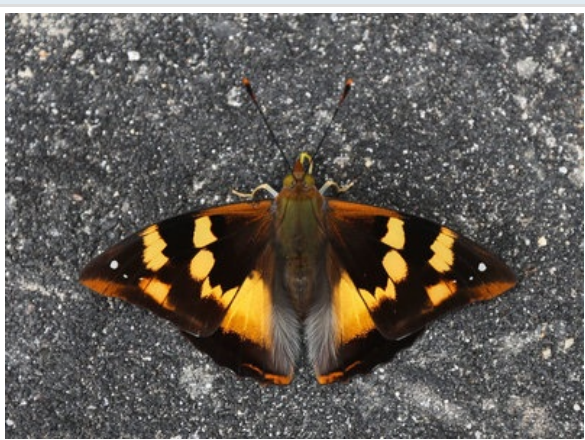
*Sikkim Freak, March, Western Bhutan*



*Pale Green Sailer, Central Bhutan*



*Red-breast Jezebel, again quite common below 1500 masl*



*Golden Emperor, quite common*

## **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 07-Jun-16 07:12 AM GMT

Some more butterfly pics for Bhutan.



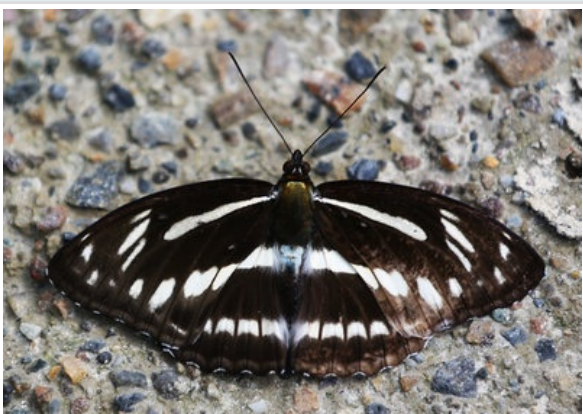
*Common Blue Apollo, a high altitude butterfly. Flight is real slow*



*Great Spotted Blue, western Bhutan, 2400 masl*



*Studded Sergeant*



*Bhutan Sergeant, common below 1500 masl*

## **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 07-Jun-16 07:23 AM GMT

Additional pics from Bhutan





*Red-base Jezebel*



*Lime Butterfly, common, Central bhutan*



*Hockeystick Sailer, common, central bhutan*



*French Duke, rare, Central Bhutan*



*Blue Pansy, quite common*



*Black Forester, quite rare*

### **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

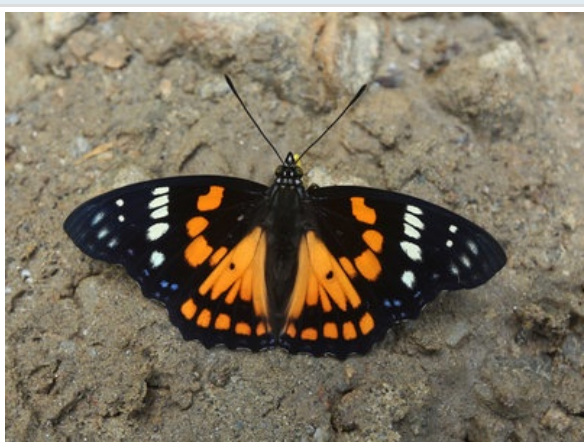
by bugboy, 07-Jun-16 09:28 AM GMT

Bhutan has suddenly shot up on my list of places I want to go!

### **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 07-Jun-16 09:29 AM GMT

Eastern Courtier, Commonly found.



*Eastern Courtier, commonly found*

### **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 08-Jun-16 04:24 PM GMT

Trashiyangtse district lies in Eastern Bhutan close to the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. This is the place where the Ludlow's Bhutan Glory was found again in 2011. During the survey, another species, Bhutan Treebrown was also found. The Ludlow's Bhutan Glory specimen was brought in UK by British Explorer Frank Ludlow in about 1938-1939 (date not exactly sure) and in 1942 was declared as the new species. I think the specimen is still there at NHM, London. This species B. ludlowi is locally called as Ludlow's Bhutan Glory and is often confused with the other species. B. Lidderdalii, which is the



actual Bhutan Glory. I am told researchers have found a moth species that mimics Bhutan Glory.

This area is restricted as it lies close to the border. I have been exploring other parts of the place for almost five days. Rain is a great hindrance but when sun comes out, I rush out. The pictures (Great Blackvein and Pale Jezebel) posted below are very very commonly found and in large numbers.



*Lesser Punch, a little rarer than the above two*



*Pale Jezebel, again another common species.*



*Bhutan Blackvein, very very common species here at this time of year it seems.*

### **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Jack Harrison, 08-Jun-16 05:04 PM GMT

I would imagine Sonam that you could find a niche leading butterfly tours for Europeans. Not sure that Americans are as butterfly keen as we are.

Some lovely pictures there, all excellent quality .

The only one of your butterflies I have ever seen in Blue Pansy somewhere in eastern Asia (but can't recall where - maybe it was Maldives or Singapore).

Keep tempting us.

Jack

### **Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 08-Jun-16 05:30 PM GMT

Thks Jack, started late but now butterflybug seems to have affected me. Everyday I wonder which I may come across. As long as the season is there, I will make sure you get the updates n pics!!!

Rgds,

Sonam

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 08-Jun-16 05:42 PM GMT

Hi Sonam. Thanks for posting these wonderful pictures. I have to say, the one I would most love to see myself is the great spotted blue. Is it rare in Bhutan? I know it has a very limited distribution. That is a lovely shot.

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 08-Jun-16 06:50 PM GMT

Hi Padfield,

Glad you like the pics. Hope you all don't get bored by my posts. I think the Great spotted blue is found in Bhutan and India with possibility in Yunnan province in China. The capital Thimphu would be the best place to spot them. I have not seen them elsewhere. It appears from early August till September. I have seen them rest on clover leaves frequently. It is not that rare in Thimphu during its season. But as with most blues, the upper side is difficult to photograph. But you can see the blue when it is in flight.

Rgds,  
Sonam

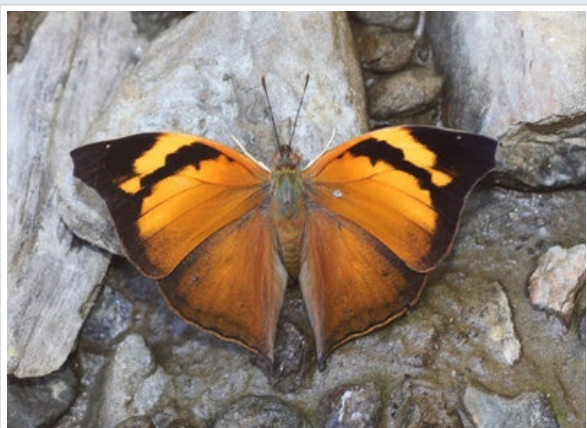
### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 10-Jun-16 06:08 AM GMT

Yesterday and today was quite hot. Last few days left here at Trashiyangtse so trying my best to capture as much as possible. Some of the pics posted below are from my earlier trips, which I have mentioned.



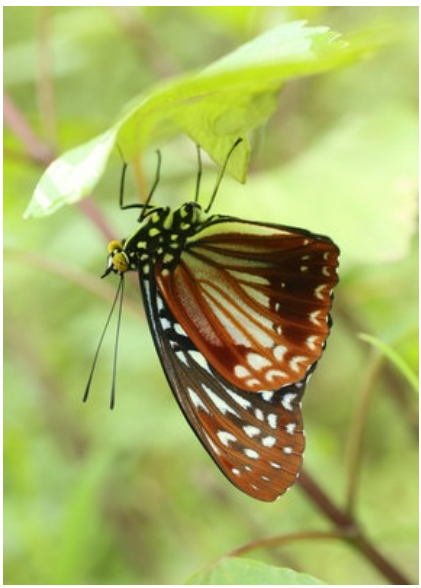
from my earlier trips. *Chocolate Albatross*.



From my previous trip. *Autumn Leaf*. There are three leaf species, *Orange Oakleaf*, *Blue Oakleaf*. The *Blue* is quite rare and it has still eluded me.



*Blue Tit*



*Circe. This one was hiding beneath the leaves.*



*Yellow Sailer*





Common Map

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by trevor, 10-Jun-16 08:14 AM GMT

Hi Sonam,

I am sure your images will make a great contribution to these diaries.

You have access to species that many of us will never see, and some of us have never heard of.

Very much looking forward to more from you.

Best wishes,  
Trevor.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jun-16 08:24 AM GMT

Something made me laugh when I saw that Chocolate Albatross. It is just TOO unreal but absolutely gorgeous. A wiki search shows that the form varies with the season, presumably basically dry and wet season forms.

And Common Map seems like a child's sketch of what a butterfly looks like.

Fantastic stuff. There is probably no recent published guide to Bhutan butterflies but you are already filling that void.

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jun-16 08:37 AM GMT

I hope you don't mind Sonam but I have just made a jigsaw puzzle of your Common Map. A very silly idea but you will already know that we British are rather odd at times.

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=play&pid=352aa386d4d1>

100 pieces and I will now spend the next 25 minutes or so doing it.

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jun-16 09:05 AM GMT

27 minutes.

Jack

**Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 10-Jun-16 10:24 AM GMT

Dear Trevor,

Thanks a lot and am glad you are enjoying my pictures. I intend to bore you guys with Bhutan Butterflies pictures!!! And yes of course, UK butterflies have their own charm and beauty.Brings back those memories of classroom readings of Victorian poets, legends of Robin Hood, King Arthur, etc.

rgds,  
Sonam Dorji

**Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Sonam Dorji, 10-Jun-16 10:31 AM GMT

Dear Jack,

I think the jigsaw puzzle is great. That may be the way to get into the minds of kids to generate butterfly interest. Will keep that in mind and if you can share how you do it, that will be great. There are small books on butterflies of Bhutan. You may expect one from me by the end of this year or next spring!!! Will be pictorial one. The Chocolate albatross is another common species found at lower altitude.

rgds,  
Sonam

**Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jun-16 11:31 AM GMT

Jigsaws online are easy to make:

<http://www.jigsawplanet.com/?rc=createpuzzle>

Reading between the lines and noting your excellent command of English, am I correct in presuming your schooling was in UK?

Jack

**Re: Bhutan Butterflies**

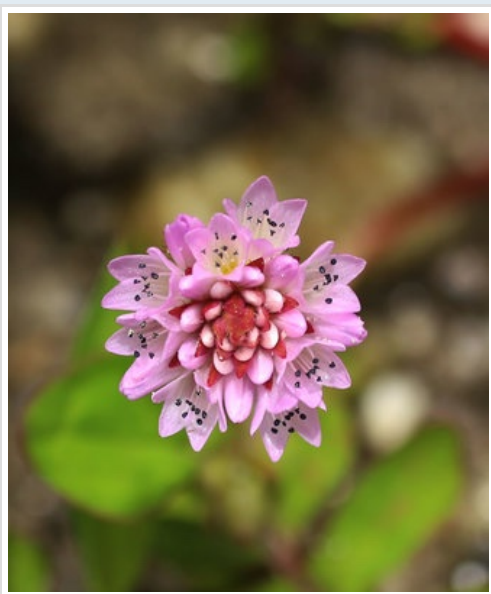
by Sonam Dorji, 10-Jun-16 11:50 AM GMT

Dear Jack,

Thanks for the link and you are probably that rare species who thinks that my english is good!!! Never been to UK. In Bhutan, except for the National language, Dzongkha, the rest are all taught in English.

Please find attached some pics of wild flowers as sometimes butterfly fairies do lose their magic wand!! You focus on the next best things mother nature provide you.

rgds,  
Sonam









### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 10-Jun-16 02:47 PM GMT

Hi Everyone,

I made a mistake in posting an earlier picture as Bhutan Blackvein when it should have been Great Blackvein. The picture attached here with this post is the Bhutan Blackvein. I am also reposting the Great Blackvein pic. so that there is no need for you all the scroll back. You can compare it as well.

rgds,  
Sonam



*This species was posted earlier as Bhutan Blackvein*



*Bhutan Blackvein*

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 11-Jun-16 11:36 AM GMT

Hi everyone,

I dropped a little bit in height and went towards north. The highlight was the China Nawab. I was against the light so could not get a nice. But since this was for the first for me, I was happy to get that.

I recorded the following species :

1. Chocolate Pansy
2. Bhutan Sergeant
3. Paris Peacock
4. Yellow Orange tip
5. Circe
6. Indian Purple Emperor
7. Sunbeam
7. Pea Blue
8. White Commodore (three of them)
9. Large Silverstripe
10. Fulvous Piet Flat
11. Birdwing flying high (There are two in Bhutan, Common and Golden, I did not which)
12. Psyche
13. Common Windmill
14. Tailed Sulphur
15. Common Brimstone
16. Striped Punch.

Surprisingly, the lower part of the valley did not have Pale Jezebel and Great Blackvein which is commonly found in upper part. Please find attached the pics. that I got for some.

rgds,  
Sonam



*Dendrobium Falconeri* jutting out of the rock outcrop was great



*This was the first for me.*



*Striped Punch. Chased him like hell.*



*Large Silverstripe, was a fresh one.*



*White Commodore. I have since this species alone. But today I was quite surprised to find there were four of them together.*



*Fulvous Pied Flat*





Pea Blue, saw few of them in different places

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by MikeOxon, 11-Jun-16 01:52 PM GMT

Until I read your posts, I knew almost nothing about Bhutan. You have prompted me to read a little more! From Wikipedia, I read that *"According to the Swiss-based International Union for Conservation of Nature, Bhutan is viewed as a model for proactive conservation initiatives. The Kingdom has received international acclaim for its commitment to the maintenance of its biodiversity."* You appear to be making your own personal contribution to these aims by spreading information about the wonderful butterflies and flowers of your country. Congratulations 😊

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 11-Jun-16 02:21 PM GMT

MikeOxon[quote]Until I read your posts, I knew almost nothing about Bhutan. Same here so I had to research. I have to say that for nature lovers, Bhutan seems to be idyllic. Thanks Sunam. You have single handedly done a great service for your country.

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 11-Jun-16 03:12 PM GMT

I echo Mike's and Jack's words. I also look forward very much to your book coming out. I collect world butterfly books and have good coverage of India, Nepal and Sikkim but not so much specifically for Bhutan. There is a small guide freely available as a pdf here: <http://dev.mtnforum.org/sites/default/files/publication/files/766.pdf> and a more comprehensive pdf guide to the swallowtails of Bhutan here: <http://biodiversity.bt/biodiv/content/documents/document-ec0faa9c-157b-4877-9064-2167c7762c46/827.pdf>. Let us know when your book is published and you are guaranteed a few sales from over here, I think!

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 11-Jun-16 04:11 PM GMT

Dear MikeOxon,

Jack[/quote]

#### MikeOxon wrote:

Until I read your posts, I knew almost nothing about Bhutan. You have prompted me to read a little more!

Thanks for your kind words and taking time to read about my country. It is really nice of you to do that. I like nature and as I travel around the country looking for butterflies, birds, flowers, animals, etc., I seem to fall in love with my country more. I was never a travelling person but now I intend to explore every nook and corner of my country.

Dear jack,

#### Jack Harrison wrote:

Same here so I had to research. I have to say that for nature lovers, Bhutan seems to be idyllic. Thanks Sunam. You have single handedly done a great service for your country.

Again thanks but at the end of the day, we are all butterfly lovers and if you all enjoy my pictures, nothing like it. It is great to know people like you all and I am happy to be a part of the UK butterflies member. Our literature classes (till 12th standard, it is compulsory, after that you go to different subjects like economics, science, etc, and it becomes more of a subsidiary paper) were all about English poets, poems and novels. As I said earlier, it brings back the memories of William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge, etc. From what I read about some of the posts of forum members, it seems some part of UK still is like what is written in "I wandered as Lonely as a Cloud". The charms of English literature are not easily forgotten. I

still remember in my 10th standard, what was written in the cover of the Book " As you Like It" by William Shakespeare,

"From East to Western Ind,  
No Jewels is like Rosalind,  
Her worth being mounted on the wind,  
Through all the world bears Rosalind"

"All the pictures of fairest lined,  
Are but black to Rosalind,  
Let no face be kept in mind,  
But the fair of Rosalind"

Please feel free to create as many jigsaw puzzles as you can from my posts and go crazy with them.

Dear Padfield,

**Padfield wrote:**

I echo Mike's and Jack's words.

Thanks a lot, Padfield. Please do use my pictures wherever you want without hesitation if UK Butterflies need them.No need for permission. If you want higher resolution pictures, I can send them. I normally reduce the file size so that it does take much time to upload.

rgds,  
Sonam

## Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 21-Jun-16 12:27 PM GMT

Hi everyone,

My recent trip from where I posted the pics earlier yielded one new record for Bhutan. I was not sure of the Id but it has now been confirmed that this is the first record of this species, the Wonderful hairstreak. The the other silverline is yet to be confirmed and i would be glad if expert on this forum it Id for me. some doubt it to be *C.elwesi*.



*C.elwesi*(?)



UN of Wonderful Hairstreak.



UP of Wonderful Hairstreak

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 21-Jun-16 03:28 PM GMT

Hi Sonam. Congratulations on the well named wonderful hairstreak! That would be an exceptional thing to see under any circumstances, but to be a national first too - well done! 😊

I am not an expert but I have access to the literature and I believe your *Cigaritis* is indeed *elwesi*. The three distinct subbasal spots, combined with the partially broken marginal line on the hindwing and more particularly the inwardly dentate submarginal band on the hindwing all point to this. My main source is *Guide to the Butterflies of the Palearctic Region, Lycaenidae part III* (2007), which covers this genus comprehensively.

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 21-Jun-16 03:31 PM GMT

Thanks Padfield, that is another first for bhutan as well.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 21-Jun-16 03:43 PM GMT

Hi Sonam. *Butterflies of the Palearctic* lists Bhutan as being in the range of *elwesi*. It states: RANGE: India (Uttar Pradesh, Darjeeling, Sikkim, Assam), Nepal, Bhutan, just out of Palearctic region.

Guy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by David M, 21-Jun-16 05:48 PM GMT

Well done, Sonam. That is one of the most beautiful insects I've ever seen.

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 21-Jun-16 07:40 PM GMT

While I cannot confirm i/d of the "Wonderful Hairstreak" your photos show an absolute stunner of a butterfly - clearly distantly related to our European Purple Hairstreak.

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Padfield, 21-Jun-16 08:00 PM GMT

Jack Harrison wrote:

..."Wonderful Hairstreak" ... clearly distantly related to our European Purple Hairstreak.

This shows just how close: <http://tolweb.org/Theclini/111487>

Purple hairstreak is now considered to be in *Favonius* (though that bit of the tree is in constant flux) and wonderful hairstreak is in *Thermozephyrus*.

Guy



## Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 04-Jul-16 07:17 PM GMT

Hi everyone,

The rain is falling continuously. There is nothing much to do. I did get time to go for few days and one afternoon of sunshine, I got this Green Duke. Not to mention there were lots of Himalayan Sergeant. But atleast the farmers in Bhutan are happy. They get to plant paddy in the fields. I guess somebody's loss is somebody's gain.

rgds,  
Sonam



*A happy farmer because of the rain!!!*



*Green Duke, Punakha*

## Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 08-Jul-16 08:00 AM GMT

Hi members,

Am posting from my earlier collections. There are six species from the pansy group in Bhutan. All have eyespots on the wings except for Chocolate pansy. They are commonly found in Bhutan but only two species are found at higher altitude. I have observed that Blue and Chocolate pansy can go upto 2800masl whereas the rest does not go up from about 1300 masl.

rgds,  
Sonam



*Chocolate pansy*



*Lemon Pansy*



*Yellow Pansy*



*Grey Pansy*



*Blue Pansy*



Peacock Pansy

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sylvie\_h, 08-Jul-16 01:29 PM GMT

Hello Sonam,

Fantastic butterflies and I am looking forward to see more. I particularly like your Dusty Diadem (striking contrasts). I've just read a book about Bhutan and learned that a lot of efforts were made to preserve the ecological diversity of the country (including tigers), makes me want to go there!  
Sylvie

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 08-Jul-16 02:39 PM GMT

I have seen both Blue and Peacock Pansies but can't recall where. Singapore perhaps? Anyone know if they occur there?

Jack

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Sonam Dorji, 09-Jul-16 08:06 PM GMT

Dear Sylvie\_h,

Glad to hear from you. I am told that the life cycle of dusky diadem is still not known. You are right about our conservation policies. Our constitution mandates that we preserve 60% our forest cover for all times n we are one of carbon neutral country in the world. Please to try to see the " Lost land of the Tigers " by BBC. They made a documentary on Bhutan n tigers. Anything on Bhutan you may like to know, please do let me know.

Rgds,  
Sonam

Dear Jack,

I think Both the species are found in Singapore and some of the rest too. The butterflycycle group is one active like the UK butterflies group and I have found it to be one of the most informative place to know about the winged jewels. If u are already aware of it, then sorry though.

Rgds,  
Sonam

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Mike Robinson, 10-Jul-16 09:13 AM GMT

Dear Sonam,

I am mesmerised; by both your enthusiasm and the super pictures. I know this is a Butterfly Forum but it was lovely to see some of your Wild Flowers.

And, as someone who refers to Butterflies as being Fairies in Disguise and also likes to look at Wild Flowers as an alternative to Butterflies, I was enchanted to read (10 June), that 'sometimes butterfly fairies do lose their magic wand!!'

### Re: Bhutan Butterflies

by Jack Harrison, 10-Jul-16 09:34 AM GMT

Sonam. You should be appointed *Minister for Bhutan Tourism*. I tell you, if I were young enough and fit enough, I would off to Bhutan in a flash.

You really ought to visit UK if only to experience what must be some of the most incompetent politicians in the world. There IS some wildlife here and most of that would do a better job at running the country than the so-called human professionals.

We have to make our own wildlife at times:



The little cat's eyes light up at night - well they DID until he was knocked of his perch. He has been replaced by an Owl with bigger and brighter eyes.

Jack