

Lepidoptera Research to Promote a Community Ecotourism Initiative in Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, India

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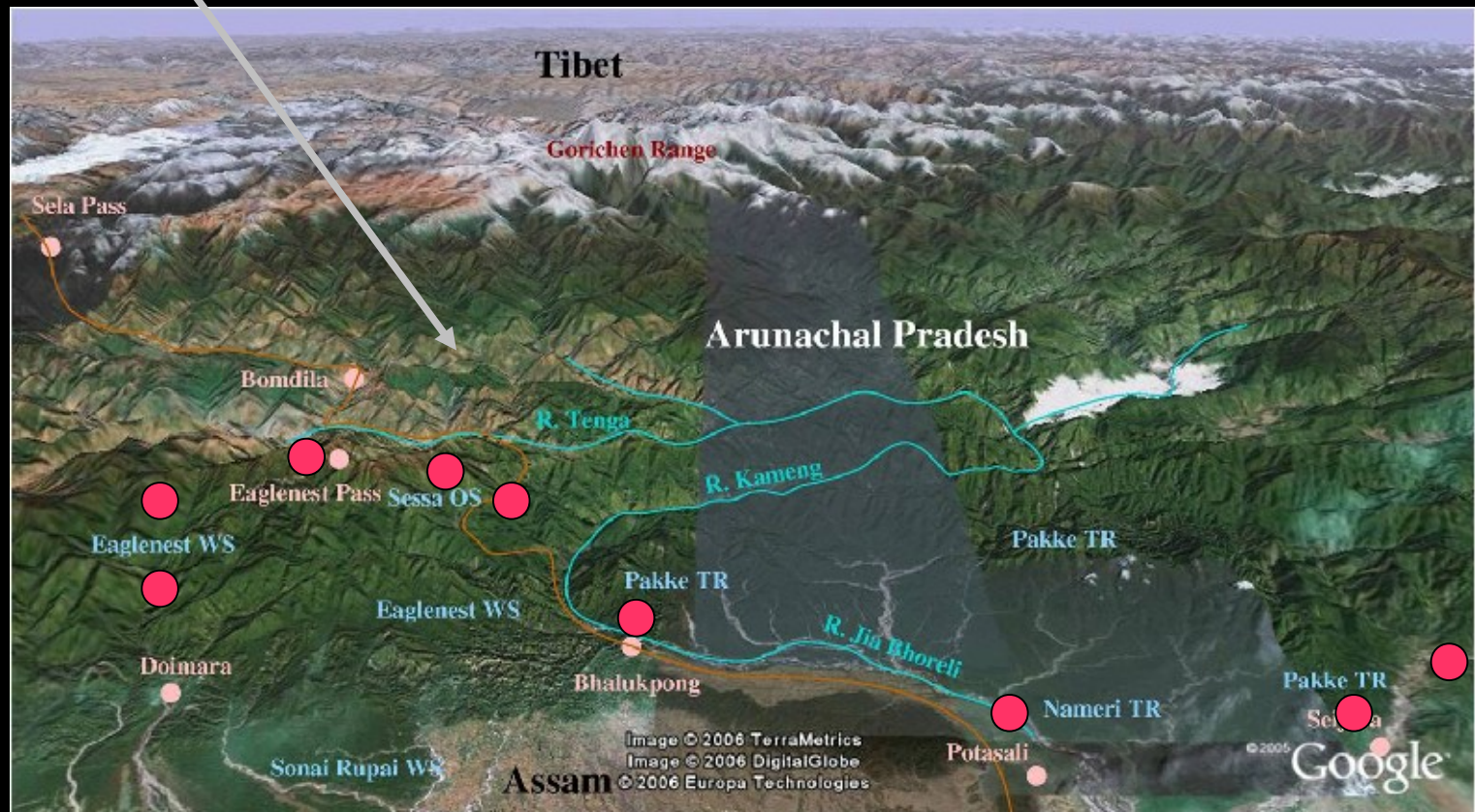


The Kameng Protected Area Landscape



In western Arunachal Pradesh, N E India Kameng Protected Area Complex (KPAC) consisting of Pakke Tiger Reserve, Nameri, Sessa Orchid WLS and Eaglenest WLS. 3500 sq. km. Altitudes from 100 to 3300 m.

Threats: Road building, habitat destruction, hunting.



Eaglenest Biodiversity Project (2003-06), Arunachal Pradesh



Bugun Liocichla
Liocichla bugunorum
New taxa



Mictopholis austeniana
Re-discovery (Dafla, 1874)



Jerdon's pitviper
Trimeresurus jerdonii
New record for India



New *Leptobrachium*
species **New taxa?**



Oberthueria formosibia
New record for India?

Many new taxa and records still being found. Revenues from bird tourism, initiated in 2005, have provided the local community an incentive to conserve.

Eaglenest Lepidoptera Project: Objectives

1. To generate basic species data for butterflies & moths in a poorly studied biodiversity hotspot
2. To augment the scope of a successful ongoing local community bird tourism venture by adding Lepidoptera tourism
3. To lay the foundations for long-term monitoring of weather and its potential effect on Lepidopteran populations (& other faunal groups)



Neptis radha



Tanoarhinus kina



Lethe scanda



Idopterum anomalum



Lethe sura

Lepidoptera survey to supplement on-going community based bird tourism

Lepidoptera Study Methodology

Study sites:

Pakke Tiger Reserve (Langka, Seijosa, Tippi, altitudinal range of 100-400 m),

Nameri National Park (altitudinal range~150 m)

Sessa Orchid WLS (Sessa, altitudinal range of 900-1400 m) ,

Eaglenest WLS (Ramaling, Lama, Sunderview, Bompu, Sessni, Khellong altitudinal range of 750-3300 m)

Methodology: Opportunistic sampling in varied habitats and altitudes through seasons for butterflies and moths.

Sampling frequency: 2-3 week visits covering the study area over two years, during selected seasons.

Proposed seasons: Mar-Apr, **May-Jun**, **Sep-Oct**, Nov-Dec

Current status: First field trip concluded in Oct 2010. Estimated butterfly species~220. Estimated moth species: >800 (??) species

Study to cover varied altitudes & habitats, over seasons

Opportunities

Document butterfly and moth diversity in a poorly studied landscape

Establish baseline data for future studies

Augment ongoing bird tourism with complementary Lepid tourism by expanding tourism season

Build local capacity for butterfly and moth tourism

Provide an additional incentive to the local community to conserve the landscape



Opisthograptis mollerii



Dodona adonira



Antheraea roylei



Dysphania militaris

Challenges

Rugged, often inaccessible terrain & inclement weather

Building local capacity

Creating the market for moth & butterfly tourism.

Ensuring the revenue stream is sustained.

Mitigating ongoing conservation threats-development projects, poaching, etc



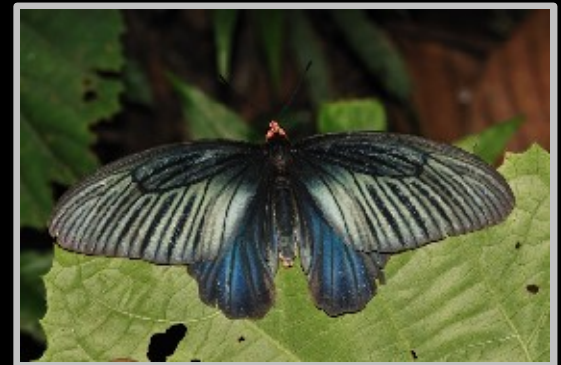
Constable
Dichorrhagia nesimachus



Scarce Red Forester
Lethe distans



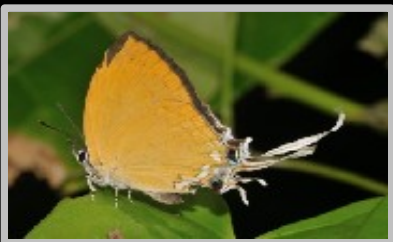
Wizard
Rhinopalpa polynice



Chocolate Jungle Queen
Sticophthalma nourmahal

Witch
Araotes lapithis

Common Batwing female
Atrophaneura varuna



Blue Imperial
Ticherra acte



Grey Commodore
Bhagadatta austenia



Tiger Brown
Orinoma damaris



Baorisa hieroglyphica



Cyana bellissima



Plutodes flavescens



Brahmaea wallachii



Agathia near magnifica



Opisthograptis molleri



Oberthueria formosibia



Actias sp



Lyssa zampa

Support required and suggestions

Expand market for butterfly and moth tourism-local & overseas

Preparation of local inventories for moths

Field guides-national and local

School for Lepidoptera study

Collaborative effort needed to support Lepidoptera conservation and science in India

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