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NOTE

A RECORD OF *LIMENITIS RILEYI* TYTLER, 1940 (LEPIDOPTERA, NYMPHALIDAE, LIMENITIDINAE) FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

Purnendu Roy

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Limenitis rileyi Tytler, 1940 (image 2) was described as a subspecies of *Limenitis oberthuri* Leech, 1890 from Hthawgaw (Fig. 1, site 4), northeastern Myanmar, June. Monastyrskii & Devyatkin (2000) raised *L. rileyi* to species status. Huang (2003) illustrated the genitalia for the two species and also published a checklist of the subspecies. Monastyrskii & Devyatkin (2000) clarified that *Limenitis oberthuri* Leech, 1890 is a synonym of *Limenitis mimica* Pujade, 1885 (image 4). Monastyrskii & Devyatkin (2000) also clarified that the name *safeda* used in one of Tytler specimens (image 2) was invalid as it was an unpublished name. The species has previously been recorded from southeastern Tibet, Myanmar and northern Vietnam.

A single male specimen of *L. rileyi* (image 1) was collected by the author on 19 July 1987 (approx. 1,800m) near Anini, Upper Dibang Valley District, Arunachal Pradesh, India (Fig. 1, site 3) in wet sub-tropical broad leaf forest.

A neighbouring subspecies *L. rileyi xizangana* Huang, 1998 (Image 3) has been recorded in southeastern Tibet (Yigong, Yigong Tsangpo (Fig. 1, site 1) and Metok, Lower Tsangpo (Fig. 1, site 2). The Dibang Valley record lies between the southeastern Tibet and northeastern Myanmar records and as such fills a gap in the distribution. No subspecies determination has been made, given the sample size of just one specimen.

There are no similar species in India, however both *L. mimica* and *L. rileyi* have been recorded near Kangfang (Fig. 1, site 5), Kachin state, Myanmar (Shizuya et al.

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2011), so it is therefore possible that *L. mimica* may occur in India. The following morphological characters of *L. rileyi* will distinguish it from *L. mimica*:

1. Forewing cell completely filled with grey white in *L. rileyi*. In *L. mimica* the distal end of the cell has a grey-brown to grey-black triangle.
2. Under hindwing ground colour is reddish-brown in *L. rileyi*, not grey-brown as in *L. mimica*.
3. Upperside white markings generally wider between the veins in *L. rileyi*.

Records of *L. rileyi* from southeastern Tibet and northeastern Myanmar indicate a flight period of June to August at altitudes between 1,600–2,400 m. This sighting of *L. rileyi* represents the first record of this species from India, thus adding to India's butterfly fauna. This species is not listed in Varshney & Smetacek (2015). This species has the general appearance of a *Parantica/Neptis* species and as such could easily be overlooked, which may account for the lack of records of this species.

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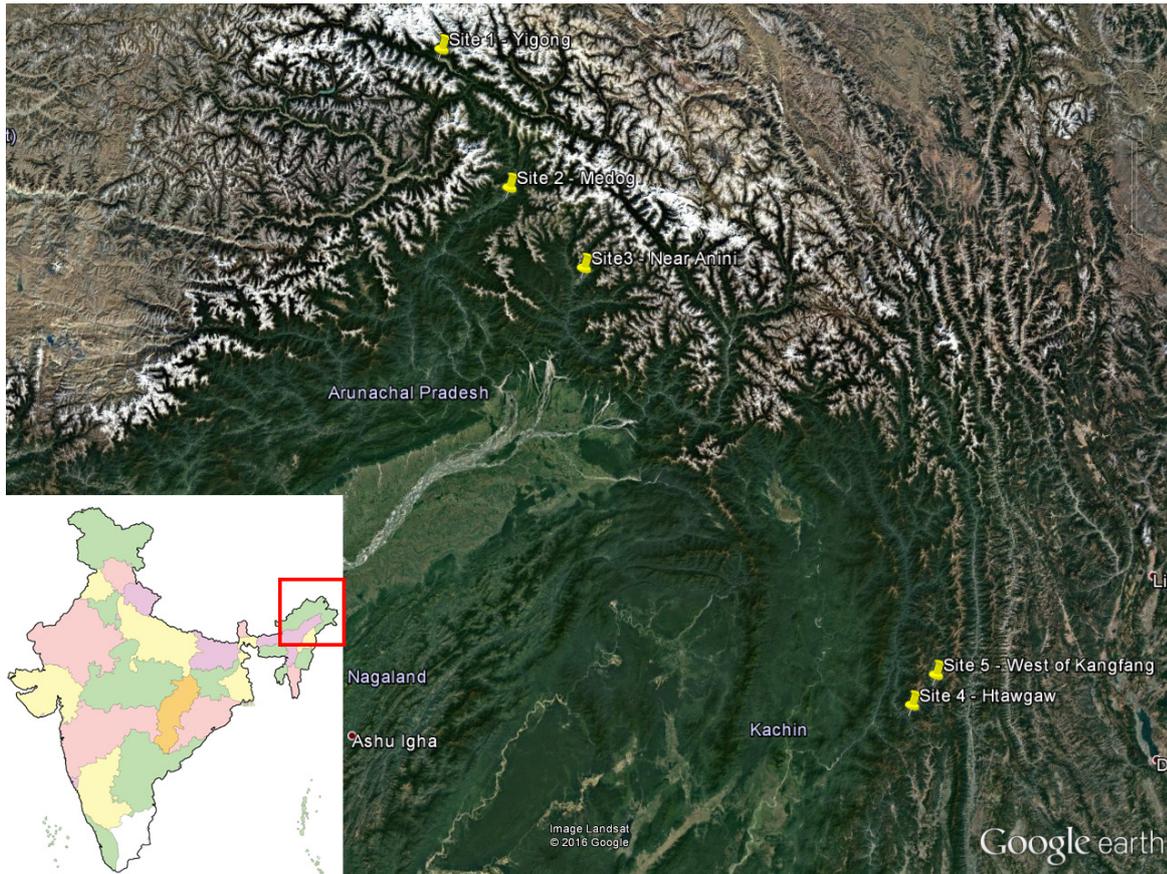


Figure 1. Records of *L. rileyi* from India and neighbouring countries.



Image 1. *Limenitis rileyi* (Tytler, 1940) male #982925 (left dorsal, right ventral) Dri Valley, Upper Dibang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh, c.1,830m, 19th July 1987



Image 2. *Limenitis rileyi rileyi* (Tytler, 1940) male paratype #982996 (left dorsal, right ventral) Htawgaw northeastern Myanmar, 1,500–2,400m, 25th June 1929



Image 3. *Limnitis rileyi xizangana* (Huang, 1998) male paratype #982999 (left dorsal, right ventral) Yigong southeastern Tibet, 2,400m, 4th Aug 1996



Image 4. *Limnitis mimica* (Poujade, 1885) (specimen shown is the male holotype of *oberthuri* Leech, 1890) #982997 (left dorsal, right ventral) ChangYang, China, June 1888.

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