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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Digital illustration of Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata* by Dupati Poojitha. Reference from the picture taken by Rana & Sugandhi.



Westward range extension of the Greater Bluewing *Rhyothemis plutonia* Selys, 1883 (Insecta: Odonata: Libellulidae) into Uttarakhand, India

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Rhyothemis Hagen, 1867 (family Libellulidae) is a genus of vibrantly coloured dragonflies represented by four species in the Indian subcontinent: *R. plutonia* Selys, 1883; *R. phyllis* Sulzer, 1776; *R. triangularis* Kirby, 1889; and *R. variegata* Linnaeus, 1763 (Subramanian & Babu 2024). *Rhyothemis plutonia*, commonly known as the Greater Bluewing, has been recorded primarily from the northeastern states of India and the adjoining regions of Nepal and Bangladesh (Subramanian 2009; Kalkman et al. 2020; Joshi et al. 2024; GBIF 2025). This note reports the first confirmed record of this species from Uttarakhand, thereby establishing a significant westward range extension.

Jim's Jungle Retreat (JJR) is a ~13-acre rewilded property situated near Dhela Village (29.408 °N, 79.009 °E; ~310 m), within the buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand. The property, developed on previously degraded land two decades ago, now supports a planted forest matrix interspersed with seven artificial, permanent, lentic waterbodies of varying sizes. The surrounding landscape is dominated by agricultural fields, human habitation, and Eucalyptus monocultures. To date, 35 odonate species have been documented from JJR based on the author's

unpublished observations. The site's largest waterbody, known as 'Champion's Pool' (CP; ~350 m² surface area, ~1 m maximum depth), supports *Hydrilla* sp. and *Azolla* sp. as the dominant aquatic vegetation, with marginal vegetation dominated by grasses, *Murraya koenigii* and *Pogostemon benghalensis*.

On 10 July 2025 at 1020 h, a dragonfly was observed perched on a grass clump at the margin of CP. It was photographed using a Nikon D5600 DSLR and Nikkor 70–300 mm telephoto lens, without capture or handling of the insect (Image 2 & 3). It was moderately sized, with a dark head, legs, and body; metallic-blue wings; a dark pterostigma; and hyaline apices on the forewings. The cerci were distinctly longer than the paraprocts, and the presence of secondary genitalia confirmed that the specimen was male. Identification as *R. plutonia* was made based on these morphological features and comparison with congeners following Fraser (1936). The species was not observed in subsequent surveys at the site. A distribution map and calculations of great-circle distances to the nearest prior records were prepared using QGIS v.3.34.12-Prizren (QGIS 2025). Coordinates were approximated where exact values were unavailable. This record represents the first confirmed occurrence

Editor: Anonymity requested.

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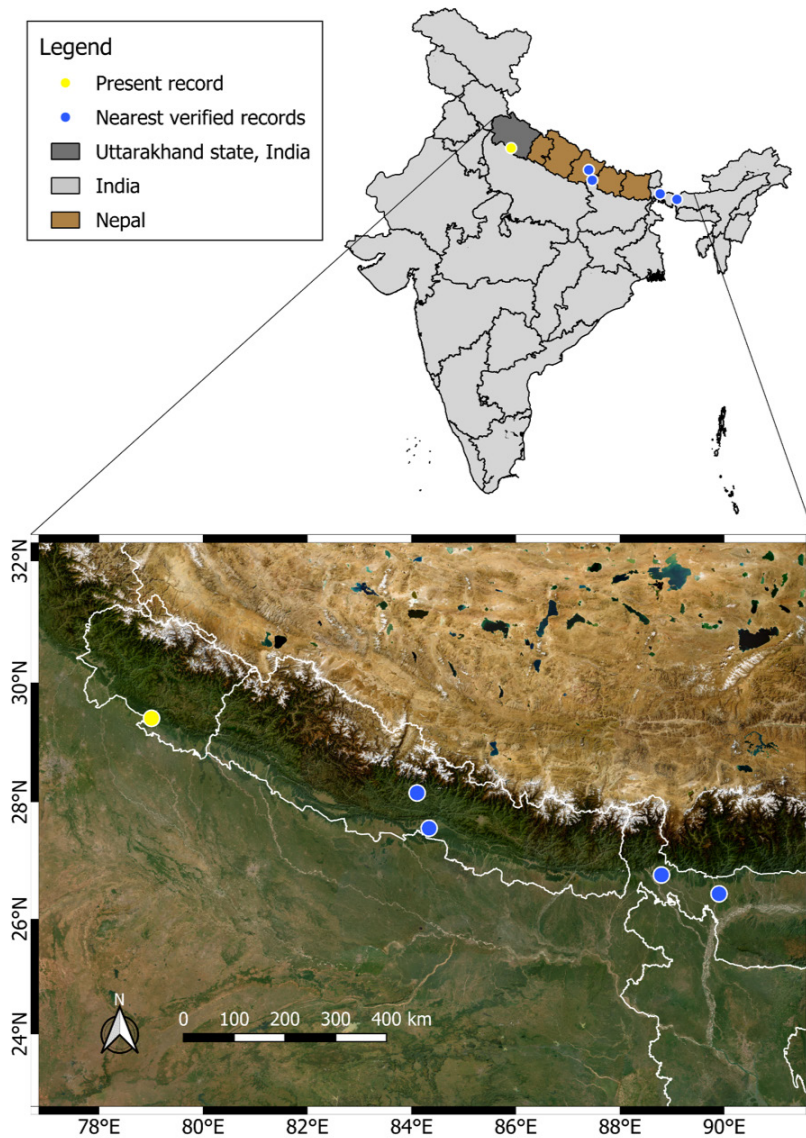


Image 1. Present record from Jim’s Jungle Retreat, Uttarakhand (yellow dot), and four closest prior verified records (blue dots).

Table 1. Closest verified records of *Rhyothemis plutonia* relative to Jim’s Jungle Retreat, Dhela, Uttarakhand (29.408°N, 79.009°E). Coordinates in decimal degrees (WGS84); approximated where exact values were unavailable.

Locality and state	Country	Coordinates	Distance (km)	Reference
Rupa Lake near Pokhara, Gandaki	Nepal	28.152°N, 84.107°E	518	Vick 1985
Narayani near Chitwan National Park, Bagmati	Nepal	27.553°N, 84.336°E	562	Hoyer 2016
Gorumara National Park, West Bengal	India	26.756°N, 88.798°E	1,005	Dawn 2015
Srirampur, Assam	India	26.433°N, 89.902°E	1,121	Gassah 2019

of *R. plutonia* in Uttarakhand, raising the state’s known odonate diversity to at least 128 species (Subramanian & Babu 2024). The species is absent from all published literature and distributional accounts for the state of Uttarakhand (Subramanian & Babu 2018; De et al. 2021;

Singh 2022; Joshi et al. 2024; iNaturalist 2025). The nearest verified records lie over 500 km to the east in Nepal and northeastern India (Image 1, Table 1). Only a single male individual has been recorded, with no females or evidence of reproductive activity, suggesting



Images 2–3. Male *Rhyothemis plutonia* at Jim's Jungle Retreat, Uttarakhand, in lateral and ventral aspects. © Omkar Damle.

the absence of a local breeding population at present. Continued field surveys are, therefore, necessary to determine whether this observation represents a vagrant individual or an overlooked peripheral population. Nevertheless, the addition of *R. plutonia* to the Uttarakhand state fauna highlights the potential for further significant discoveries in this relatively understudied region. It also emphasizes the need for systematic surveys to clarify the distributional limits, population status and ecology of odonates in western Himalaya.

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Articles

Predicting the potential habitat of *Tragopan blythii* (Jerdon, 1870) (Aves: Galliformes: Phasianidae) in Mehao Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh, India

– Eba Tapo & Gibji Nimasow, Pp. 28455–28467

Composition and ecological guild structure of birds at Chaudhary Devi Lal University campus, Haryana, India

– Harkrishan Kamboj, Vijay Singh, Vivek Goyal & Vinay Malik, Pp. 28468–28478

New record of two natricine snakes, *Hebius gilhodesi* (Wall, 1925) and *Herpetoreas davidi* Nguyen et al., 2024 (Reptilia: Squamata: Colubridae), from India

– Sourav Dutta, Bitupan Boruah & Abhijit Das, Pp. 28479–28494

Diversity and distribution pattern of geometrid moths (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Geometridae) along the altitudinal gradient, Kumaun Himalaya, India

– Narendra Singh Lotani & Chandra Singh Negi, Pp. 28495–28509

New distribution records and taxonomic studies of ascomycetous fungi *Xylaria* and *Daldinia* (Ascomycota: Xylariales: Xylariaceae) in Karnataka, India

– S. Bharath Kumar, A. Muthu Kumar & Praveen Kumar Nagadesi, Pp. 28510–28523

Identification of wildlife crime hotspots in Punjab, India via kernel density estimation analysis

– Navdeep Sood & Rohan Kumar, Pp. 28524–28533

Communications

Assessing nutritional status of Chital *Axis axis* (Erxleben, 1777) (Mammalia: Artiodactyla: Cervidae) through bone marrow condition of predated individuals in Kanha Tiger Reserve, India

– Shravana Goswami, Ujjwal Kumar & Yadvendradev V. Jhala, Pp. 28534–28539

Smooth-Coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustelidae) observation near a community reservoir in Bannerghatta National Park

– Amrita Nair & Avinash Krishnan, Pp. 28540–28545

Range extension records of Tibetan Snowcock, Tibetan Sandgrouse, and Western Tragopan in Uttarakhand, India

– Anuj Joshi, Ranjana Pal, Vineet K. Dubey & Sambandam Sathyakumar, Pp. 28546–28551

Morphological and statistical perspectives on genital sexual dimorphism in Eupterotidae Swinhoe, 1892 (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

– Sujata Saini & Shabnum Shafi, Pp. 28552–28563

Distribution of rheophytes in Kopili River Basin, Assam and Meghalaya, India

– Jayanta Das & Deepak K. Baruah, Pp. 28564–28572

Short Communications

First photographic record of Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata* from the canals in Upper Ganga Ramsar Site, Uttar Pradesh, India

– Aftab Alam Usmani, Pichaimuthu Gangaiamaran, Ruchi Badola & Syed Ainul Hussain, Pp. 28573–28577

First camera-trap evidence of a ferret badger *Melogale sp.* (Mammalia: Carnivora: Mustelidae) from the community forests of Manipur, India

– Chingrisoror Rumthao, Monesh Singh Tomar & Sushanto Gouda, Pp. 28578–28581

Species composition of butterflies associated with nectar feeding on *Libidibia coriaria* (Jacq.) Schltld (Magnoliopsida: Fabales: Fabaceae)

– V. Ajay Krishna, M.P. Gopika, S. Adithyan & K.S. Aneesh, Pp. 28582–28589

New distribution records of five species of freshwater palaemonid prawns (Crustacea: Decapoda) in Nagaland, India

– K. Valarmathi, Pp. 28590–28593

Range extension of the lichenized ascomycete, *Cladonia fruticulosa* Kremp., 1882 (Lecanoromycetes: Lecanorales: Cladoniaceae), from Similipal Biosphere Reserve of Odisha

– Shubham Pradhan, Satyabrata Dash, Bijayananda Sahoo & Biswajit Rath, Pp. 28594–28599

Notes

First photographic record of *Chitoria sordida sordida* (Moore, 1866) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Apaturinae) from Arunachal Pradesh, India

– Roshan Upadhaya, Rajesh Gopinath, R. Mahesh & Gaurav Joshi, Pp. 28600–28603

Westward range extension of the Greater Bluewing *Rhyothemis plutonia* Selys, 1883 (Insecta: Odonata: Libellulidae) into Uttarakhand, India

– Omkar Sanjay Damle, Pp. 28604–28606

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