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The lycaenid butterfly *Arhopala rama* Kollar, 1848 also commonly known as Dark Himalayan Oakblue occurs in mid elevation (900m) to high elevation (2700m) of the Himalaya (Kehimkar 2008). It is altogether represented by two subspecies: *Arhopala rama rama* Kollar, 1848 and *Arhopala rama ramosa* Evans, 1925. *Arhopala rama rama* Kollar, 1848 occurs in Pakistan, Kashmir, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and other Himalayan regions including central China (Evans 1957; Kehimkar 2008). The other subspecies *Arhopala rama ramosa* Evans, 1925 occurs from Manipur, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam (Evans 1932, 1957; Inayoshi 2012). However, the species is presently reported from Singchung Village, Tenga Valley on 30 and 31 December 2013 (27.192258°N & 92.4733881°E; altitude: 1626m) which is the first record from Arunachal Pradesh (Figs. 1, 2).

Arhopala rama can be easily distinguished from other similar species like *Arhopala athada* and *Arhopala atrax* by the presence of a tail in the hind wing and not conspicuously lobed at tornus. The species is purple brown below. Among the *Arhopala* group, the commonly sighted species near the same area of sighting includes *Arhopala birmana*. The distinguishing characters of the two subspecies, *rama* and *ramosa* are (Images 1 & 2).

RECENT REPORT OF DARK HIMALAYAN OAKBLUE *ARHOPALA RAMA* KOLLAR, 1848 (LEPIDOPTERA: PAPILIONOIDEA: THECLINAE) FROM TENGA VALLEY, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

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Arhopala rama rama Kollar, 1848 has underside markings dull and faint. Upper side, in male: border 1 and half to 2mm. Female border 4–7 mm and on hind wing blue colour just before end cell. *Arhopala rama ramosa* Evans, 1925 has underside markings darker and better defined. Upper side male border 1mm on forewing and on hind wing just under 1mm. Female purple colour extends beyond cell (Evans 1932). *Arhopala rama ramosa* Evans, 1925 is darker below and more purple washed (Evans 1957). My specimen matches with female *ramosa* in having extensive purple colour. The underside description also matches with Evans's keys.

Discussion: The status of the species was uncommon as per Evans (1932). However, Kehimkar (2008) reported the species to be common. Tytler (1915) also reported the species was common at low elevation in Manipur.



DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEAR THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

Arhopala rama ramosa
Dark Himalayan Oakblue



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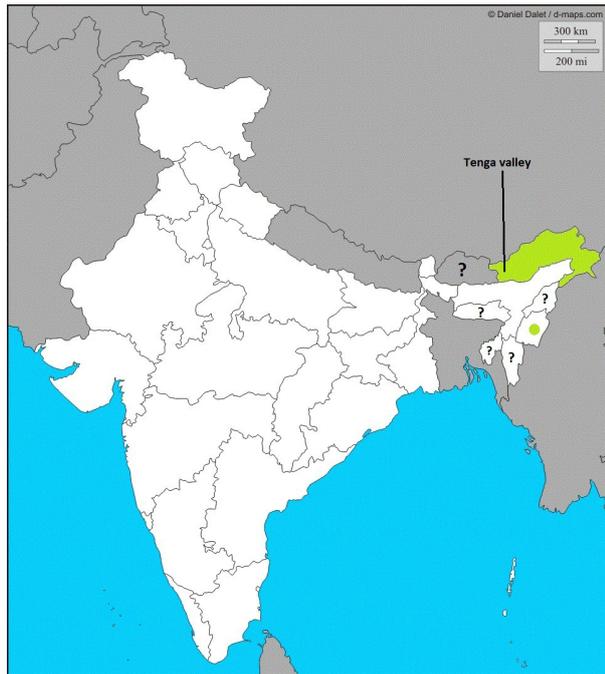


Figure 1. Distribution of subspecies *Arhopala rama ramosa* in India.

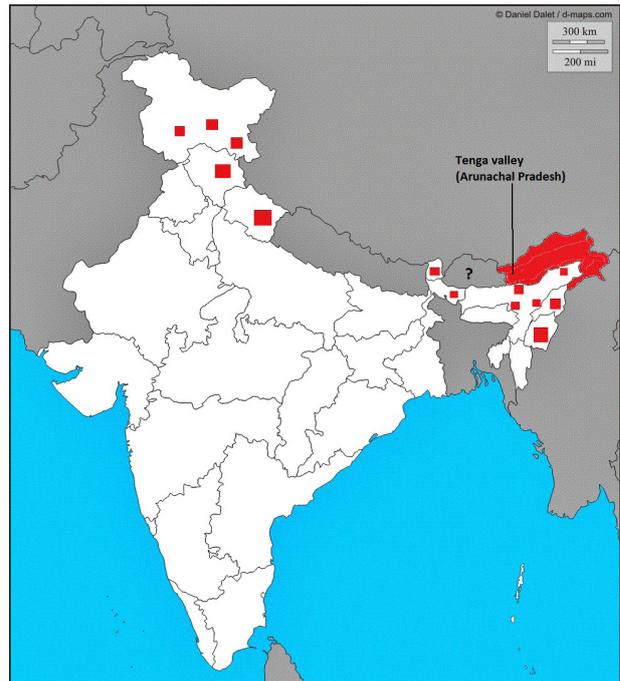


Figure 2. Distribution of subspecies *Arhopala rama rama* in India.



Image 1. Underside of *Arhopala rama ramosa*



Image 2. Upper side of *Arhopala rama ramosa* (Female)

The species is however rare in Tenga Valley and has been sighted only two times, on 30 and 31 December 2013, near a local *Raphanus sativus* (Brassicaceae) plantation (Image 3).

Arhopala rama larvae feed on *Quercus incana* (Fagaceae). Due to extensive cutting of trees and forest fires specially in the West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh, the Oakblue population is under threat. Oakblues are generally seen perched on shrubs and

grass, so forest fires are very harmful for them. *A. rama* is distributed in the much drier regions of the Himalaya unlike other Oakblues.

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Image 3. Terrain map of Tenga Valley showing area of sighting.

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