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NOTE

ON THE REDISCOVERY OF A RARE ROOT PARASITE *GLEADOVIA RUBORUM* GAMBLE & PRAIN (OROBANCHACEAE) FROM UTTARAKHAND, WESTERN HIMALAYA, INDIA

Amit Kumar, Navendu V. Page, Bhupendra S. Adhikari, Manoj V. Nair & Gopal S. Rawat

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On the rediscovery of a rare root parasite *Gleadovia ruborum* Gamble & Prain (Orobanchaceae) from Uttarakhand, western Himalaya, India

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The family Orobanchaceae Vent. comprising ca. 2,060 species under 90 genera are distributed across all continents except Antarctica (McNeal et al. 2013). Commonly known as the broomrape family, Orobanchaceae includes holoparasites (non-photosynthetic) that depend on their hosts and hemiparasites (photosynthetic), most of which were earlier kept in Scrophulariaceae. *Pedicularis* L. with ca. 600 species (Li et al. 2019) followed by *Euphrasia* L. (250–300 species), *Castilleja* Mutis ex L.f. (200–210 species), *Buchnera* L. (130–140 species), and *Orobanche* L. (80–100 species) are the largest genera under this family (POWO). The genus *Gleadovia* Gamble & Prain, a member of Orobanchaceae is native to the western and eastern Himalaya in India and southwestern Yunnan to western Hunan, China. Described by J.S. Gamble and D. Prain in 1900, *Gleadovia* is currently represented by four species namely *G. ruborum* Gamble & Prain (type species; Uttarakhand in western Himalaya, India and China: 1900), *G. mupinensis* Hu (China: 1939), *G. banerjiana* Deb (Manipur, India: 1957) and *G. konyakianorum* Oduyo, D.K. Roy & Aver. (Nagaland, India: 2017).

During a recent floristic exploration (June–July 2020) in and around Surkanda in the outer Himalayan

range of Uttarakhand, western Himalaya, an interesting plant species of family Orobanchaceae was observed. Detailed study of the characters observed in the field, scrutiny of literature (Gamble & Prain 1900; Issar 1966; Wu & Raven 1998; Agarwal 2017; Roy 2017) and examination of online herbarium specimens at Kew (J.S. Gamble, 26949K! (K000999865 and K000999866)) and DD (Osmaston, 23093; Charlton Thomas, 20794) revealed that the taxon is a rare root parasite, *Gleadovia ruborum*, a species previously known only from three localities (Figure 1). The species was originally collected by M.F. Gleadov in 1898 and later described by J.S. Gamble and D. Prain in 1900 from Bodyar (Budher) near Chakrata, Uttarakhand. The species was recollected from the same locality by Osmaston in 1900. Later, it was also collected by Charlton Thomas in 1951 from Balate valley in eastern Almora (now in Pithoragarh district), Kumaon and Ramesh Bedi in 1964 (GKV 1234) from Yamuna Forest Division, Garhwal (Issar 1966).

The plant specimen of *G. ruborum* along with roots of the host, *Rubus pedunculatus* has been preserved (wet specimen) following standard methods and deposited at the herbarium of the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun (WII). Detailed information on the distribution range,

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known host, habitat, elevation range and phenology of *Gleadovia* species are provided in Table 1.

Gleadovia ruborum Gamble & Prain, J. Asiat. Soc. Bengal, Pt. 2, Nat. Hist. 69(2): 489 (1900).

Type: Northwestern Himalaya. Bodyar Jaunsar, 2,500–3,000 m; on the northern slopes in very shady forest of Fir and Deodar on the roots of wild Raspberry *Rubus niveus*; very scarce, *Gleadov!* Gamble! Duthie! Duthie’s collectors!

Lectotype (Roy 2017): India. Erstwhile Uttar Pradesh Hills (now Uttarakhand): northwestern Himalaya, Jaunsar, Bodyar (on the northern slopes in very shady woods of Fir and Deodar), 2,500–3,000 m, June 1898, J.S. Gamble 26949-K! (K000999865); Isolectotypes-K! (K000999866); CAL! (Acc. No. 329959).

Fleshy, root-parasitic herb 10–18 cm high. Rootstock bulbous and swollen at the point of attachment with the host root. Stem largely sub-terranean, with ovate scales; lower scales rounded, upper oblong and sometimes bifid. Flowers in dense corymbose or paniculate inflorescences at the end of stem. Pedicel stout ca.

0.8cm long. Bracts solitary, ca. 1.5 cm long, sheathing, rounded; bracteoles two, 1.5–2.5 cm long, spatulate, acute, concave. Calyx 2.5–3 cm long, light red, tubular, somewhat inflated, equally five-lobed, lobes rounded, divided to less than half the tube length. Corolla up to 5 cm long, white at the base, reddish towards the apex, with dark longitudinal veins; tube much longer than the calyx, slightly curved, two-lipped; upper lip of two connate, rounded, lobes; lower lip of three narrow, acute lobes. Stamens 4; filaments bent at point of insertion; anthers spurred, connectives produced beyond the anther lobes, 3-fid at the apex. Ovary one-celled, ovate. Style shorter than the filaments; stigma of two fleshy, semi-orbicular lobes depressed in the centre; placenta 2 pairs, free below and above, confluent in the middle; ovules numerous. Seeds numerous, minute.

Etymology: Genus ‘*Gleadovia*’ is dedicated to M.F. Gleadov who was first to discover it in 1898 and ‘*ruborum*’ refers to red corolla with darker veins.

Specimen examined: 22201 (WII, wet collection of flowers), 20.vi.2020, India, Uttarakhand, Surkanda hill

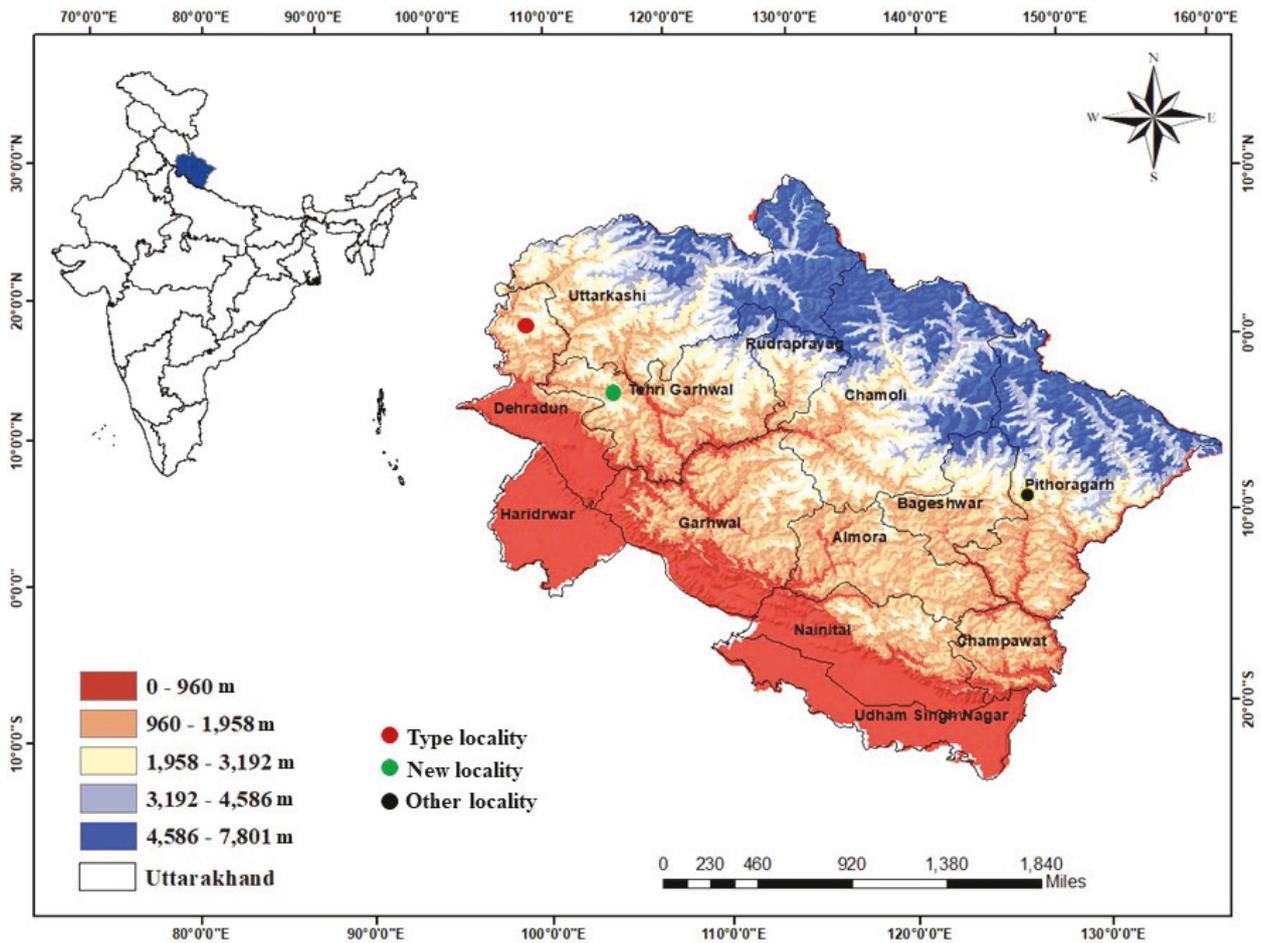


Figure 1. Map showing distribution of *Gleadovia ruborum* in Uttarakhand, India.

Table 1. Distribution range, habitat, host, elevation range, and phenology of *Gleadovia* species.

Species	Distribution range	Habitat	Host	Elevation (m)	Flowering (fl.) and fruiting (fr.)	Reference
<i>Gleadovia ruborum</i>	Chakrata (Budher) and Mussoorie hills (Surkanda) in Uttarakhand, western Himalaya, India	Northern slopes in very shady <i>Cedrus deodara</i> - <i>Abies pindrow</i> and <i>Abies pindrow</i> - <i>Quercus floribunda</i> forests	Roots of wild raspberry, <i>Rubus pedunculatus</i>	2,500–3,000	Jun–Jul (fl.), Jul–Aug (fr.)	Gamble & Prain (1900), Issar (1966), Agarwal (2017), Roy (2017), present study
	Southwestern Yunnan to western Hunan, China	Temperate rainforest under bamboo; humid places in forests or thickets	Not ascertained	900–3,500	Apr–Aug (fl.), Aug–Oct (fr.)	Gamble & Prain (1900), Wu & Raven (1998)
<i>Gleadovia mupinensis</i>	Southcentral and Southeastern China	Roadsides, forests and humid places	Not ascertained	3,000–3,500	Apr–Jul (fl.)	Hu (1939), Wu & Raven (1998)
<i>Gleadovia banerjiana</i>	Koubru hill, Manipur, India	-	Roots of <i>Strobilanthes discolor</i>	1,800–2,000	-	Deb (1956)
<i>Gleadovia konyakianorum</i>	Nagaland, India	Semi-evergreen forest	Roots of <i>Strobilanthes</i> sp.	1,500–1,600	Apr (fl)	Odyuo et al. (2017)

near Mussoorie of Tehri Garhwal district, 30.415°N, 78.280°E, 2,450 m, coll. N. Page, A. Kumar, B.S. Adhikari & G.S. Rawat; 22202 (WII, wet collection of the fruiting specimen along with rootstock of host plant), 08.vii.2020, India, Uttarakhand, Surkanda hill near Mussoorie of Tehri District, 30.415°N, 78.280°E, 2,450m, coll. N. Page, A. Kumar, B.S. Adhikari & G.S. Rawat (Image 1).

Distribution range, host, and habitat: *G. ruborum* was first recorded in shady forest at Bodyar or Budher in Jaunsar, Dehradun district at 2,500 m above mean sea level by M.F. Gleadov in 1898 (Gamble & Prain 1900). Interestingly, it shows disjunct distribution as it has also been reported in northern Guangxi, Hubei, western Hunan and southwestern Yunnan areas of China (Hu 1939; eflora China). Notably, it has not been recorded anywhere else from India and China (Agarwal 2017). Issar (1966), Roy (2017), and Osmaston (1900) had recorded *Glaedovia ruborum* on the roots of *Rubus pedunculatus* (*R. niveus* Wall. ex. Hook; Agarwal 2017). Agarwal (2017) studied the flora of Chakrata hills in detail but he could not locate populations of *G. ruborum* in its type locality despite best efforts. In Surkanda (the new locality), all the four individuals were recorded on the roots of *Rubus pedunculatus* in *Abies pindrow*-*Quercus floribunda* forest at 2,450 m on northern slopes. The common species recorded in the vicinity (314 m²) of *Gleadovia* were *Quercus floribunda*, *Abies pindrow*, *Viburnum cotinifolium*, *Daphne papyracea*, *Salix denticulata*, *Rosa macrophylla*, *Hypericum oblongifolium*, *Senecio rufinervis*, *Roscoea purpurea*, and *Geranium wallichianum*.

Conservation status: *G. ruborum* has been assessed as 'rare' and 'extremely rare' by Issar (1966) and Agarwal

(2017), respectively. The IUCN conservation status of this species is yet to be assessed.

In the current communication, we report a new locality of *G. ruborum* at 2,450 m in Surkanda near Mussoorie of Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand. The present collection marks the rediscovery of the species after a gap of 57 years from a new locality in the Uttarakhand, western Himalaya. The new location is approximately 60km from the type locality. Intensive surveys in the right season, in temperate and sub-alpine shady moist forests with a dense undergrowth of *Rubus pedunculatus* may yield more distributional records and better understanding of its distributional range.

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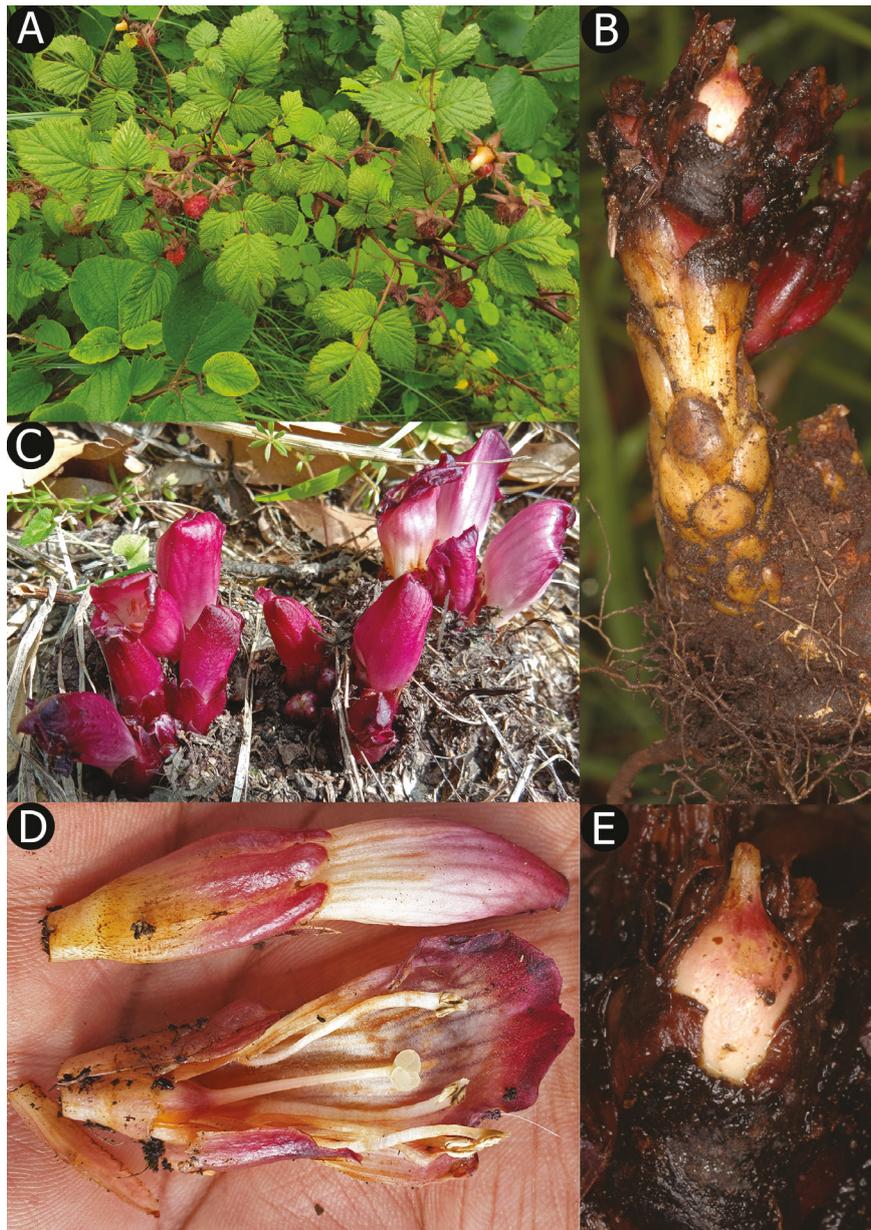


Image 1. Host and habit of *Gleadovia ruborum*: A—*Rubus pedunculatus* - the host species (© Amit Kumar) | B—Habit showing scales on the stem (© Navendu Page) | C—Inflorescences and flowers (© B.S. Adhikari) | D—Section of the corolla showing the stamens, stigma and the ovary (© Navendu Page) | E—Close-up of fruit (© Navendu Page).

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July 2021 | Vol. 13 | No. 8 | Pages: 18959–19190

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Communications

Distribution and habitat preferences of the Chinese Pangolin *Manis pentadactyla* (Mammalia: Manidae) in the mid-hills of Nepal

– Suman Acharya, Hari Prasad Sharma, Rajeev Bhattarai, Beeju Poudyal, Sonia Sharma & Suraj Upadhaya, Pp. 18959–18966

On the occurrence of the Himalayan Wolf *Canis lupus*, L. 1758 (Mammalia: Carnivora: Canidae) in the Gaurishankar Conservation Area, Nepal; its existence confirmed through sign and visual evidence in Rolwaling Valley

– Bishnu Prasad Pandey, Shankar Man Thami, Rabin Shrestha & Mukesh Kumar Chalise, Pp. 18967–18974

Group size, crowding, and age class composition of the threatened Sambar *Rusa unicolor* (Kerr, 1792) (Mammalia: Cetartiodactyla: Cervidae) in the semi-arid regions of northeastern Rajasthan, India

– Deepak Rai & Kalpana, Pp. 18975–18985

Study on the impacts of LULC change on the wildlife habitat and the livelihood of people in and around Dampa Tiger Reserve, Mizoram, India

– Sushanto Gouda, Janmejey Sethy, Netrapal Singh Chauhan & Harendra Singh Bargali, Pp. 18986–18992

Characterisation of breeding habitat of Grizzled Giant Squirrel *Ratufa macroura* (Mammalia: Sciuridae) in Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary, Western Ghats, India

– Kiran Thomas & P.O. Nameer, Pp. 18993–19001

Seasonal prey availability and diet composition of Lesser Asiatic Yellow House Bat *Scotophilus kuhlii* Leach, 1821

– Shani Kumar Bharti & Vadmalai Elangovan, Pp. 19002–19010

Bird composition, diversity and foraging guilds in agricultural landscapes: a case study from eastern Uttar Pradesh, India

– Yashmita-Ulman & Manoj Singh, Pp. 19011–19028

Identification of a unique barb from the dorsal body contour feathers of the Indian Pitta *Pitta brachyura* (Aves: Passeriformes: Pittidae)

– Prateek Dey, Swapna Devi Ray, Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, Padmanabhan Pramod & Ram Pratap Singh, Pp. 19029–19039

Moths of the superfamily Gelechioidea (Microlepidoptera) from the Western Ghats of India

– Amit Katewa & Prakash Chand Pathania, Pp. 19040–19052

On the diversity and abundance of riparian odonate fauna (Insecta) of the midstream Chalakkudy River, Kerala, India

– C. Nitha Bose, C.F. Binoy & Francly K. Kakkassery, Pp. 19053–19059

Species diversity and abundance patterns of epiphytic orchids in Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, India

– Jis Sebastian, Durairaj Kathiresan & Giby Kuriakose, Pp. 19060–19069

Status and conservation needs of *Cycas pectinata* Buch.-Ham. in its natural habitat at Baroiyadhala National Park, Bangladesh

– M.K. Hossain, M.A. Hossain, S. Hossen, M.R. Rahman, M.I. Hossain, S.K. Nath & M.B.N. Siddiqui, Pp. 19070–19078

Review

Limitations of current knowledge about the ecology of Grey Foxes hamper conservation efforts

– Maximilian L. Allen, Alexandra C. Avrin, Morgan J. Farmer, Laura S. Whipple, Emmarie P. Alexander, Alyson M. Cervantes & Javan M. Bauder, Pp. 19079–19092

Short Communications

On the freshwater fish fauna of Krishna River, Sangli District, Maharashtra, India

– Suresh M. Kumbhar, Shrikant S. Jadhav, Swapnali B. Lad, Abhijit B. Ghadage, Satyawan S. Patil & C. Shiva Shankar, Pp. 19093–19101

Diversity and distribution of the large centipedes (Chilopoda: Scolopendromorpha) in the Phia Oac - Phia Den National Park, Vietnam

– Le Xuan Son, Nguyen Thi Tu Anh, Tran Thi Thanh Binh, Thu Anh T. Nguyen & Anh D. Nguyen, Pp. 19102–19107

Diversity of ants in Aarey Milk Colony, Mumbai, India

– Akshay Gawade & Amol P. Patwardhan, Pp. 19108–19117

First record of ghost shrimp *Corallianassa coutierei* (Nobili, 1904) (Decapoda: Axideidae: Callichiridae) from Indian waters

– Piyyush Vadher, Hitesh Kardani, Prakash Bambhaniya & Imtiaz Beleem, Pp. 19118–19124

A preliminary checklist of dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) of Vakkom Grama Panchayath, Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala, India

– J. Arunima & P.O. Nameer, Pp. 19125–19136

Diversity pattern of butterfly communities (Lepidoptera) in different habitat types of Nahan, Himachal Pradesh, India

– Suveena Thakur, Suneet Bahrdwaj & Amar Paul Singh, Pp. 19137–19143

Descriptions of the early stages of *Vagrans egista sinha* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) with notes on its host plant *Xylosma longifolia* Clos from the western Himalaya of India

– Pranav Gokhale & M.A. Yathumon, Pp. 19144–19148

Notes

First photographic record of Mishmi Takin *Budorcus taxicolor taxicolor* and Red Goral *Nemorhaedus baileyi* from Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India

– Cheshta Singh & Deepti Gupta, Pp. 19149–19152

Utilisation of honey trap method to ensnare a dispersing sub-adult Bengal Tiger *Panthera tigris tigris* L. in a human dominated landscape

– Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, Balaji Kari & Arvind Mathur, Pp. 19153–19155

First camera trap photographs of Indian Pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* (Mammalia: Pholidota: Manidae) from Pakistan

– Misbah Bint Riaz, Faraz Akrim, Siddiq Qasim, Syed Afaq Bukhari, Asad Aslam, Muhammad Waseem, Rizwana Imtiaz & Tariq Mahmood, Pp. 19156–19158

Photographic record of Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* (Aves: Phoenicopteridae) in Ramganga river, Bareilly, India

– Pichaimuthu Gangaikaran, Aftab A. Usmani, G.V. Gopi, S.A. Hussain & Khursid A. Khan, Pp. 19159–19161

Total length and head length relationship in Mugger Crocodiles *Crocodylus palustris* (Reptilia: Crocodylia: Crocodylidae) in Iran

– Asghar Mobaraki, Elham Abtin, Malihe Erfani & Colin Stevenson, Pp. 19162–19164

First record of the hoverfly genus *Spilomyia* Meigen (Diptera: Syrphidae) for Pakistan

– Muhammad Asghar Hassan, Imran Bodlah, Riaz Hussain, Azan Karam, Fazlullah & Azaz Ahmad, Pp. 19165–19167

Rediscovery of Watson's Demon *Stimula swinhoei swinhoei* (Elwes & Edwards, 1897) (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae: Hesperinae) in Meghalaya, India after 60 years

– Suman Bhowmik & Atanu Bora, Pp. 19168–19170

A record of *Ouraapteryx dierli* Inoue, 1994 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Ennominae) from the Garhwal Himalaya, India

– Arun P. Singh & Lekhendra, Pp. 19171–19172

Report of *Bradynopyga konkanensis* Joshi & Sawant, 2020 (Insecta: Odonata) from Kerala, India

– Muhammed Haneef, B. Raju Stiven Crasta & A. Vivek Chandran, Pp. 19173–19176

A new distribution record of *Bianor angulosus* (Karsch, 1879) (Araneae: Salticidae) from Kerala, India

– Nishi Babu, John T.D. Caleb & G. Prasad, Pp. 19177–19180

Notes on lectotypification of the Assam Ironwood *Mesua assamica* (King & Prain) Kosterm. (Calophyllaceae)

– Prantik Sharma Baruah, Sachin Kumar Borthakur & Bhaben Tanti, Pp. 19181–19184

On the rediscovery of a rare root parasite *Gleadovia ruborum* Gamble & Prain (Orobanchaceae) from Uttarakhand, western Himalaya, India

– Amit Kumar, Navendu V. Page, Bhupendra S. Adhikari, Manoj V. Nair & Gopal S. Rawat, Pp. 19185–19188

Occurrence of vivipary in *Ophiorrhiza rugosa* Wall. (Rubiaceae)

– Birina Bhuyan & Sanjib Baruah, Pp. 19189–19190

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