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STUDY ON DIVERSITY OF BUTTERFLY IN WASHIM REGION (MH).

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ABSTRACT:

nsects are the most diverse group of animals on the planet, including more than a million described species and representing more than half of all known living organisms. Butterflies are one of the major insect orders Lepidoptera meaning "scaly winged" from the fact that all members in this group have their wings coated with tiny feather like scales that are attached to the wings in rows like tiles on a roof. And this order considerable as ecological, scientifically importance for humans. Butterflies are important pollinators. Butterflies are classified among a large group of insects these are distributed worldwide, which has profound impacts on ecosystem. The present study provides a consolidated account of the Butterfly fauna. The present study reveals that, the total 9 species of butterfly belonging to 3 families and 7



subfamilies were recorded.

KEY WORDS: Butterfly, Diversity, Washim.

INTRODUCTION:

Insect biodiversity accounts for a large proportion of all biodiversity on the planet, with over 1,000,000 insect species described. Over 1 million species of insects have been described, but current estimates of total insect diversity vary from 2.6-7.8 million species with a mean of 5.5 million. Beetles (Coleoptera) make up 40% of described insect species, but some entomologists suggest that flies (Diptera) and Hymenoptera (wasps,

as diverse or more so. Five orders of insects stand out in their levels of species richness that is Hymenoptera, Diptera, Coleoptera, Lepidoptera and the Hemiptera. The Indian region is recognized as one of the major centres of biodiversity in the world. The diversity is equally rich at the ecosystem level as well as species level has been well documented by field work carried out by naturalists and professional field biologists during the past 200 years. The habitat diversity offered by alpine ecosystem to mangrove ecosystem through a wide range of tropical forest ecosystem, freshwater bees and ants) could be and marine ecosystem,

desert and island ecosystem found expression in richness of faunal elements in all groups. According to(Gaonkar 1996). In India hosts about 1,501 butterfly species.About 1500 species of butterflies are found in India (Haribal 1992). Butterflies are classified among a large group of insects known as the Lepidoptera meaning "scaly winged" from the fact that all members in this group have their wings coated with tiny feather like scales that are attached to the wings in rows like tiles on a roof. Lepidoptera are regarded as one of the important component of biodiversity. Butterflies are part of our natural heritage and have been studied for over 300 years. In Northern Western Ghats (India), four tropical habitats with different disturbance levels were monitored by (Kunte **1997),** for the diversity and seasonal patterns in butterfly communities.

(Saarinen 1998), conducted the survey of butterfly communities in relation to changes in the management environments. (Lemas 1981), compared the butterfly faunas of Pakitza and Tambopata.

The present study has been undertaken because of Butterflies are indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems. They indicate a wide range of other invertebrates, which comprise over two-thirds of all species. The main objective of the present study is to provide a check list of butterflies with their scientific classification and photographic collection.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study carried out In Washim region of Maharashtra. Washim is also known as Basim, Arabic name that means the 'one that smile. It is especially famous for its ancient Balaji temple. For present study five different sampling sites were selected those are Pandit Neharu Vidhyalay and Junior college Kawatha garden, Near farm of water dam, Balkhandeshwar Temple garden, Garden of R. A. college Washim. During the month of Sept. 2016 to Dec. 2016. the time period undertaken for observation was throughout day from morning 8:30 am to evening 5:00 pm. observations were made by direct visually and collection done by sweep net . Lenovo k6 note mobile phone was used for capturing photos of butterflies.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION:

One of the major features of the animal communities is their diversity i.e. the no. species present and their numerical composition. The present study is undoubtly the first comprehensive effort to investigate the butterfly diversity in Washim district of Maharashtra in general and the area under investigation. In the present study, a total 9 species of butterfly belonging to 3 families and 7 subfamilies were reported over a period of 4 months from Sept. 2016 to Dec 2016. The total butterfly species observed are tabulated in table I and Photoplate I.

Sr. no.	Family	Subfamily	Genus	Species	Sites	Season
1	Pailoinidae	Papilioniinae	Graphium	agamemnon	RAC	Sept 2016
2	Nymphalidae	Biblidinae	Byblia	ilithyia	NFWD	Sept2016
3	Pailoinidae	Papilioninae	Papilio	demoleus	RAC	Sept2016
4	Pieridae	Coliadinae	Catopsilia	pomona	NFWD	Oct2016
5	Nymphalida	Nymphalinae	Cynthia	cardui	NFWD,	Sept2016
6	Nymphalida	Nymphalinae	Junonia	lemonias	NFWD,	Sept2016
7	Nymphalidae	Limenitidinae	Moduza	procris	BTG,	Sept2016
8	Pailoinidae	Papilioniinae	Papilio	polytes	PNVHJC	Dec2016
9	Pieridae	Pierinae	Appias	libythea	RAC	Oct2016

Table No. 1. Butterfly species observed in Washim Region

GraphiumAgamemnon	Byblia <i>ilithyia</i>	Papilio <i>demoleus</i>
Catopsilia Pomona	Cynthia <i>c ardui</i>	Junonia lemonias
Moduza procris	Papilio polytes	Appias libythea

Photo Plate No. 1. Butterfly species

During short studsy period that is 4 month in which total 9 species from washim region were recorded those are i.e. *Graphium, Byblia ilithyia*, *Papilio demoleus, Catopsilia Pomona, Cynthia cardui, Junonia lemonias, Moduzaprocris, Papilio polytes, Appias libythea*. Butterflies are used by advertisers and illustrators the world over as way of indicating that something is environmentally friendly.Butterflies are indicators of a healthy environment and healthy ecosystems.Butterflies have been widely used byecologists as model organisms to study the impact of habitat loss and fragmentation, andclimate change (BCE, 2008).Butterflies are widely recognized as potentially valuable ecological indicators (Erhardt 1855; Brown 1991; Kremen 1992). Butterflies are sensitive to and directly affected by any alteration to their habitats, atmosphere, local weather and climate (Watt et al. 1968; Heath1981; Rosenberg et al. 1986; Dennis 1993). Butterfly diversity of Washim region. In particular was investigated over a period of 4 months i.e. from Sept 2016 to Dec 2016. The specimen was collected by sweep net from Washim region a total of 9 species of 3 families and 7 subfamilies were indentified. The occurrence of butterfly species shows variation in relation to season and habitat. The longer study is needed to identify significant changes in butterfly diversity.

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