

Review of: "A New Record of *Elymnias caudata* Butler, 1871 (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) from Nagpur in Central India"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is a short communication on the distribution of *Elymnias caudata*. Congratulations to the authors for reporting their find, which will indeed add to the data on the species.

1. Therefore, it is acceptable that the authors have not backed their identification with molecular data (comparison of COI sequences); all the same, it would be better if they could provide information about the wing venation, genitalia, and other morphological and morphometric characteristics. One of the common mistakes we have all made over the years is to identify based on just morphological characteristics, whereas now we know that appearances may be deceptive. It would surely elevate the quality of the paper.
2. Based on the information in "Butterflies of India," the easternmost record for this butterfly is Puttur in the Dakshin Kannada district, Karnataka. Based on the curated information on the site, the majority of the sightings are west of the Western Ghats or along the Ghats. There is a cluster of sightings around Bengaluru, which lies significantly further east of the Ghats. Also, the northernmost report is from Raigad, Maharashtra. But Nagpur lies more northeast of these reports; therefore, this finding is significant. (<https://www.ifoundbutterflies.org/elymnias-caudata>).
3. The authors could also use iNaturalist to get more information on distribution.
4. It would add to the value of the paper if the map showing Nagpur could be replaced by one of peninsular India showing the previous distribution and the current sightings. The previous easternmost sighting in Maharashtra is from Pune. Nagpur is around 760 kms (east) from there, so the authors could provide significant information about the distribution. (Google Earth, Google Maps, QGIS, etc., are freely available online resources that the authors could use).
5. The authors could also mention if their sightings were all on known host plants or if there were some new host plant records too.
6. The number of sightings over a study period would also give more information.
7. In addition, minor corrections, adding geo-coordinates for your sightings, and improving the grammar and syntax in some sentences would improve the quality of the paper.
8. Are references to be given in italics?
9. The quality of the larvae and butterfly photographs could be improved.

All the very best. Looking forward to more new reports and range extensions.

