A HANDBOOK ON THE BUTTERFLIES OF NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

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An Institution of Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)
Peechi – 680 653, Thrissur, Kerala, India

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**Abstract of Project Proposal**

2. Title of the project : A Handbook on the butterflies of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
3. Objectives : To prepare an illustrated hand book on the butterflies of NBR consolidating available data on the butterflies of this region and to assess the problems involved in their conservation.
4. Date of commencement : July 2006
5. Scheduled date of completion : June 2009
6. Project team
   - Principal Investigator : Dr. George Mathew
7. Study area : Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
8. Duration of the study : 2006-2009
9. Project budget : Rs. 1.99 Lakhs
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ABSTRACT

Available information on 282 species of butterflies so far recorded from the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve was consolidated. The number of species recorded under various families was: Papilionidae-19 species; Pieridae-29 species; Lycaenidae-88 species; Erycinidae: Riodinae-1 species, Libytheinae-1 species; Amathusidae-1 species; Nymphalidae-59 species; Satyridae-25 species and Hesperidae-58 species. Of the 282 species recorded in this study, 104 are rare, 21 endemic, and 19 protected. Due to the fast depletion of their natural habitats, many species recorded as ‘common’ are also becoming rare in their range of distribution. Considering the high proportion of rare and endemic species found in this area, conservation strategies involving implementation of strict legislation against destruction of biodiversity of this area; captive breeding and reintroduction in the case of rare, threatened and endemic species; implementation of habitat enrichment programmes and enhancing public awareness on species conservation are proposed.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Dr. J. K. Sharma (erstwhile Director) and Dr. K.V. Sankaran (Director) for their keen interest in this study. I thank my colleagues Dr. K.V. Bhat, Dr. V.V. Sudheendrakumar, Dr. T.V. Sajeev and Dr. M.S. Muktesh Kumar for kindly going through the manuscript and for offering useful suggestions. Shri. S. Pramod and Ms. K. C. Soumya, Research Fellows attached to this project provided able assistance in implementing this study. Dr. Mujeeb Rehman, Research Associate, kindly designed the cover page. Thanks are also due to Dr. P. Unnikrishnan, (Director, Butterfly Art Foundation, Trichur), Dr. S. Kalesh (Medical Officer, Medical College, Trivandrum) and Dr. Thiru Murugan (Veterinary Surgeon, Vandalur Zoo) for providing excellent photographs of several species of butterflies used in this Report. The financial support from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi is gratefully acknowledged.