KFRI Research Report No. 398

A HANDBOOK ON THE BUTTERFLIES OF NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE

George Mathew

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

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(Final Report of the Project 517/2006: A Hand book on the butterflies of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, New Delhi)

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Abstract of Project Proposal

1. Project No.	: KFRI/517/2006
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.

3.	Date of commencement	: July 2006
4.	Scheduled date of completion	: June 2009
5.	Project team	
	Principal Investigator	: Dr. George Mathew
6.	Study area	: Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve
7.	Duration of the study	: 2006- 2009
8.	Project budget	: Rs. 1.99 Lakhs
9.	Funding Agency	: Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI, New Delhi.

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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 Hesperiidae- 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.

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