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Three new records of butterflies from Madhabkundo Eco-Park in Bangladesh

Butterflies belonging to the order Lepidoptera are widely distributed throughout the world. A recent systematic review documented 421 species of butterflies from Bangladesh (Hossain 2023). This study presents the first records of silver royal, *Ancema blanka* (de Niceville, 1894); common faun, *Faunis canens* (Hübner, 1826); and the rediscovery of grey baron, *Euthalia anosia* (Moore, 1858) from Bangladesh after 137 years in Madhabkunda Eco Park (MEP; 24º38'25"N, 92º13'06"E, Fig. 1), Moulvibazar District, northeastern Bangladesh.

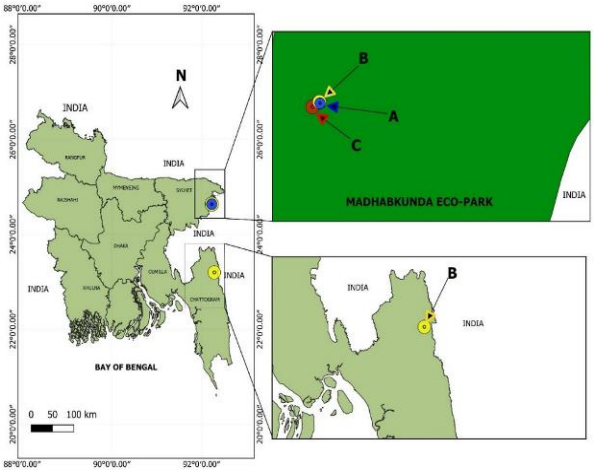

Figure 1. Map of Bangladesh showing the MEP where [A]*Ancema blanka*, [B]*Euthalia anosia*, and [C]*Faunis canens* were observed.

There have been only limited studies of the butterfly fauna of Bangladesh (Shahadat *et al*. 2015, Akhter *et al*. 2023), and no systematic survey has been done on the diversity of butterflies from MEP. MEP is a tropical mixed evergreen forest that covers 265.68 acres with an average rainfall of 390 cm and temperature from 12°–32°C (IUCN 2015, Islam *et al.* 2022). Our research on butterfly diversity was conducted in MEP (elevation 102–126 m a.s.l.) from July to December 2023. During this period the temperature was 16–28°C and humidity was 72–81%. The butterflies were identified using Evans (1932), Chowdhury & Hossain (2013), and Kehimkar (2016). All netted specimens were released after identification. A Digital Nikon D7200 camera with a 70-300mm lens was used to take photos.

***Ancema blanka*.** The first individual (Fig. 2A) was recorded at 13:00 hr on 24 November 2023 near a waterfall followed by nine individuals (3 males, 1 female, 5 undetermined) within 90 minutes at the edge of a stream, activities were taking nutrients by rubbing their proboscis on the wet surface of rocks, basking on the surface of rocks and leaves, and frequently flying fast. The nearest previous record of this species was ~15 km away at Karimganj District (Assam, India; Kunte *et al.* 2024).

***Faunis canens*.** We observed one individual (Fig. 2B) at about 11:08 hr on 29 December 2023 near a stream in MEP. We observed the individual for ~20 minutes, and its activities were resting on the surface of fallen dead leaves and on the ground, and taking nutrients from the surface of a wet seed of *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Rhamnaceae) by rubbing its proboscis on the seed. This species is not in lists reported from Bangladesh (IUCN 2015, Hossain 2023), but Larsen (2004) listed it as a possible record from Bangladesh. The nearest previous record was ~36.5 km away at Chandipur Grant (Assam, India), and ~30 km from Dharmanagar (Tripura, India; Vattakaven *et al.* 2016, Kunte *et al.* 2024).

***Euthalia anosia*.** One female (Fig. 2C) as observed at about 13:17 hr on 26 November 2023 near the same waterfall. Its activities were fast flight, mud-puddling from the soil by using

its green proboscis, and basking on the surface of rocks. The nearest previous record of this species was ~30 km away at Dharmanagar (Tripura, India). Although this species was not reported from Bangladesh for 137 years, Larsen (2004) suggested the possibility of occurrence in the Srimangal forests of Bangladesh.

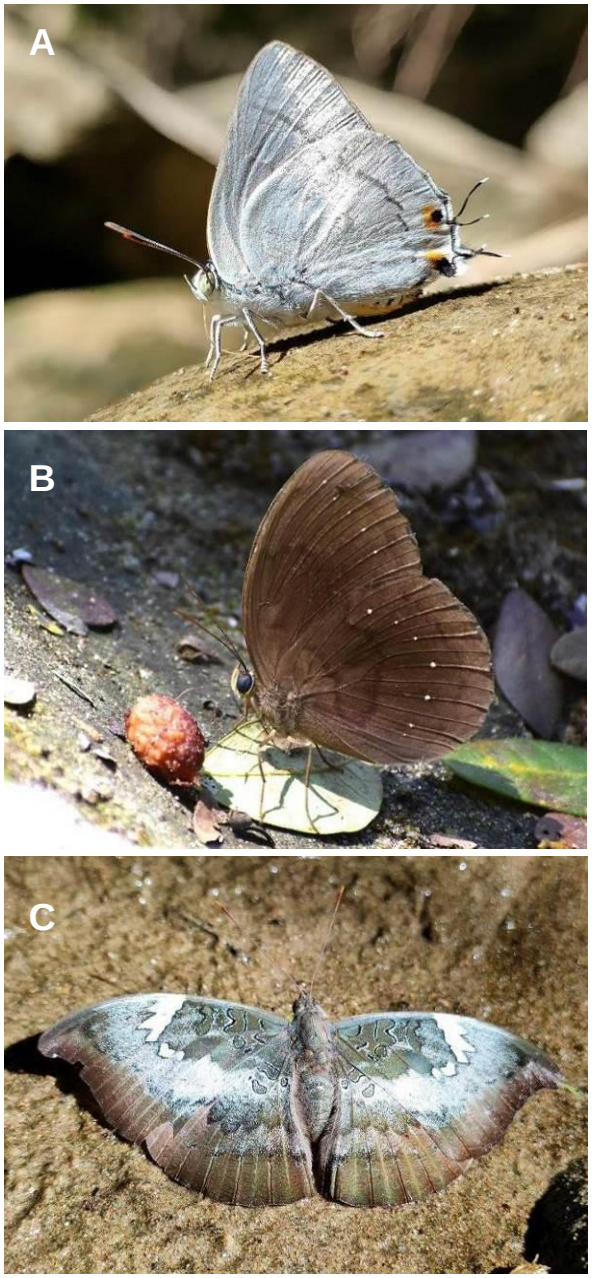

Figure 2. Individuals of **(A)** *Ancema blanka*, **(B)** *Faunis canens*, and **(C)** *Euthalia anosia*

These findings help fill previous gaps on species distributions and suggest further surveys to compile a complete checklist of butterflies of Bangladesh for a better understanding of distribution patterns, and ecology, and to take future actions in any conservation initiative.

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