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Butterfly(Lepidoptera:Insecta) Diversity of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary



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Abstract

Lepidoptera is the second largest order in the class insect that include moths and butterflies. Butterflies are important bio-indicators which should be protected to conserve the bio-diversity and environment. Different plant species and habitat of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary attracts a wide variety of butterfly fauna which play a vital role in pollination of various flowering plants besides a key component of food chain. A regular survey was conducted from March 2014 to October 2015 by visual observation. Butterflies were sampled from four habitat i.e. Disturbed habitat, Moderately disturbed habitat, less disturbed habitat and undisturbed habitat using transect method of 1x1

Sq. Km were recorded at least thrice in each season. During the study 72 species belonging to five major families were recorded of which Nymphalidae was the most common, which was followed by Pieridae, Papilionidae, Satyridae and Danidae. Evens (1932) reported 962 butterfly species belonging to 6 families from North Eastern States except Sikkim Himalayas. Out of these 303 butterflies species were recorded from Manas Biosphere Reserve in 2009 in Assam. Different plant species having commercial and aesthetic values have been studied by Kakoti (2002). Nowadays, due to excessive forest cutting for timber, fuel wood and forest products, the area

under forest are shrinking and its capacity to satisfy the need of butterfly is simultaneously diminishing (Kakoti; 2002). Many workers have done various works on insects and butterflies in Assam and North-East India, but a little work has done for study of Lepidopteran population in different Reserve Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary. Sharma *et al.*, (2010) has carried out a research on diversity and distribution of mammals in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. However no research has been done on the insects as well as butterfly diversity of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore, the present study has been aimed to investigate the Lepidoptera (Butterfly) population of selected forest pockets in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Keywords: Butterfly, Diversity, Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. **Introduction** Butterflies (Lepidoptera) are the most tantalizing beautiful creatures and one of the most plant dependent groups of insects compared to the other groups of insect. Butterflies are beneficial as they serve as pollinators and indicators of environmental quality and are appreciated for their aesthetic value (Chakravarthy *et al.*, 1997). They are also good indicator in terms of anthropogenic disturbance and habitat quality as they are sensitive to changes in the environment (Sparrow *et al.*, 1994; Haribal, 1998 and Kocher *et al.*, 2000). Nearly 1500 butterflies (Smetacek 1992, Gay 1992) are identified from the Indian Sub continent, constituting 8.33% of the 18,000- 20,000 known species of butterflies of the World, most of the Indian butterflies are reported from the Himalayas and from the Western Ghats (Larsen 1987a; 1988). Likewise Nepal has recorded 640 species and the adjoining state of Sikkim has recorded 689 and very little is known about butterfly diversity in

Bhutan despite being estimated to have 800-900 species of butterflies. North Eastern India, harbouring some of the World's richest biodiversity is home of more than 500 species of butterflies. Evans (1932) reported 962 species of butterflies belonging to six families from North Eastern States except Sikkim Himalayas. Out of these, 303 species of butterflies were recorded by Choudhury (2009) in Manas Biosphere Reserve in between August 2006 to July 2009.

In North East India butterflies are well studied by de Niceville (1886, 1890), Moore (1890-1903), Marshall and de Niceville (1882), Bingham (1905, 1907), Evans(1932), Talbot (1939, 1947), Wynter-Blyth (1957) and presently a little work has been worked out by Kakati *et al.*, (2002) Baruah *et al.*, (2004) and Choudhury *et al.*, (2009). Though a little works has been done for the study of Lepidopteron population in different reserve forest and wild life sanctuary of Assam, there is no any record of study done on butterfly diversity in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore in the present study it has been aimed to investigate the butterfly population and the vegetation pattern in the study area Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam.

Aim and Objective of the Work

1. To find out the species diversity of butterfly by conducting an extensive survey in the selected area of Bonda Range in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary.
2. To study the vegetation pattern in the study area.

Study Area Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, lies between Longitude 91° 50"E to 91° 58"E and Latitude 26° 06" N to 26° 13'N. Its elevation varies from 50-569 meter ASL. It is bounded by River Brahmaputra in the North, National Highway and Sonapur in the South. In the West side

Guwahati city and in Eastern side Digaru Railway station. The area of the sanctuary is about 78.64sq.km. which comprises Amchang Reserve forest (53.18sq.km.), Khanapara Reserve forest (09.96sq.km.) and South Amchang Reserve forest (15.50sq.km.) is an important area of the conservation of isolated small population of *Elephas maximus*.



Map of Amchang wildlife Sanctuary

The atmospheric temperature of the study area was recorded as $31.76 \pm 2^\circ \text{C}$ in the month of July which was come down to $3^\circ \pm 2^\circ \text{C}$ in the month of January. The precipitation in the study area was recorded as 42.2 mm where as the mean annual rainfall was recorded 1600.00 mm during the period of study. The maximum average rainfall was recorded as 343.11mm in the month of July where as the minimum average rainfall was recorded as 9.4 mm in the month of December. The maximum relative humidity in the month of July was recorded as 85.6% and minimum in the month of January was recorded as 68.2% during the study period. (Data collected from meteorological station, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport). The main vegetation types are: -

1. Semi-evergreen and mixed deciduous forest.
2. Tropical and sub tropical deciduous and evergreen forest.

3. Secondary Moist Bamboo Brakes.

4. Open Grass lands (Das, 1973). The major sources of water in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary is river Brahmaputra and its tributary Digaru.

Methodology Methodology has been followed by two methods that is Primary data collection and Secondary data collection.

A. (i) For Primary data collection, the survey was carried out in the parts of Bonda-Birkuchi, Panikhaty - Hatisila, Hajongbari - Tatimara, Thakurkuchi - Panbari, Ghagua-Amchang Jorabat of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. **(ii)** For recording butterflies “Pollard Walk” method was adopted with a few modifications based mainly on Geographical and Climate consideration 1x1 meter transect were laid in each habitat types such as-crop field, Shrub land, close canopy along the roads and wetlands/streambeds.(Pollard and Yates,1993).

B. For secondary data collection, different Books, Journals, Papers and Website was followed to identifying the butterfly species.

Result The survey was carried out in the parts of Bonda, Birkuchi, Panikhaity, Hatisila, Hajongbari, Tatimara, Chandrapur, Thakurkuchi, Panbari, Ghagua and Amchang Jorabat area of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. During the study, the butterflies were recorded by walking on fixed transects (Pollard and Yates, 1993) in different habitats. The butterflies were encountered in different transects of 1 KM and were recorded at least thrice in each season. Some random transects also had been made in different habitat. On the basis of Visual observation during the entire study period the status of various butterflies of the area was prepared. Collection of specimens was avoided and unidentified specimens were collected with the

help of Aerial netting and released after taking a photograph because of the conservation policy. Species which encountered a total abundance exceeding 30%, individuals were described as very common, 10- 30% common in sighting , 5-10% not rare , 1-5% rare and less than 1% as very rare. The study was conducted from 2014-2015 covering four different seasons:

Summer (June-August), Autumn (September-November), Winter (December-February), Spring (March-May). All surveys and sampling were limited to sunny days, under calm to light, wind conditions when mean atmospheric temperature was about 32° C and average humidity was about 80%. The following hours of the day were selected for field survey and collection of butterflies. 9.00 – 10.00Hrs, 10.30 –11.30 Hrs, 12.00 – 13.00 Hrs, 13.30 –14.30Hrs, 15.00 – 16.00Hrs and 16.30 – 17.30 Hrs. Sampling began in June 2014, when the plants were beginning to flower, and was carried out survey 13-15 days of a month until the end of sept.2015. The butterflies were identified by observing their morphology as well as their particular behaviour. Identification of butterfly had been carried out with the help of following books and website Haribal (1992) and cross checked with Evens (1932), Mani (1986), Bingham (1905), Kehimkar (2008), Winter –Blyth (1957), Kunte (2000), Talbot (1978) and Varshney (1994).

List of Vegetation of Amchang Wildlife Sancturay

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Mango | <i>Mangifera indica</i> , Linn. |
| Coconut | <i>Cocos nucifera</i> , Linn. |
| Drum Stick | <i>Moringa oleifera</i> , Lamk. |
| Indian Goose | <i>Emblicoefficialis</i> , |

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Berry | |
| Indian Rubber | <i>Ficus elastica</i> var, <i>decora</i> Roxb. |
| Segun | <i>Tectona grandis</i> , Linn f. |
| Satiana | <i>Alstonia scholaris</i> (Linn)R.Br. |
| Bogori | <i>Zyzyphus jujuba</i> , Lamk. |
| Silikha | <i>Terminalia chebula</i> , Retz. |
| Giant Banana | <i>Muse gigantac</i> , Duthie |
| Mango | <i>Mangifera indica</i> , Linn. |
| Coconut | <i>Cocos nucifera</i> , Linn. |
| Wood apple | <i>Aegle mameelos</i> , corr |
| Buld wood | <i>Mimusops clengi</i> , Linn. |
| Tamarind tree | <i>Tamarindus indica</i> |
| Tea | <i>Thea sinensis</i> var <i>assanicca</i> |
| Purging cassia | <i>Cassia fistula</i> ,L. |
| Pomelo | <i>Citrus decumane</i> , Linn. |
| Sweet Orange | <i>Citrus sinensis</i> , osbeck |
| Indian Coral tree | <i>Erythrina indica</i> , Linn. |
| Beetle Palm | <i>Areca catechu</i> , Linn. |
| Date Palm | <i>Phoenix sylvestris</i> , Roxb. |
| Carambola | <i>Averrhoa carambola</i> ,Linn. |

List of Nectaring Plants of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|-----------------|--|
| Rose (red) | <i>Rosa damascene</i> , mill L. |
| Rose (white) | <i>Rosa alba</i> , L. |
| Lantana | <i>Lantana camera</i> , L. |
| Touch-me-not | <i>Mimosa pudica</i> , L. |
| Ixora | <i>Ixora macrophylla</i> , Linn. |
| Hibiscus | <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> , L. |
| Mussaenda | <i>Mussaenda froudosa</i> , Linn. |
| Yellow oleander | <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> , (Pers Schum) |
| Pea flower | <i>Clitoria ternatea</i> , L. |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Gold mohur flower | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> ,(L.)Sw |
| Datura flower | <i>Daturastramonium</i> ,Linn. |
| Papaya flower | <i>Carica papaya</i> L. |
| Lemon | <i>Citrus paradisi</i> ,Macfad |
| Magnolia | <i>Magnolia granndiflora</i> ,L. |
| Jasmine | <i>Jasminum sambac</i> (L.)Aiton |
| Pomegranate | <i>Punica granatum</i> ,Linn. |
| Common Name | Scientific Name |

List of Butterfly diversity in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary

| Sl.No | Common Name | Scientific Name | Family |
|-------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Common Mormon | <i>Papilio polytes</i> | Papilionidae |
| 2 | Common Birdwing | <i>Triodes helena</i> | Papilionidae |
| 3 | Great Windmill | <i>Atrophaneura dasarada</i> | Papilionidae |
| 4 | Common Rose | <i>Atrophaneura aristolochiae</i> | Papilionidae |
| 5 | Common Blue Bottle | <i>Graphium sarpedon</i> | Papilionidae |
| 6 | Lime Butterfly | <i>Papilio demoleus</i> | Papilionidae |
| 7 | Common Mime | <i>Chilasa clytia</i> | Papilionidae |
| 8 | Great Mormon | <i>Papilio memnon</i> | Papilionidae |
| 9 | Common Jay | <i>Graphium agammemnon</i> | Papilionidae |
| 10 | Red Helen | <i>Papilio helenus</i> | Papilionidae |
| 11 | Fivebar Swordtail | <i>Panthyssa antiphates</i> | Papilionidae |
| 12 | Lemon Pansy | <i>Precis lemonias</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 13 | Great eggfly | <i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 14 | Dark Blue Tiger | <i>Tirumala septentrionis</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 15 | Grey Pansy | <i>Precis atlites</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 16 | Striped Tiger | <i>Danaus genutia</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 17 | Peacock Pansy | <i>Junonia almana</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 18 | Plain Tiger | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 19 | Leopard Lacewing | <i>Cethosia cyane</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 20 | Yellow Pansy | <i>Junonia hierta</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 21 | Common Baron | <i>Euthalia aconthea</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 22 | Common Lascar | <i>Pantoporia hordonia</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 23 | Blue Striped Palmfly | <i>Elymnias patna</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 24 | Whitebar Brushbrown | <i>Mycalesis anaxias</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 25 | Common Brushbrown | <i>Mycalesis perseus</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 26 | Common Fiverring | <i>Ypthima baldus</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 27 | Common Jester | <i>Symbrenthia hypselis</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 28 | Yellow Rajah | <i>Charaxes marmax</i> | Nymphalidae |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 29 | Tawny Rajah | <i>Charaxes polyxena</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 30 | Pallid Nawab | <i>Polyura arja</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 31 | Red Lacewing | <i>Cethosia bibles</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 32 | Large Yeomen | <i>Cirrochroa aoris</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 33 | Common Sergeant | <i>Parathyma perius</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 34 | Staff Sergeant | <i>Athyma selenophora</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 35 | Blue Tiger | <i>Tirumala limniace</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 36 | Common Lascar | <i>Pantoporia hordonia</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 37 | Nigger | <i>Orsotrioena medus</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 38 | Yellow Coster | <i>Acraea issoria</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 39 | Punchinello | <i>Zemeros flegyas</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 40 | Orange Oakleaf | <i>Kallima inachus</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 41 | Sullied Sailor | <i>Neptis soma</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 42 | Common Map | <i>Cyrestis thyodamas</i> | Nymphalidae |
| 43 | Mottled Emigrant | <i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> | Pieridae |
| 44 | Common Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> | Pieridae |
| 45 | Common Emigrant | <i>Catopsilia crocale</i> | Pieridae |
| 46 | African Emigrant | <i>Catopsilia florella</i> | Pieridae |
| 47 | Red based Jezebel | <i>Delias aglaia</i> | Pieridae |
| 48 | Painted Jezebel | <i>Delias hyperate indica</i> | Pieridae |
| 49 | Broad Boardered Grass yellow | <i>Eurema brigitta</i> | Pieridae |
| 50 | Spotless Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema lacta lacta</i> | Pieridae |
| 51 | 3-Spot Grass Yellow | <i>Eurema blanda silhetana</i> | Pieridae |
| 52 | Small White | <i>Pieris canidia</i> | Pieridae |
| 53 | Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | Pieridae |
| 54 | Large White | <i>Pieris brassica</i> | Pieridae |
| 55 | Striped Albatross | <i>Appias libythea olferna</i> | Pieridae |
| 56 | Plain Puffin | <i>Appias indra narendra</i> | Pieridae |
| 57 | Chocolate Albatross | <i>Appias lyncida</i> | Pieridae |
| 58 | Spot Puffin | <i>Appias lalage lalage</i> | Pieridae |
| 59 | Albatross | <i>Appias libythea libythea</i> | Pieridae |
| 60 | Dark Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias electo fieldi</i> | Pieridae |
| 61 | Brown Veined White | <i>Anaphaeis aurola</i> | Pieridae |
| 62 | Bath White | <i>Pontia daplidice</i> | Pieridae |
| 63 | Lesser Bath White | <i>Pontia chloridice</i> | Pieridae |
| 64 | Yellow Orange Tip | <i>Ixias pyrene pirenassa</i> | Pieridae |
| 65 | Great Orange Tip | <i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i> | Pieridae |
| 66 | Common Gull | <i>Cepora nerissa</i> | Pieridae |
| 67 | Tailed Sulphur | <i>Dercas verhuelli</i> | Pieridae |
| 68 | Common Palmfly | <i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i> | Satyridae |
| 69 | Common Evening Brown | <i>Melanitis leda</i> | Satyridae |
| 70 | Banded Tree Brown | <i>Lethe confuse</i> | Satyridae |
| 71 | Common Indian Crow | <i>Eupolea core</i> | Danaidae |
| 72 | Striped Blue Crow | <i>Eupolea mulciber</i> | Danaidae |

Conclusion Study was carried out only for one year revealed 251 individuals and 72 species of five major families. The stated area had rich butterfly diversity. The development of industrial area within this area having chemical zone can affect to the biodiversity. It is very important to understand in relation between host plant and the butterflies to protect them as they have co-evolved. Further systematic research is essential for getting a detailed periodic estimate and comparisons of the faunal diversity of butterflies in different seasons.

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Butterfly (Lepidoptera: Insecta) diversity and correlation with environmental factors in Ghagua of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamrup, ASSAM

ABSTRA CT

Insects, including the species-rich Lepidoptera, play a central role in all terrestrial ecosystems. They have relatively the largest number of species in the animal kingdom and constitute the majority of all described species in the biosphere. Different plant species and habitat of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary attracts a wide variety of butterfly fauna which play a vital role in pollination of various plants besides a key component of food chain. A regular survey was conducted from March 2014 to October 2015 by visual observation. Butterflies were sampled from Ghagua study site using line transect method of 1Km were recorded at least thrice in each month. During the study 47 species belonging to five major families were recorded of which Nymphalidae was the most common and followed by Papilionidae, Pieridae, Lycaenidae and Satyridae. Evans (1932) reported 962 butterfly species belonging to 6 families from North-Eastern States except Sikkim Himalayas. Out of these 303 butterfly species were recorded from Manas Biosphere Reserve in 2009. Butterfly, which varies from place to place and season to season and even from one minute to the next is because of the biotic and abiotic environments which reasonably affect and influence in the distribution, diversity and abundance of butterflies. The present study was undertaken to assess the diversity, richness and abundance of butterfly species correlated with environmental parameters observed in Ghagua of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary, Kamrup district, Assam, India.

Keywords: Butterfly, Richness, Abundance, correlation ,

Introduction

Butterflies are mainly day-flying group of the order Lepidoptera, which includes moths. Lepidopteran (order Lepidoptera), include more than 155,000

species of butterflies, moths and skippers. The name Lepidoptera is derived from the Greek, meaning “Scaly Winged” and refers to the

characteristic covering of microscopic dust like scales on the wing. Lepidopteron lives on every continent except Antarctica. Though they are far more numerous and diversified in the tropics, some species survive at the limits of polar vegetation. There are many species in nearby every environment from arid desert and high mountain tops to marshes and tropical rainforest. Insects, including the species-rich Lepidoptera, play a central role in all terrestrial ecosystems. They have relatively the largest number of species in the animal kingdom and constitute the majority of all described species in the biosphere. Their short generation times produce rapid population responses to a wide range of biotic and abiotic environment making them vitally important for ecological study (Lewis *et al.*, 1998). The rapid growth of population of insect is mainly because of their short life cycle and the production of hundreds of eggs at a time by the female. It takes generally a short period to develop from egg to larva and pupa to adult. All insect species have a limited distribution range and characteristically, insect numbers fluctuate to a greater or lesser extent both in time and in space. In many places, the rate of change of insect number is fluctuated by the influences of seasonal, cyclical, and other variations of weather. When the season is favourable for development, two or more generation of a species may occur at each year. Successive generations often show different patterns of numerical change. There are about 18,000 species of butterflies in the world. India has 1,501 species, of which 321 are skippers, 107 swallowtails, 109 whites and yellows and 521 Brush footed butterflies and 443 Blues, which constitute 65% of total Indian fauna. According to ZSI report, 1989; there are 10 families, 55 genera and 104 species of butterfly already had been established from N .E. Region of India. However, the state of Assam in North Eastern

India, harboring some of the world's richest biodiversity is home to more than 500 species of butterflies. Large scale habitat deforestation and fragmentation has led to the decline of several butterfly population in the state and many species believed to be common during the early part of the 20th century have now declined rapidly. Many workers have been done various works on insects and butterflies in Assam and North East India. However a little works has been done for study of Lepidopteran population in different reserve forest and wildlife sanctuary. Sharma *et al.* ,(2010) had carried out a research on Diversity and Distribution of Mammals in Amchang Wild life Sanctuary. However, no research has been done on the insects as well as butterfly diversity of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. Therefore in the present study it has been aimed to investigate the Lepidoptera (Butterfly) population density of selected area in Ghagua studysite in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary .

Objective:- 1) To find out the species diversity, richness and abundance of butterfly by conducting a survey in the selected area of Ghagua in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary .

2) To study the vegetation pattern in the study area.

Study Area:- Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the eastern part of the capital city Guwahati, Assam. The area of the sanctuary is about 78.64sq.km. It is located at the lower foothills of Shillong plateau which is the adjoined part of Raja Mayang hill Reserve Forest and Pabitora Reserve Forest. Amchang is declared as a Wildlife Sanctuary on 19th June 2004 by the Government of Assam. It comprises of three reserve forests – Amchang, South

Amchang, and Khanapara. The central coordinates of Amchang Hill is $91^{\circ}.45'.00''$ East and $26^{\circ}.6'.20''$ North. The altitude of this area is about 50-569m. The Khamranga beel, which is the lowest area and the Parahopa peak is the highest point of 569 m. The northern part of the study area is guarded by mighty Brahmaputra River, the southern part is bordered by the 37 National Highway, the western side is covered by Guwahati Metro City and the eastern part is attached to the Marigaon district.



Ghagua site is located on the North eastern vicinity area of the Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located on $26^{\circ}20'96''$ E longitude and $92^{\circ}27'81''$ N latitude

It is a vast stretch (500 acres) of agricultural land along the forest edge, well managed agricultural, horticultural and fruit cultivating practices are going on in full swing. The various sectors considered for the study are shown in fig. below



Because of its geographical location, climate, rainfall and good soil conditions, hills and hillocks, numerous marshy lands and wetlands, it supports a variety of rich forest ecosystem. Climate is the major factor which affects floral and faunal composition of the region

Methodology:- Methodology has been followed by two methods i.e. Primary data collection and Secondary data collection. For primary data collection, the survey was carried out in the parts of Ghagua study sites of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary. To study the magnitude of diversity and the level of population distribution of butterflies, the three selected sites were painstakingly censused during four different seasons (Pre monsoon, Monsoon, Ret Monsoon and Winter) in 2014 & 2015. The survey was carried out by steadily walking along the survey routes and recording butterflies observed within a 20 m width along the routes, using the line transect method (Yamamoto 1975; Pollard and Yates 1993). This method has been extensively used to survey and monitor butterfly populations and communities (Honda and Kato 2005; Clark *et al.*, 2007; Lee *et al.*, 2014). For Secondary data collection different Books, Journals, Papers and web site were followed for identifying the butterfly species. The butterflies were encountered in different transects of 1 KM and were recorded at least thrice in each month. Some random transects also had been made in different habitat. On the basis of Visual observation during the entire study period the status of various butterflies of the area was



prepared. As a conservation policy, collection was avoided and unidentified specimens were collected with the help of Aerial netting and released after taking a photograph.

Statistical analyses:-

The statistical analyses were computed based on the recommendations of Michael (1986), Ludwig and Reynolds (1988) and Southwood and Henderson(2000).The data, giving particulars on the total number of families, species and individuals of butterflies collected were pooled together and processed. The following indices were computed for the present study.

Richness indices:- The richness indices such as R1 (Margalef's index) and R2 (Menhinick's index) were calculated relating to number of species and total number of individuals using the following formulae.

$R1=(S-1)/\text{Log}(n)$, $R2 =S/\sqrt{n}$ Where **S** is the total number of species and **n** the total number of individuals.

Diversity indices:-The Simpson's (λ) and Shannon-Weiner (H') indices of diversity were calculated relating to the number of families of butterflies and the total number of species collected using the following formulae.

Simpson's index(λ)= $\sum_{i=1}^s p_i^2$ Where $p_i = n_i/N$, $i = 1, 2, 3 \dots S$ i.e., the proportional abundance of the i th species and N is the known total number for all S species.

Shannon-Weiner index (H')= $-\sum_{j=1}^s (p_i \ln p_i)$ Where p_i is the proportion of individuals in the i th species. S is the total number of species and \ln is the log with base e logarithms. Hill's diversity number 1, the number of abundant species (N_1) = $e^{H'}$ Where H' is the Shannon-Weiner index and Hill's diversity number 2, the number of very abundant species (N_2) = $1/\lambda$ where λ is the Simpson's index.

Evenness indices:- The evenness indices E_1, E_2 and E_3 were calculated using the following formulae

$$E_1 = H' / \text{Log}(S) = \ln(N_1) / \ln(N_0) \quad E_2 = e^{H'} / S = N_1 / N_0$$

$$E_3 = (e^{H'} - 1) / (S - 1) = (N_1 - 1) / (N_0 - 1)$$

$$E_4 = (1/\lambda) / e^{H'} = N_2 / N_1$$

$E_5 = (1/\lambda - 1) / (e^{H'} - 1) = (N_2 - 1) / (N_1 - 1)$ Where H' is the Shannon-Weiner index, N_0 is the number of all species and N_1 is the number of abundant species.

Correlation coefficient and regression analyses :-

Correlation coefficient and regression analyses were computed using standard formulae:-

$$\text{Correlation coefficient (r)} = \frac{\sum(x-x)(y-y)}{\sqrt{\sum(x-x)^2 \sum(y-y)^2}}$$

$$\text{Regression coefficient (b)} = \frac{\sum(x-x)(y-y)}{\sum(x-x)^2}$$

The statistical treatments were given to analyse the interaction between different abiotic factors (temperature, humidity, rainfall and wind velocity) and the density of butterfly population. The analyses made between monthly butterfly population in the site studied and the role of abiotic factors on the population density, richness were analysed for the entire period of the research work.

Results:- 1) Plant phenology in Ghagua

In the Ghagua study site totally 51 plant species belonging to nectering and vegetation plant includes shrubs, herbs, small trees, trees, flowering plants and some ornamental plants. Most of the permanent trees are fruiting trees, which includes the Papaya (*Carica papaya*), Jackfruit (*Artocarpus heterophyllus*), Mango (*Mangifera indica*), Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), Pomelo (*Citrus maxima*), Lemon (*Citrus lemon*), Curry leaf (*Murraya*

koenigii), Coconut (*Cocos nucifera*), Carambola (*Averrhoa carambola*) and so on. Seasonal farm crop such as maize (*Zea mays*) and paddy (*Oryza sativa*) are also planted here. Flowering plants such as, Thorn apple (*Datura metel*), Bahak (*Adhatoda vasica*), Touch-me-not (*Mimosa pudica*), Jasmine (*Jasminum sambac*) and China rose (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*), Yellow oleander (*Thevetia peruviana*), Lantana (*Lantana camera*) are also available here

Table No- 1 Nectering plants and vegetation in (Ghagua)

| Botanical name | English /Vernacular name | Habit |
|--|---------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Mesua ferrea</i> L. | Iron wood (Nahor) | Tree |
| <i>Mimusops lengi</i> L. | Buld wood (Bakul) | Tree |
| <i>Adhatodavasic</i> Nees | Bahak (White) | Shrub |
| <i>Butea monosperma</i> | Palash | Tree |
| <i>Clerodendron colebookianum</i> Walp | Nefafu | Shrub |
| <i>Erythrina indica</i> Linn. | Indian Coral tree | Tree |
| <i>Datura metel</i> Linn | Thorn apple (Datura) | Shrub |
| <i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> Linn. | Maintain ebony (Kanchan) | Tree |
| <i>Clerodendrum infortunatum</i> Linn. | Yvetita | Shrub |
| <i>Thevetia peruviana</i> (Pers Schum) | Yellow oleander | Shrub |
| <i>Amaranthus viridis</i> Linn. | Green calalu (Khutora) | Herb |
| <i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i> L. | China rose | Shrub |
| <i>Lantana camera</i> Linn. | Lantana | Shrub |
| <i>Mimosa pudica</i> Linn. | Touch-me- not | Herb |
| <i>Cymbidium aloifolium</i> Swartz. | Kapauphul | Orchid |
| <i>Leucas aspera</i> Spreng | Dron | Herb |
| <i>Brassicacampestris</i> Linn. | Mustard (Sariah) | Herb |
| <i>Ageratum conyzoides</i> Linn. | Goat weed (Gondhowa bon) | Herb |
| <i>Solanum indicum</i> Linn. | Indian night shade (Titbhaguri) | Shrub |
| <i>Tagetes erecta</i> Linn. | Marigold (Gendha) | Shrub |
| <i>Bauhinia purpurea</i> Linn. | Ranga kanchan | Shrub |
| <i>Catharanthus roseus</i> G.Don(L.) | Periwinkle (Nayantara) | Shrub |
| <i>Calotropis gigantea</i> (L.) R.Br | Madar (Akon) | Shrub |
| <i>Anthocephalluscadamba</i> Miq | Kadam | Small tree |

Vegetation

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| <i>Tectona grandis</i> Linn.f. | Teak | Tree |
| <i>Terminalia chebula</i> Retz. | Shilikha | Tree |
| <i>Cedrus deodara</i> Land | Deodar | Tree |
| <i>Bombax celba</i> L. | Red silk cotton (Simolu) | Tree |
| <i>Albizia lebeck</i> Benth | Siris tree | Tree |
| <i>Gmelina orborea</i> Linn. | Candahar (Gomari) | Tree |
| <i>Cassia fistula</i> L. | Purging cassia (sonaru) | Tree |
| <i>Ricinus communis</i> Linn. | Castor oil plant (Aragach) | Shrub |
| <i>Mangifera indica</i> Linn | Mango (Aam) | Tree |
| <i>Zizyphus jujuba</i> Lamk. | Bogori | Small tree |
| <i>Psidium guajava</i> Linn. | Guava (Madhuri) | Small tree |
| <i>Chenopodium album</i> Linn. | Jilmil | Herb |
| <i>Hibiscus sabdariffa</i> Linn. | Roselle (Mesta) | Shrub |
| <i>Moringa oleifera</i> Lam. | Drum stick (Sagina) | Small tree |
| <i>Elaeocarpus floribundus</i> Blume | Olive (Jalpai) | Small tree |
| <i>Emblca officinalis</i> Gaertn. | Indian goose berry (Amlakhi) | Tree |
| <i>Melia azedarach</i> Linn. | Margosa (Ghoranim) | Tree |
| <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (L.) | Tea plant | Shrub |
| <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Linn. | Jack fruit (Kathal) | Tree |
| <i>Tamarindus indica</i> Linn. | Tamarind (Teteli) | Tree |
| <i>Citrus maxima</i> Meer. | Pomelo (Rabab tenga) | Small tree |
| <i>Murraya koenigii</i> (L.) Spreng | Curry leaf plant (Narsing) | Shrub |
| <i>Cocos nucifera</i> Linn | Coconut (Narikal) | Tree |
| <i>Borassus flabellifer</i> Linn. | Tal | Tree |
| <i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L) Skeels | Black berry (Kolajam) | Tree |
| <i>Ficus cunia</i> Ham | Dumaru | Small tree |
| <i>Averrhoa carambola</i> Linn. | Carambola (Kardoi) | Small tree |

Diversity and distribution of butterfly (Ghagua)

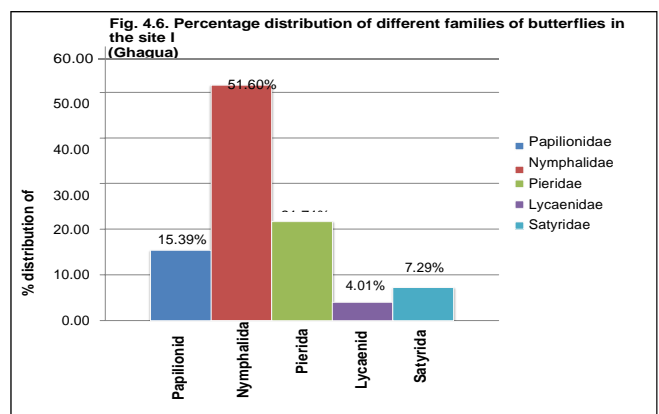
:-A total number of 14059 butterflies belong to five families were recorded during the entire study period. The number of individuals observed for each family with their common name and scientific name in Table 2

| Family | S.L.No | Scientific name | Common name | Total No. observed | Percentage |
|-------------|--------|---|--------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Papilionida | 1 | <i>Papilio polytes</i> Linnaeus | Common Mormon | 247 | 11.42 |
| | 2 | <i>Troides helena</i> Linnaeus | Common Birdwing | 122 | 5.64 |
| | 3 | <i>Atrophaneura dasarada</i> Moore | Great Windmill | 95 | 4.39 |
| | 4 | <i>Atrophaneura aristolochiae</i> Fabricius | Common Rose | 437 | 20.20 |
| | 5 | <i>Graphium sarpedon</i> Linnaeus | Common Bluebottle. | 53 | 2.45 |
| | 6 | <i>Papilio demoleus</i> Linnaeus | Lime Butterfly | 288 | 13.31 |
| | 7 | <i>Chilasa clytia</i> Linnaeus | Common Mime | 320 | 14.79 |
| | 8 | <i>Papilio memnon</i> Linnaeus | Great Mormon | 601 | 27.79 |
| Nymphalidae | 1 | <i>Junonia lemonias</i> Linnaeus | Lemon Pansy . | 477 | 6.57 |
| | 2 | <i>Hypolimnas bolina</i> Linnaeus | Great Eggfly | 506 | 6.97 |
| | 3 | <i>Tirumala septentrionis</i> Butler | Dark Blue Tiger | 239 | 3.29 |
| | 4 | <i>Junonia atlites</i> Linnaeus | Grey Pansy | 319 | 4.40 |
| | 5 | <i>Danaus genutia</i> Cramer | Striped Tiger | 233 | 3.21 |
| | 6 | <i>Junonia almana</i> Linnaeus | Peacock Pansy | 127 | 1.75 |

In the Ghagua study site, among the 14059 individuals recorded, most of the members belong to the family Nymphalidae and was the most highly distributed family with a total number of 7255 individuals. This was followed by Pieridae with 3052 individuals, Papilionidae with 2163 individuals, Lycaenidae with 564 individuals and Satyridae with only 1025 individuals respectively. The percentage contribution of the family Papilionidae was 15.39%; Pieridae was 21.71%; Nymphalidae was 51.60%; Lycaenidae was 4.01% and the contribution of Satyridae was 7.29% respectively (Fig. 4.6)

| Family | S.L No | Scientific Name | Common Name | Total observation | Percentage | |
|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|-------|
| Nymphalidae | 7 | <i>Danaus chrysippus</i> (Linnaeus) | Plain Tiger | 397 | 5.47 | |
| | 8 | <i>Cethosia cyane</i> Drury | Leopard Lacewing | 138 | 1.90 | |
| | 9 | <i>Junonia hierta</i> Fabricius | Yellow Pansy | 50 | 0.69 | |
| | 10 | <i>Athyma nefte</i> Cramer | Colour Sergeant | 361 | 4.98 | |
| | 11 | <i>Ariadne merione</i> Cramer | Common Castor | 199 | 2.74 | |
| | 12 | <i>Tanaecia lepidea</i> (Butler) | Grey Count | 153 | 2.11 | |
| | 13 | <i>Kaniska canace</i> Linnaeus | Blue Admiral | 43 | 0.59 | |
| | 14 | <i>Neptis hylas</i> Linnaeus | Common Sailer | 282 | 3.89 | |
| | 15 | <i>Athyma opalina</i> Kollar | Himalayan Sergeant | 150 | 2.07 | |
| | 16 | <i>Parantica aglea</i> Moore | Glassy Tiger | 204 | 2.81 | |
| | 17 | <i>Tanaecia jahnu</i> Moore | Plain Earl | 188 | 2.59 | |
| | 18 | <i>Ariadne ariadne</i> Linnaeus | Angled Castor | 301 | 4.15 | |
| | 19 | <i>Melanitis leda</i> Linnaeus | Common Evening Brown | 848 | 11.69 | |
| | 20 | <i>Euploea mulciber</i> Cramer | Striped Blue Crow | 224 | 3.09 | |
| | 21 | <i>Cirrochroa aoris</i> Doubleday | Large Yeoman | 55 | 0.76 | |
| | 22 | <i>Polyura athamas</i> Drury | Common Nawab | 447 | 6.16 | |
| | Pieridae | 1 | <i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> Linnaeus | Mottled Emigrant | 519 | 17.01 |
| | | 2 | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> Linnaeus | Common Grass Yellow. | 437 | 14.32 |
| | | 3 | <i>Catopsilia crocale</i> Cramer | Common Emigrant | 243 | 7.96 |
| | | 4 | <i>Pieris canidia</i> Sparman | Indian Cabbage White | 169 | 5.54 |
| | | 5 | <i>Delias descombesi</i> (Boisduval) | Red-spot jezebel | 177 | 5.80 |
| 6 | | <i>Delias eucharis</i> Drury | Common jezebel | 145 | 4.75 | |
| 7 | | <i>Leptosia nina</i> Fabricius | Psyche | 603 | 19.76 | |
| 8 | | <i>Catopsilia pomona</i> Fabricius | Common Emigrant | 209 | 6.85 | |
| 9 | | <i>Appias libythea</i> Fabricius | Striped Albatross | 550 | 18.02 | |
| Lycaenidae | 1 | <i>Anthene emolus</i> Godart | Common Ciliate Blue | 291 | 51.60 | |
| | 2 | <i>Rapala pheretima</i> Hewitson | Copper Flash | 160 | 28.37 | |
| | 3 | <i>Castalius rosimon</i> (Fabricius) | Common Pierrot | 113 | 20.04 | |
| Satyridae | 1 | <i>Lethe confusa</i> Aurivillius | Banded Tree Brown | 153 | 14.927 | |
| | 2 | <i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i> Linnaeus | Common Palmfly | 872 | 85.073 | |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-----|--------|
| Nymphalidae | 23 | <i>Pantoporia hordonia</i> Stoll | Common Lascar | 179 | 2.47 |
| | 24 | <i>Euploea core</i> Cramer | Common Crow | 830 | 11.44 |
| | 25 | <i>Junonia iphita</i> Cramer | Chocolate Pansy | 305 | 4.20 |
| Pieridae | 1 | <i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i> Linnaeus | Mottled Emigrant | 519 | 17.01 |
| | 2 | <i>Eurema hecabe</i> Linnaeus | Common Grass Yellow. | 437 | 14.32 |
| | 3 | <i>Catopsilia crocale</i> Cramer | Common Emigrant | 243 | 7.96 |
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| | 2 | <i>Elymnias hypermnestra</i> Linnaeus | Common Palmfly | 872 | 85.073 |



The result of the family-wise diversity indices analysis indicated that, in the Ghagua site, the family Nymphalidae was recorded as the rich family with 25 species ($R_1 = 2.6998$; $R_2 = 0.2935$) followed by the families Pieridae with nine species ($R_1 = 0.9971$; $R_2 = 0.1629$), Papilionidae with eight species ($R_1 = 0.91155$; $R_2 = 0.1720$), Lycaenidae with three species ($R_1 = 0.3157$; $R_2 = 0.1263$) and Satyridae with only two species ($R_1 = 0.1442$; $R_2 = 0.0625$). Family Papilionidae recorded the following values – Simpson's index 0.1764; Shannon-Weiner index 1.8682, Hill's Diversity Number $N1 = 6.4756$; $N2 = 5.6693$; Evenness

index: E1=0.8984; E2=1.2630; E3= 0.7822; E4 =0.8755 and E5=0.8527.

Family Pieridae recorded the following values – Simpson's index=0.14065; Shannon-Weiner index =2.0640; Hill's Diversity Number N1=7.8756; N2= 7.1100; Evenness index E1=0.9394;E2=1.2577; E3 = 0.8595; E4=0.9028 and E5=0.7758. Family Nymphalidae recorded the following values – Simpson's index =0.0597; Shannon-Weiner index =2.9973; Hill's Diversity Number N1=20.0242 ; N2 =16.7475; Evenness index E1=0.9311; E2 = 1.1274; E3=0.7927; E4 =0.8364 and E5=0.8278. Lycaenidae recorded the following value – Simpson's index 0.3868; Shannon-Weiner index = 1.0209; Hill's Diversity Number N1 = 2.7755; N2 =2.5851; Evenness index E1=0.9293; E2=1.4053; E3=0.8878; E4= 0.9314 and E5= 0.8928. Family Satyridae recorded the following values – Simpsons' index = 0.7460; Shannon-Weiner index =0.4214; Hill's Diversity Number N1=1.5241; N2 = 1.3404; Evenness index E1=0.6080; E2=1.2345; E3 = 0.5241; E4=0.8795 and E5=0.6495.

From this observed results, it was concluded that in Ghagua Site the family Nymphalidae was highly represented and densely distributed one with more number of individuals. The Shannon-Weiner diversity index for Ghagua site is well documented month-wise. The family Papilionidae showed moderate diversity index almost all the months studied except the month of November, December and January 2014 and 2015 during which the index was very least (1.6689, 1.5833, 1.6171, 1.6689, 1.5833, 1.6171). The highest diversity index was observed during the month of October 2014 and September 2015 (1.8801, 1.9582). The family Satyridae very few months showed moderate diversity index. The moderate diversity index was observed during the month of June, July

and August (0.4344, 0.3830, 0.2911, 0.4127, 0.3463, 0.3951) while among the remaining months of the study period several month showed the least index such as (0.2712 to 0.3622). During the month of January 2014 the index showed only „0“. This indicated that among the five families studied, the members of the Satyridae showed the poorest diversity and similarly in case of Lycaenidae also poorest diversity index was seen during the month of January and December both the year. Gradually the population diversity picked up from pre-monsoon onwards in almost all families studied and it reached its peak during monsoon and then faces the declining trend from post-monsoon onwards.

Population Dynamics of butterflies in(Ghagua)

Month-wise population distributions of 47 species of butterflies belonging to five families were recorded. The five families studied were Papilionidae, Pieridae, Nymphalidae, Lycaenidae and Satyridae. Total population observed was 14049 during the entire study period. The results of correlation and linear regression analyses between butterfly population of chosen families and abiotic factors such as temperature, relative humidity, rainfall and wind velocity are also calculated. The population density of Nymphalidae were reported high (Fig. 4.24 and 4.27) 473 to 550 during April to September 2014 and 2015 because of moderate rainfall (188 to 377 mm), high relative humidity (84% and 92%), low average wind speed (1 to 2 km/hr) and maximum temperature (33 to 34°C). Again low population density was observed during the period from October to March. Environmental temperature and relative

humidity recorded was gradually falling down (22°C, to 12°C) and (90% to 75%).

Papilionidae density was high (166, 159) during August 2014 & 2015 due to moderate rainfall (277 mm and 250mm) and the conducive relative humidity (91%, 90%). Low population density was observed during December and January (<15). The environmental parameters were differed greatly during the entire study period. During the month of June to August of both the years temperature was moderate between (28 – 32C), humidity between 80% –92%, wind speed also moderate (1 – 3 km/h) and the rainfall was high (277– 377mm). This favourable situation resulted in the greater explosion (<150) of the Papilionidae individuals during these months. While during the months of November, December, January and February 2014 – 2015 the environmental condition was greatly changed, the temperature falls (12 – 9C) and very scanty rainfall (nil – 5 mm) resulted in the steep fall of the butterfly population.

In Ghagua Site most of the families showed their peak of diversity as well as population density during April to September of both the years of study (Fig. 4.27). This was mainly because of the reason that all the environmental parameters were favourable to the butterflies during these months (Table 4.16). It is the period of monsoon and post monsoon resulted in growth of rich flora with required flowers.

Correlation with environmental parameters

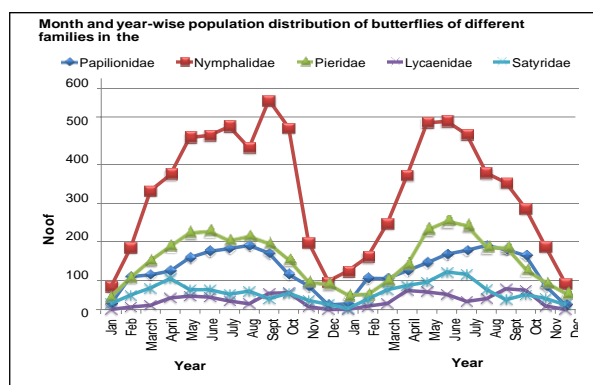
The relationship between the availability of the butterflies and the various environmental factors were statistically analysed. The regression analysis indicated that the various abiotic factors such as the temperature, humidity, wind speed and rainfall had an influential impact on the availability, distribution and diversity of population in the study

site. The regression equation and regression line are well marked.

Table 4.17. Record of environmental parameters in Ghagua of Amchang wild life sanctuary studied from 2014 to 2015

| | Min. Temp °C | Max. Temp °C | Relative Humidity % | Rainfall In mm | Average wind speed km/hr |
|----------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| 2014 Jan | 13 | 26 | 79 | 8 | 2 |
| Feb | 12 | 23 | 88 | 21 | 0 |
| March | 16 | 30 | 81 | 47 | 1 |
| April | 22 | 34 | 71 | 181 | 3 |
| May | 22 | 32 | 84 | 226 | 2 |
| June | 26 | 33 | 91 | 308.7 | 2 |
| July | 27 | 33 | 90 | 377 | 1 |
| Aug | 25 | 32 | 91 | 227 | 1 |
| Sept | 24 | 33 | 92 | 199 | 1 |
| Oct | 22 | 31 | 89 | 92 | 0 |
| Nov | 15 | 27 | 90 | 25 | 1 |
| Dec | 12 | 21 | 94 | 10 | 1 |
| 2015 Jan | 12 | 21 | 92 | 7 | 1 |
| Feb | 12 | 24 | 84 | 21 | 3 |
| March | 21 | 27 | 80 | 50 | 3 |
| April | 19 | 31 | 86 | 176 | 4 |
| May | 22 | 32 | 89 | 225 | 3 |
| June | 24 | 33 | 89 | 310 | 3 |
| July | 26 | 34 | 88 | 375 | 2 |
| Aug | 25 | 32 | 90 | 250 | 1 |
| Sept | 25 | 33 | 91 | 188 | 0 |
| Oct | 22 | 31 | 91 | 90 | 1 |
| Nov | 18 | 28 | 87 | 22 | 2 |
| Dec | 12 | 23 | 94 | 10 | 0.64 |

In Site (Ghaua), the density of the butterflies of the families showed an overall positive correlation to maximum temperature (Pieridae: $r=0.8717$, $b=0.0586$, $a=21.8796$; Nymphalidae: $r=0.8900$, $b=0.0243$, $a=21.9738$; Papilionidae: $r=0.5132$, $b=0.0394$, $a=25.7801$ and Lycaenidae: $r=0.7512$, $b=0.1726$, $a=25.2337$) the values were statistically significant.



In the Ghagua-ecosystem the density of butterfly families showed negative significant

difference to relative humidity (Papilionidae: $r=-0.4386$, $b=-0.04258$, $a=91.37988$; Nymphalidae: $r=-0.0873$, $b=-0.00301$, $a=88.45423$; Pieridae: $r=0.0507$, $b=0.00431$, $a=86.99339$; Lycaenidae: $r=0.0647$, $b=0.01879$, $a=87.09537$; Satyridae: $r=-0.3528$, $b=-0.07639$, $a=90.80455$) .

Discussion and findings

The importance and abundance of butterflies in any system mean that they are particularly studied for the use as indicators of biodiversity, ecosystem health and landscape degradation (Ambrose, 2005). The butterfly distribution is expected to cover with the distribution of the host plants even at small scales and type of vegetation may reflect difference in the composition of butterfly communities among habitats at the generic and family level (Beccaloni, 1997).

Butterflies of site (Ghagua) are found to be habitat specific to some extent. Diversity and population distribution of butterfly depend on the potential role of crops under cultivation. This study reveals the relationship between vegetation and butterfly species richness, species diversity and population density. So it is important to understand the basic process causing changes in distribution patterns and composition of butterflies. The present study emphasizes the role of diversified vegetation and various nectarine plants, associated with various environmental parameters such as temperature, humidity, rainfall and wind velocity on species richness of butterflies.

Fruiting trees, vegetables, flowering plants and other leafy crops serve to attract many butterflies. Their availability throughout the year was another advantage to the butterflies. Danks (1993) indicated that characteristics features of host plants along with climate influence the distribution and the diversity of butterflies and other insects. The

climatic conditions that were observed in the study area were one of the major and suitable factors throughout the period and had influence on the distribution and diversity of population. It was observed that some species of butterfly were present throughout the year. So their presence during all season suggested that they are either susceptible to minor environmental changes or the environment is effectively non-seasonal. The rich number of species availability was mainly because of the availability of varieties of crop plants and vegetation. Rich marginal vegetation, which includes milk weed plants and shrubs, were large in size around the Site. These vegetations provide a protected safe breeding ground and good habitation to the butterflies largely found to harbour many larvae of butterflies. These observations were support by Hammond and Miller (1998) who observed that shrubs, herbs and grasses supported high level of species richness to butterflies. Presence of fresh water pond inside the Ghagua study site was also found to influence colonisation of some butterflies. Saxena (1996) explained the relationship of water and moist air for butterfly diversity and stressed the importance of a water body to increase immediate survival value. In addition to the pond, number of permanent trees also provided the rooster places for many adult butterflies. During survey, a large number of butterflies were found to use shrubs and herbs as roosting places, especially the *T. septentrionis* preferred tamarind trees. Papilionids such as *Papilio demoleus*, *P. polytes*, *Atrophaneura aristolochiae*, and *Papilio memnon* and Pierids like *C. pyranthe*, *Leptosia nina* and a few others were observed as predominant species in Ghagua. Even though

butterfly exhibited seasonal or periodical peaks, they occurred almost all the months. This view was substantiated by Owen (1969) that Lepidoptera is relatively high for most of the year in tropical region because of the relatively large number of plant species present. Seasonal distribution of many butterfly species was found related to temperatures fluctuations. Temperature is probably the single most important environmental factor influencing insect behaviour, distribution, population size, development, survival and reproduction (Petzoldt and Seaman, 1992; Ward, 1992). Temperature within the favourable range will speed up the metabolism of an insect and consequently increase its rate of development. Each species and each stage in the life history may develop at its own rate in relation to temperature (Gullan and Cranston, 2000). Muralirangan *et al.*, (1993) observed that high humidity stimulates fungal attack and high temperature causes a decrease in insect population. However, butterflies are highly sensible to predict cyclic seasonal changes and the quality of air. The ability to recognize the slightest difference in humidity enables them to move to favourable areas (Saxena, 1996). In the present study also almost all observed members of butterflies belong to different families were very high during high temperature (Max 34°C) and humidity (90%) such as June, July and August and this indicated that the condition that prevailed during these period may be suitable. Hammond and Miller (1998) indicated that grasses and herbs largely support butterfly distribution. Stephens (1989) insisted the presence of grasslands to cater butterflies. In the present study also the area covered under Ghagua there are several varieties of plants such as herbs and grasses and their presence might have enhanced the population in this area. Most of the species were found to

inhabit this site because of rich floral distribution and an ever-cool interior climate. This view coincides with the opinion of Mathew and Rahamathulla (1993), that the lepidopterans show a positive tendency towards area with floristic richness and moderate climate.

The forest cover, flower abundance, field size and optimum nutrient levels were other factors identified as influencing ones on butterfly species diversity as well as composition. During the entire study period, *Junonia iphita* (N25) was observed during the month of June, July, August and September of the study period and this indicated that the condition that prevailed during these period may be suitable for this variety. Relative humidity and rainfall influenced the population density positively. Several studies reported that rainfall and humidity exert positive effect, while the temperature and wind exerts negative correlation to population density of butterflies (Tanaka and Tanaka, 1982; Bosque and Estala, 1994; Edwin, 1997; Jainulabdeen Shaik and Prasad, 2004). But Garraway and Freeman (1990) reported that there is no negative response of butterflies to rainfall. In the present study also they showed their presence in abundance during the rainy months of June, July and August 2014 and 2015. The species such as *D. chrysippus*, *C. pyranthe* were dominant during this period. On the contrary, most of the butterflies were almost absent during extreme winter months except *D. cyrysippus* which was found to be present throughout the year and this indicated that this species is highly adoptable for all kinds of environmental conditions. Their population was at its peak during June to September and declined slowly towards the end of December. The combined effects of biotic

and abiotic factors that are prevailed in the Ghagua Site may be the main reason of slow down population. Setamou *et al.*, (2000) suggested that the host plant richness increases butterfly population density, and high rainfall and humidity were recorded to be positive to butterfly dynamics. Berryman (1986) reported an increase in lepidopteron population directly to low temperature and high rainfall and indirectly to natural enemies. Singh *et al.*, (1992) reported inverse status of population of butterflies to high temperature and low humidity. Most of the species are sun-loving and open habitat dwellers belonging to the Family Nymphalidae. Butterflies like *Papilio polytes* and *Graphium sarpedon* begins to fly early in the morning and start feeding at the flowers. Thus, the butterflies under this cluster are those associated with the forest edge.

In a managed ecosystem, the pesticide applications may also have some indirect effects on distribution of butterfly species though normally it causes only temporary changes in the relative abundance of them. Widespread use of organic pesticides has been considered as a major factor responsible for loss of butterfly population, but it has rarely resulted in the extinction of the species.

Findings

Butterflies contribute one of the best studied groups of animals among the invertebrate fauna. Adult butterflies are popular with people because of their bright coloured wings and their observable daily activities that include feeding on nectar as they visit garden.

□□ More specifically, the findings indicate the following:

Among the five different families observed the family Nymphalidae was represented by several numbers of individuals. The family Satyridae had the least number of representatives in the entire

ecosystem studied. The butterfly species viz., *D. chrysippus*, belonging to the family Nymphalidae, *C. pyranthe* belonging to the family Pieridae occurred throughout the study period.

Fruiting trees, vegetables, flowering plants and other leafy crops served to attract many families of butterflies. Moreover, their availability throughout the year was another added advantage to the butterflies.

This base line bio-diversity information is highly imperative for better conservation, long term sustainability of natural resources and the human community.

Despite its limitations, this study attempts the bio-diversity assessment, perhaps for the first time in Amchang wildlife sanctuary.

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List Paper published and seminar attended

| Name of the Author | Year of publication | Title of the paper | Name of the Journal: Volume: Year & Page No. |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1) Maitrayee Chakravarty (Guided by Dr.Rezina Ahmed. Associate professor of Cotton College, Zoology Department, Guwahati, ASSAM) | 2016 February | Butterfly (Lepidoptera:Insecta) Diversity of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary | Shrinkhala: Volume III, Issue VI , February - 2016 , Page No-42-46 |
| 2 Maitrayee Chakravarty | 2015 October | Butterflies – The Natural Treasure of North East India | IJRSI (International Journal of Research and Scientific Innovation . VolII, Issue X, October2015, Page No- 159-160. |
| 3 Maitrayee Chakravarty (Guided by Dr.Rezina Ahmed. Associate professor of Cotton College, Zoology Department, Guwahati, ASSAM) | 2016 January | Butterfly (Lepidoptera: Insecta) Diversity of Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary | 61th Annual Technical Session of Assam Science Society 2016, Voll-I (Abstract), January, Page No- 78 |
| 4 Maitrayee Chakravarty and Bipul Kr. Nath | 2015, August | Pesticide Toxicity :- A Study | Global Research Methodology Journal, Vol-V , 18 th Issue , August 2015, Page No-20-23 Published by Aranya Suraksha Somiti.Assam and BCLSC |
| 5) Maitrayee Chakravarty (Guided by Dr.Rezina Ahmed. Associate professor of Cotton College, Zoology Department, Guwahati, ASSAM) | 2016, March | Climate change and Butterfly diversity in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary , Assam | Souvenir Cum Book of Abstracts, 1 st International Conference on Climate Science. 2016, Page No-103 |
| 6) Maitrayee Chakravarty (Guided by Dr.Rezina Ahmed. Associate professor of Cotton College, Zoology Department, Guwahati, ASSAM) | 14 th and 15 th March /2016 | Seasonal Abundance of butterfly in Amchang Wildlife Sanctuary | National seminar on New Horizon in Zoological Research with special reference to Aquaculture & Biodiversity sponsored by UGC, New Delhi and organized by Department of Zoology, Guwahati University |
| 7)) Maitrayee Chakravarty | M.Phil (Zoology) | Vertebrate diversity of Hakama beel , | Vinayaka Missions University Salem , Tamilnadu , India |

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| | Session Dec 2009 | (Bilashipara dist. Dhubri, Assam) and its surrounding area | |
| | 23 rd July 2015 | National Conference on IPR in Bio Sciences for Scientists from North – East Indian State | Amity University organized by University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya. |
| | 20 th to 22 nd November 2015 | International Conference on Molecular Signaling Recent Trends in Biosciences | Department of Zoology, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya |
| | 4 th , 5 th and 6 th February 2015 | ICSSR Sponsored International Seminar on “Women Empowerment : Issues and Challenges” | Department of Economics Gossaigaon College, Assam in collaboration with Internal Quality Assurance cell (IQAC) |
| | 18 th and 19 th February | Application of Basic Statistical Tools in Life Science | Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Cotton College, Guwahati, Assam |
| | | Life time membership of (CEEED) | The Centre of Environment, Education and Economic Development. Organized by NGO partnership system, Planning Commission, Govt. of India |