

Third Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium and Training Programme (3ALCS-2010)

25 to 29 October 2010

Coimbatore, India



Report



**South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group IUCN SSC
Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University
Zoo Outreach Organisation / Wildlife Information Liaison Development**

Third Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium & Training Programme

25 to 29 October 2010 Coimbatore, India

B.A. Daniel and C. Gunasekaran
Organisers, 3ALCS-2010

The Third Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium and Training programme was jointly organized by IUCN SSC South Asian Invertebrate Specialist Group (SAsISG), Department of Zoology, Bharathiar University, Zoo Outreach Organisation and Wildlife Information Liaison Development, held from 25 to 29 October 2010 at Coimbatore Tamil Nadu, Southern India. About 260 delegates representing Brunei, China, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka and United Kingdom attended this five-day event. The theme of the symposium was 'Local community conservation meeting Asian Lepidoptera Conservation needs'. The symposium had paper presentations, poster presentations, workshops, hands-on training on dissertations, lab and field demonstration, and awards. A total of 55 delegates deliver their full paper presentations and 27 gave poster presentations on topics related to flagship Lepidoptera species, habitat conservation, community involvement, taxonomy, species status assessment, Lepidoptera conservation ecology and management and public education.



The symposium started with the inauguration at Thanghai Periyar Hall, Bharathiar University which was presided by Honourable Vice Chancellor, Dr. C. Swaminathan. The Dean, Dr. Manian, Director, School of Life Sciences, Dr. K. Sasikala, Head Department of Zoology, Dr. Roger Kendrick, KFBG Hong Kong, Dr. Paul Waring, UK, Dr Sanjay Molur, ZOO/WILD, Dr. B.A. Daniel, ZOO/SAsISG, Dr. Murugan and Dr C. Gunasekaran, Department of Zoology Bharathiar University graced the inaugural function.

The five-day event had nine sessions and four workshop As detailed below:

Session 1: *Investigate the use of Iconic / endemic flagship Lepidoptera species to promote habitat conservation through community Involvement* (Chair: Roger Kendrick, Rapporteur: M. Ramesh);

Session 2 – 4: *Explore aspects of moth and butterfly diversity, conservation ecology, management and needs* (Chair: Sanjay Molur, Rapporteur: V. Shubhalaxmi), (Chair: Laurence G. Kirton, Rapporteur: K. Murugan), (Chair: Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Rapporteur: V. Ramasubramanian);

Session 5: *Assess priority areas / Communities for Lepidoptera conservation initiatives at the local level that has global conservation impact* (Chair: Mark Sterling, Rapporteur: Juliet Vanitharani);

Session 6: Assess priority areas / Communities for Lepidoptera conservation initiatives at the local level that has global conservation impact (Chair: Laurence G. Kirton, Rapporteur: S. Kannan); Sanjay Molur gave a demo on Species Information Service (SIS) and explained the process of species assessment using IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria.

Session: 7 and 8: Explore aspects of moth and butterfly conservation ecology, management needs / Education (Chair: Paul Waring, Rapporteur: Isaac Kehimkar) and (Chair: Krushnamegh Kuntae; Rapporteur: G.S. Solanki);

Session 9 : Provide tools for species status assessment / Conservation Education (Chair: Roger Kendrick; Rapporteur: Yu-Feng Frank Hsu).



Workshop 1: Train participants in moth and butterfly identification skills and other field techniques (Trainers: Isaac Kehimkar / Krushnamegh Kuntae) BU campus. Entire participants were divided in to four groups and

Workshop 2: Curatorial (Trainers: Roger Kendrick, Paul Waring/ Mark Sterling)
Introduction to moths - Recording methods - Field Identification Skills - Classification (Overview)
Moth recording – Cancelled due to bad weather condition but replaced with indoor demonstration.



Workshop 3: Lepidoptera Conservation Education workshop – (Trainer R. Bhanumathi)

Understanding winged friends through Puppets Learning and understanding about the life of our winged friends– the butterflies and moths with puppets is exciting as it brings an inanimate character to life. If we look around nature, we may come across colourful and beautiful butterflies, moths and their caterpillars. They all have different shapes, sizes, colours, and food plants. Each one has a story of happiness, friendship, bravery, wisdom, honesty, sorrow etc. to tell. Share what they have to say through their images in the form of puppets. Create and have a total puppet experience by making these puppets.

Workshop 4: – *Curatorial* (Trainers: Roger Kendrick, Paul waring, Mark Sterling)
Data handling (database demonstration) Collection and maintenance (Roger Kendrick)
Genitalia Dissection. Mark Sterling (Hands on tuition – for sign up delegates)
Specimen setting; larger moths – Roger Kendrick, Paul waring. (Hands on tuition – for sign up delegates)
Specimen setting; smaller moths – Mark Sterling (Hands on tuition – for sign up delegates)

Manish Bhardwaj from Wildlife Institute of India was selected as the winner for best paper presentation and the title of the paper was Diversity, distribution pattern and seasonal variation in moth assemblages along altitudinal gradient in Gangotri Landscape Area, Western Himalaya, Uttarakhand. The runner was Sanjay Sondhi for his paper entitled Lepidoptera Research to Promote a Community Ecotourism Initiative in Eaglenest Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh



The best poster presentation went to Shashikumar, L. for his impressive poster entitled Flight patterns and behaviour of various butterfly species in urban habitats of Bangalore, Karnataka.

Thanks for the sponsors (institutes and individuals) for their support to organize the 3 ALCS 2010. The main sponsors are: Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden (KFBG), Hong Kong, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), New Delhi; Department of Science and Technology (DST); New Delhi; Council of Science and Industrial Research (CSIR) New Delhi; Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology, Government of Tamil Nadu (TNSCST); Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), New Delhi; Chester Zoo, UK; Zoological Society of London (ZSL), UK; The Woodward Family, Hong Kong; Andrew Hardacre, Hong Kong and Mark Sterling, Hong Kong.

