

Arhopala kurzi (Distant, 1885) new to Indonesia (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Theclinae)

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Abstract

Arhopala kurzi (Distant, 1885) is here recorded for the first time from Indonesia. The female specimen was collected from West Sumatra, Lima Puluh Kota district in Lembah Harau Nature Reserve.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, first record, Sumatra, Indonesia

Arhopala kurzi (Distant, 1885) nueva en Indonesia (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae, Theclinae)

Resumen

Arhopala kurzi (Distant, 1885) se registra aquí por primera vez en Indonesia. El espécimen hembra fue recolectado en Sumatra Occidental, distrito de Lima Puluh Kota, en la Reserva Natural del Lembah Harau.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, nuevo registro, Sumatra, Indonesia.

Introduction

Arhopala Boisduval, 1832 is one of the genera in the family Lycaenidae with the highest number of species, comprising more than 200 species. This genus is widely distributed from the Oriental region to Australia (Corbet, 1946; Megens et al. 2004). In Indonesia, this genus is distributed across various regions, ranging from Sumatra to Papua (Corbet, 1946; D'Abbrera, 1971; Rawlins et al. 2017; Seki et al. 1991, Vane-Wright & de Jong, 2003; Vane-Wright & Gaonkar, 2006). In Sumatra specifically, more than 57 species have been recorded (Corbet, 1946; de Nicéville & Martin, 1896).

One of the species in this genus is *Arhopala kurzi* (Distant, 1885), which has been reported in West Malaysia (Corbet & Pendlebury, 2020; Fleming, 1983), Singapore (recorded as extinct) (Jain et al. 2018) and Thailand (specifically in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Yala) (Inayoshi, 2025). This species can be distinguished from other members of the genus by several key morphological traits. The postdiscal spot in space 3 on the underside of the forewing is markedly elongated and directed toward the wing base. A spot is present in space 1b, positioned approximately midway between the end-cell bar and the postdiscal spot in space 2. The hindwing underside features a postdiscal band that is distinctly dislocated at vein 2. Additionally, the hindwing tornus is characteristically rounded, which further aids in differentiating *A. kurzi* from other closely related species (Corbet & Pendlebury, 2020). To date, the presence of *Arhopala kurzi* in Indonesia has never been reported. This paper reports the first recorded sighting of this butterfly species in Indonesia, specifically in Sumatra.

Materials and Methods

This sample was obtained during a butterfly survey in the Lembah Harau Nature Reserve, Lima Puluh Kota District, West Sumatra, in 2019. Observations were conducted along forest trails in secondary forests on a sunny day. Specimens were caught using an insect net and stored in paper envelopes for identification. The species was identified using external morphology based on the references of Corbet (1941) and Corbet & Pendlebury (2020).

Results and Discussion

Arhopala kurzi (Distant, 1885)

Narathura kurzi Distant, 1885. *Rhop. Mal.*, 268, pl. 21, f. 1

Record: INDONESIA, West Sumatra, Kabupaten Lima Puluh Kota, Lembah Harau (0°6'18"S, 100°40'15"E), 1 ♀, 26-VI-2019, leg. E. Bibas (coll. Elpe Bibas).

Description of Specimen

A single female specimen was examined, with a forewing length of approximately 20 mm. The upperside of both wings is predominantly purple with irregular black margins. On the forewings, the purple area extends from the wing base to approximately veins 1 to 4, not reaching the termen, which is bordered by a black band around 3 mm wide. On the hindwings, the purple coloration extends more extensively toward the termen.

The underside is brown with intricate postdiscal patterns. On the forewings, the postdiscal band is dislocated at vein 4, and the postdiscal spot in space 3 is conspicuously elongated and directed inward toward the wing base. A spot in space 1b is positioned approximately midway between the end-cell bar and the postdiscal spot in space 2. On the hindwings, the postdiscal band is broadly interrupted at vein 2. The hindwing tornus is rounded, which is also a distinguishing character.

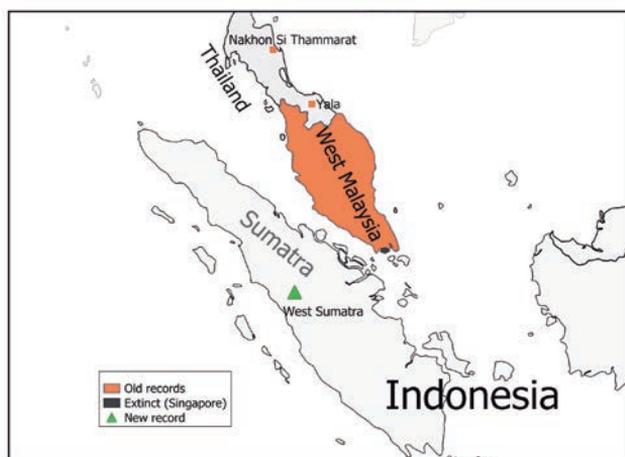
The characteristics described above serve as the diagnosis for this species (Figure 1). These characteristics distinguish *Arhopala kurzi* from other species within the *Arhopala* genus. Although only a single female was available for study, the observed morphological traits correspond well with previous descriptions of the species (Corbet, 1941; Corbet & Pendlebury, 2020) and support its identification. The female specimen of *Arhopala kurzi* from Sumatra exhibits broader black margins on both forewings and hindwings compared to individuals previously reported from Thailand (Inayoshi, 2025) and Malaysia (Corbet & Pendlebury, 2020). This difference may result from phenotypic plasticity influenced by local environmental conditions, or it could reflect geographic variation within the species. However, further research is needed to clarify the cause and taxonomic relevance of this variation.

Figure 1. Habitus of *Arhopala kurzi* (Distant, 1885). Scale bar 10 mm.



Distribution

This specimen was found in the secondary forest area of the Lembah Harau Nature Reserve. The forest is located on a hill of the Harau Valley, approximately several kilometers from the nearest town, Payakumbuh. This represents the first record of *Arhopala kurzi* in Sumatra, Indonesia. The distribution of this species now includes West Malaysia (Corbet & Pendlebury, 2020; Fleming, 1983), Thailand (specifically in Nakhon Si Thammarat and Yala) (Inayoshi, 2025) and Sumatra (Indonesia) (Figure 2). There has been limited research on this species. Therefore, further studies are needed in the biology and ecology of this species.

Figure 2. Distributional map of *Arhopala kurzi* (Distant, 1885)

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Conflict of interests

The author declare that they have no known financial interests or personal relationships that could have influenced the work presented in this article.

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