New addition to the larval food plants of *Trypanophora semihyalina* Kollar, [1844] from India (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae)

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**Abstract**

*Rubus ellipticus* Smith 1815 (Rosaceae) is reported as new larval food plant for *Trypanophora semihyalina* Kollar, [1844] for the first time from India.

**KEY WORD:** Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae, *Trypanophora semihyalina*, food plants, India.

**Nueva planta nutricia de Trypanophora semihyalina Kollar, [1844] de India** (Lepidoptera: Zygaenidae)

**Resumen**

Se cita por primera vez *Rubus ellipticus* Smith 1815 (Rosaceae) como nueva planta nutricia para *Trypanophora semihyalina* Kollar, [1844] en India.

**PALABRAS CLAVE:** Lepidoptera, Zygaenidae, *Trypanophora semihyalina*, planta nutricia, India.

**Introduction**

Lepidoptera comprises of Butterflies and Moths. According to VAN NIEUKERKEN et al. (2011), 157,424 species of Lepidoptera under 15,578 genera have been reported globally. 13,500 species of moths have been reported from India (CHANDRA, 2011). Moths are characterized by drably-colored scales on the body, phytophagous and predominantly nocturnal nature. They are also considered vital for ecosystem services because of various roles such as agricultural pests (SHARMA & BISEN, 2013), food for mammals (VAUGHAN, 1997), birds (WILSON et al., 1999), night pollinators (MACGREGOR et al., 2015). They are very sensitive to climate changes and vegetation alterations, making them an important group for monitoring climate and habitat changes (DAR & JAMAL, 2021a). The sudden decline of moths has severe effects on birds, bats and plants because of keystone role of moths in an ecosystem (DAR & JAMAL, 2021b). *Trypanophora semihyalina* Kollar, 1844 is a species of moth in the Zygaenidae family. It is found in south-east Asia, including India, China, Hong Kong and parts of Taiwan (ANONYMOUS, 2022).

Previous recorded food plants of this moth caterpillar are *Barringtonia acutangula* (L.) Gaertn. (Family: Lecythidaceae), *Bombax ceiba* Linnaeus (Malvaceae), *Careya* sp. Roxb. (Lecythidaceae), *Carissa carandas* (Linnaeus Apocynaceae), *Gardenia* J. Ellis (Rubiaceae), Holarrhena sp. R. Br. (Apocynaceae), *Lagerstroemia* including *Lagerstroemia indica* (L.) Pers. (Lagerstroemia) and *Lagerstroemia speciosa* (L.) Pers. (Lagerstroemia), *Ricinus communis* Linnaeus (Euphorbiaceae), *Rosa* sp. Linnaeus (Rosaceae), Shorea robusta Roth (Dipterocarpaceae), *Terminalia* including *Terminalia*
catappa Linnaeus (Combretaceae) and Terminalia tomentosa Linnaeus (Combretaceae) and Ziziphus including Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (Rhamnaceae) (ROBINSON et al., 2010). MESHRAM & GARG (2000) reported this moth as a defoliator of Gmelina arborea Roxb. (Lamiaceae). This caterpillar also seen as pest on Mangifera indica Linnaeus (Anacardiaceae) in southern West Bengal (JHA & PAUL, 2002). Psidium guajava Linnaeus (Myrtaceae) is also reported as larval host plant from West Bengal in previous studies (ARAJUSH PAYRA, 2020).

Results and discussions

On 31-VIII-2019, First author found the caterpillar (Figs 3-4) of Trypanophora semihyalina Kollar feeding on Rubus ellipticus Smith (Rosaceae) inside Baba Ghulam Shah Bashah University in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, India at an altitude of around 1200 m and the coordinates were recorded as (33°23′38.2″ N, 74°20′36.8″ E) (Fig. 4). After August same species caterpillar was found on 6-IX-2019 and 2-XI-2019 on Rubus ellipticus. Caterpillar was showing defense (Fig. 1) also on touching the leaf in the form of watery drops like.

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Figures 1-3.– 1. Caterpillar of *Trypanophora semihyalina* Kollar showing defense. 2-3. Caterpillar feeding on *Rubus ellipticus*.
Figure 4.– A map showing the Location of Trypanophora semihyalina caterpillar in Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir, India. (Map source: Google Earth Maps).