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## *Lebadea Martha* febricius, 1787 – Knight (Lepidoptera: nymphalidae), The first report from, Namdapha National Park, Miao, Arunachal Pradesh

**Roshan Upadhaya and Renu Gogoi**DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22271/j.ento.2023.v11.i1a.9150>**Abstract**

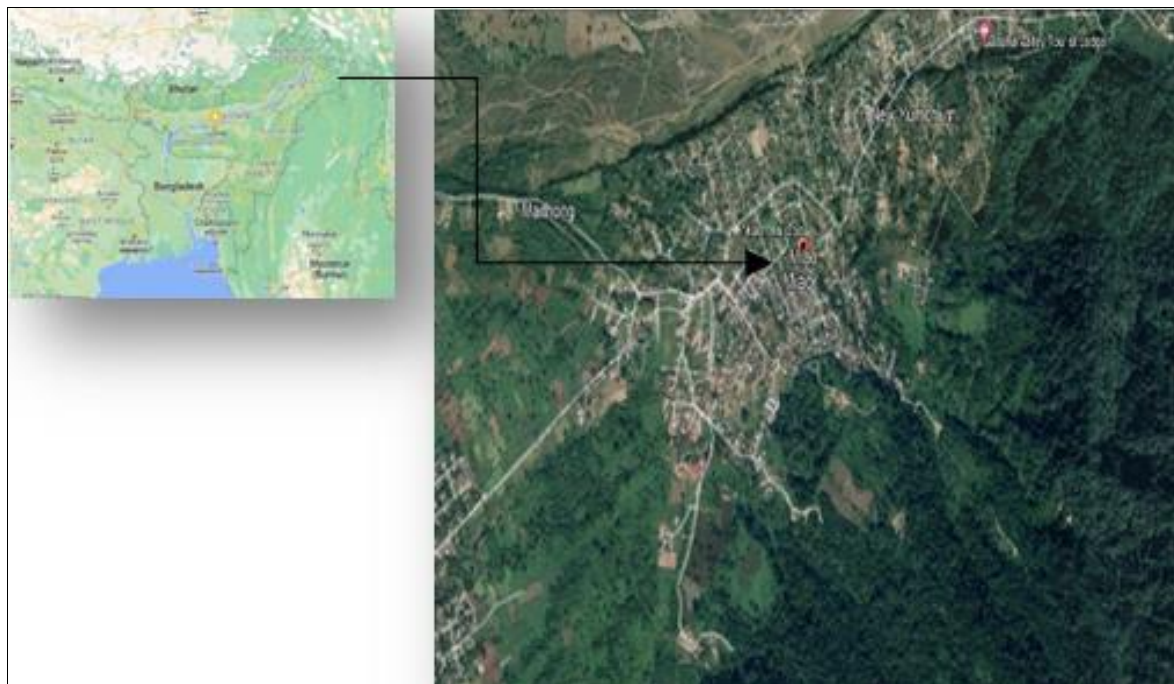
Present study reported the discovery of butterfly species *Lebadea Martha* Febricius, (1787) – Knight for the first time in Namdapha National Park, Miao, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh. Basic morphology of the species confirmed the identification. However, the occurrence is not surprising as half of the landscape of Miao is covered with forest and this species generally confined to forest.

**Keywords:** Arunachal Pradesh, butterfly, *Lebadea Martha***Introduction**

While conducting a faunal survey in Miao on the morning of 15/05/2022, RU encountered a species of butterfly. The species was photograph with a canon DSLR and according to the general morphological pattern and literature by Evans (1932) <sup>[3]</sup>, it is identified as Knight-*Lebadea Martha* Febricius, (1787).

*Lebadea Martha* Febricius, (1787) is a brush footed species from family Nymphalidae and basically found in tropical and subtropical Asia. Size of Nymphalid butterflies' ranges from medium to large, with a vast majority being in medium size. Brush-footed butterflies are generally bright in colour (Bhakare and Ogale, 2018) <sup>[1]</sup>. The colour of the species is ochreous brown with a complex pattern and prominent white discal band across both forewing and hindwing (Neo, 1996) <sup>[5]</sup>. Very few researchers have surveyed about the butterflies, hence we did not find any earlier reports of this species from Arunachal Pradesh. However, Fahim Khan and Viraj Nawge on the same year 22/05/2022 reported this species from Upper Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh. Durairaj & Sinha, (2015) <sup>[2]</sup> reported a total of 184 species of butterflies from Arunachal Pradesh of which 73 species belong to family Nymphalidae, Pieridae (39), Hesperidae (36), Papilionidae (24 species) and Lycaenidae (18). But their result didn't mention the presence of *Lebadea Martha*. The species is not uncommon, and individuals are often encountered in the nature reserve. In Assam, different authors confirmed the occurrence of this species in Gauhati University campus, Manas biosphere reserve and Raimona National Park (Saikia, 2014; Saikia & Saikia, 2014; Islam, *et al.*, 2022) <sup>[6-7, 4]</sup>. So, we can say that the species is found in plain terrain of Assam but for the first time it is noted in the hilly terrain of Arunachal Pradesh. One of the reason the species was found in hilly terrain might be because Miao shares its border with the plain terrains of Assam. Another reason that might have led the species to migrate to hilly terrain of Arunachal Pradesh for its evergreen rain forest.

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**Fig 1:** Map showing the study area Miao, Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh



**Fig 2:** Knight- *Lebadea Martha* Fabricius, (1787)

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