

SPECIES

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New Distribution Record of *Hypena laceratalis* (Walker, 1859) (Noctuoidea Family) Lantana Defoliator Moth, from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India

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ABSTRACT

The present finding a new state record *Hypena laceratalis* (Walker, 1859) Noctuoidea Family from the Madhya Pradesh, India. The presence of *Hypena laceratalis* provides a new distribution record from the known geographic location.

Keywords: *Hypena laceratalis*, New Record, Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

1. INTRODUCTION

The small size insects like lepidopteron species (butterflies and moths) are good indicator of ecological conditions and sensitive to changes in the environment. Most moths are nocturnal, pollinate the local flora at night and are extremely important to the environment. The range of local vascular plants and the moth have a strong, positive association (Tyler, 2020). Over 5000 species of moths have been documented from India (Paul et al., 2016) out of the estimated 1,35,700 species that have been discovered worldwide (Heppner, 2008). From Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh (Central India), (Chandra and Nema, 2007) listed 313 species. 41 species documented from Kanha Tiger Reserve (Dhamorikar and Gore, 2015). The current note presents the new state record for *Hypena lacertailis* lantana feeding moth from Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, India.

2. MATERIALS & METHODS

During the opportunistic night survey on January 6, 2023, a moth that didn't resemble any of the recognized species was spotted in a lamp on the wall, next to the Foundation for Ecological Security office in MK colony Mandla (22.624589, 80.367422). Few photos were taken of it and the species was later determined using the identification key. The identification of moth was carried out with help of available literature (Hampson, 1896; Bell and Scott, 1937; Editor-Director, 2008).

3. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The distribution of the Lantana defoliate moth in the family of Noctuoidea is a leaf feeding moth cause damage of *lantana camera*. *Hypena laceratalis* larvae feed on *Lantana camara* and considered lantana eating moth and use as a biological control of *Lantana camera*. Further study on *Hypena laceratalis* is needed to effectiveness and impact on other flora as well.

The Species is recorded from, Maharashtra (Gurule and Nikam, 2011, 2013), Rajasthan (Koli and Prajapati, 2021) Karnataka, Goa (Gurule and Brookes, 2021), Tamil Nadu (Nagarajan, 2021), Himachal Pradesh (Editor-Director, 2021; Kaur et al., 2016), Telangana (Chandra et al., 2021). According to literature survey this species has also been encountered in the many other states and within the state earlier, but there is no published record of it, so far. It is therefore reported here as a new record for the Madhya Pradesh (Figure 1, 2).

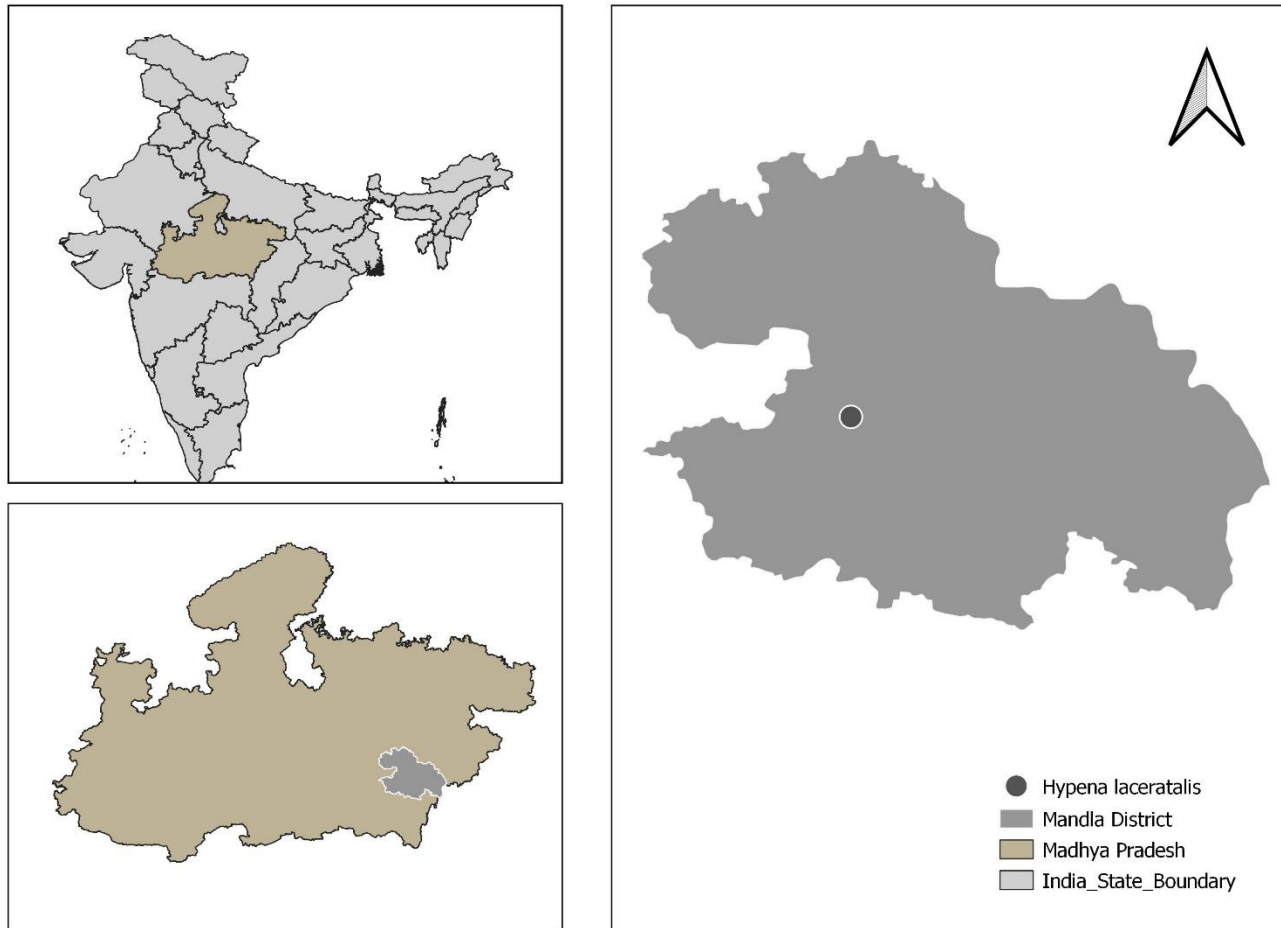


Figure 1 Occurance Map of *Hypena laceratalis* from Mandla Madhya Pradesh



Figure 2 *Hypena laceratalis*

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Informed consent

Not applicable.

Ethical approval

The ethical guidelines are followed in the study for species observation & identification.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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