

MIGRATION OF *HASORA CHROMUS* (HESPERIIDAE)
IN GUJARAT STATE, INDIA

On July 24, 1960 I saw a northwest movement of large skippers at Ahwa, government headquarters of the Dangs District, Gujarat State. This movement of skippers was first noticed at 5:15 p.m. on Sunday. A great majority of the skippers were flying at an estimated height of twenty-five to thirty feet. They were clearing the top of a mango tree (*Mangifera indica*) near our chicken house in the mission compound and the top of the Gul Mohur tree (*Delonix regia*) some thirty yards away. A few skippers were flying at an altitude of over fifty feet. Even though the monsoon rains had started, the evening sky was clear for this mass movement of butterflies.

After finding a ladder and a net, I climbed up on the roof of the chicken house. Still most of the skippers were either out of reach or I failed to catch them as they sped past. Repeated counts showed that from twelve to fifteen skippers were passing overhead every minute. The migrating numbers greatly decreased after sunset. In one hour approximately 700 to 900 skippers passed by my observation point. They all appeared to be of one species. At dusk a few skippers were seen flying low over the ground, so I rapidly descended the ladder and started to swing at these fast-flying targets. Finally one was netted and it proved to be the Common Banded Awl, *Hasora chromus*.

Hasora chromus (Cramer) is a very common butterfly in India, being found on the plains and up to at least 7,000 ft. in the hills. It flies in bright sunshine, at dusk, and occasionally around lights at night.

No further migration of this species was observed; however, on July 29th I discovered over 500 resting on a bush in a village about five miles west of the first observation point. Apparently these skippers were assembling for some mass movement or had been migrating.

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