

OVER ONE HUNDRED BUTTERFLY SPECIES CAUGHT IN A  
SINGLE DAY (3rd JUNE 1961) AT MUSSOORIE, INDIA

by ERNEST M. SHULL

Catching butterflies along an Himalayan mountain stream is a rewarding and exciting experience. The hill station of Mussoorie in north-west India is probably one of the best places in the world for collecting a large number of species. On June 4, 1957 a small party caught sixty-eight species in Mussoorie (Shull, 1958). This represented a record catch during our seven years of collecting in Mussoorie. Frequent field trips to the gardens, waterfalls, and streams in Mussoorie have confirmed the view that the largest number of species comes early in June before the heavy monsoon.

On June 3, 1961 another small party, consisting of three adults (GLENN CAMPBELL, THOMAS COWART and myself) and four boys (DEAN FASNACHT, PHILIP CAMPBELL, JIM and DANNY SHULL) left from our rest house at Prospect Point (alt. 7381 ft.) for the famous Pumping Station (alt. 5600 ft.). From 8:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., when collecting is usually limited to a few browns (Satyridæ) and skippers (Hesperiidæ), we hiked down the mountain to the stream. The two older boys, DEAN FASNACHT and JIM SHULL, took a slightly different path passing through the Mussoorie Municipal Garden (alt. 6535 ft.). Here they caught a variety of skippers and two species of clouded yellows, *Colias electo* and *C. erate*.

The majority of species were netted between 10:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. at the Pumping Station nullah from an altitude of 5600 ft. to 5300 ft. One hundred and one species were caught and preserved, and four more species were observed but not captured; namely, *Hypolimnas bolina* ♀, *Papilio machaon*, *Terias hecabe* and *Limenitis trivena*.

During the day I caught seventy-four species. My son, JIM, caught sixty-six species, adding thirteen more species to the list. DANNY, my youngest son, caught fifty-one species and added eight more to the list. Mr. CAMPBELL caught fifty-three species and contributed four more species to the total list. The two species of yellows (*Colias electo* and *C. erate*) were captured by DEAN FASNACHT. Mr. COWART was an observer on the trip, catching a few butterflies and enjoying the mountain scenery. The day was favorable with its warm sunshine and absence of rain, wind and clouds. By June 5th the rains came and the butterfly population was greatly reduced both in numbers and in the variety of species.

The following is a list of the one hundred and one species collected on June 3, 1961 in Mussoorie:

DANAIDÆ: *Danaus genutia*, *D. aglea*, *D. limniace*, *Euplœa core*, *E. mulciber* (5 species).

SATYRIDÆ: *Mycalesis lepcha*, *Lethe rohria dyrta*, *L. verma*, *L. sidonis*, *L. yama*, *Erebia nirmala*, *E. annada*, *E. scanda*, *Ypthima avanta*, *Y. nareda*, *Y. asterope*, *Melanitis leda*, *M. zitenius*, *M. phedima*, *Pararge schakra* (15 species).

NYMPHALIDÆ: *Sephisia dichroa*, *Stibochiona nicea*, *Pantoporia opalina*, *P. asura*, *Neptis hyla*, *N. sankara*, *N. ananta*, *N. zaida zaida*, *N. mahendra*, *Cyrestis thyodamas*, *Pseudergolis wedah*, *Kallima inachus*, *Precis lemonias*, *P. orithya*, *P. iphita*, *Apatura ambica*, *Euthalia patala*, *Vanessa cardui*, *V. indica*, *V. canace*, *V. cashmiriensis*, *Atella phalantha*, *Symbrenthia hippoclus*, *S. hyselis*, *Limenitis danava*, *Diagora persimilis* (26 species).

ERYCINIDÆ: *Libythea myrrha*, *Dodona durga*, *D. dipœa*, *D. eugenes*, *D. egeon* (5 species).

LYCÆNIDÆ: *Lycænopsis vardhana*, *L. puspa*, *L. huegelii*, *Polyommatus astrarche*, *Zizeeria trochilus*, *Z. otis*, *Jamides bochus*, *Lycæna pavana*, *L. phleas*, *Heliophorus sena*, *Euaspa milionia*, *Thecla ziha*, *T. syla*, *Lampides bæticus*, *Chætoprocta odata*, *Amblypodia ganesa*, *A. dama*, *A. dodonea*, *A. amantes*, *Spindasis nipalicus*, *Pratapa icetas*, *Chilades laius*, *Rapala nissa*, *R. selira* (24 species).

PAPILIONIDÆ: *Papilio protenor*, *P. polytes* ♂ and ♀ form "romulus", *P. polyctor*, *Zetides cloanthus*, *Z. sarpedon* (5 species).

PIERIDÆ: *Aporia leucodyce*, *A. agathon caphusa*, *Pieris canidia*, *P. brassicæ*, *Gonepteryx rhamni*, *Colias electo*, *C. erate* (7 species).

HESPERIIDÆ: *Pelopidas mathias*, *P. sinensis*, *Celænorrhinus leucocera*, *Tagiades menaka*, *Suastus gremius*, *Taractrocera danna*, *Æromachus stigmata*, *Polytrema eltola*, *P. lubricans*, *Notocrypta feisthameli*, *Udaspes folus*, *Hyarotis adrastus*, *Lobocla bifasciatus casyapa*, *Pedesta masuriensis* (14 species).

Below the Pumping Station sewage was seeping into the mountain stream forming a stagnant, stinky pool of water. At least seventy species of butterflies and a few moths were caught near the pool. The rare Siren (*Diagora persimilis*), a pair of the Commodore (*Limenitis danava*) and the scarce Indian Purple Emperor (*Apatura ambica*) were captured with our nets. DANNY SHULL caught the only three Sirens seen during the day. A majority of the skippers were collected in the Municipal

Garden. Late in the evening, when nearing our starting place of Prospect Point, a Common Wall (*Pararge schakra*) was caught terminating our day's highest catch.

#### References

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## ON LEPIDOPTERA ON CZECHOSLOVAK POSTAGE STAMPS

During recent years in *The Lepidopterists' News* several articles were published on the Lepidoptera on postage stamps issued in different countries of the world (Smith 1954, 1955; Wren 1955). These reports are interesting not only for the philatelists, but for the lepidopterists also. Therefore I give here a short report on a series of nine postage stamps issued on 27 November 1961 by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport and Communications. In this series are figured 8 species of butterflies and one moth occurring in Czechoslovakia.

All stamps were designed by the National Artist, Professor Dr. h. c. MAX ŠVABINSKY and were engraved by JINDRA SCHMIDT. The author of these stamps is the well known Dean of Czech artists, 88-year old Professor at the Academy of Art in Prague, Dr. ŠVABINSKY, mentioned in this *Journal* on another occasion (Moucha 1958). [He died 10 February 1962.]

By the occasion of the issue of these stamps Dr. ŠVABINSKY proclaimed: "Before I send my butterflies out into the world I should like to give them a mission — the hope that in everyone who looks at them with a little interest they will awaken a longing to turn ever more frequently towards Nature and her beauty; for everyone who comes to her with an understanding of her language she offers a treasure trove of countless