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ADDITION OF *ASOTA TORTUOSA* MOORE, 1872 – (LEPIDOPTERA; EREBIDAE) TO THE MOTH FAUNA OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, INDIA

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ABSTRACT:

Asota tortuosa a moth of Erebidae family has been reported for the first from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India.

KEYWORDS: Bani, Distribution, *Juglans regia*, Kathua, Moth fauna.

INTRODUCTION:

Asota tortuosa Moore, 1872 is a moth of Erebidae family which was first described by Frederic Moore in 1872. It is found in India, China, Nepal, Sikkim, Myanmar and also in Taiwan (Zwier, 2019). Chandra et.al., 2019 has given the global distribution of this moth in the countries i.e., Nepal, China, Taiwan, Thailand. Total 461 species (Dar et.al., 2020) of moths were recorded in the state of Jammu and Kashmir but now Jammu and Kashmir is a separate Union Territory and Ladakh has been separated from it. Now, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has 433 of total moth species (Dar et.al., 2020). Recently in 2021 one Sphingidae moth i.e., *Laothoe witti* (Riyaz et. al., 2021) was new addition to the moth fauna of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. In India *Asota*

tortuosa Moore, 1872 is distributed in the states like Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland (Chandra et. al., 2019). In Jammu and Kashmir checklist, only two species of *Asota* are found i.e., *Asota ficus* Fabricius, 1775 (Dar, 2014) and *Asota producta* Butler, 1875 (Dar, 2014). And besides this one more species of *Asota* is present in this region i.e., *Asota caricae* Fabricius, 1775 (Kumar et. al, 2018). Total species of moths in this Union Territory are 435 in number on addition of these two later moth species i.e., *Laothoe witti* Eitschberger et.al., 1998 and *Asota caricae* Fabricius, 1775.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS:

On 12 June 2021, first author during a survey of Lepidopteran fauna of Bani area (Fig. 1) in district Kathua of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory where she found this moth (Fig. 2) resting on leaf of *Juglans regia* Linnaeus (Juglandaceae). She photographed this moth with the help of Canon D1300 DSLR. Tehsil Bani is located at an altitude of around 1300 m and area coordinates were noted for this specimen as (32°42'41.6'' N, 75°48'58.8'' E). Specimen (Fig. 2) was identified with the help of available literature of Moore (1872) in the specimen is originally described and in Moths of Nepal part 3 (Haruta, 1994). And the record was matched with all the previous publications of Jammu and Kashmir and nowhere this was in records and thus this is now as new addition to the moth fauna for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. Including this species now there are total four species of *Asota* found in Jammu and Kashmir viz., *Asota ficus* Fabricius, *Asota producta* Butler, *Asota caricae* Fabricius and *Asota tortuosa* Moore. With the addition of this moth, now Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory have 436 species of moth present.

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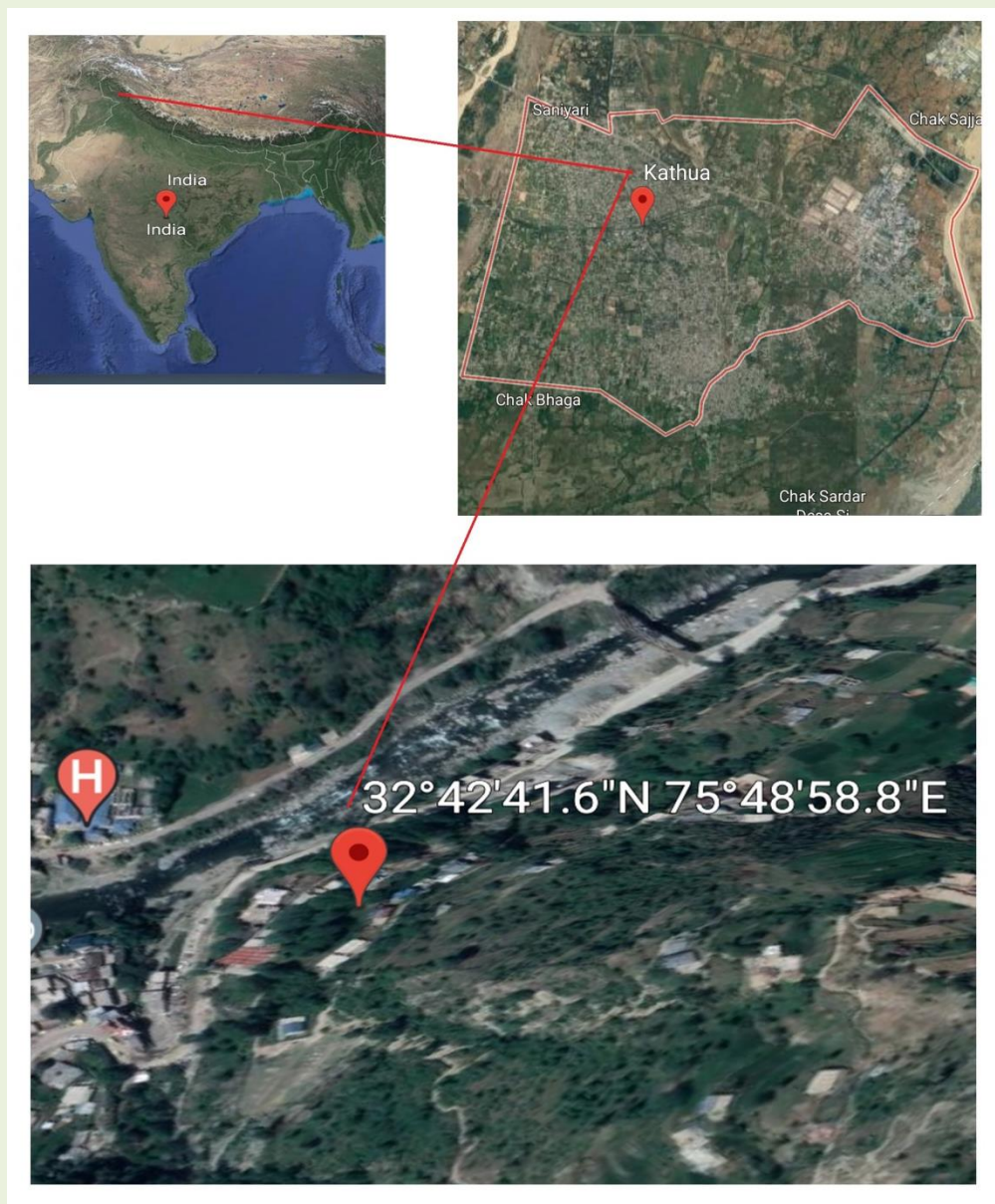


Figure 1. Map showing Bani area in district Kathua, J&K



Figure 2. Showing image of *Asota tortuosa*