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IDENTIFICATION AND MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERIZATION OF *ERYNNIS* BUTTERFLIES FROM THE REGION OF AMETHI, UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Butterflies are beautiful, flying insects with large scaly wings, which belong to the order Lepidoptera of phylum Arthropoda and also important indicators of a healthy environment and ecosystems. Like all insects, they have six jointed legs, body parts, a pair of antennae, compound eyes, and an exoskeleton. Butterflies are distributed all over the world and in all types of environments: hot and cold, dry and moist, at sea level and high in the mountains. These scaled wings are different from the wings of any other insects. For the study on identification and morphological characterization, two species of Genus Erynnis butterflies comprised of 60 samples were collected from various sampling sites of District Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, India. These samples were identified with the help of standard taxonomic keys and various morphological characteristics variation pattern recorded. After that these samples were preserved in 70% formalin solution for future reference. The record of the present study shows that the collected species were evenly distributed across all sampling sites of the Amethi region. The detailed identification features and patterns of morphometric variations of species of Erynnis Butterflies were also recorded. The present communication provides the important information on the morphological variation in different species of butterflies from the Amethi regions of Uttar Pradesh, India, which will be useful for future research and other conservation practices.

Keywords: Erynnis Butterflies, Identification, Morphological Variations, Amethi U.P.