

## New Records of *Sidyma albifinis* Walker, 1856, the White-Tip Footman (Lepidoptera : Erebidae : Arctiinae) from Doon Valley, Dehra Dun (Uttarakhand)

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**ABSTRACT:** The present communication deals with the new records of *Sidyma albifinis* Walker, 1856, the White-tip Footman, from Doon Valley, Dehra Dun (Uttarakhand) with its synonymy, classification, diagnostic features, differences from allied species, altitudinal range, distribution and host plant.

**Keywords:** New Records of *Sidyma albifinis* from Doon Valley.

### INTRODUCTION

The moth fauna of Uttarakhand (Western Himalaya) has attracted the attention of various workers during the past (Hampson, 1892, 1894, 1895, 1896, ; Strand, 1922; Bell & Scott, 1937; Smetacek, 1993, 2008; Arora, 1979, 2000; Kaleka & Rose, 2001; Kaleka, 2003; Dubatolov, 2010; Majumdar, 2010, Majumdar & Kumar, 2010; Sanyal *et al.*, 2011, 2013a,b; Kirti & Joshi, 2013; Singh *et al.*, 2014; Uniyal *et al.*, 2013, 2016; Dey, 2016; Dey *et al.*, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019; Sanyal, 2015; Garia *et al.*, 2016; Sondhi & Sondhi, 2016; Husain & Ahmad, 2018, 2000; Husain, 2019; Husain & Hasan, 2020; Husain *et al.*, 2020) but no published record on the occurrence of *Sidyma albifinis* Walker, 1856, the White-tip Footman, from Doon Valley is available except for a photograph from Dhoran Khas by Sondhi in *mothsofindia*. Earlier, it was reported from Mussoorie (Hampson, 1900; Strand, 1922; Singh *et al.*, 2014; Sondhi & Sondhi, 2016) and Chakrata hills (Kaleka, 2002) in Dehra Dun district.

Recently, two good specimens of the same were found at Hari Vihar (Vijay Park) and Dobhal Wala, residential areas in Doon Valley (Dehra Dun) and reported here as additional records for this rare moth.

### STUDY AREA: HARI VIHAR (VIJAY PARK) AND DOBHAL WALA, DOON VALLEY

**Doon Valley:** It is located between 29°57'30"N-30°30'30" N Lat. and 77°35' E-78°19' E Long., covering an area of 2,130 Km<sup>2</sup>. It is bounded in north by Mussoorie-Dhanaulti-Chamba range of Himalaya, in north-east by Chamba-Narendra Nagar range, in north-

west by river Yamuna, in east by river Ganga and in north-west to south-west by Siwalik range between Paonta-Haridwar. The city of Dehra Dun stands at an elevation of around 447 m and lies within the valley.

Climate: Subtropical with hot season roughly during April-June, rainy July-September and winter October-March.

**Vijay Park:** It is a large residential area near Ballupur crossing, Chakrata road in western part of Dehra Dun city). Hari Vihar is a subdivision of Vijay Park.

**Flora:** Trees and fruit plants (*Mangifera indica*, the Mango; *Litchi chinensis*, the Litchi; *Azadirachta indica*, the *Neem*; *Syzygium cumini*, the *Jamun*; *Saraca asoca* the *Ashoka*; *Mimusops elengi*, the *Maulsiri*; *Nyctanthes arbor-tristis*, the Coral Jasmine or *Harsingar*; *Broussonetia papyrifera*, the Paper Mulberry; *Melaleuca viminalis*, the Bottle Brush; *Lagerstroemia speciosa*, the Pride of India; *Ficus elastica*, the Rubber plant; *Araucaria sp.*, *Prunus persica*, the Peach; *Manilkara zapota*, the *Chikoo*; *Psidium guajava*, the Guava; *Citrus limon*, the Lemon.; *Hibiscus rosasinensis*, the China Rose; *Lantana camara*, the Lantana; *Ricinus communis*, the Castor bean; *Beaucarnea recurvata*, the Elephant Foot; *Wodyetia bifurcata*, the Fox-tail Palm; *Cycas revoluta*, the Sago Palm; *Carica papaya*, the Papaya; *Vitis sp.*, the Grape-vines), flowering plants (*Calendula spp.*, the Pot Marigolds; *Canna pp.*, the Canna Lilies; *Chrysanthemum spp.*, the *Guldaodi*; *Russelia equisetiformis*, the Fountain-bush; *Jasminum sambac*, the Arabian Jasmine or *Bela*; *Tagetes spp.* the Marigolds; *Rosa spp.*, the Roses; *Scadoxus multiflorus*, the Ball Lily; *Viola spp.*, the Pansies, *Cuphea hyssopifolia*, the Mexican Heather, *Sphagneticola trilobata*, the Trailing Daisy etc.) and kitchen-garden vegetables (*Abelmoschus esculentus*, the Okra; *Allium cepa*, the Onion; *A. sativum*, the Garlic;

*Brassica* spp., *Capsicum* spp., *Chenopodium album*, the Pig-weed; *Coriandrum sativum*, the Coriander; Cucurbits, *Curcuma longa*, the Turmeric; *Mentha* spp., *Phaseolus vulgaris*, the Bean; *Solanum lycopersicum*, the Tomato; *S. melongena*, the Brinjal; *S. tuberosum*, the Potato; *Spinacia oleracea*, the Spinach; *Zingiber officinale*, the Ginger; *Zea mays*, the Corn etc.).

**Dobhal Wala:** It is also a residential area on Nashville road, about a km north of Clock Tower, between Bindal rao and Rajpur road, with good green cover, flowering plants and kitchen-gardens vegetables (almost same as above).

**SIDYMA ALBIFINIS WALKER, 1856**

White-tip Footman

**Synonymy:**

*Sidyma albifinis* Walker, 1856. *List Spec. Lep. Insects Colln. Br. Mus.*, 7: 1686; Hampson, 1894. *Faun. Brit. India, Moths*, 2: 67, fig. 34 (male); Kaleka, 2002. *Entomon*, 27 (3): 327-330, Kamaluddin *et al.*, 2007. *Intl. J. Biol. Biotech.*, 4 (2-3): 114; Smetacek, 2008. *Bionotes*, 10 (1): 8; Uniyal *et al.*, 2013. *Annual Progress Report, Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun*: 119; Singh *et al.*, 2014. *Rec. zool. Surv. India, Occ. Paper No. 367*: 54; Sanyal, 2015. *Diversity and distribution of moth assemblages along altitudinal gradient in Gangotri landscape*: xxvi, 158, 282, pl. 22, fig. 8; Kirti & Singh, 2016. *Arctiid Moths of India*, 2: 113; Sondhi & Sondhi, 2016. *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, 8 (5): 8762, fig. 134.

*Agylla albifinis*, Hampson, 1900. *Cat. Lep. Phalaenae Br. Mus.*, 2: 193-194, fig. 114.

*Sidyma apicalis*, Shubhalaxmi, 2018 (*nec* Moore, 1878). *Birdwing Field Guide to Indian Moths*: 135, pl. 38, fig. 2 (female).



**Fig. 1.** *Sidyma albifinis* (Hari Vihar, by the author).



**Fig. 2.** *Sidyma albifinis* (Courtesy: Mr. Pratham Pant, Dobhal Wala).

**Classification:** Order Lepidoptera Linnaeus, 1758, suborder Glossata, infraorder Heteroneura, superfamily Noctuoidea Latreille, 1809, family Erebidae Leach, 1815, subfamily Arctiinae Leach, 1815, tribe Lithosiini Billberg, 1820, subtribe Lithosiina Billberg, 1820, genus *Sidyma* Walker, 1856. (followed after Zahiri *et al.*, 2010, 2012; Singh *et al.*, 2014).

Antennae bipectinate with fine branches of moderate length from base to apex in male (Hampson, 1894, 1900; Kaleka, 2002) and ciliated in female (Kaleka, 2002).

**Sighting:** 1 example, 280, Dobhal Wala, Neshvilla Road, Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand, 30.vi.2020, by Mr. Pratham Pant; 1 example, 41, Hari Vihar, Vijay Park, Chakrata Road, Dehra Dun, 4.vii.2020, by self (Dr. Aklaq Husain).

**Diagnostic Features:**

**Colouration:** Head, thorax, abdomen and wings fuscous gray; collar, underside of thorax and anal tuft ochreous, collar bordered with orange; wings fuscous, fore-wing with a white patch at apex, hind-wing darker with a shorter white patch at apex.

**Genitals:**

**Male:** Valva narrow at base, broad above; vinculum V-shaped, well developed; valvula curved distally, dentate margins prominent, tip pointed; cucullus broad with a sclerotized flap-like projection at base, rounded at distal end; juxta moderately sclerotized, conical; vesica armed with eight spines out of which one spine is larger (Kirti & Singh, 2016). Kaleka (2002) mentioned vesica with five cornuti at distal end, three large and two small.

**Female:** Corpus bursae membranous and broad; ductus bursae membranous, narrow anteriorly, strongly sclerotized and broad at lower half; papilla analis broad and rounded, fringed with small and large setae (Kaleka, 2002).

**Wing-span:** Male 42 mm, female 45 mm (Hampson, 1894, 1900); half- male 21 mm, female 22 mm (Kaleka, 2002); 42 mm (Sanyal, 2015); male 42mm, female 44 mm (Shubhalaxmi, 2018, as *S. apicalis*).

**Differences from *S. apicalis*:** *Sidyma albifinis* is closely allied to *S. apicalis* Moore, 1878, the only other species under the genus, but often gets confused with it.

It differs in a number of characters from *S. apicalis* as under:

- (i). Head, thorax and abdomen fuscous in *S. albifinis* v/s purplish-black in *S. apicalis*.
- (ii). Collar, ventral side of thorax and anal tuft ochreous in *S. albifinis* v/s collar, head and ventral side of thorax orange-red in *S. apicalis*.
- (iii). Collar bordered with orange in *S. albifinis* v/s orange in *S. apicalis*.
- (iv). Small white patch present on hind-wing apex in *S. albifinis* v/s absent in *S. apicalis*.
- (v). Valva narrow at base, broad anteriorly in male in *S. albifinis* v/s broad at base, narrow anteriorly.
- (vi). Vinculum U-shaped in *S. albifinis* v/s V-shaped in *S. apicalis*.
- (vii). Vesica with 8 spines (Kirti & Singh, 2016), 5 spines (Kaleka, 2002) in *S. albifinis* v/s vesica with an apical spine (Kirti & Singh, 2016), 3 spines (Kaleka, 2002) in *S. apicalis*.
- (viii). *S. albifinis* distributed throughout Himalaya (Strand, 1922; Kaleka, 2002; Kirti *et al.*, 2005; Smetacek, 2008; Singh *et al.*, 2014; Sanyal, 2015; Sondhi & Sondhi, 2016; present record) v/s *S. apicalis* in Eastern Himalaya (Sikkim, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh (Strand, 1922; Sevastopulo, 1944; Kirti *et al.*, 2005; Singh *et al.*, 2014).

Under description of *S. apicalis*, Shubhlaxmi (2018) mentioned ‘...white patch at FW tip. HW similar with narrow white patch.’ In fact, the hind-wing patch is present in *S. albifinis* and absent in *S. apicalis* (Hampson, 1894, 1900; Kaleka, 2002; Kirti & Singh, 2016).

**Altitudinal Range:** 2,005 m at Mussoorie (Strand, 1922; Singh *et al.*, 2014; Sondhi & Sondhi, 2016); 2,118 m at Chakrata (Kaleka, 2002); 1,500 m at Jones Estate, Bhimtal, Nainital dist. (Smetacek, 2008); 2,200-3,460 m at Gangotri landscape, Uttarkashi dist. (Sanyal, 2015); around 447 m at Doon Valley (present).

**Distribution:** Himalayas (ftp.funet.fi).

Dehra Dun: Vijay Park and Dobhal Wala (present new records).

Rest of Uttarakhand: Dehra Dun (Chakrata; Mussoorie; Dhoran Khas), Pauri (Khirsu), Tehri (Devalsari) Uttarkashi (Changsil, Taluka), and Nainital (Bhimtal) districts.

Rest of India: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam (Darang), Himachal Pradesh (Dalhousie, Chamba dist.; Kharapathar and Narkand, Shimla dist.), Nagaland (Zunheboto dist.), Sikkim (South Sikkim dist.) and West Bengal (Darjeeling).

Elsewhere: Bhutan (Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park, projectnoah; Shubhlaxmi, 2018, as *S. apicalis*) and Pakistan (Kamaluddin *et al.*, 2007).

**Habitat:** Mixed vegetation, Mohru Oak Forest, Western Mixed Coniferous Forests, Birch-Fir Forest, Himalayan Temperate Parkland, Deciduous Alpine Scrub in Gangotri landscape.

#### HOST PLANT

Kamaluddin *et al.* (2007) recorded *Populus ciliata*, the Himalayan Poplar, the only host plant (family

Salicaceae). Regarding host plants, Sanyal (2015) mentioned ‘unknown’.

It is a large deciduous tree, known by various names in Hindi (*Bangu*, *Ban-peepal*, *Biaon*, *Chalun* or *Chalaun*, *Chalni*, *Pahari-peelal* or *Syan*) and found in Himalayan belt (India- Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand including Chakrata, Mussoorie and Doon Valley and Sikkim; Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan).

The leaf defoliator moths (*Clostera cupreata* and *C. fulgurita*), fungal pathogens (*Bipolaris mydis*, *Pseudocercospora salicia* and *Phorma macrostoma* and *Ganoderma* sp.) and plant parasite (*Scurrula elata*) variously victimize the tree.

The studies on infestation of *S. albifinis* and its other host plants are not available.

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