THE BUTTERFLY FAUNA OF PU HOAT NATURE RESERVE, NGHE AN PROVINCE

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SUMMARY

Pu Hoat Nature Reserve (NR) is the part of the Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve (Nghe An province, central Vietnam), and identified as an important area for biodiversity conservation in the North Central Coastal Vietnam. This nature reserve hosts various ecosystems and landscapes with four main formations including closed forests, sparse forests, scrubs and grass vegetation. It is well known that butterflies with their high diversity and abundance are one of the most important players in many ecosystem processes. The loss of butterfly diversity may lead to negative cascading effects across whole communities. Therefore, conservationists have often taken the advantage of butterfly diversity as an indicator for forest planning and management in the tropics. Between April and December 2020, we sampled butterflies over three consecutive collection trips throughout Pu Hoat NR. In total, 155 butterfly taxa were recorded during the dedicated surveys of this study, in addition to 12 species-level records from previous studies. The main aim of this paper is to give a first report of all butterfly species known to date in Pu Hoat NR. Additionally, the study identified butterfly species as potential bio-indicator species for different forest types in Pu Hoat NR. This information may be useful for monitoring biodiversity in Vietnam forests where have witnessed the high relative rate of habitat loss and degradation.

Keywords: bioindicator species, Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera, Western Nghe An Biosphere Reserve.

1. INTRODUCTION

Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) have an important role in the forest ecosystems, providing the stability in the food webs, as herbivore, pollinator and host of parasitoids (Dahelmi, 2000; Atmowidi et al., 2007). Butterflies are often used to assess the impact of forest deforestation on biodiversity, as they are closely associated with habitat structure and ecosystem characteristics (Brown & Freitas, 2000). About 19,445 butterfly species have been recorded so far (Schappert, 2000). The Vietnamese butterfly fauna was described for the first time by Metaye (1957) with 454 recorded species. Recently, Monastyrskii & Devyatkin (2003, 2015) provided a butterfly list of 1,124 species throughout Vietnam. Particularly, butterfly assemblages have been investigated in several natural protected areas. For example, Ikeda et al. (1999-2002) recorded 251 butterfly species distributed across 11 families: Papilionidae: 25 species, Pieridae: 22 species, Danaidae: 16 species, Satyridae: 24 species, Amathusiidae: 6 species, Acraeidae: 1 species, Nymphalidae: 56 species, Libytheidae: 1 species, Riodinidae: 3 species, Lycaenidae: 50 species and Hesperiidae: 47 species. There were 72 species in Hang Kia - Pa Co Nature Reserve and 98 species in Ba Be National Park

(Dang Thi Dap & Hoang Vu Tru, 2003), 174 species in Phia Oac – Phia Den National Park (Pham Hong Thai et al., 2013), 175 species in Hon Ba Nature Reserve (Vu Van Lien, 2005) and 188 species in three protected areas including Dakrong and Ba Na – Nui Chua nature reserves and Bach Ma National Park (Vu Van Lien et al., 2014). Recently, Vu Van Lien (2015) has reported 156 species in Pu Mat National Park.

Pu Hoat Nature Reserve (NR) is located in the northwest of Nghe An province, 180 km from Vinh City. Pu Hoat NR is one of the three protected natural areas of the Western Nghe Biosphere Reserve recognized An bv UNESCO since 2007. With a total area of over 85,000 hectares, Pu Hoat NR with the recognised high biodiversity value contains various ecosystems and landscapes (Pu Hoat Nature Reserve, 2013). Under Decision No 118/QĐ-SNN.QLKTKHCN of the Nghe An Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of 6 March 2020 on Research on insect biodiversity and conservation measures at Pu Hoat Nature Reserve, we conducted comprehensive surveys of the insect fauna in Pu Hoat NR and recorded a total of 155 butterfly taxa including two rare species. This paper provides a first list of butterflies and biological indicator species for different forest types in Pu Hoat NR. These findings may be further used for conservation decisions.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

2.1. Butterfly sampling and identification

The butterfly sampling was conducted in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve, Nghe An province (Vietnam) over three consecutive collection trips between April and December 2020. Four localities were surveyed, including Thong Thu, Tien Phong, Hanh Dich and Nam Giai communes (Que Phong district). At each locality, four 2×2 km sampling squares, equalling an 8 km long transect was established with the intention to cover different habitats along the established transects. Butterflies were surveyed in four levels of forest disturbance including: forest edges, mixed forests comprising bamboo and broadleaved trees, forest light gaps and closed forests. At each locality, three surveyors walked along the selected transect for recording butterflies. Recording took place during sunny weather, and monitoring was conducted between 10 am and 5 pm. All monitored transects were divided into segments of approximate 100 m length with an accompanying description for the habitat surrounding transects. Recordings were made of the butterfly adults, as seen within an "invisible box" of 10 m in front of the recorders, 5 m to each side and 10 m above (Videvall et al., 2016). Observations were aided with butterfly nets and cameras. The pace of walking depends on habitat, accessibility and butterfly density, but in general is approximately 3 km/h.

The collected butterflies were identified mainly according to the field guide of Monastyrskii & Devyatkin (2001, 2003, 2015). **2.2. Data analysis**

Venn diagrams were generated using the VennDiagram package v. 1.6.18 (Hanbo, 2017) to show the number of butterflies common to four spatially separated areas. An indicator value analysis (IndVal) was carried out using the indicspecies package v. 1.7.6

(Caceres & Jansen, 2016) in order to identify the characteristic species of specific areas (Dufrene & Legendre, 1997).

3. RESULTS

3.1. Species composition of butterflies in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve

A total of 167 taxa of butterflies were recorded in the Pu Hoat NR (Table 1). Of which, 155 taxa were sampled during the three dedicated surveys of the current study (April 2020 - December 2020), 12 species-level records were from the previous surveys. Of the 155 taxa collected in this study, 148 were identified to species level. The remaining 7 taxa were assigned to the following genera, and could not be reliably named to species: Appias Hübner, 1819; Euploea Fabricius, 1807; Ideopsis Horsfield, 1857; Arhopala Boisduval, 1832; Yasoda Doherty, 1889; Lethe Hübner, 1819 and Parnara Moore, 1881. In the case of these genera, I assigned taxa to morphospecies, but further taxonomic work would be required to name species with confidence, but such taxonomic uncertainly did not affect the analyses.

The family Nymphalidae dominated the butterfly assemblages at the Pu Hoat NR with 45 recorded species (and morphospecies), followed by the families Papilionidae (37 species), Pieridae (22 species), Satyridae (19 species), Danaidae (14 species), Lycaenidae (11 species). Relatively minor representation was afforded by the Amathusiidae (nine species), Hesperiidae (six species, Cephrenes acalle Hopffer, 1874, Halpe porus Mabille, 1876, Halpe wantona Swinhoe, 1893, Iambrix salsala Moore, 1865, Parnara bada (Moore, 1878) and Parnara sp1.), Riodinidae (two species, Abisara echerius Moore, 1901 and Zemeros flegyas Cramer, 1780) and Acraeidae (two species, Acraea violae Fabricius, 1775 and Acraea issoria Hübner, 1816).

The butterfly species were generally widespread across a number of spatially separated areas, with 43 of the 167 species being occurred in all four areas (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Venn diagrams showing the number of butterflies occurring in uniquely and in common in four study areas (Thong Thu Commune: TT; Hanh Dich Commune: HD; Nam Giai Commune: NC and Tien Phong Commune: TP) at Pu Hoat NR

Table 1	1. Spec	ies comp	osition	of butter	rflies re	corded	in P	'u Hoat	t NR
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(1)	Papilionidae	36	Troides aeacus (Felder & Felder, 1860) (**)
1	Atrophaneura varuna (White, 1842)	37	Troides helena (Linnaeus, 1758) (**)
2	Byasa crassipes (Oberthür, 1879) (*)	(2)	Pieridae
3	Byasa polyeuctes (Doubleday, 1842)	38	Appias albina (Boisduval, 1836) (**)
4	Chilasa agestor (Gray, 1831)	39	Appias galba (Wallace, 1887)
5	Chilasa clytia (Linnaeus, 1758)	40	Appias indra (Moore, 1858)
6	Graphium agamemnon (Linnaeus, 1758) (**)	41	Appias libythea (Fabricius, 1775)
7	Graphium agetes (Westwood, 1843)	42	Appias lyncida (Cramer, 1779)
8	Graphium antiphates (Cramer, 1775) (**)	43	Appias pandione (Geyer, 1832)
9	Graphium aristeus (Stoll, 1780) (*)	44	Appias sp.1.
10	Graphium doson (Felder & Felder, 1864) (**)	45	Artogeia canidia (Sparrman, 1768) (*)
11	Graphium eurous (Leech, 1893)	46	Catopsilia pomona (Fabricius, 1775) (**)
12	Graphium eurypylus (Linnaeus, 1758)	47	Catopsilia pyranthe (Linnaeus, 1758) (**)
13	Graphium evemon (Boisduval, 1836)	48	Cepora nadina (Lucas, 1852)
14	Graphium macareus (Godart, 1819)	49	Cepora nerissa (Fabricius, 1775)
15	Graphium phidias (Oberthür, 1896)	50	Delias hyparete (Linnaeus, 1758) (*)
16	Graphium sarpedon (Linnaeus, 1758) (*)	51	Delias pasithoe (Linnaeus, 1758) (**)
17	Lamproptera curius (Fabricius, 1787)	52	<i>Delias</i> sp.1. (*)
18	Lamproptera meges (Zincken, 1831)	53	Eurema hecabe (Linnaeus, 1758) (*)
19	Pachliopta aristolochiae (Fabricius, 1775)	54	Eurema laeta (Boisduval, 1836)
20	Papilio alcmenor Felder & Felder, 1864	55	Eurema sari (Horsfield, 1829)
21	Papilio arcturus Westwood, 1842 (**)	56	Hebomoia glaucippe (Linnaeus, 1758) (**)
22	Papilio bianor Cramer, 1777 (**)	57	Ixias pyrene (Linnaeus, 1764) (**)
23	Papilio bootes Westwood, 1842	58	Leptosia nina (Fabricius, 1793)
24	Papilio castor Westwood, 1842	59	Pieris brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758) (*)
25	Papilio demoleus Linnaeus, 1758 (**)	(3)	Danaidae
26	Papilio dialis (Leech, 1893)	60	Danaus genutia Cramer, 1779 (**)
27	Papilio elephenor Doubleday, 1845 (**)	61	Euploea core Cramer, 1780 (**)
28	Papilio helenus Linnaeus, 1758 (**)	62	Euploea eunice (Godart, 1819) (**)
29	Papilio memnon Linnaeus, 1758 (**)	63	Euploea klugii Moore & Horsfield, 1857
30	Papilio nephelus Boisduval, 1836	64	Euploea modesta Butler, 1866
31	Papilio noblei de Nicéville, 1889 (**)	65	Euploea mulciber Cramer, 1777
32	Papilio paris Linnaeus, 1758 (**)	66	Euploea sp.1.
33	Papilio polytes Linnaeus, 1758 (**)	67	Ideopsis similis Linnaeus, 1758
34	Papilio protenor Cramer, 1775 (**)	68	Ideopsis vulgaris Butler, 1874
35	Papilio xuthus Linnaeus, 1767	69	Parantica aglea Stoll, 1781 (**)

70	$D_{1} (1 - 1) = 0$ 1775 (*)	101	E : 11:1 1020 1020
70	Parantica melaneus Cramer, $1/75(*)$	121	Faunts canens Hubber, $1820-1820$
/1	Parantica sita Kollar, 1844 (*)	122	Faunis eumeus Drury, 1770
72	Tirumala limniace (Cramer 1775) (**)	123	Stichophthalma fruhstorferi Rober, 1903
73	Tirumala septentrionis Butler, 1874	124	Stichophthalma mathilda Janet 1905
(4)	Nymphalidae	125	Thaumantis diores Doubleday, 1845
74	Argyreus hyperbius Linnaeus 1763	126	Thauria lathyi Fruhstorfer, 1905
75	Ariadne ariadne Linnaeus, 1763	127	Zeuxidia masoni Moore, 1879
76	Ariadne merione Cramer, 1779	(6)	Lycaenidae
77	Athyma perius (Linnaeus, 1758)	128	Acytolepis puspa (Horsfield, 1828)
78	Athyma pravara Moore 1857	129	Anthene emolus (Godart, 1824)
79	Calinaga buddha Moore, 1857	130	Arhopala agaba (Hewitson, 1862)
80	Calinaga funeralis Monastyrskii & Devyatkin 2000	131	Arhopala aida De Nicéville, 1889
81	Cethosia biblis Drury, 1770	132	Arhopala amantes (Hewitson, 1862)
82	Cethosia cyane (Drury, 1770)	133	Arhopala sp.1.
83	Charaxes kahruba Moore, 1895	134	Curetis bulis (Westwood, 1851)
84	Charaxes marmax Westwood, 1848	135	Flos abseus (Hewitson, 1862)
85	Chersonesia intermedia Martin, 1895	136	Hypolycaena othona Hewitson, 1865
86	Chersonesia risa Doubleday, 1848	137	Yasoda sp.1.
87	<i>Cirrochroa tyche</i> C. & R. Felder, 1861	138	Zeltus amasa (Hewitson, 1865)
88	Cyrestis thyodamas Boisduval 1836	(7)	Riodinidae
89	Diling morgiang Westwood 1850	139	Abisara echerius Moore 1901
90	Elipu morgiuna Westwood, 1050	140	Zemeros flegyes Cramer 1780
01	Elymnias natua Westwood 1851	(9)	Saturidaa
02	Elymnius puina westwood, 1831	(o) 141	Coolitas nothis Westwood 1850
92	Hunolimnas holing Linnous, 1759	141	Elemnias malalas Howitson 1862
95	Hypolimnas bolina Linnaeus, 1758	142	Lithe chandies Meene 1857
94	<i>Hypolimnus misippus</i> (Linnaeus, 1764)	145	Lethe chandled Moore, 1857
95	Junonia almana Linnaeus, 1758	144	Lethe conjust Aurivillius, 1897
96	Junonia attites Linnaeus, 1763	145	Letne europa Fabricius, 1/75
9/	Junonia orithya (Linnaeus, 1758)	146	Lethe mekara Moore, 1857
98	Kalima alicia Joicey & Talbot, 1921	147	Lethe minerva Fabricius, 1775
99	Kallima inachus (Doyere, 1840) (*)	148	Lethe sp.1.
100	Kaniska canace (Linnaeus, 1763)	149	Lethe sp.2.
101	Lasippa heliodore Fabricius, 1787	150	Melanitis leda Linnaeus, 1758
102	Lasippa tiga Moore, 1858	151	Melanitis phedima Cramer, 1782
103	Lexias dirtea (Fabricius, 1793)	152	Mycalesis annamitica Fruhstorfer, 1906
104	Lexias pardalis Moore 1878	153	Mycalesis inopia Fruhstorfer, 1908
105	Mimathyma ambica Kollar, 1844	154	Mycalesis intermedia Moore, 1892
106	Neptis hylas (Linnaeus, 1758)	155	Mycalesis malsara Moore, 1857
107	Orsotriaena medus Fabricius, 1775	156	Mycalesis mineus Linnaeus, 1858
108	Pantoporia sandaka (Butler, 1892)	157	Mycalesis perseoides Moore, 1890
109	Penthema michallati Janet,1894	158	Mycalesis sangaica Butler, 1877
110	Phaedyma columella Cramer 1782	159	Ypthima baldus Fabricius, 1775
111	Phalanta alcippe Cramer, 1782	(9)	Hesperiidae
112	Phalanta phalantha Drury, 1773	160	Cephrenes acalle Hopffer, 1874
113	Polygonia caureum Linnaeus, 1758	161	Halpe porus Mabille, 1876
114	Polvura athamas Drury, 1773	162	Halpe wantona Swinhoe, 1893
115	Rohana parisatis (Westwood, 1850)	163	Iambrix salsala Moore, 1865
116	Rohana tonkiniana Fruhstorfer 1906	164	Parnara bada (Moore, 1878)
117	Stibochiona nicea Grav 1846	165	Parnara sp 1
118	Symbrenthia hvoselis Godart 1823	(10)	Acraeidae
(5)	A mathusiidae	166	Acraea issoria Hühner 1816
110	Amathuridia anythaon Doubleday 1847 (*)	167	Acrapa violap Fabricius 1775
120	Disconhora sondaica Boisduval 1926	107	nerueu violue raditetus, 1775
120	Discophora sonaaica Doisuuvai, 1850		

(*) denote species recorded only in (Department of Science and Technology of Nghe An, 2017); (**) denote species recorded in both the current study and (Department of Science and Technology of Nghe An, 2017).

3.2. Butterflies as potential bioindicators for forest disturbance in Pu Hoat NR

The indicator value analysis indicated that, nine butterfly species had a significant preference for one habitat type (IndVal > 70%, p<0.05) (Table 2). Of which, four species including *Zemeros flegyas*, *Zeltus amasa*, *Melanitis leda* and *Melanitis phedima* were identified by high indicator values as true specialists in forest edges. *Euploea mulciber*, *Lamproptera curius* and *Papilio polytes* were bio-indicator species of forest light gaps. *Kallima inachus* was bio-indicator species of closed forests, while *Stichophthalma mathilda* was indicator of the mixed forests comprising bamboo and broad-leaved trees.

 Table 2. The indicator value test results of butterfly species with significant preference (p*<0.05) for the four habitat types. Species were ordered according to the value of IndVal.</th>

Species	Forest type	IndVal	<i>p</i> * value
Zemeros flegyas	Forest edges	82.6	< 0.001
Zeltus amasa	Forest edges	79.5	0.002
Stichophthalma mathilda	Mixed forests comprising bamboo and broad-leaved trees	78.3	0.003
Euploea mulciber	Forest light gaps	77.7	0.006
Melanitis leda	Forest edges	76.2	0.008
Melanitis phedima	Forest edges	75.3	0.01
Lamproptera curius	Forest light gaps	74.4	0.02
Papilio polytes	Forest light gaps	73.1	0.03
Kallima inachus	Closed forests	72.6	0.04

4. DISCUSSIONS

The number of butterfly species found in this study area was 167 species or about 15% of the approximately 1,124 species described in Vietnam (Monastyrskii & Devyatkin, 2003, 2015). One hundred and twenty-nine species were found in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve for the first time.

The Pu Hoat NR has a relatively high number of butterflies, compared to other nature reserves/ national parks in Vietnam, although these differences might be related to different size of the area, sampling efforts and environmental conditions differences in (Ramos, 2000). For example, there were 72 species in Hang Kia - Pa Co and 98 species in Ba Be National Park (Dang Thi Dap & Hoang Vu Tru, 2003), 156 species in Pu Mat National Park (Vu Van Lien, 2015), 174 species in Phia Oac - Phia Den National Park (Pham Hong Thai et al., 2013), 175 species in Hon Ba Nature Reserve (Vu Van Lien, 2005) and 188 species in three protected areas including Dakrong and Ba Na - Nui Chua nature reserves and Bach Ma National Park (Vu Van Lien et al., 2014).

The butterfly fauna in Pu Hoat Nature Reserve was dominated by Nymphalid butterflies (The family Nymphalidae). This family was also dominant in other Asian areas (Panjaitan, 2008; Nimbalkar et al., 2011, Rusman et al., 2016), commonly found in the road, edges, and disturbed areas (Ramos 2000). Meanwhile, the family Acraeidae was rarely observed with only two individuals of the species Acraea violae and A. issoria being recorded. This family was found commonly in African areas. In Vietnam, only two species (Acraea violae and A. issoria) of this family have (Monastyrskii been recorded & Devyatkin, 2003, 2015).

Among the recorded butterflies, two golden birdwing butterflies including *Troides aeacus* and *Troides helena* have been assessed as Least Concern by the IUCN Red List. The two golden birdwings are large tropical butterflies belonging to the swallowtail family, Papilionidae. Both species have a wide extent of occurrence, being found across South and Southeast Asia. Although these two butterflies do not qualify for a higher extinction risk at the species-level, they are threatened in parts of their range by habitat loss and degradation. Particularly, the birdwing populations are rapidly declined in Vietnam as consequences of tropical forest degradation, unsustainable harvesting of forest resources for livelihood and expansion of settlements and specimen collection for trades and craftwork (Vu Van Lien, 2014). Currently both species are listed in the Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP dated January 22, 2019 of the Vietnamese Government on management of endangered, precious and rare species of forest fauna and flora and observation of convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora), Red Data Book of Vietnam and the Appendix II of CITES. The further determination of potential threats that the birdwings and their larval food plants are facing is crucial for conserving the two globally important butterflies.

5. CONCLUSION

The list containing 167 butterfly taxa in Pu Hoat NR was officially provided for the first time. Of which, the two rare butterfly species (Troides helena and T. aeacus.) that are both the Convention present on on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora (CITES) and the Vietnamese Red List 2007 were recorded. Nine butterfly species were determined as potential bio-indicator species for different forest types in Pu Hoat NR. These findings will be useful for monitoring biodiversity in Vietnam forests where have witnessed the highest relative rate of habitat loss and degradation.

Acknowledgment

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KHU HỆ BƯỚM NGÀY TẠI KHU BẢO TỒN THIÊN NHIÊN PÙ HOẠT, TỉNH NGHỆ AN

Bùi Văn Bắc

Trường Đại học Lâm nghiệp

TÓM TẮT

Khu Bảo tồn thiên nhiên Pù Hoạt (KBTTN) thuộc Khu Dự trữ sinh quyển miền Tây Nghệ An là khu vực quan trọng trong bảo tồn đa dạng sinh học vùng Duyên hải Bắc Trung Bộ Việt Nam. Khu Bảo tồn thiên nhiên Pù Hoạt có nhiều hệ sinh thái và cảnh quan khác nhau với bốn dạng chính bao gồm rừng kín, rừng thưa, cây bụi và thảm cỏ. Bướm ngày với sự đa dạng và phong phú cao là một trong những mắt xích quan trọng nhất của nhiều quá trình sinh thái. Sự suy giảm tính đa dạng của các loài bướm ngày có thể dẫn đến hiệu ứng tiêu cực cho toàn bộ quần xã. Do đó, các nhà sinh học bảo tồn thường dựa vào sự đa dạng của nhóm bướm ngày như một chỉ số quan trọng cho việc lập kế hoạch và quản lý các khu rừng nhiệt đới. Trong khoảng thời gian từ tháng 4 đến tháng 12 năm 2020, chúng tôi đã thu thập các loài bướm ngày trong ba đợt điều tra thực địa xuyên suốt Khu Bảo tồn thiên nhiên Pù Hoạt. Tổng cộng, 155 đơn vị phân loại bướm ngày đã được ghi nhận trong các cuộc khảo sát, cùng với 12 loài đã được ghi nhận từ các nghiên cứu trước đó. Bải báo cung cấp danh lục loài đầu tiên về tất cả các loài bướm được ghi nhận đến nay tại KBTTN Pù Hoạt. Bên cạnh đó, nghiên cứu đã xác định các loài bướm có tiềm năng làm sinh vật chỉ thị sinh học cho các kiểu rừng khác nhau ở KBTTN Pù Hoạt. Các thông tin này có thể được sử dụng cho việc giám sát đa dạng sinh học ở các khu rừng Việt Nam, nơi có tỷ lệ mất và suy thoái rừng cao.

Từ khóa: Khu dự trữ sinh quyển miền Tây Nghệ An, Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera, sinh vật chỉ thị.

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