

Assessment of Butterfly (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera) Diversity in Manchabandha and Budhikhamari Reserve Forest, Mayurbhanj, Odisha, India

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(Accepted: June 15, 2018)

ABSTRACT

Manchabandha and Budhikhamari Reserve Forest are located in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, India. These two reserve forests are Sal (*Shorea robusta*) dominated forests. We conducted study on butterfly diversity in Manchabandha and Budhikhamari Reserve Forest during December 2013 and November 2015. During this period, We recorded a total 135 species of butterflies and 89 genera belonging to five families. Nymphalidae and Lycaenidae were the richest family with 43 species. Species richness and individual encounter is high in Monsoon season. Out of the recorded species, eight species are protected under WL(P)A, 1972. Considering the paucity of knowledge on butterfly diversity in the region, the present study assumes significant and will help in the conservation of the fragmented Sal forests.

Key words: butterfly, conservation, diversity, Sal forest, Odisha.