

Assessment of Butterfly Diversity in Mahad Taluka, Western Ghats, Maharashtra, India

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Abstract: A study was conducted to estimate the butterfly diversity in the Mahad taluka Western Ghats. Raigad district Maharashtra. Insects play a vital role in the maintenance of essential life support systems in natural habitat is well known. Among all insects butterflies are ecologically important; the butterflies feed on the nectar and are important as pollinators of flowering plants. The larval stages of butterflies feed on the leaves are the primary herbivores in the ecosystem and are important in the transfer of the radiant energy which is fixed by plants and making it available to the other organisms. The present paper incorporates 73 species and sub species distributed over 5 families of butterflies from Mahad Taluka of Raigad District Western Ghats Maharashtra. Family Nymphalidae represented 24 species followed by families Lycaenidae, Pieridae, Papilionidae and Satyridae with 21, 11, 09 and 08 species respectively.

Keywords: survey, Butterflies, Mahad Taluka, Western Ghats, Maharashtra

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