India a Biodiversity rich treasure: Moths classical example Aparna Sureshchandra Kalawate



- India is a megadiverse country with infinite diversity of insects holding in it.
- Lepidoptera is the second rich group in terms of species count.
- There are currently more than 11,745 known species of moths in India.
- Moths are considered to be an important ecological indicator.
- They are the secondary source of food for higher animals like: Bats, frogs, birds, etc.
- Some moths for instance, sphinx moths are the pollinators of the night blooming flowering plants in the wild.
- The scientific taxonomic studies on such an important component of our ecosystems were largely neglected by the scientists and citizens of India.

Preservation of Moths





Identification and photography







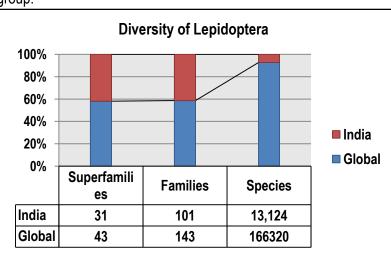
Role of Moths







- Digitization & Barcoding.
- Involving more expertise to explore the diversity of this mega insect group.



Acknowledgements: The authors are thankful to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and Officer-in-Charge, WRC, ZSI, Pune for facilities and encouragement.

References: Singh, N., Kaur, A., Pathania, P.C., Sharma, N., Kalawate, A., Palot, J., Banerjee, D., Talukdar, A., Lenka, R., Kumari, A., Raha, A. & Joshi, R. (2024). Fauna of India Checklist: Arthropoda: Insecta: Lepidoptera. Version 1.0. Zoological Survey India. DOI: https://doi.org/10.26515/Fauna/1/2023/Arthropoda:Insecta:Lepidoptera