Practical Moth Recording Workshops

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Mission : ***Facilitating the recording and conservation of Asian moths and the habitats upon which they depend***

This workshop is structured so that participants can:

- **understand the process of identifying moths, including what morphological features to look for both in the field and also in the lab;**
- **document observation data & use resources available for moth identification**
- **sample the diversiy of Asian moths at the rank of Family and lower;**
- **participate in practical moth recording by way of demonstration;**
- **understand the significant processes that moth recording is part of including taxonomy, curation, species distribution; all of which contribute to better conservation for moths and their habitats.**

The Practical Moth Recording Workshop has

- **developed out of responses from delegates at the Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposia of 2006 and 2008;**
- **been held by academia or non-governmental request or as private events in India (2010 & 2017), Malaysia (2016, 2017 & 2018) and Singapore (2014 & 2017);**
- **PMR returned to India in 2019, as part of the 6th Asian Lepidoptera Conservation Symposium;**
- **delivered training to almost 500 participants;**
- **benefitted major recording and education projects each time the workshop has been held; projects include the Moths of India website; books on India's tiger moths, common moths of India and the Pyralid & Thyridid moths of Borneo;**
- **inspired people to undertake their own recording, through the support of iNaturalist moth recording projects for many Oriental countries.**

What Next?

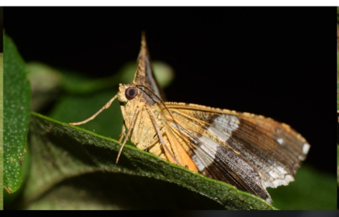
- **PMR will be part of the 7th ALCS in Chiang Dao, Thailand, from 12th to 14th November 2026**

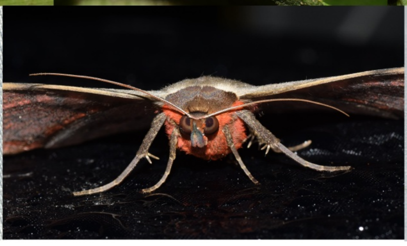
Academic and non-governmental organisations have been key hosts to facilitate the Practical Moth Recording workshop. Punjabi University hosted one PMRW in September 2017, attended by delegates from all over India.

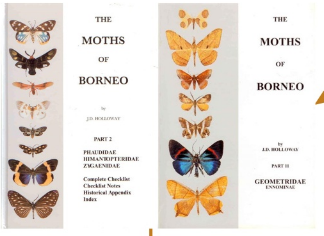
Private, subscription only, workshops have been held in Malaysia. Attendees benefit from hands-on training in a small group context. .

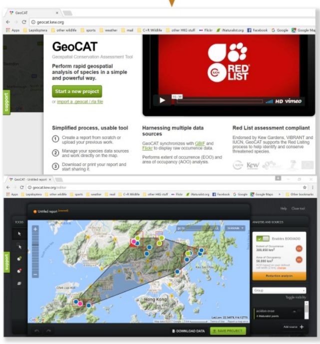
Moths of Asia

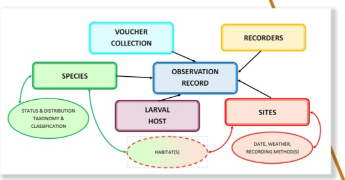
A Recording Project on iNaturalist; draws upon observations submitted at the country level and includes observations made at PMR workshops. There is the opportunity for attendees to contribute their own data and to make better use of online moth data. Workshop follow-up support is given online, via iNaturalist and via social media groups created specially for workshop participants. (*illustrated below* - some of the hundreds of moth species seen at the PMR workshops in Malaysia)











What is an Obserevation ?

In the workshop, the process of understanding what biological data comprises and can be used for is worked through with a single moth observation.

All the associated data (the what, where, when, how, who ......) is then related graphically (via the flowchart, left) and data storage on a relational database explained. Data is then placed in context, within the Convention of Biological Diversity framework, showing how species are assessed using Red List criteria and then how that assessment feeds back into site-based conservation.

The illustrations around the flowchart represent each of the components in the chart,

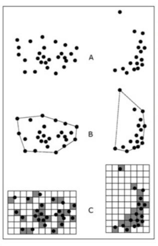


Figure 2. Two examples of the distinction between extent of occurrence and area of occupancy. (A) is the spatial distribution of known, inferred or projected sites of present occurrence. (B) shows one possible boundary to the extent of occurrence, which is the measured area within this boundary. (C) shows one measure of area of occupancy which can be achieved by the sum of the occupied grid squares.