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## First record of the Owlet Moth *Bastilla simillima* from Maharashtra, Mumbai (Erebidae: Aganainae: Poaphilini).

Javed Ahmed<sup>1\*</sup>, Chris Cathrine<sup>2</sup>, Krishna Mohan<sup>2,3</sup>, Bhushan Jadhav<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>\*Corresponding Author: Jai Gopi Krishna CHSL, 'A' Wing, Flat No. 102; 1, Patil Wadi, Govandi East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400088, India  
email - [curiocritters@gmail.com](mailto:curiocritters@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Office 2 and 3, Craigarnhall, Bridge of Allan, Stirling, FK9 4NG, Scotland  
email - [chris.cathrine@caledonianconservation.co.uk](mailto:chris.cathrine@caledonianconservation.co.uk)

<sup>3</sup>Prabhu Hospital, Hospital Cross Road, Moodbidri, Karnataka, 574227, India,  
email - [drkrishi@gmail.com](mailto:drkrishi@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup>A-4, Plot no. 82, Aasra Co-operative Housing Society, Near Swami Vivekanand School, Gorai-1, Borivali (West), Mumbai 400091, India.  
email - [bhushanjadhav7604@gmail.com](mailto:bhushanjadhav7604@gmail.com)

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While the Erebid moth *Bastilla simillima* (Guenée, 1852) is known to occur in India (Sivasankaran et al., 2012), it has only been recorded from a handful of states in the country, of which formally published, peer-reviewed reports, are even scantier. From Western India, it has only been reported from the states of Goa, and Gujarat (Gurule & Brookes, 2021; Sondhi et al., 2021), and none of the major moth surveys conducted in the state of Maharashtra, list the species (Gurule et al., 2010; Shubhalaxmi et al., 2011; Gurule & Nikam, 2011; Gurule, 2013; Gurule & Nikam, 2013; Gadhikar et al., 2015; Nimbalkar & Shinde, 2015; Kalawate, 2018; Pathre et al., 2019; Pujari, 2021). We present here, the first record of the species from the state of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

A single imago attracted to artificial light, indoors, on 11 AUG 2021 (20:17 hrs.), in Eastern Mumbai (Govandi East), was photographed, and subsequently identified as *B. simillima*, based on the description provided by Hampson (1894), namely: antemedial line curved, with dark suffusion inside; postmedial line with dark suffusion instead of a dark patch inside it, and with two slight angles beyond the cell. Apical streak slight. Submarginal line dentate, indistinct. Hind wing with the cilia pale below the apex (Figure 1).

Furthermore, this description, and the corresponding record shot, was found to be in agreement with photographs of *B. simillima* posted to the 'Moths of India' website (Sondhi et al., 2021), from which further distribution records of the species in India were gathered,

namely, West Bengal, in Eastern India; Tamil Nadu, in South India; Karnataka, in Southwest India; Andhra Pradesh, in the South-eastern coastal region of India, to which is added the present record from Mumbai, Maharashtra, in Western India (Figure 2).

Globally, in addition to India, *B. simillima* is known to occur in Bangladesh, China, Taiwan, and Indonesia (GBIF Secretariat, 2021). Not much is known about the natural history of the species, except that larvae feed on *Phyllanthus* L. spp. (Holloway & Miller, 2003), and that it is parasitized by the braconid wasp *Xiphozele compressiventris* Cameron, 1906 (Achterberg, 2008). Further studies are needed to better understand the ecology, and distribution of this species.

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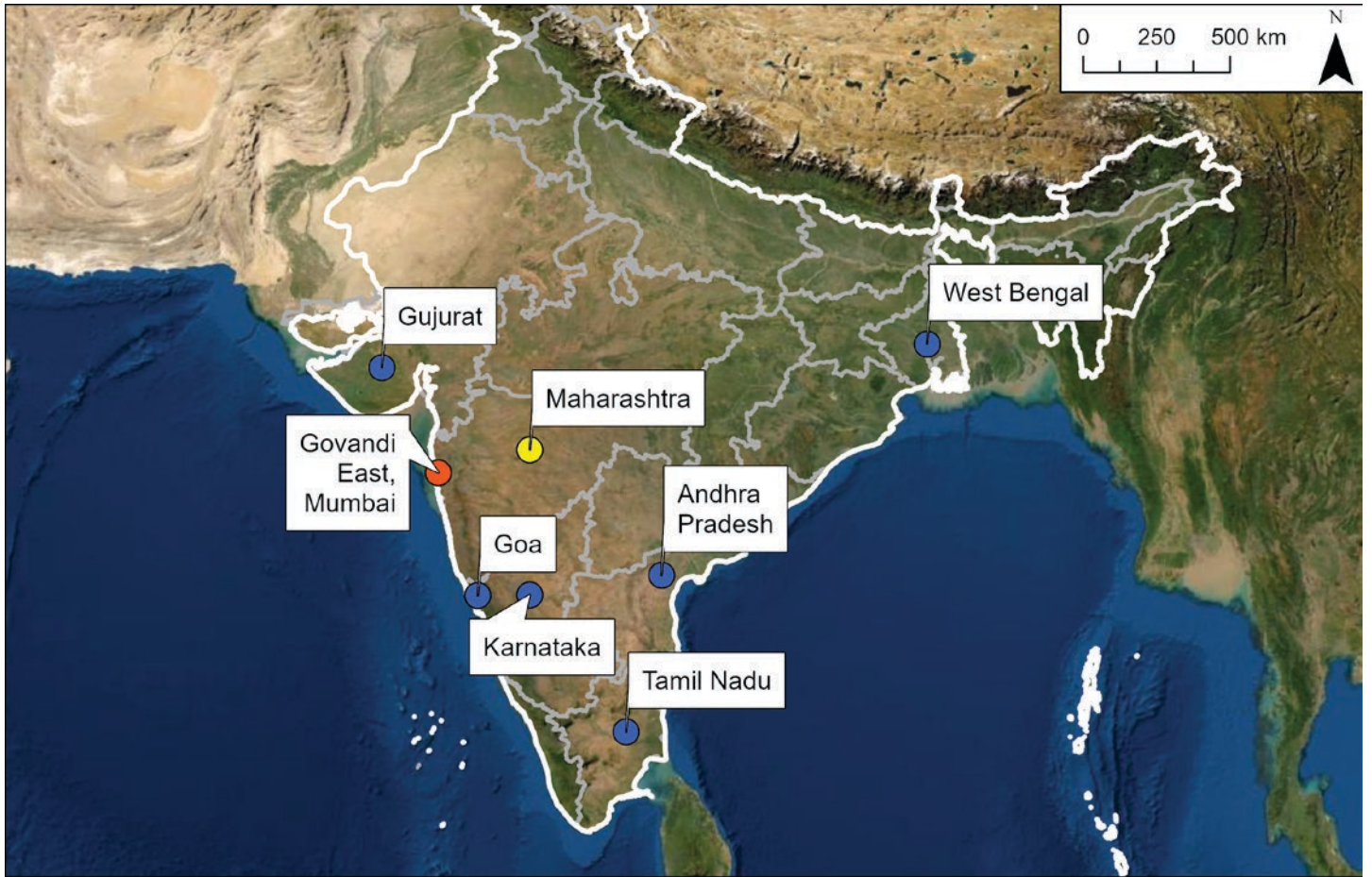
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Figure 1

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Data sources: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, FAO, NOAA, SOI, and the GIS User Community. Basemap imagery © 2021 DigitalGlobe.

**Figure 2**

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