

Skipper- *Hasora chromus* (Cramer) in transient stage fluttering in and around Bangalore

The skipper, common banded awl, which is flaring up in large numbers: *Hasora chromus* (Cramer) (Lepidoptera: Hesperidae), commonly occurring on Indian beech tree- *Millettia* (= *Pongamia*) *pinnata* has been seen in pretty good numbers fluttering in and around Bangalore (first noticed in HSR layout). High incidence was also noticed in ICAR-NBAIR research farm situated near Yelahanka. The trees were entirely defoliated, however soon they would rejuvenate/reshoot. Many insectivorous birds were seen feeding on the caterpillars. These caterpillars do not cause any harm to the humans, hence there is absolutely no necessity to spray any insecticide/pesticide for their control.

For different life stages please refer to <http://www.nbair.res.in/insectpests/Hasora-chromus.php>



Image by Dr. T. M. Shivalingaswamy taken in March 2016: (A) Completely defoliated tree in NBAIR Research Farm, Yelahanka



Images by Dr Ankita Gupta taken in March 2016: (B) The infested tree with excreta underneath; (C) Egg of *Hasora chromus* (Cramer)



Images by Dr. T. M. Shivalingaswamy taken in March 2016: (D) Voraciously feeding caterpillars of *H.chromus*; (E) Pupa of *H.chromus*