



Common Lineblue and Dark Cerulean

Rare butterfly species Common Lineblue, (which was last seen in 1962 in Delhi) and **Dark Cerulean** (which was last spotted in the **late 90s**) were spotted by researchers in **2018** after a gap of over half a century.

Attracting new species

Experts now speculate that the city's floral diversity could be changing



Dark Cerulean

- Spotted at least thrice between October 2018 and February 2019 (District Park in Pitampura and Acharya Narendra Dev College in Govindpuri)
 - All male
 - Butterflies were settled on foliage
- Earlier records:** 1985 at Hauz Khas and late 1990s at Sanjay Van



Common Lineblue

- Spotted in August 2018 at Shalimar Bagh Garden in the city
 - Male
 - Puddling on the ground
- Earlier record:** Three males were spotted in 1962

Possible reasons

(Need to be validated by further studies)

- Changing floristic pattern because of several parks and gardens
- Migration (as Dark Cerulean is known to migrate)

Butterfly census in Delhi

75 species were found across 51 locations in the national capital in 2018, as against **69 species** which were found across 14 forest patches in 2017

- Both Common Lineblue and Dark Cerulean butterflies are usually found in the **Himalayan foothills**.
- **Researchers** and **lepidopterologists** (branch of entomology concerning the scientific study of moths and the three superfamilies of butterflies) have noted that resurfacing of the two rare species of butterflies in the Delhi points towards the **expanding floral diversity** of the region that attracts new butterfly species from adjoining places.

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