Acknowledgements

All naturalists are bewitched by a special creature, often one familiar from their youth and possessing an allure not defined by any formal taxonomic rank, separate from any research question, and more basic than beauty or size or popular reputation. We know early on that these animals strike an emotional note that we may never be allowed to describe in any terse research paper. We see them not as specimens but as creatures playing a role in nature, one that we devote ourselves to discovering and describing. For some it might be a clouded leopard, a desert jird, or a yellow-throated sparrow. For me it was a Caligula silk moth which came fluttering to our camp light on a freezing October night in Devghat, Gangotri. An elegant burgundy wine-colored moth with exquisite detail in the wing pattern, with its bold lines and colors, delicate shadings, and those small false eyespots; with its furry body and deliberate movements, the moth seemed more like a small mammal than a darting insect. I could not have known how rewarding and challenging my early attraction to this group of insects would become.

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