

## Genus *Pharmacophagus* Haase, 1891 Malagasy Giant Swallowtail

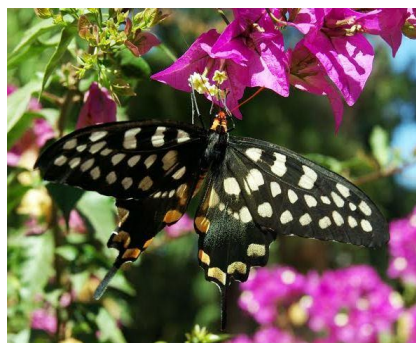
*Bibliotheca Zoologica. Cassel & Stuttgart* 4 (Heft 8): 120 (120 pp. + 161 pp.).

Type-species: *Papilio antenor* Drury, by subsequent designation (Kirby, 1896. *In*: Allen's Naturalist's Library, *A handbook to the order Lepidoptera*. Part 1. Butterflies 2: 306 (332 pp.). London.).

The genus *Pharmacophagus* belongs to the Family Papilionidae Latreille, 1802; Subfamily Papilioninae Latreille, 1802; Tribe Troidini Talbot, 1939; Subtribe Troidina Talbot, 1939. *Pharmacopgagus* is the only genus of this subtribe in the Afrotropical Region.

*Pharmacophagus* (Malagasy Giant Swallowtail) is a monobasic genus, confined to Madagascar. Hancock (2007) treats *Pharmacophagus* as a subgenus of *Pachliopta* Reakirt.

### \**Pharmacophagus antenor* (Drury, 1773) Malagasy Giant Swallowtail



Males of the Malagasy Giant Swallowtail, Majunga, Madagascar.  
Images courtesy Alain Gauthier.

*Papilio antenor* Drury, 1773. *Illustrations of Natural History* 2: index et 4 (90 pp.). London.  
*Papilio antenor* Drury, 1773. Aurivillius, 1899.



*Pharmacophagus antenor*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ifaty, Madagascar. 18-19 April 2018. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Pharmacophagus antenor*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Beparasy, Madagascar. April 2012.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Lawrence Collection.

**Type locality:** No locality given.

**Distribution:** Madagascar.

**Specific localities:**

Madagascar – Maevatana (Le Moul, 1912); Betroka District (Diehl, 1962); Ampijeroa Forest Reserve (Preston-Mafham, 1991); Morondava (Preston-Mafham, 1991); Antananarivo (Parsons, 1996); Anjajavy Peninsula N-W Madagascar (R. Schutte, pers. comm., April 2010); Ifaty (male illustrated above).

**Habitat:** Unnatural grasslands and anthropogenic environments (Lees *et al.*, 2003). Dry deciduous coastal forest (R. Schutte, pers. comm., April 2010).

**Habits:** Common and widespread over much of Madagascar, often flying strongly and quite high up (Preston-Mafham, 1991). In moist parts of the country the larval foodplant does not lose its leaves and the butterfly flies throughout the year (Denso, 1943). In dry parts of the country the leaves are shed in May and June, with new leaf growth by the end of October; here *P. antenor* undergoes pupal diapause, eclosing only when the rains begin. R.

Schutte (pers. comm., April 2010) noted that it flies with a constant slow, flapping wingbeat high in the forest canopy, and then suddenly swoops down to a few feet above the ground. Females were seen ovipositing on large vines. Fond of flowers high in the canopy, but also Bougainvillea in the hotel gardens. Late afternoons the hotel garden oasis had a spectacular mix of *P. antenor* and Sunset Moths (*Chrysidia madagascariensis*) flying about amongst the lemurs.

**Early stages:**

Denso, 1943.

Igarashi, 1984. [pupa]

Parsons, 1996b.

Hall & Lightowler, 1998.

**Larval food:**

*Aristolochia acuminata* Lam. (Aristolochiaceae) [Denso, 1943; Parsons, 1996; synonym of *A. tagala* Cham., an Indian species that does not occur in Madagascar (A. Gauthier, pers. comm., 2015)].

*Aristolochia albida* Duch. (Aristolochiaceae) [A. Gauthier, pers comm., 2015].

*Quisqualis grandidieri* (Combretaceae) [Viette, 1955; not Madagascan; erroneous according to Parsons, 1996].

**gehleni** Le Mout, 1912 (as var. of *Papilio antenor*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* **1912**: 384 (383-384). Madagascar: “Maëvatana”. Paratype in the Royal Museum for Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium.

**albomaculata** Le Mout, 1912 (as var. of *Papilio antenor*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* **1912**: 384 (383-384). Madagascar: “Maëvatana”.

**niger** Diehl, 1962 (as f. of *Papilio antenor*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt. a.M.* **72**: 109 (24, 109-111). Madagascar: “Südmadagaskar, distrikts Betroka”.