

Genus *Euploea* Fabricius, 1807

Crows

In: Illiger, K., *Magazin für Insektenkunde* 6: 280 (277-289).

Type-species: *Papilio corus* Fabricius, by subsequent designation (Opinion 163, 1945. *Opinions and Declarations Rendered by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature* 2: 335-346.) [extralimital].

= *Vonoma* Moore, 1883. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1883: 257 (201-324).
Type-species: *Euplaea* [sic] *goudotii* Boisduval, by original designation.

= *Pramasa* Moore, 1883. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1883: 281 (201-324).
Type-species: *Euploea mitra* Moore, by monotypy.

Synonyms based on extralimital type-species: *Adigama* Moore; *Anadara* Moore; *Andasena* Moore; *Betanga* Moore; *Bibisana* Moore; *Calliploea* Butler; *Chanapa* Moore; *Chirosa* Moore; *Crastia* Hübner; *Danisepa* Moore; *Deragena* Moore; *Doricha* Moore; *Eudaemon* Billberg; *Gamatoba* Moore; *Glinama* Moore; *Hirdapa* Moore; *Isamia* Moore; *Karadira* Moore; *Lontara* Moore; *Macroploea* Butler; *Mahintha* Moore; *Menama* Moore; *Mestrapa* Moore; *Nacamsa* Moore; *Narmada* Moore; *Nipara* Moore; *Oranasma* Moore; *Pademma* Moore; *Patosa* Moore; *Penoa* Moore; *Pramesta* Moore; *Rasuma* Moore; *Sabanosa* Moore; *Salpinx* Hübner; *Saphara* Moore; *Sarobia* Moore; *Satanga* Moore; *Selinda* Moore; *Strictoploea* Butler; *Tabada* Moore; *Tagata* Moore; *Tiruna* Moore; *Trepsichrois* Hübner; *Tronga* Distant; *Vadebra* Moore.

The genus *Euploea* (**Crows**) belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Danainae Boisduval, 1833; Tribe Danaini Boisduval, 1833; Subtribe Euploeina Moore, 1880. *Euploea* is the only Afrotropical genus in the Subtribe Euploeina.

Euploea (Crows) is a largely Oriental genus of 55 species. Five species are known from the Afrotropical Region and these occur in the Mascarenes and the Seychelles. Two of the Afrotropical species are thought to be extinct.

**Euploea desjardinsii* (Guérin-Méneville, 1844)

Rodriques Crow

Danaida (*Euploea*) [sic] *desjardinsii* Guérin-Méneville, 1844. *Iconographie du règne animal de G. Cuvier. Insectes* 474 (576 pp.). Paris.

Euploea euphon desjardinsii Guérin-Méneville, 1844. Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 278.

Euploea desjardinsii Guérin-Méneville, 1844. D'Abrera, 1997: 192.

Type locality: Mauritius: “L’île Rodrigue”.

Distribution: Rodrigues. Probably extinct (Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 278).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Euploea euphon* (Fabricius, 1798)**
Mauritius Crow

Papilio euphon Fabricius, 1798. *Supplementum entomologiae systematica* 423 (572 pp.). Hafniae.



Euploea euphon on Mauritius. Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.



Euploea euphon. Male (Wingspan 75 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Black River Gorges, Mauritius. 31 December 2006. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Mauritius]: “Isle de France”.

Distribution: Mauritius.

Recorded, in error, from Madagascar and Zanzibar by Trimen (1866).

Specific localities:

Mauritius – Black River Gorges (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Habitat: Widespread over the island but not common. Appears to evince some preference for forested areas such as the Black River Gorges and some coastal areas (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Habits: Individuals generally fly from three to five metres above the ground, but may also be seen flying just above the ground in dense forest (Lawrence, 2016). The flight is slow but when disturbed it can be very active (Lawrence, 2016). Specimens have been noted imbibing exudations from the ends of broken branches lying on the ground, belonging to the tree *Tournefortia argentea* L. (Boraginaceae), presumably for the pyrrolizidine alkaloids that may be present in the exudations (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ficus repens Rottboell. (Moraceae) [Manders, 1908].

Nerium oleander L. (Apocynaceae) [Davis & Barnes, 1991: 148].

baudiniana Godart, 1819 *in* Latreille & Godart, [1819], [1824] (as sp. of *Danais*). *Encyclopédie Méthodique*. Histoire Naturelle [Zoologie] **9** Entomologie: 181 (1-328 [1819], 329-828 [1824]). Paris. [Indian Ocean]: “Timor”. The true identity of this taxon has yet to be ascertained but its ultimate synonymy with *Euploea euphon* seems likely (*see* Ackery and Vane-Wright, 1984).

****Euploea goudotii* Boisduval, 1833**

Reunion Crow

Euploea goudotii Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 184 (149-270).

Euploea euphon goudotii Boisduval, 1833. Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 278.

Euploea goudotii Boisduval, 1833. D'Abrera, 1997: 192.

Type locality: Reunion: “Bourbon”.

Distribution: Reunion.

Erroneously recorded from South Africa by Trimen, 1862c (MCW). Recorded, in error, from Madagascar by Van Vollenhoven, 1869: 4 (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Euploea mitra* Moore, 1858**

Seychelles Crow

Euploea mitra Moore, 1858 *in* Horsfield & Moore, [1858]. *A catalogue of the lepidopterous insects in the museum of the Hon. East India Company* **1**: 127 (278 pp.). London.

Type locality: [Seychelles.]

Distribution: Seychelles.

Specific localities: Mahe (Lawrence, 2014); St. Anne (Lawrence, 2014); Silhouette; (Lawrence, 2014); La Digue (Lawrence, 2014).

Habits: The flight is slow and both sexes are attracted to flowers. Occasionally seen at sea-level but more usually at higher altitudes (Lawrence, 2014).

Flight period: Mostly seen in March and April.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Heliotropium indicum (Boraginaceae) [Gerlach & Matyot, 2006].

Tylophora species? (Apocynaceae) [Gerlach & Matyot, 2006].

Conservation status: Endangered (Lawrence, 2014). Has declined dramatically over the last 150 years and is now rarely observed (Lawrence, 2014).

****Euploea rogeri* (Geyer, [1837])**
Lost Crow

? *rogeri* Geyer, [1837]. *In* Huebner, [1837]. *Zutrage zur Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge* 5: 1-52. Augsburg.

Type locality: ? Mahe, Seychelles (de Joannis, 1894).

Distribution: Seychelles (Lawrence, 2009).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Notes: Described from a single female of unknown origin dating from about 1820, suggested by de Joannis (1894) to be from the Seychelles. The type specimen is lost and it is now known from only two illustrations by Geyer in Huebner (1837) (Lawrence, 2014). Legrand (1965) suggested that it is a synonym of *Euploea mitra*, while Lawrence (2009) suggested it could be an extinct subspecies of the Mauritian species, *Euploea euphon*.