

Genus *Elymnias* Hübner, 1818

Palmflies

Type-species: *Elymnias jynx* Hübner, 1818 (= *Papilio hypermnestra* Linnaeus, 1763). *Zuträge Samml. exot. Schmett.* 1: 12.

Lamas (2010) notes that *Papilio hypermnestra* Linnaeus, 1763 is an invalid junior homonym of *Papilio hypermnestra* Scopoli, 1763 (currently treated as a synonym of *Zerynthia polyxena* ([Schiffermüller], 1775) (Papilionidae: Zerynthiini). However, Lamas suggests that longstanding usage will be less disruptive for both of these species if Scopoli's name is suppressed under the plenary powers of the ICZN.

= *Elymniopsis* Fruhstorfer, 1907. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 20: 171, 173 (157-252). Type-species: *Papilio phegea* Fabricius, by subsequent designation (Hemming, 1943. *Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London (B)* 12: 24 (23-30).).

Synonym of *Elymnias* Hübner, 1818. Hemming, 1943, **syn. nov.**

Elymniopsis Fruhstorfer, 1907. Larsen, 2005a: 283, **stat. n.**

Elymnias Hübner, 1818. Wei *et al.*, 2017.

Note: Gardiner (2010b: 150) considers *Elymniopsis* to be a junior synonym of *Elymnias*. He states: “For the moment I follow Hemming (1943) who synonymized the African *Elymniopsis* Fruhstorfer, 1907 with the Oriental *Elymnias* Hübner, [1818]. I also use the genus name *Elymnias* as Peña *et al.* (2006) showed the close similarity in the DNA sequence of the two genera and suggested the use of *Elymnias* for *bammakoo*.” However, neither Peña *et al.* (2006) nor Gardiner (2010b) made a formal taxonomic change. The change was formally made by Wei *et al.*, 2017.

The genus *Elymnias* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Satyrinae Boisduval, 1833; Tribe Elymniini Herrich-Schaeffer, 1864.

Elymnias (**Palmflies**) is an Old World genus of 35 species of which only a single species is found in the Afrotropical Region (Wei *et al.*, 2017). The host-plants of the larvae are palms (Arecaceae).

**Elymnias bammakoo* (Westwood, [1851])

African Palmfly



African Palmfly male. Cameroon, May 2019.
Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Melanitis bammakoo Westwood, [1851] *in* Doubleday & Westwood, [1846-52]. *The genera of diurnal Lepidoptera*, London: 405 (1: 1-250 pp.; 2: 251-534 pp.). London.

Elymnias bammakoo (Westwood, [1851]). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Elymniopsis bammakoo (Westwood, [1851]). Larsen, 2005a: 283.

Elymnias bammakoo (Westwood, [1851]). Wei *et al.*, 2017.



Elymnias bammakoo bammakoo. Male (Wingspan 69 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakum Forest, Ghana. 20 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Elymnias bammakoo bammakoo. Male (yellow form). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Libreville, Gabon. 2 December 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Elymnias bammakoo bammakoo. Female (Wingspan 84 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakum Forest, Ghana. 20 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Ashanti”.

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2008), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia (Gardiner, 2010b).

Misattributed to the Madagascar fauna by Mabille [1887] (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

Habitat: Forest. Also in degraded forest so long as there is canopy (Larsen, 2005a). Riparian forest (Gardiner, 2010b).

Habits: In flight confusingly similar to *Acraea poggei*; the white form of *bammakoo* behaves like, and mimics, the female of *Papilio cynorta*. Specimens are often attracted to fermented bananas (Congdon & Collins, 1998). It has been noted imbibing sap from wounds in trees, especially toddy palms (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens often settle on leaves and palm fronds (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Elaeis guineensis Jacq. (Arecaceae) [Vuattoux, 1994; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Phoenix reclinata Jacq. (Arecaceae) [Vuattoux, 1994; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Raphia hookeri G. Mann & H. Wendl. (Arecaceae) [Vuattoux, 1994; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Raphia farinifera (Arecaceae) [Gardiner, 2010b: 150].

Elymnias bammakoo bammakoo (Westwood, [1851])
African Palmfly

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Kakum Forest, Ghana. 20 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Ashanti”.

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (excluding east), Zambia (north-west).

Specific localities:

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a; single record).

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020); Wonegizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ghana – Ashanti (TL); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – Lokoli (Tchibozo *et al.*, 2008); Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016).

Nigeria – Ikoyi gardens, Lagos (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Barombi Station (Bartel, 1905); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Cape Esterias (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Ekouyi (Vande weghe, 2010); Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Kassai River (Niepelt, 1915).
Zambia – Ikelenge district (Gardiner, 2010b).

phegea Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* **3** (1): 132 (488 pp.). [W. Africa]: “India”. [False locality.] This is a description of the morph with orange markings.

intermedia Aurivillius, 1899 *in* Aurivillius, 1898-9 (as var. of *Elymnias phegea*). *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapakademiens Handlingar* **31** (5): 45 (1-561). No locality given.

angustata Bartel, 1905 (as ab. of *Elymnias phegea*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **12**: 129 (129-152). Cameroon: “Kamerun, Barombi Station”.

hybrida Niepelt, 1915 (as var. of *Elymniopsis bammakoo*). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **9**: 58 (58). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kassaifluss, Kongostaat”.

lise Hemming, 1960 (as replacement name for *Papilio phegea*). *Annotationes lepidopterologicae* (Part 1): 30 (30).

Elymnias bammakoo rattrayi Sharpe, 1902 Eastern African Palmfly

Elymnias rattrayi Sharpe, 1902. *Entomologist* **35**: 41 (40-42).
Elymnias bammakoo rattrayi Sharpe, 1902. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.
Elymniopsis bammakoo rattrayi (Sharpe, 1902). Larsen, 2005a: 283.
Elymnias bammakoo rattrayi Sharpe, 1902. Wei *et al.*, 2017.



Elymnias bammakoo rattrayi. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Semuliki National Park, Uganda. 4-8 June 2017. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Entebbe”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east), Uganda (west), Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Entebbe (TL); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Tanzania – Kikuru Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Minziro forests (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

ugandae Grünberg, 1908 (as sp. of *Elymnias*). *Sitzungsberichte der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin* **1908**: 51 (50-62). Uganda.