

Genus *Cynandra* Schatz, [1887] Brilliant Nymph

In: Staudinger & Schatz, [1884-8]. *Exotischer Schmetterlinge* 1: pl. 25 (333 pp.). Bayern.
Type-species: *Papilio afer* Drury, by monotypy.

The genus *Cynandra* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Limenitidinae Behr, 1864; Tribe Adoliadini Doubleday, 1845; Subtribe Bebeariina Hemming, 1960. The other genera in the Subtribe Bebeariina in the Afrotropical Region are *Aterica*, *Pseudargynnis*, *Euryphura*, *Euryphaedra*, *Euryphurana*, *Euphaedra*, *Euriphene*, *Harmilla*, *Bebearia*, and *Euptera*.

Cynandra (**Brilliant Nymph**) is an Afrotropical genus containing a single species.

Cynandra opis (Drury, 1773) Brilliant Nymph



Brilliant Nymph (*Cynandra opis*). Left – female upperside. Right – female underside.
Images courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Papilio opis Drury, 1773. *Illustrations of Natural History* 2: index et 33 (90 pp.). London.



Cynandra opis bernardii. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 10 June 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Cynandra opis bernardii. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ipassa, Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 26 November, 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”. Described from the female.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania.

Habitat: Dense forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998). Also in disturbed forest, providing a canopy remains (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A fairly common butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). Tends to keep to the dense forest undergrowth (Larsen, 2005a). Males settle on bare ground in sunny patches in the forest. Flies low above the ground, with a sweeping flight, alternately flashing brilliant blue and almost black (Kielland, *vide* Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages:

Amiet, 1999.

Larval food:

Dissotis species (Melastomataceae) [Fontaine, 1988 (Democratic Republic of Congo); Amiet, 1999 (Cameroon)].

Cynandra opis opis (Drury, 1773)
Brilliant Nymph

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Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”. Described from the female.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon (west).

Specific localities:

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

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

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

afēr Drury, 1782 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Illustrations of Natural History* 3: index et 49 (76 pp.). London. Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”. [Description of the male].

aethiopa Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* 3 (1): 136 (488 pp.). “in Africa”.

Cynandra opis bernardii Lagnel, 1967
Eastern Brilliant Nymph

Cynandra opis bernardii Lagnel, 1967. *Lambillionea* 66: 24 (23-25).



Cynandra opis bernardii. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
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Cynandra opis bernardii. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ipassa, Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 26 November, 2017. J. Dobson.
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Type locality: Gabon: “environs de Makokou, route de Boué, forêt près du village de Mayigha”.

Distribution: Cameroon (except west), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Gabon – Mayigha near Makokou (TL); probably throughout (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

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

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

Tanzania – Bulembe, in Minziro Forest (Kielland, *vide* Congdon & Collins, 1998; three males).