

Genus *Erionota* Mabille, 1878
Banana Skippers

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Type-species: *Papilio thrax* Linnaeus, 1767 by subsequent designation (Watson, 1893. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 72, 86 (3-132)).

The genus *Erionota* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Erionotini, Distant, 1886. There are no other genera in the Tribe Erionotini in the Afrotropical Region.

Erionota (**Banana Skippers**) is an Oriental genus of eight species, one of which occurs on Mauritius.

****Erionota torus* Evans 1941**
Banana Skipper

Erionota torus Evans 1941. *Entomologist* **74**: 158–160.



Erionota torus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Chamarel, Mauritius. April 2014. Bred. ABRI-2019-2680.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Erionota torus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Chamarel, Mauritius. April 2014. Bred. ABRI-2019-2681.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Indonesia: “Java”.

General notes: Historically, the Mauritian population was incorrectly identified as *Erionota thrax* (Linnaeus, 1767) (Cock, 2015).

Distribution: Northern India, Nepal, north-eastern India to southern China and Peninsula Malaysia. Spread to Mauritius (about 1968) (reported as *E. thrax* (Linnaeus)), southern Japan (1971), Taiwan (1986), southern Philippines (early 1980's) and Western Ghats, India (very recently) (Cock *et al.*, 2016). First noted in Mauritius in 1970 and by 1972 it was a common pest on bananas, so much so that the Mauritius Ministry of Agriculture imported three species of hymenopterous parasitoids from Sabah, Malaysia in order to control it (Davis & Barnes, 1991). Today it appears to be decidedly uncommon (Davis & Barnes, 1991). However, Ward *et al.* (2018) report stable populations in various areas on Mauritius.

Specific localities:

Mauritius – Black River (Davis, 1979 according to Davis & Barnes, 1991); Le Morne (Lawrence, 2016; Ward *et al.*, 2018).

Early stages:

Hoffmann, 1935 [Hong-Kong].

Monty, 1970 [Mauritius; as *E. thrax*].

Bascombe *et al.*, 1999 [Canton, China].

Igarashi & Fukuda, 2000 [Japan].

Cock *et al.*, 2016 [Mauritius and Peninsula Malaysia].

Larval food:

Musa spp. (Musaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2016].

Records of palms (Arecaceae) as host-plants are in error [Cock *et al.*, 2016].

Records of *Canna* sp.(p.) (Cannaceae) as host-plants are probably in error for *E. thrax* [Cock *et al.*, 2016].

Larval parasitoids:

Cotesia erionotae (Wilkinson) (= *Apanteles erionotae*, Braconidae) [Cock *et al.*, 2016; larval parasitoid].

Ooencyrtus pallidipes (Ashmead) (= *O. erionotae* Ferrière, Encyrtidae) [Cock *et al.*, 2016; egg parasitoid].

Relevant literature:

Cock, 2015. [critical review of pest status of *Erionota* spp.]

Inoué & Kawazoé, 1970 [illustration of genitalia of both sexes]