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CONFIRMATION OF THE COMMON PALMFLY *ELYMNIAS HYPERMNESTRA UNDULARIS* (DRURY, 1773) (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE) IN ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

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The Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Linnaeus, 1763) is a butterfly with a wide distribution from Punjab, along the Himalaya to NE India, Maharashtra and Gujarat (Varshney & Smetacek, 2015) and on to SE Asia. The north Indian population is placed in the subspecies *undularis* (Drury, 1773) with a distribution from Punjab to NE India and Gujarat to northern Maharashtra. Although Varshney & Smetacek (2015) treat the taxon *caudata* Butler, 1871 as a subspecies of *E. hypermnestra* with a distribution from Maharashtra to Kerala, Wei *et al.* (2017) recognise *E. caudata* as a good species with a distribution south of a line from Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Bangalore (Karnataka) and Kasargode (Kerala). It is not clear where they obtained their data for the east coast, but the distribution on the west coast is certainly incomplete, since the taxon *caudata* had been recorded from Goa and Maharashtra in addition to Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

(Varshney & Smetacek, 2015; Bhakare & Ogale, 2018).

While the distribution of these two taxa, *undularis* and *caudata*, is clear on the west coast, little is known of the distribution on the east coast. There are some unreliable reports of *E. hypermnestra* in Andhra Pradesh, but since no evidence was published and this was reported along with such improbable records as *Erites falcipennis* Wood Mason & de Niceville, 1883 and *Euthalia telchinia* (Menetries, 1857), the records are best treated as unreliable (Peter Smetacek, *pers. comm.*).

In Andhra Pradesh, *Elymnias hypermnestra undularis* is a common butterfly and has been recorded from the Papikonda National Park (2 March, 2018), Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (5 October, 2018) and at the residence of the Divisional Forest Officer, Kakinada (March, 2018), all in East Godavari district. It occurs in the vicinity of palm trees, its larval host

plant and both sexes of adults are attracted to ripe fruit of the palms. The butterfly has been recorded in March and October, suggesting that there are at least two annual generations.

As in other parts of its distribution, the taxon *caudata* has not been recorded in the same localities as *E. hypermnestra*.



Fig 1. *Elymnias hypermnestra* (male)



Fig 2. *Elymnias hypermnestra* (Female)

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RANGE EXTENSION OF *ZESIUS CHRYSOMALLUS* (LYCAENIDAE: THECLINAE: ZESIINI) TO ANAND DISTRICT, GUJARAT

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