



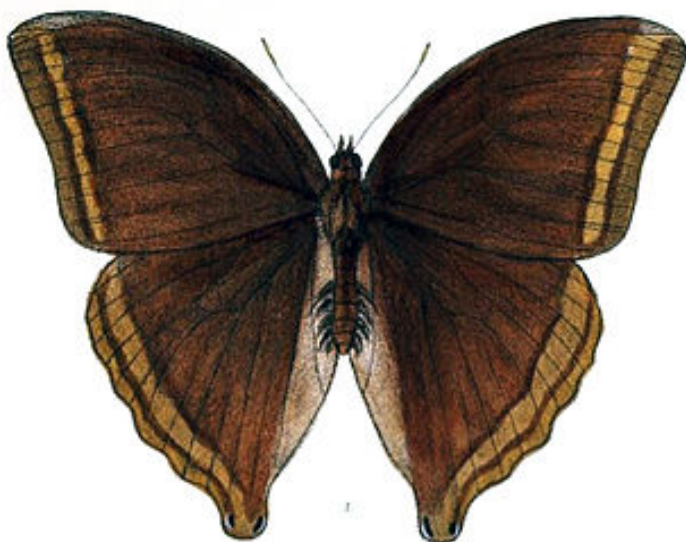
Palmking

Why in News?

Recently, the rare butterfly **Palmking (*Amathusia phidippus*)** was sighted for the first time in Tamil Nadu.

- It is the **321st species of butterfly found in Tamil Nadu** among the 1,500 species in India.

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What is Palmking?

▪ About:

- Palmking was **first recorded in South India** by British scientist **H.S.Ferguson in 1891**. More than a Century later, it was **rediscovered in 2007**.
- Palmking belongs to the **Nymphalidae subfamily and feeds on palm, coconut and calamus varieties** of plants.
- The butterfly is characterised by **its brown colour and dark bands and is described as reclusive, mostly resting in the shade**.
- It is not easy to spot a Palmking because **its wood colour makes for easy camouflage and it rarely spreads its wings**.

▪ Distribution:

- This butterfly is widely distributed across parts of **India, Myanmar, Indo China, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand**.
- It occurs in the **Indonesian archipelago and the Philippines**.
- In India, Palmking sightings were recorded in the forests of **Arippa, Shendurney, Periyar**

[Tiger Reserve](#) in the south of [Western Ghats](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Q. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of banana plant which attains a height of about 11 metres and has orange coloured fruit pulp. In which part of India has it been discovered? (2016)

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Anaimalai Forests
- (c) Maikal Hills
- (d) Tropical rain forests of northeast

Ans: (a)

- A new species of banana, *Musa indandamanensis* was discovered by a team of scientists from the [Botanical Survey of India \(BSI\)](#) from a remote Krishna Nalah tropical rain forest on the Little Andaman Islands.

Source: TH

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