Common Palmfly

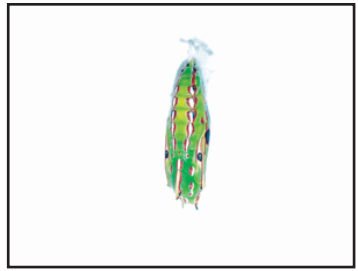
Elymnias hypermnestra



Inside



Outside



Chrysalid

REIMAN GARDENS
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

Common Palmfly

Elymnias hypermnestra

Order: Lepidoptera
Family: Nymphalidae

Etymology: *Elymnias* is currently unknown. In Greek mythology, Hypermnestra was one of Danaus' fifty daughters, and the only one that did not kill her husband Lynceus on their wedding night.

Wing span: 2.25 – 2.5 inches (56 – 64 mm)

Habitat: The Common Palmfly is primarily observed in forested areas, but they may take brief trips to surrounding areas.

Host Plant: Larvae are known to feed on a variety of palms such as *Archontophoenix alexandrae, Chrysalidocarpus lutescens* and *Phoenix roebelinii*.

Adult Food Source: The adults are known to visit a variety of flowers as well as tree sap.

Life History: Males patrol their territory looking for receptive females and chasing off other males. From mid-morning to early evening the females search for host plants on which to oviposit. Eggs can be laid on the top or bottom of the leaf but usually near the tip. The larvae feed on the host plants until they are ready to form their pupae on the underside of a host plant leaf.

Flights: Adults can be observed in flight from September - March.

Fun Facts: The Common Palmfly is sexually dimorphic which means the males and females have different appearances. Along with being sexually dimorphic, the females are geographically dimorphic with an orange form on the western part of their range and a blue form on the eastern half.

Range:

