

SAMUI BUTTERFLIES

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Papilio memnon agenor



Male upperside



Male underside

Linnaeus 1758 - The Great Mormon

Koh Samui and Koh Pha Ngan.

One of the largest butterflies to be seen on the Island.

A very interesting species as the female can be found in many different forms (hence the English name of Mormon!), some of which have tails. Forms seen on the Island are *f. distantianus* (a tailed form, and the commonest on Samui), *f. agenor*, *f. butlerianus* and *f. esperi*. The females each mimic another species of the Papilionidae, and normally, this model species is found in the same area as the mimic. As usual, Koh Samui likes to do things differently. The model for *f. distantianus* is *Pachliopta coon*, which has not been found on the islands. Likewise, the model for *f. esperi* is *Atrophaneura nox*, and that of *f. agenor* is *Atrophaneura zaleucus* (neither on Samui or Pha Ngan). The only form, where its model is found on Samui (not yet on Pha Ngan), is *f. butlerianus*, which has as its model *Atrophaneura varuna*.

This was originally a forest species, but it has been able to change its habits taking advantage of the cultivation of its preferred foodplants, *Citrus* sp., particularly the Pomelo, and now can be commonly found all over the Island.

Flight Period

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Wingspan

110 - 135mm

Early Stages

Fully known. More detailed life history information is available from the following resource: [ButterflyCircle Blog](#) (courtesy of Dr. Horace Tan).

Larval Foodplant

Citrus sp. (Rutaceae)

Range

Nepal, Indo-China, Thailand and Malaysia. (Other subspecies are to be found India to the Southern Islands of Japan, also Borneo, Sumatra and Java.)



Female *f. agenor* upperside



Female *f. butlerianus* upperside



Female *f. distantianus* upperside



Female *f. esperi* underside

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