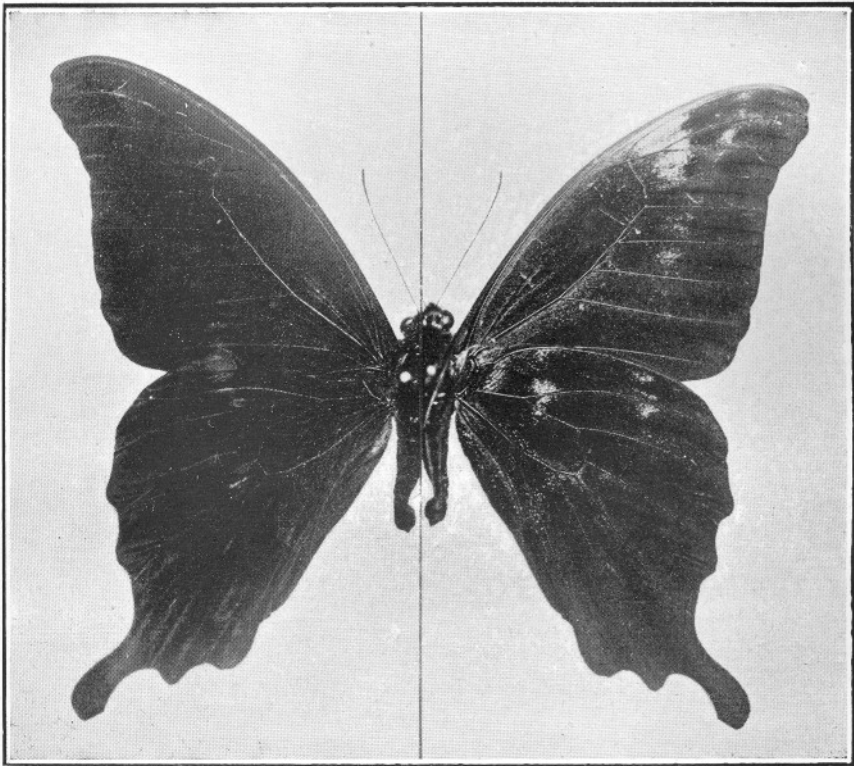


PL. A.

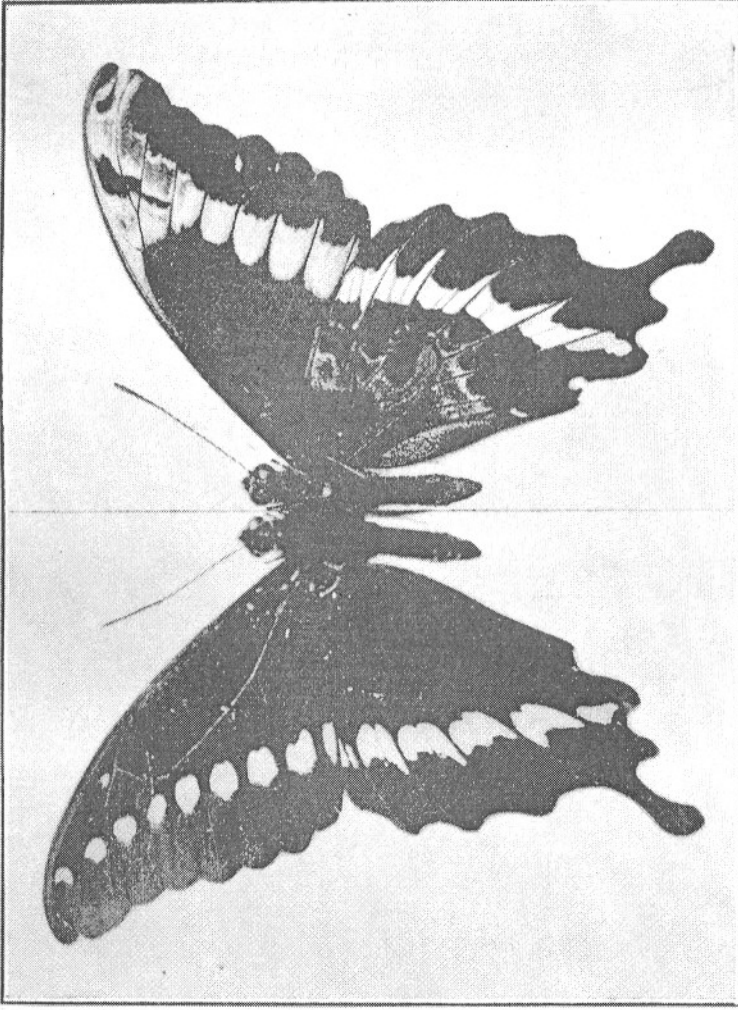


*Photo: V. G. L. VAN SOMEREN.*

Fig. 1. Upper surface.

Fig. 2. Under surface.

*Papilio mackinoni* var. *elgonia*.  
*Bryk.*



*Photo: V. G. L. VAN SOMEREN.*

Fig. 1. Upper surface.

Fig. 2. Under surface.

*Papilio mackinoni*.

## A MELANISTIC FORM OF PAPILIO MACKINONI.

By FELIX BRYK.

*Plates A. and B.*

Variations in colour and form are well known in the genus "Papilio" ranging from the appearance of an additional spot or suppression of a series of spots to a complete obliteration of all marks by an encroachment of the ground colour pigmentation. The absence of all light colouration gives the insect a totally changed facies.

Such varieties occur most often in species whose ground colour is black—*viz.*, melanistic aberrations are known in *Papilio machaon* or *Papilio turnus*; but we are unaware of such having been recorded in the case of *Papilio mackinoni*.

An example of melanism in this species was collected on Mt. Elgon—altitude 8,300 ft. on March 15th, 1925, and differs so markedly from *mackinoni* as to be worthy of recognition under a variatal name—*Papilio mackinoni*, variety *elgonia*.

It will be observed in Plate A., figs. 1 and, that practically all the pale creamy spots on both the upper and lower surfaces are entirely obliterated by a heavy black pigmentation, (Cf. Pl. B., figs. 1 and 2) and further that the serrations on the wing margins are greatly reduced.

Two other examples of this curious variety were observed on Mt. Elgon during March, 1925.