



Figures 1-7. Euderomphale stomale sp. nov. (Female)
1 - antenna; 2 - stigmal vein and part of marginal vein;
3 - basal half of fore wing; 4 - head front view;
5 - mandibles; 6 - palps; 7 - mesosoma and gaster dorsal view

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FIRST REPORT OF A HITHERTO UNKNOWN LARVAL FOOD PLANT OF THE THREE-SPOT GRASS YELLOW *EUREMA BLANDA* (BOISDUVAL) (LEPIDOPTERA: PIERIDAE)

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Grass yellows are among the most polyphagous of butterflies in their larval stages. Their larval food plants are leguminous and belong to the families Mimosaceae, Caesalpinaceae and Fabaceae. New host plants are constantly being added to the existing list of larval food plants known for these species. In the present communication, we are reporting *Calliandra calothyrsus* Meissner (Family: Fabaceae) as a host plant of the Three-spot Grass Yellow (*Eurema blanda* Boisduval) for the first time.

While working on the butterflies of the southern Western Ghats, we came across many larvae of Three-spot Grass Yellow, *Eurema blanda* feeding on *Calliandra calothyrsus* near a garden at Narikuni, about 24km north-east of Kozhikode town, on 12 November 2005. This plant is popularly known as 'powder puff plant' due to its powdery, puffy nature of flowers. It is an exotic shrub introduced from Central America during the early part of the last century. We reared as many as 12 larvae of the Three-spot Grass Yellow in the laboratory by feeding *Calliandra calothyrsus* leaves. All emerged successfully after a pupal period of 6-9 days.

The caterpillars of the Three-spot Grass Yellow *Eurema blanda* (Boisduval) are known to feed on *Albizia* spp., *Acacia* spp., *Cassia fistula*, *Delonix regia*, *Moullurva spicata*, *Pithecelobium dulce* of the families Caesalpinaceae, Fabaceae and Mimosaceae (Wynter-Blyth, 1957; Kunte, 2000).

Of the six species of Grass Yellows (Common Grass Yellow, *Eurema hecabe* (Linnaeus), Small Grass Yellow, *E. brigittia* (Cramer), One-spot Grass Yellow, *E. andersonii* Moore, Three-spot Grass Yellow, *E. blanda* (Boisduval), Spotless Grass Yellow, *E. laeta* Boisduval and Nilgiri Grass Yellow, *E. nilgiriensis* Yata) known from Kerala (Gaonkar, 1996), the Three-spot Grass Yellow is locally common and restricted to the wet evergreen forests and well wooded countryside including sacred groves of northern Malabar.

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