

Palm King butterfly

April 16, 2022

In news- The rare butterfly Palm King was spotted for the first time in Tamil Nadu.

About the butterfly-

- Palmking (*Amathusia phidippus*) butterfly is **characterised by its brown colour and dark bands** and is described as reclusive, mostly resting in the shade.
- It was **first recorded in South India by British scientist H.S.Ferguson in 1891.**
- This is the **321st species of butterfly found in Tamil Nadu** among the 1,500 species in India.
- It **belongs to the Nymphalidae subfamily** and feeds on palm, coconut and calamus varieties of plants.
- This butterfly is **widely distributed across parts of India, Myanmar, Indo China, Peninsular Malaysia and Thailand.**
- In March 2020, another rare butterfly species the Spotted Royal was rediscovered and recorded after a century in the Nilgiris.