

ACRAEA RESEARCH
No. 3

Acraea of French Guinea



Diecke road, 2004, Eric Vingerhoedt expedition

D. Bernaud editions, France

***Acraea* inventory from Guinea
(Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)
D. Bernaud & M. Arnoux**

This new publication of the *Acraea* research series gives us the opportunity to summarize what we know about the *Acraea* of Guinea, a country which is up to now little known by entomologists. Thanks to the collections of M. Arnoux in the southern forests of Guinea, to the ones of Eric Vingerhoedt, to the rich ABRI collection and to the MNHN specimens, we can now present a synthesis which is much more detailed than the previous works published so far.

The collections made in Guinea revealed a clear faunistic break between the north and the south. The forested south shows a faunistic unity with Liberia, Sierra Leone and the north-west of Ivory Coast. The north shows a faunistic unity with Senegal, the Gambia and Guinea Bissau.

If you do not take into consideration the 16 taxa (species and subspecies) which are also present in Central Africa and which do not show any particular variations in Guinea (*perenna*, *circeis*, *encedon*, *encedon*, *jodutta*, *alciope*, *aurivillii aurivillii*, *serena*, *acerata*, *bonasia bonasia*, *orestia*, *rogersi*, *egina*, *egina*, *caecilia*, *zetes zetes*, *endoscota* and *quirina quirina*), the other 19 taxa collected in Guinea show some particularities : either they are endemic or quasi-endemic to West Africa (11 taxa concerned : *parrhasia parrhasia*, *pseudepaea ziama*, *pentapolis*, *vesperalis catori*, *abdera eginopsis*, *camaena*, *epaea*, *umbra*, *macaria macaria*, *macaria carpenteri* and *sartina*) ; or they present forms which are specific to West Africa (8 taxa concerned : *peneleos peneleos*, *pharsalus pharsalus*, *encedana*, *lycoa lycoa*, *pseudolina*, *neobule*, *alcinoe alcinoe* and *vestalis*). This highlights the importance of Guinea for the study of *Acraea*. Moreover 32 of the 35 Guinean taxa have been bred, which enables us to better understand their ecology (hostplant(s) and habitat).

This present publication benefitted from the collections made by **Sema Koivogui**, a local collector who died prematurely on 2nd August 2021. We thank him and his family for this important contribution.

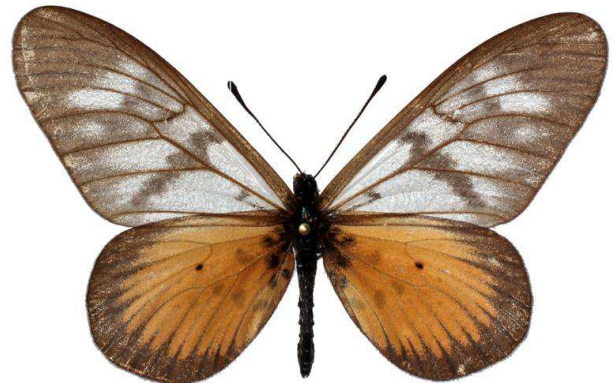
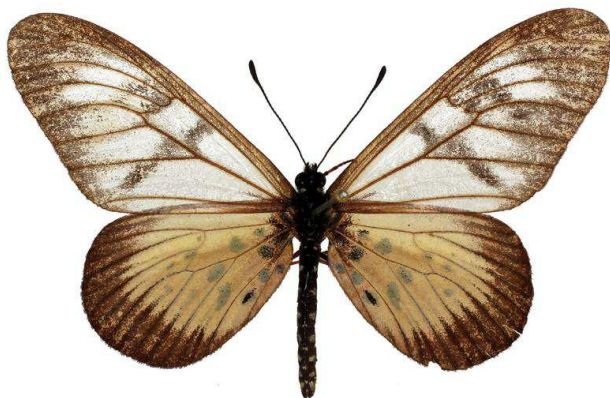
We thank S. Collins whose rich collections (ABRI) enabled us to illustrate some taxa and to create detailed distribution maps.

We thank J. Pierre who allowed us to study and to photograph some specimens from the MNHN collection.

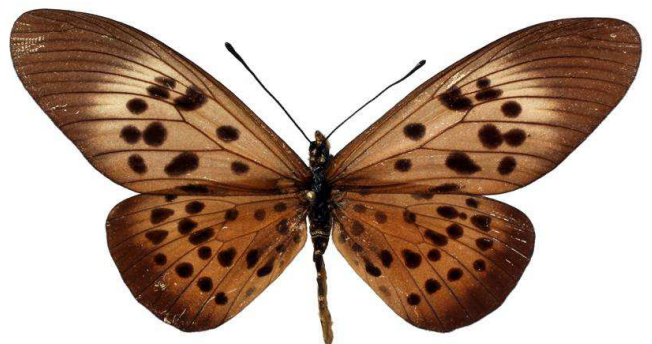
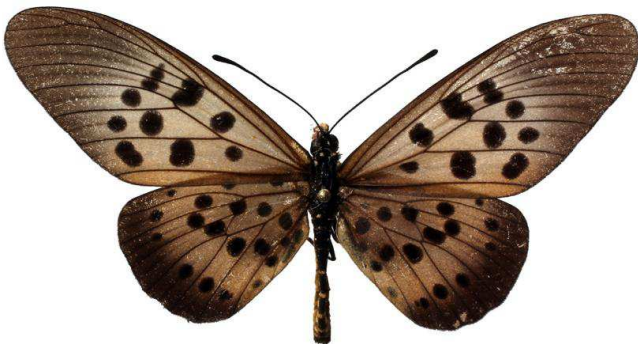
We thank J.-P. Lequeux for translating this work in english.



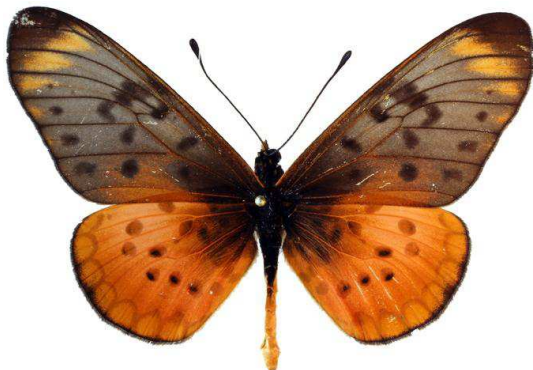
A. pentapolis (= *polis*) in Guinea (left) is replaced in Central Africa by *A. thelestis* (right). The yellow (or red) hindwing areas are more shiny as the scales are different.



A. vesperalis catori in Guinea (left) is replaced in Central Africa by *A. vesperalis vesperalis* (right). The hindwing yellow areas are replaced by brown ones.



A. rogersi in Guinea (left) often presents females which are more grey than brown, which is the standard colour in Central Africa (right).



A. pseudegina in Guinea (left) shows smoky black forewings, which are much lighter in Central Africa (right).

Identified hostplants of Guinea.

As most species have been bred we established the inventory of the hostplants present in Guinea (source : African Plant Database site – Geneva Herbarium)

The *Acraea* group of the sub-genus *Actinote* whose hostplants are known uses the following ones in Guinea :

Espèces	perenna	parrhasia	circeis	peneleos	pharsalus	encedon	encedana	jodutta	alciope	aurivillii	lycoa	serena	acerata	bonasia	orestia	pentapolis	catori
<i>Aneilema umbrosum</i>											1						
<i>Commelina africana</i>						1											
<i>Commelina benghalensis</i>						1											
<i>Commelina difFusa</i>						1											
<i>Bridelia micrantha</i>	1																
<i>Pleurolobus salicifolius</i>							1										
<i>Ficus asperifolia</i>					1												
<i>Ficus sycomorus</i>					1												
<i>Laportea aestuans</i>											1						
<i>Laportea ovalifolia</i>					1					1	1				1		
<i>Musanga cecropioides</i>									1							1	
<i>Myrianthus arboreus</i>																	1
<i>Pouzolzia guineensis</i>										1	1						
<i>Pouzolzia parasitica</i>										1							
<i>Scepocarpus oblongifolius</i>			1														
<i>Scepocarpus trinervis</i>		1		1				1									
<i>Premna hipsida</i>																	
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>													1				
<i>Clappertonia ficifolia</i>														1			
<i>Melochia melissifolia</i>												1					
<i>Triumfetta cordifolia</i>														1			
<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>												1					
<i>Waltheria indica</i>												1					
<i>Waltheria lanceolata</i>												1					

Two Urticaceae are used by several species : *Laportea ovalifolia* (4 taxa) and *Scepocarpus trinervis* (3 taxa).

Acraea (*Actinote*) *perenna perenna* Doubleday, 1850 as *Acraea* (*Gnesia*) *perenna* in DOUBLEDAY, E., & WESTWOOD, J.O. [1846-1852]. *The genera of diurnal Lepidoptera 1* : [xii], 1-250 ; 2 : [ii], 251-534. London. Type locality : Ashanti (Ghana).

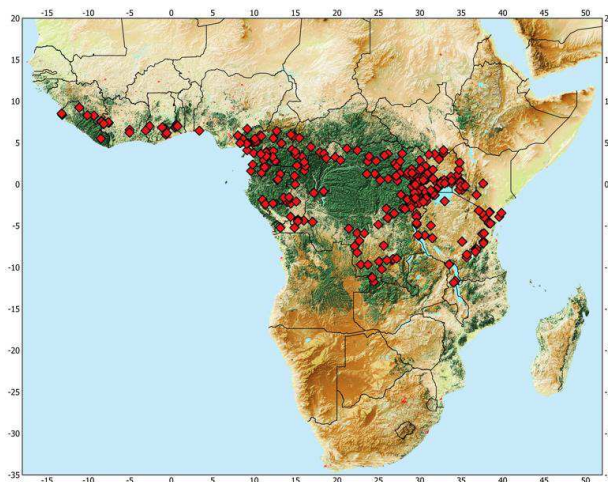
The nominate Subspecies of *perenna* is widely distributed in Africa in the entire forest block, the ecological conditions of the eastern coast having produced lighter variations (f. *thesprio*). The caterpillar, well known, with its peculiar livery, uses the Euphorbiacea *Bridelia micrantha*. This hostplant is present in Guinea.

The taxon does not show any particular variation in Guinea. The female is identical to the male, but slightly bigger.

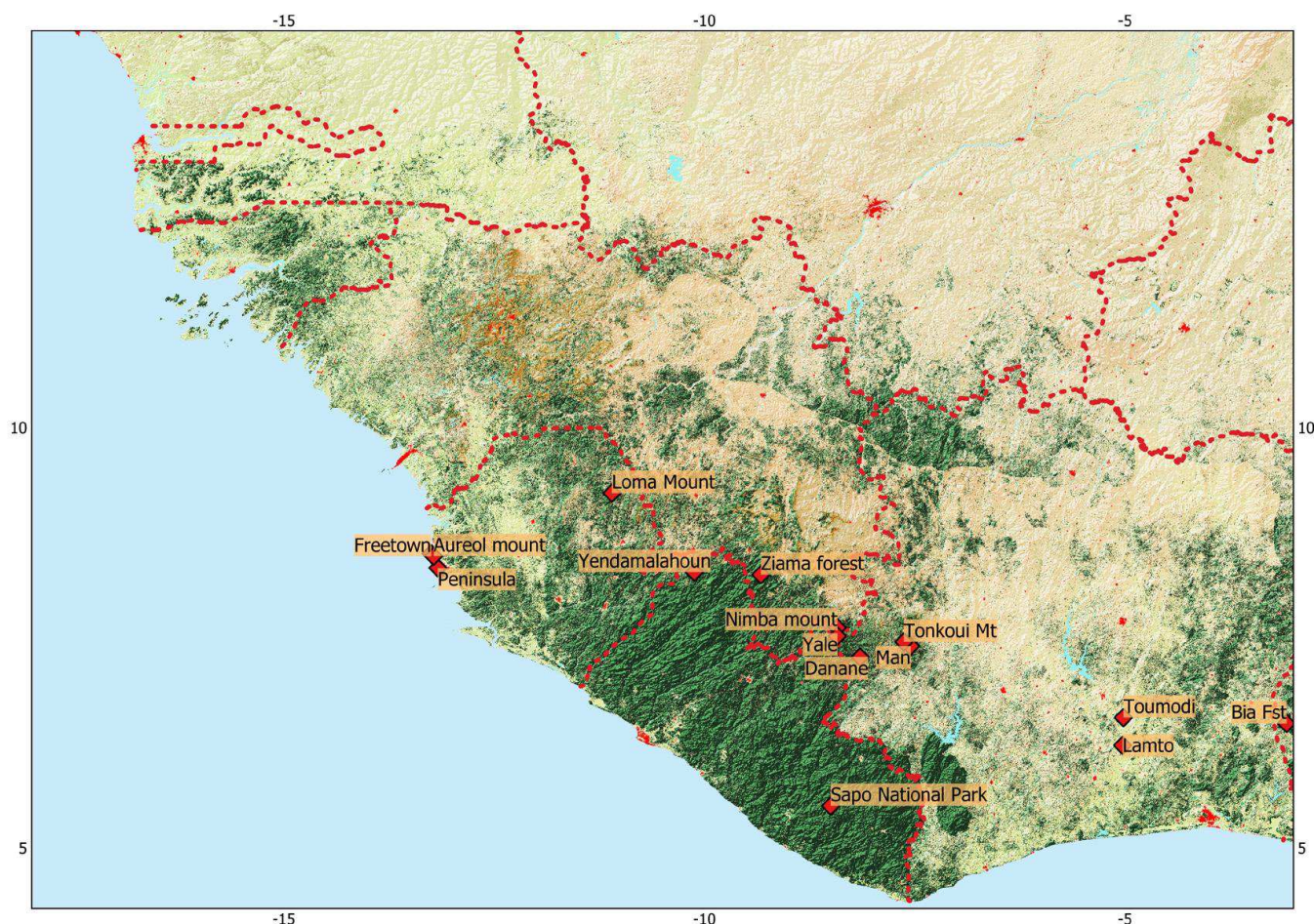


Caterpillar of *A. perenna perenna*.

The caterpillar is black in its last stage, with tiny yellow dots. No particular drawing appears. The cephalic capsule is black.



Distribution of *A. perenna perenna* in Africa.



Known distribution of *A. perenna perenna* in Guinea and neighbouring countries (red diamond symbols)..