ACRAEINAE OF MALAWI
(Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae)



Dominique Bernaud & Raymond Murphy

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Nsanje area and Shire River from Malawi hill
and
Acraea leucopyga, Uzuzu hill, Namizimu Reserve Forest.

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FOREWORD

Jacques Pierre, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) de Paris

En avril 2004, Dominique Bernaud et moi-même, en compagnie de Claude Joly, avons abordé la découverte de la faune des *Acraea* du Malawi (Joly et al., 2005). Nous avions alors prospecté le sud du pays, collectant 24 espèces de ce genre et en élevant 18 d'entres elles. Ces éléments, souvent nouveaux pour nous et pour la science, sont essentiels pour nos études devant aboutir à une nouvelle révision des Acraéides.

C'est pourquoi nous réitérions en fin 2005. Cette fois-ci, nous étions accompagnés par Ray Murphy qui nous a fait profiter de son excellente connaissance du Malawi et de sa faune entomologique. Nous avons alors parcouru le nord du pays, observant 29 espèces (dont 13 également à l'état larvaire), mais seulement 12 de plus par rapport à la mission précédente, certaines espèces n'ayant pas été retrouvées : c'était donc 36 espèces que nous avions observées au total. Nous terminions notre relation des résultats de cette prospection par ces mots (Joly et al., 2008) : « As a follow up, a third mission is planned with the objective to prepare a synthesis of all the information available ; the ultimate purpose being to publish an «Acraeidae fauna of Malawi».»

En effet, comme tous les lépidoptéristes au Malawi, nous nous aidions dans nos récoltes de l'ouvrage de David Gifford de 1965. Néanmoins, ce travail considérable date ; il repose, pour les Acrées, sur la remarquable révision d'Eltringham de 1912 qui considérait 137 espèces dans ce genre presque essentiellement afrotropical (les 24 *Planema* d'alors [ou *Bematistes*] selon Eltringham & Jordan, 1913, non compris), tandis que nous comptons à ce jour 201 *Acraea* au sens d'Eltringham, et au total, mihi sensu, 289, les 30 ex-Bematistes (Pierre & Bernaud, 2012) et les 58 *Actinote* néotropicaux inclus. Il était donc nécessaire d'envisager une nouvelle synthèse pour le Malawi !

En fait, Ray, étant sur place, a fait progressé énormément ce projet avec Dominique qui a pu de nouveau se rendre au Malawi, non seulement une troisième fois (mai-juin 2007) mais encore une quatrième fois (juillet - août 2008).

Ainsi, ils ont pu au total observer, et prélever, 43 espèces d'*Acraea* (liste page 5) sur les 49 confirmés dans le pays ; trois étant polytypiques, avec deux sous-espèces au Malawi, cela fait 45 taxons étudiés, et 52 retenus. Gifford, lui, énumère 45 espèces d'Acraeinae au Malawi. Dans ces comptes, je ne retiens pas *Pardopsis punctatissima* dont la place vis-à-vis des Acraéines, parmi les Nymphalides, n'est pas du tout assurée ; néanmoins, il est traité classiquement dans cet ouvrage !

Au total, Dominique Bernaud et Raymond Murphy considèrent donc que 49 espèces d'*Acraea* sont connues au Malawi [19 A. (*Actinote*) et 30 A. (*Acraea*)] dont 24 sont citées comme dans la liste de Gifford, 18 correspondent à une espèce retenue sous un statut ou un nom différent chez Gifford, et 3 espèces citées dans cette dernière liste sont rejetées (*chaeribula*, *chambezi* et *pseudolycia*). Enfin 7 espèces ont nouvellement été rajoutées à la faune malawéenne [*bonasia*, *cepheus*, *cerasa*, *igola*, *rabbaiae*, *sotikensis*, *zetes* (≠ *acara*)].

Evidemment, ces sept espèces ont très rarement été rencontrées, souvent en une seule occasion, bien que parfois en de nombreux exemplaires ; quatre d'entre elles dans le nord du pays, voire l'extrême-nord, et souvent très récemment, comme *bonasia* qui n'est pas même traité dans cet ouvrage, juste rajouté in extremis. Il est donc tout à fait pensable que la mise au point de nos collègues, loin d'être définitive, soit au contraire une excellente occasion de relancer les recherches lépidoptérologiques dans la nature et à sa table de travail !

Il est important d'avoir bien conscience de ce fait : nous ignorons pour une large part la vie sur Terre. Si l'Homme a pu acquérir une connaissance assez satisfaisante concernant les «grosses» bêtes (Mammifères et Oiseaux), ce n'est pas le cas pour 70 à 80 % de la faune terrestre, surtout les plus petites bêtes, spécialement les Insectes, qui font l'essentiel de notre environnement ! Ainsi les *Acraea*, objet de cette faune, révèlent l'aspect fragmentaire de notre science. Sur les 49 espèces observées, neuf sont communes voire très communes, néanmoins, en observant leur carte de distribution géographique au Malawi, il paraît que la couverture observée du territoire semble insuffisante pour assurer un flux génique nécessaire à la cohérence des espèces. Cela devient encore plus problématique avec 18 espèces assez ou peu communes. Mais on ne sait pas bien interpréter ces distributions géographiques dispersées, les populations étant plus claisemées en périphérie de l'aire d'habitat, ou en fonction d'exigences écologiques plus rigoureuses, ou encore cela étant dû à notre méconnaissance de l'espèce. Le problème de la «rareté» des espèces suivantes, très peu communes ou exceptionnelles, devient encore plus énigmatique, aucunes espèces ne pouvant être réellement rares dans la nature, sinon elles auraient déjà disparues. Ces situations sont dues à l'insuffisance de prospections, car s'il y a une chose indubitablement rare, ce sont les entomologistes… Et encore le problème est traité ici pour un des groupes entomologiques relativement le mieux connu.

Parmi les 24 espèces reprisent sous le même nom que chez Gifford, plusieurs ont néanmoins largement changé de sens : *Acraea natalica* n'est plus cette espèce largement répandue de Dakar à Durban, mais l'espèce-sœur quasi vicariante d'*A. pseudegina* ; *Acraea* «*encedon*» est maintenant considéré comme une supraspecies comprenant deux espèces confondues, *A. encedon* et *A. encedana*, cette dernière, donnée du Malawi selon un spécimen du muséum de Londres, n'a pas été retrouvé dans ce pays jusqu'à présent ; *A. johnstoni*, au sens d'Eltringham, était un ensemble de deux espèces, de même, *A.* «*acrita*» est en fait un complexe d'espèces, dont l'espèce nominative, seule présente dans la dition…

Sur les 50 espèces traitées dans cet ouvrage, 30 sont accompagnées d'une planche des premiers états. En effet, notre méthode d'étude des Lépidoptères est basée sur la recherche des toutes les données biologiques, en particulier les caractères extrinsèques, écologiques et éthologiques (les plantes nourricières, la distribution géographique, le comportement de pontes), la connaissance des caractères de tous les sémaphorontes (c'est-à-dire non seulement les imagos, mâles et femelles, mais aussi les stades larvaires), ce qui nous a souvent permis de découvrir la réalité des espèces malgré la gémellarité d'habitus, le polymorphisme, les variations parfois plus larges que les divergences entre les espèces.

Mais nous sommes bien conscients des manques dans nos investigations, des espèces, ou groupes d'espèces, que nous n'avons pas encore bien appréhendés, nous sommes convaincus des insuffisances de nos récoltes, de nos recherches morphologiques, externes ou internes, des lacunes des données moléculaires pour progresser encore vers la compréhension de la systématique et donc des processus d'évolution à l'origine de la biodiversité des *Acraea*.

En effet, le but de toutes ces études de systématique est, nous semble-t-il, outre la connaissance de la nature – et le plaisir de l'explorer –, la participation à l'origine et le développement de l'arbre de la vie sur terre. Cet ouvrage fait la bonne part à cet intérêt en consacrant un chapitre sur les problèmes de la phylogénie des *Acraea* !

Le remarquable travail de Dominique Bernaud et de Raymond Murphy est une étape indispensable, non seulement pour faire le point, mais surtout pour servir de tremplin, pour poursuivre l'effort de recherche, de rassemblement des données, et ceci, grâce à cet ouvrage, par le plus grand nombre d'acteurs. La tâche est trop ample et ne peut être que le fruit de la convergence des efforts de nombreuses personnes. Tous nos résultats, nos progrès sont redevables à tous nos complices. L'ouvrage que j'ai le plaisir de préfacer ici est autant l'aboutissement de ces concours individuels qu'un appel à davantage de collaboration.

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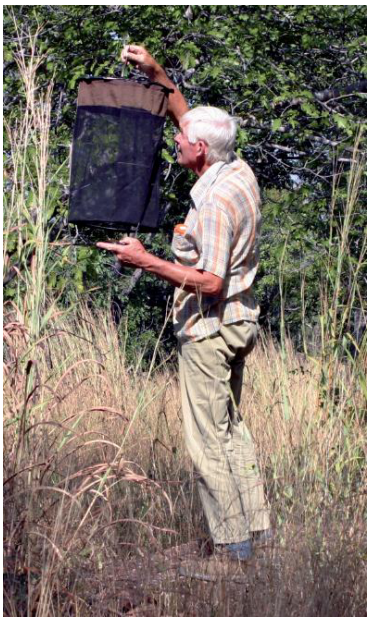
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Authors and acknowledgements



Raymond Murphy has been living in Malawi for many years and has collected a series of *Acraea*. As far as possible, the species were bred in divergent places. His contribution of the knowledge of Acraeainae and their biotopes in Malawi is in fact very important. His research continues today. Raymond Murphy is also a great contributor for all insect researches in Malawi. He has an extensive collection in Mzuzu, North of Malawi. He is also at the origin of many new records and new species.



D. Bernaud breeding *Acraea* caterpillars

R. Murphy trapping *Charaxes*

For more than twenty years, Dominique Bernaud has carried out in-depth studies on the Acraeinae subfamily in collaboration with Professor Jacques Pierre of the Museum of Natural History of Paris.

His main contribution consists in breeding *Acraea*. Today he has bred more than 80 different species of African *Acraea*. He has published many papers and is still working on the classification of the Acraeinae subfamily with J. Pierre, curator of Lepidoptera department of the French Natural History Museum in Paris. He has developed a website (*acraea*.com), which provides extensive data on Acraeinae (phylogenetic classification, photographs of imago and caterpillars, original descriptions and publications). He has been to Malawi several times and has visited most of the sites described below.

We would like to acknowledge the very helpful contribution of F.R.I.M. (Forestry Research Institute of Malawi), Gerald Meke, the M.M.C.T. (Mulanje Mountain Conservation Trust), David Nangoma, Julian Bayliss, and the valuable cordial assistance of Professor Cornell Dudley with access to the Blantyre Museum Collection, additional records and general help with the research.

We would also acknowledge the participation of J. Pierre (French National Museum of Natural History) and C. Joly. We have organized two trips with them in Malawi and we have published together three papers on Malawi.

We thank the Oxford Museum of Natural History and James Hogan for their authorization to publish photographs of the Hope entomological collections (especially from the old Lamborn collection).

All these researches have been supported with the outstanding assistance of Sydney Kaunda and Robert Sigini.



Sydney (left) and Robert (right)

Literature on Acraeinae in Malawi

We shall present and comment in this chapter all we found in the literature concerning the *Acraeinae* of Malawi in chronological order.

Butler - The oldest source we found about Malawi is from Butler (1893). He recorded the following species from Zomba: *Acara*, *amphimalla* (*amphimalla* Westwood, 1881 = *caldarena*), *anemosa*, *arcticincta* (*arcticincta* Butler, 1883 = *anemosa*), *areca* (= *egina* f. *areca* Mabille, 1888), *cabira*, *caldarena*, *excelsior*, *guillemei*, *johnstoni*, *khara* (*khara* Grose-Smith, 1889 = *egina*), *natalica*, *pseudolycia*, *serena*, *ventura*.

A. excelsior is certainly a misidentification with *goetzei*, which is very common on the Zomba plateau.

A. guillemei was just described by Oberthur in 1893 from Lac Tanganyika. It has been described from a single female (Eltringham, 1912). Eltringham said: "I have seen only very few examples of this rare species, though in many collection a form of *A. nohara* is labeled *guillemei*". So we suppose that Butler confused *guillemei* with *punctellata*, which is today the species from the *nohara* group which flies in Malawi.

Acraea (*Acraea*) *pseudolycia* Butler, 1874: this record poses a problem as Butler is the original author of *pseudolycia*. But in 1894 and 1895 Butler states that *pseudolycia* is only a light female form of *acara* (also, Aurivillius, 1898). As *pseudolycia* has never been recorded in Malawi since this time, we think that Butler confused it with *acara*, which is common in Malawi.

Butler again published in 1895. He recorded the following species from the Zomba plateau: *acrita*, *areca*, *cabira*, *encedon*, *guillemei*, *natalica*, *oncaea* and *serena*. The same year he published also the original description of *scalivittata* (Mt Kazungu, 7425 ft, Nyika) and recorded *caldarena* (Henga, W. of Lake Nyasa) and *egina* (Lumpi river, Lower Nyika).

Butler published his last paper on Malawi in 1896. He recorded the following species: *anacreon* (Chuona river, Unyika), *asema* (Loangwa river, Senga), *bomba* (Chuona river, Unyika), *caldarena* (Deep Bay, Nyika, west of lake Nyasa, Luvira river, Nyasa to Tanganyika road), *insignis* (Kasungu Mountains, Nyika), *periphanes* (Kondowi), *scalivittata* (Kasungu Mountain, Nyika). The name *bomba* Grose-Smith, 1889 is today considered as a synonym of *anacreon*. In our work we consider that the Kasungu Mountains are, in fact, the Nyika plateau.

Lanz - We found a publication from Lanz (1896). He recorded the following species: *acrita* (Hochplateau), *encedon* (Parumbira, Hochplateau), *gea* (Parumbira), *lycia* (Parumbira, Hochplateau), *montana* (Parumbira), *natalica* (Parumbira, Tanganjika), *oncaea* (Parumbira, Tanganjika), *serena* (Parumbira, Hochplateau), *vinidia* (Hochplateau) and *zetes* (Parumbira). We consider that Parumbira is in Tanzania and that the Hochplateau is the Nyika Plateau. *A. gea* Fabricius, 1781 = *epaea*. *A. lycia* Fabricius, 1775 is today considered as a form of *encedon*. This form is recorded in Malawi. *A. montana* is the northern subspecies of *aganice*. *A. vinidia* Hewitson, 1874 = *acerata*.

Aurivillius - Aurivillius, in his fundamental work (1898) just quoted: *arcticincta* (Nyassa See), *induna* (Nyassa, Zomba), *montana* (Nyassa See), *chaeribula* (Zomba) and *scalivittata* (Kasungu Berg, Nyika).

Acraea (*Actinote*) *anacreon* f. *induna* Trimen, 1895 is today considered as a synonym of *anacreon*. In 1898 Aurivillius thought that *chaeribula* was only a variation of *acrita*. As this species has never been captured since in Zomba, we consider that it is a misidentification.

Eltringham - Eltringham, in his famous monograph (1912) quoted the following species: *areca* (Zomba), *asema* (Blantyre), *axina* (Blantyre), *cabira* (Kigonsera, Bandawe), *conradti* (Mlanji Boma), *detecta* (Chikala Boma), *egina* (Bandawe), *goetzei* (Zomba), *harrisoni* (Bandawe), *leucopyga* (Kota Kota, Kigonsera), *machequena* (Mlanji Boma), *oncaea* (Zomba), *periphanes* (Zomba) and described *punctellata* from Zomba (as a subspecies of *nohara* Boisduval, 1847) and *jodutta* f. *inaureata* (as a female form) from Florence Bay. In the Lepidopterorum catalogus (Eltringham & Jordan, 1913) he added *scalivittata* (Kasungu Berg).

A. conradti vumbui had not yet been described (Stevenson, 1934). *A. detecta* (Neave, 1910) is considered today as a subspecies of *pudorella*. *A. harrisoni* Sharpe, 1904, is considered today as a form of *egina*. And *A. jodutta inaureata* is in fact considered today as a form of *esebria*.

The first references to Blantyre and the Mulanje mount (Mlanje or Mlanji, Mlanje Plateau = Lichenya Plateau) are from this work. Kigonsera is in Tanzania along the Malawi Lake. We think that Chikala Boma is actually the Chikala hills.

Carpenter - In a paper on mimicry Carpenter (1920) said about *aganice*: "The specimens from Mt. Mlanje, Nyassaland, are of great interest as showing a local variety of the *Planema* with the pale areas on fore- and hind-wings larger than in the typical S. African form (...). I propose the name *nyasae* for the Mlanje race of *Planema aganice*". But today we consider that *nyasae* is a synonym of *aganice*.

Le Doux - We found some references from Malawi in Le Doux (1932). This author listed: *acrita* (Nyassa-Plateau, Fwambo, Zombo, Malanjii, Lower Shire Valley, Chikawa, Nchen), *aquilia* (Nord-Unyika, Fwambo), *msamwiae* (Nord-Unyika, Fwambo).

Two aberrations of *Acraea acrita* are listed: ab. *aquilia* Thurau, 1903 and ab. *msamwiae* Strand, 1911.

Fwambo seems to be in Zambia (8° 52' South, 31° 32' East); Zombo is most likely the Zomba plateau; Malanjii is most likely the Mulanje mount; Chikawa should be noted as Chikwawa and Nchen should be noted as Ntcheu.

Gifford - The main work on butterflies of Malawi is the one by Gifford (1965). We shall analyse all the records of this work in the main text for each species.

Pierre - We must also cite J. Pierre's work with the following publications:

Pierre (1975) - He recorded *A. pentapolis epidica* in Nyassaland: Mlanje, Cholo Mountains.

Pierre (1979) - He described *A. boopis choloui* (Cholo Mts, Malawi, Hauts plateaux S.O. du lac Nyassa).

Pierre (1990) - He recorded *rosa* (Malawi: haut plateau SO du lac Nyassa).

In this work *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *quirina rosa* Eltringham, 1912 is considered as a synonym of *quirina* by J. Pierre himself. But recent barecode studies show a real divergence.

Henning & Henning (1996) - The authors described several new species in the *anacreon* group. They consider that the population situated on the Nyika plateau (Zavo Chepolwe Fst) constitutes a new subspecies: *parei orangica*.

We will discuss that point in the *anacreon* section.

The data and conclusions of the three following recent publications are included in the current paper:

Bernaud & Pierre (2004) - The authors present the first stages of *Acraea choloui*.

Bernaud, Joly & Pierre (2005) - Results of an entomological mission in the South of Malawi.

Bernaud, Joly, Murphy & Pierre (2008) - Results of an entomological mission in the North of Malawi.

We must cite three other recent papers not very well known:

Timberlake (2000) - The author recorded *natalica* in the Lower Shire River.

Dudley (2004) - The author recorded *acara*, *acerata*, *acrita*, *anemosa*, *cabira*, *caldarena*, *encedon*, *natalica*, *neobule*, *oncaea* and *serena* from the Liwonde Nat. Park.

Dowsett (2004) - The author recorded the following species: *atergatis* (Mwabvi reserve forest - Dande stream), *natalica* (Lengwe, Majete, Mwabvi) *oncaea* (Majete, Mwabvi), *serena* (Lengwe, Majete, Mwabvi).

R. Dowsett has provided us with a complete list of his Malawian records. We included these records in our work (especially for *baxteri* and *scalivittata*).

All these publications are listed in the "Reference" section.

Actual list of Acraeinae of Malawi

Our work allows us to present a new revised checklist of Acraeinae of Malawi, which contains 50 confirmed species (53 taxa with subspecies *montana*, *cerita* and *mufindi*) and 3 more hypothetical species (*atergatis*, *chambezi* and *encedana*).
The species *chaeribula*, *conradti*, *excelsior*, *guillemei* and *pseudolycia* are not today supported by any specimen.

Species	Subpecies	Caught by the authors	Seen in collections	Recorded by	Hypothetical	Mis identification	Synonymies and forms
acara	*acara*	Yes, C					
acerata	*acerata*	Yes, R					*vinidia*
acrita	*acrita*	Yes, C					*aquilia*, *msamwiae*
acuta	*acuta*	Yes, R					
aganice	*aganice*	Yes, C					
aganice	*montana*	Yes, C					
anacreon	*anacreon*	Yes, VC					*bomba*, *induna*
anemosa	*anemosa*	Yes, C					*arcticincta*
asema	*asema*	Yes, C					
atergatis	*atergatis*				Dowsett		
axina	*axina*	Yes, R	Gifford				
baxteri	*baxteri*	No, VR		Dowsett			
*bonasia**	*bonasia*	Yes, VR		Murphy			*alicia* is a synonym
boopis	*choloui*	Yes, R					
burni	*burni*	Yes, VR					
cabira	*cabira*	Yes, VC					
caldarena	*caldarena*	Yes, VC					*amphimalla*
cepheus	*bergeriana*	Yes, VR					
cerasa	*cerasa*	Yes, VR					
cerasa	*cerita*	Yes, VR					
chaeribula	*chaeribula*					Aurivillius	
chambezi	*chambezi*				Gifford		
conradti	*conradti*					Gifford	
cuva	*cuva*	No, VR		Handman			
egina	*egina*	Yes, C					*areca*, *khara*, *harrisoni*
encedana	*encedana*				Pierre		
encedon	*encedon*	Yes, VC					*lycia*
epaea	*melina*	Yes, R					*gea*
esebria	*esebria*	Yes, NC					
excelsior	*excelsior*					Butler	
goetzei	*goetzei*	Yes, VC					
guillemei	*guillemei*					Butler	

Species	Subspecies	Caught by the authors	Seen in collections	Recorded by	Hypothetical	Mis identification	Synonymies and forms
igola	*igola*	Yes, VR					
insignis	*insignis*	Yes, NC					
johnstoni	*johnstoni*	Yes, C					
leucopyga	*leucopyga*	Yes, NC					
lyci	*lyci*	Yes, VR					
machequena	*machequena*	No, VR	Gifford				
natalica	*natalica*	Yes, VC					
neobule	*neobule*	Yes, C					
oncaea	*oncaea*	Yes, VC					
pentapolis	*epidica*	Yes, R					
perenna	*perenna*	Yes, VR					
periphanes	*periphanes*	Yes, NC					
petraea	*petraea*	No, VR		Gifford			
pharsalus	*pharsalus*	Yes, C					
pseudolycia	*pseudolycia*					Butler	
pudorella	*detecta*	Yes, VR					
punctatissima	*punctatissima*	Yes, C					
punctellata	*punctellata*	Yes, VR					
quirina	*quirina*	Yes, R					
rabbaiae	*perlucida*	Yes, VR					
rahira	*rahira*	Yes, VR					
rahira	*mufindi*	Yes, VR					
scalivittata	*scalivittata*	No, VR	FRIM				
serena	*serena*	Yes, VC					
sotikensis	*sotikensis*	Yes, NC					
ventura	*ventura*	Yes, C					
vumbui	*vumbui*	Yes, NC					
zetes	*zetes*	Yes, VR					
zonata	*zonata*		BMNH	Gifford			

Frequency: **VC**: very common, **C**: common, **NC**: not common, **R**: rare, **VR**: very rare

* *Acraea bonasia* (form *alicia*) seems to occur in Northern Malawi (Kaporo road). It has been recently recorded by one of us (R. M). So it has been added just before printing. This record must be confirmed.



Acraea bonasia (f. *alicia*) Kaporo road
This specimen has been found in an old collection.

We consider today that the following species do not fly in Malawi:

A. excelsior: Zomba – Butler (1893): repeated by Eltringham & Jordan, Aurivillius and D'Abrera. It is probably a misidentification; this species has never been collected again in Malawi. Gifford also considers that it has been confused with *geotzei*.

A. chaeribula: Zomba – Aurivillius (1898): repeated by following authors, and reported with a question mark in Gifford's book ("Butler's record apparently unsupported by material").

A. guillemei: Zomba – Butler (1893): repeated by Aurivillius. This record is not in Gifford's book. We shall notice that, at the time of Butler, *guillemei* was confused with *nohara*. Today we consider that *punctellata* is the good name of this record, which replaces *nohara* in Malawi.

A. pseudolycia: Zomba – Butler (1893): that record of *pseudolycia* is probably based on a light form female of *acara* (See *acara* plate below). We do not know where Gifford found the records of Dowa and Mombera.

Likewise, we have today some doubts on the presence of the following species in Malawi:

A. encedana (in the north only): Malawi – Pierre (1976). J. Pierre finally does not remember where he saw specimens of *encedana* from Malawi (perhaps in BMNH or Oxford Museum). We caught thousands of *encedon* everywhere in Malawi, but never *encedana*. So, today, we have never seen any specimen from Malawi in collections to support this record.

A. atergatis: R. Dowsett published the capture of one specimen of this *Acraea* in the Mwabvi forest Reserve. We have been in the same place at the same season, but we did not find it. The specimen caught by R. Dowsett has been destroyed (Dowsett communication), so we have not been able to confirm its identification.

A. chambezi: this butterfly is only known from Zambia and Tanzania. Gifford said that one specimen has been collected in Ncheu (Gray, Pinhey determination) and should be in Bulawayo Museum. But he never saw it.

Our collection and breading allow us to base an opinion on the validity of some subspecies and species traditionally recognized in East Africa. So, we now consider or confirm that *thesprio*, *pharsaloides*, *apecida*, *areca*, *rosa* and *nicega* are only forms, and that *nyasae* is a synonym of *aganice*.

We also confirm that *inaureata* is a form of *esebria* and not of *jodutta*.

Our Malawi collection gives the occasion to point out the following facts:

A. anacreon populations in Malawi include many forms, which are considered today as distinct species or subspecies: *induna*, *bomba*, *lusinga*, *anacreontica*. More recently Henning (1996) proposed to distinguish a new taxon which occurs on the Nyika plateau: *A. parei orangica*. We caught a number of these, the females of which present a similar colour to the males and not the usual greyish beige. This could be a significant factor, but intermediates were also found, so we feel that further studies on a larger number of specimens including series bred from wild caught females is required to establish the validity of this taxon.

Henning may be right to give a particular status to these specimens. But, in agreement with J. Pierre we actually do not retain it in our list as many transitional specimens are flying in Malawi (see our plate).

A. vumbui flies in the far north of Malawi (Mughese forest), and perhaps also in Tanzania. That is a remarkable fact brought about by Ray Murphy's collection, Dowsett records and our own records. So *A. conradti* does not fly in Malawi. We saw Gifford's collection in the Natural History Museum of Blantyre. Gifford recorded females of *A. vumbui* as *A. conradti*. In fact, *A. vumbui* female forms are sometimes close to *A. conradti* typical females.



Gifford collection in Blantyre

A. acuta flies in Malawi, and normally not *A. ansorgei*. It seems that *A. acuta* replaces *A. ansorgei* in Tanzania and Malawi. Nevertheless, in Gifford's collection in Blantyre two specimens labelled *A. ansorgei* has been found from the south of Malawi. However, their forewings outer margins are slightly concave (*acuta*) and not rounded (*ansorgei*).

Nominate ***A. cerasa*** flies in the south of Malawi (Ray Murphy's collection, new record) and its subspecies *cerita* (= *kiellandi*) in the north (Mughese forest).

A. cepheus bergeriana presents a population in the Mughese forest, north of Malawi. This fact has been previously reported by one of us (R. M.) and is now confirmed by our collection and breeding.

Nominate ***A. zetes*** flies along the shores of Lake Malawi.

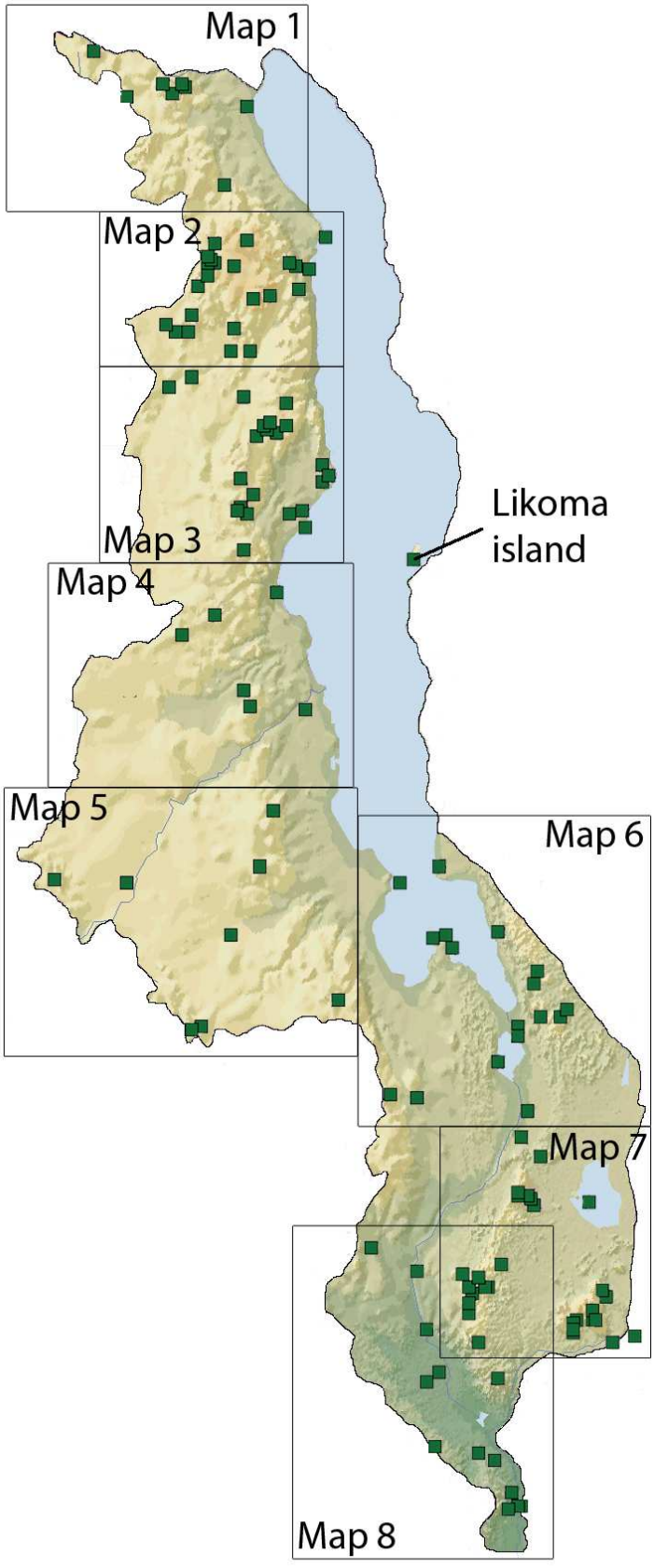
We decided to present this paper in a user-friendly way, even for people who do not know the actual main classification of Acraeinae subfamily (J. Pierre, 1985, 1987). So the species are dealt with in alphabetical order (based on species name: i.e. *cepheus bergeriana* is under *cepheus*).

At the end of this work we provide a species list in phylogenetic order.

Prospected areas (gazetteer) and distribution of Acraeinae in Malawi

During several years, the two authors led systematic researches on the Acraeinae subfamily in Malawi. This paper is a first synthesis. Due to this work, we are able to make a complete inventory of *Acraea* species living today in Malawi and their distribution throughout the country. Our wish is that this work will be a sound argument for improving protection of the few remaining primary forests in Malawi.

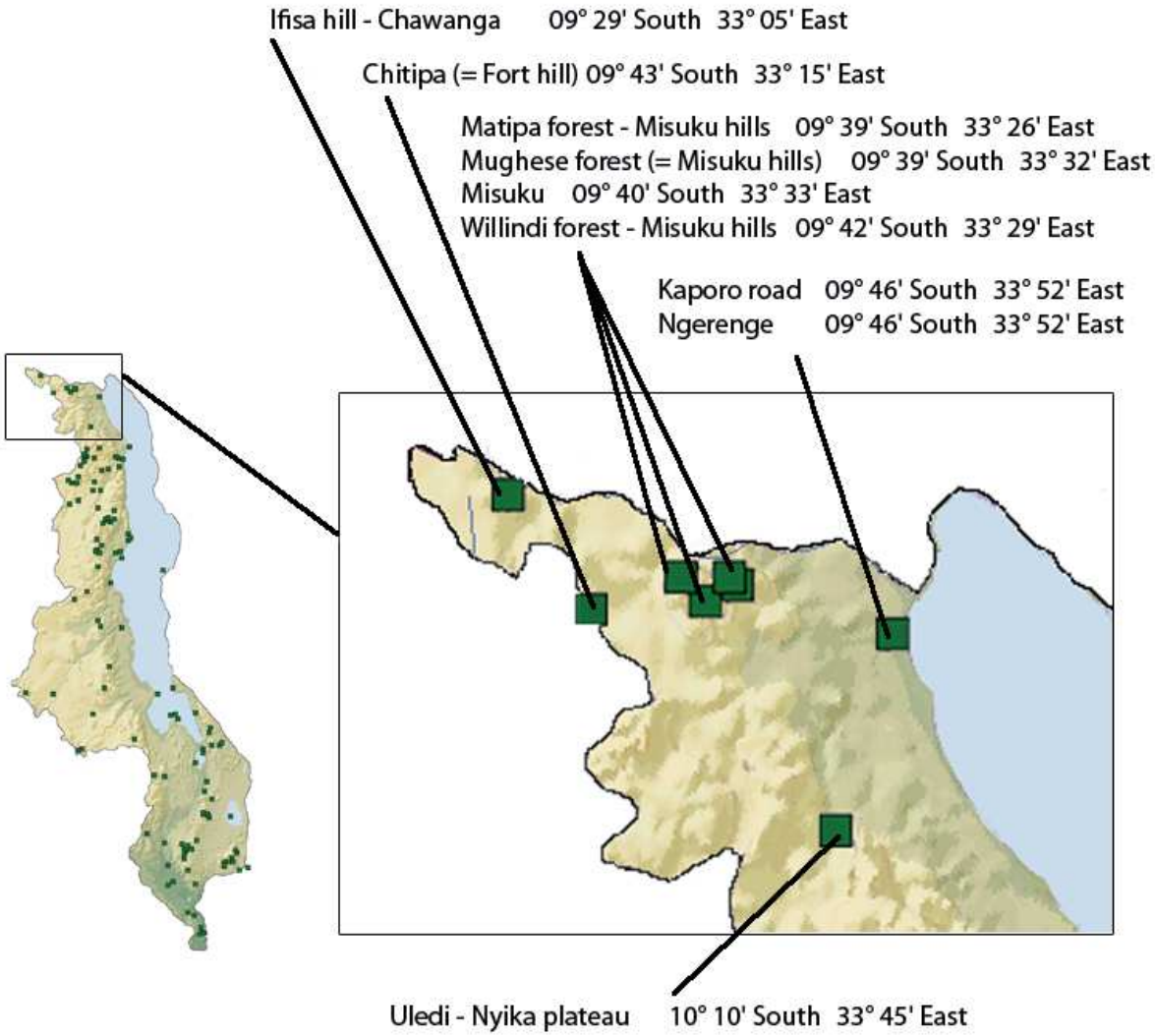
Malawi is a fascinating country for butterfly studies as three faunas meet in this area. South African species come through Mozambique (Zambezi pass). Eastern coastal species come from Tanzania and Mozambique. Central African species come through Zambia. Some species are represented by both the central and eastern subspecies (or considered as subspecies before this work) in the same area (Zomba plateau for instance). We will discuss the status of these subspecies below.



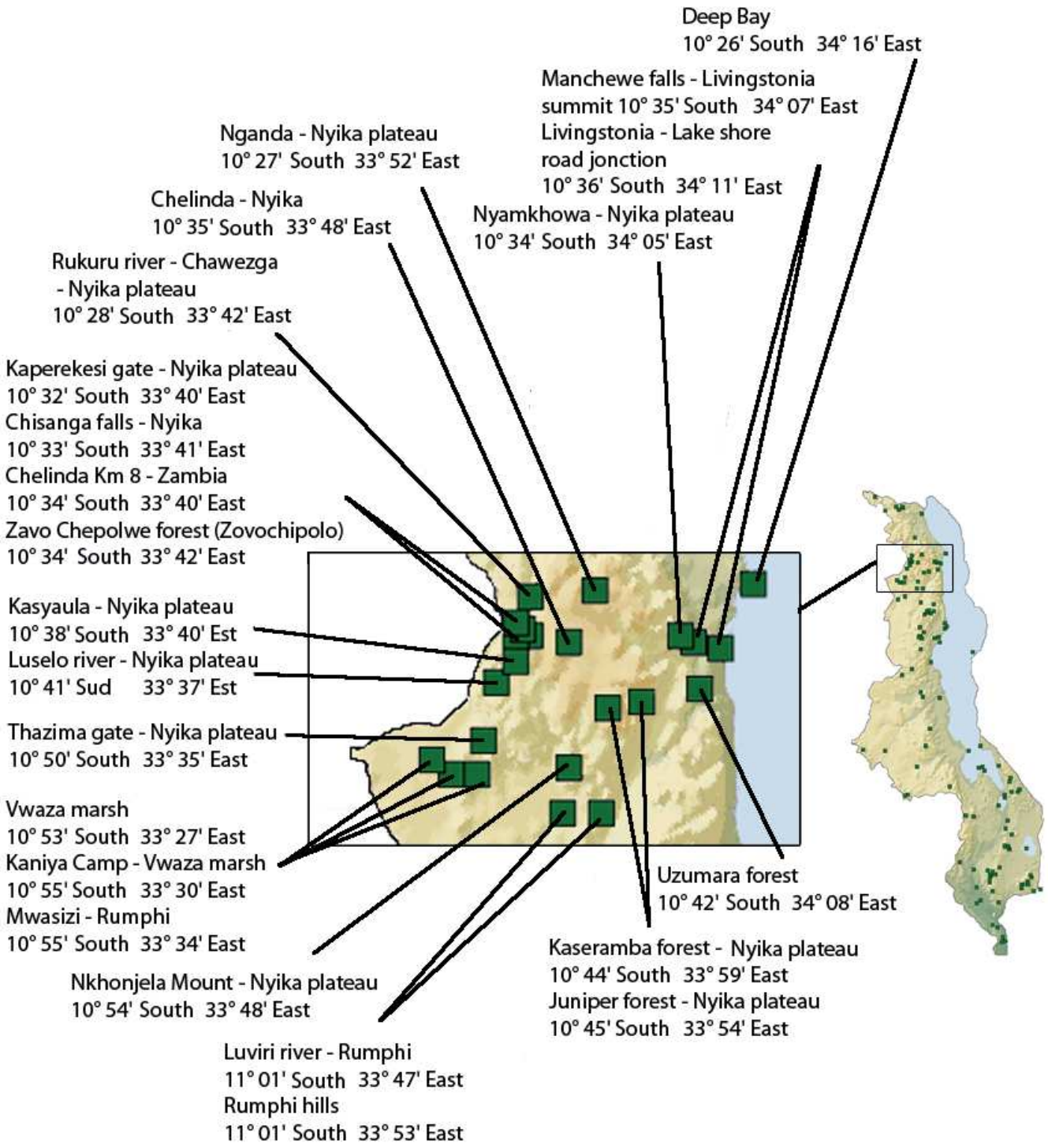
Map of Malawi with all localities surveyed in this work (see Gazetteer). All the maps have been done with DMap for Windows software (Dr Alan Morton - www.dmap.co.uk). We must thank him for his permanent assistance.

Ifisa hills: this extreme northwest area is close to both Tanzania and Zambia.

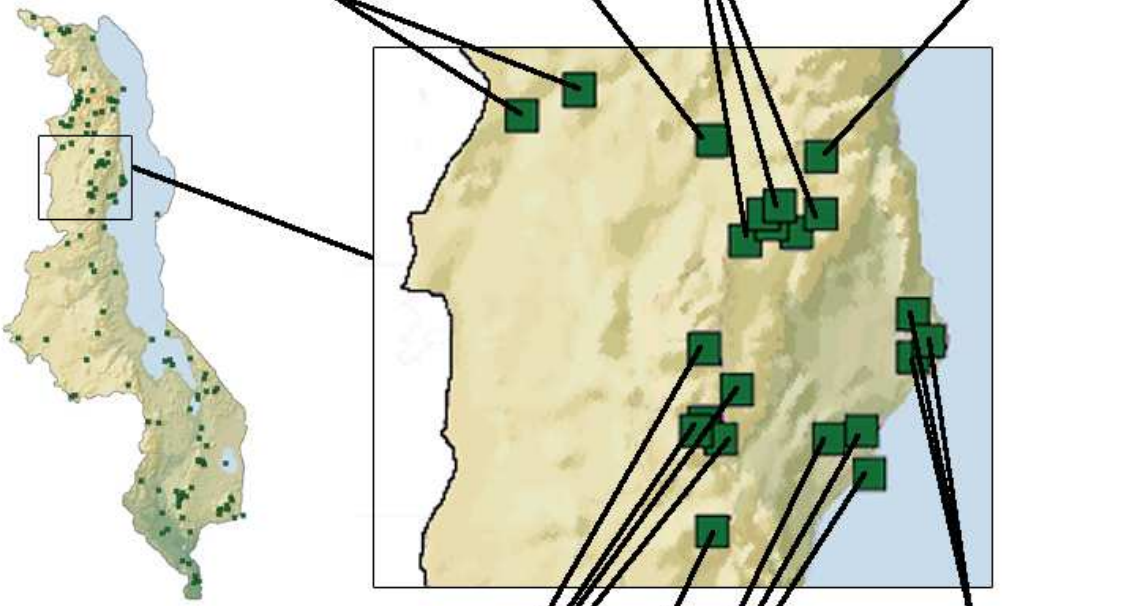
Misuku hills: this area contains the well known Mughese forest reserve, at the border with Tanzania. We also visited the Willindi forest reserve, not far from the town of Misuku. See the landscape plate IV: 2 – Mughese forest; 3 – inside Mughese forest; 4 – Willindi forest.



Nyika plateau: the most famous plateau in Malawi, which is a large area between 1600 and 2500 m altitude. The northern gate is near the Chisanga Falls and the Zavo Chepolwe Forest, which spread along the Zambian border, not far from the well known Chelinda Point. The Thazima Gate is at the south of the Nyika Plateau. See the landscape plate IV: 1 – Nyika plateau near Chisanga; 5 – Dry forest at Thazima Gate.



Vwaza marsh Game Reserve: this very interesting area is situated south of the Nyika Plateau in Rumphi District. We also visited the eastern part of the reserve (Uyuzi hill). See the landscape plate IV: 6 – Vwaza marsh.



Nkhorongo - Mzuzu
11° 23' South 33° 59' East
Dunduzu - Mzuzu
11° 24' South 33° 57' East
Kaninyinga forest
11° 24' South 34° 04' East
Lupaso - Mzuzu
11° 25' South 33° 58' East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu
11° 26' South 34° 01' East

Malidade - Mpherembe
11° 15' South 33° 51' East

Uyuzi hill - Vwaza marsh
11° 09' South 33° 35' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza marsh
11° 12' South 33° 28' East

Choma mount
11° 17' South 34° 04' East

Dowa
13° 39' South 33° 55' East
Nthungwa hill - Viphya mount
11° 40' South 33° 50' East
Mazamba - Viphya
11° 45' South 33° 54' East
Musese hill - Viphya mount
11° 49' South 33° 50' East
Chikangawa
11° 50' South 33° 49' East
Chamambo hill - S. Viphya
11° 51' South 33° 52' East

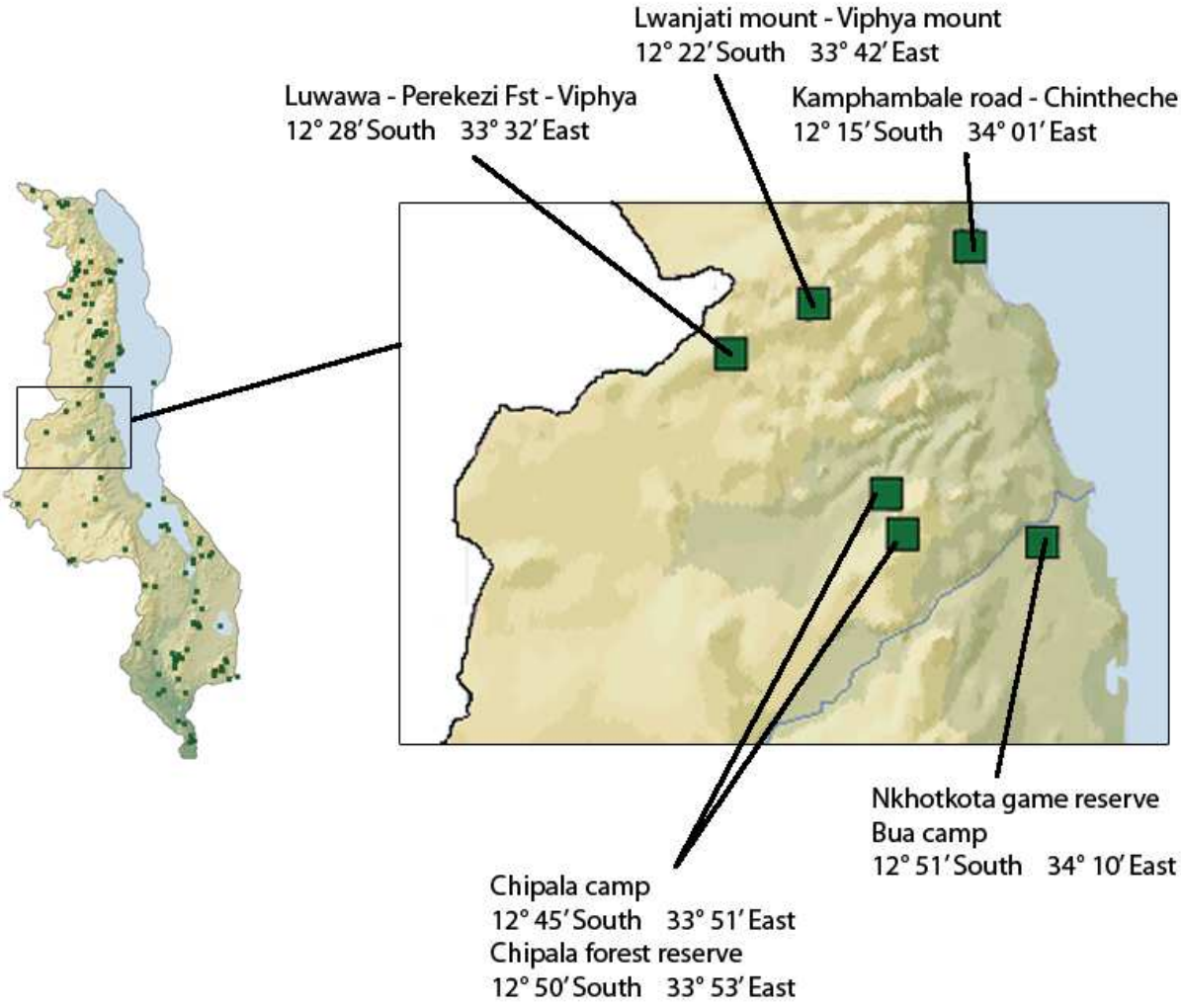
Kawandama hill - Viphya mount
12° 02' South 33° 51' East

Kalwe forest - Nkhata Bay
11° 36' South 34° 15' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo mount
11° 39' South 34° 17' East
Mkuwadzi forest - Nkhata bay
11° 41' South 34° 15' East

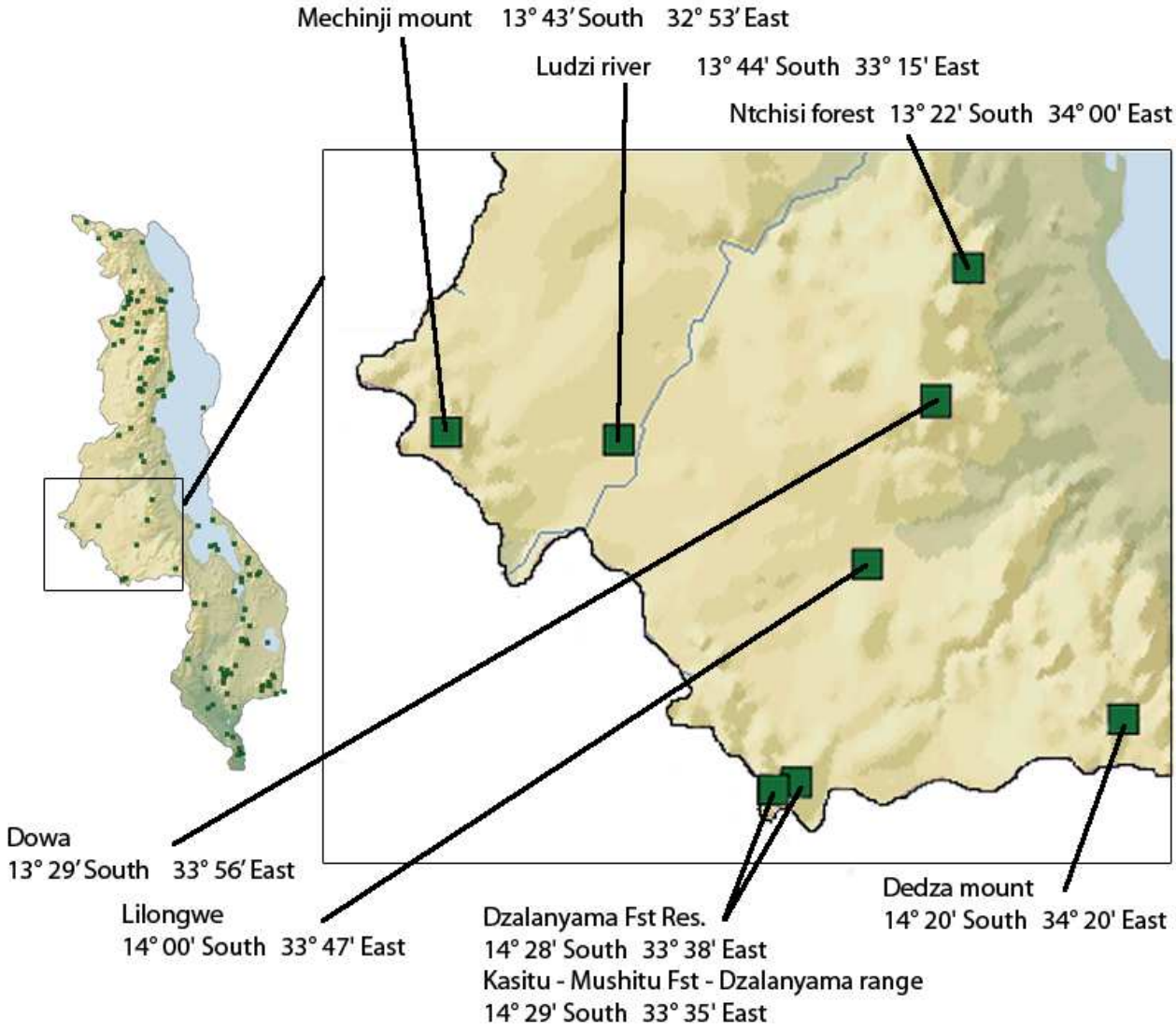
Chinteche
11° 50' South 34° 09' East
Chisasira forest - Chintheche
11° 51' South 34° 05' East
Bandawe
11° 55' South 34° 10' East

Nkhata Bay (precedent page): this bay on the northern shores of Lake Malawi is well known for its little forest reserves: Mkuwadzi Forest Reserve and Kalwe Forest Reserve. See the landscape plate IV: 7 – Lake Malawi near Nkhata Bay.

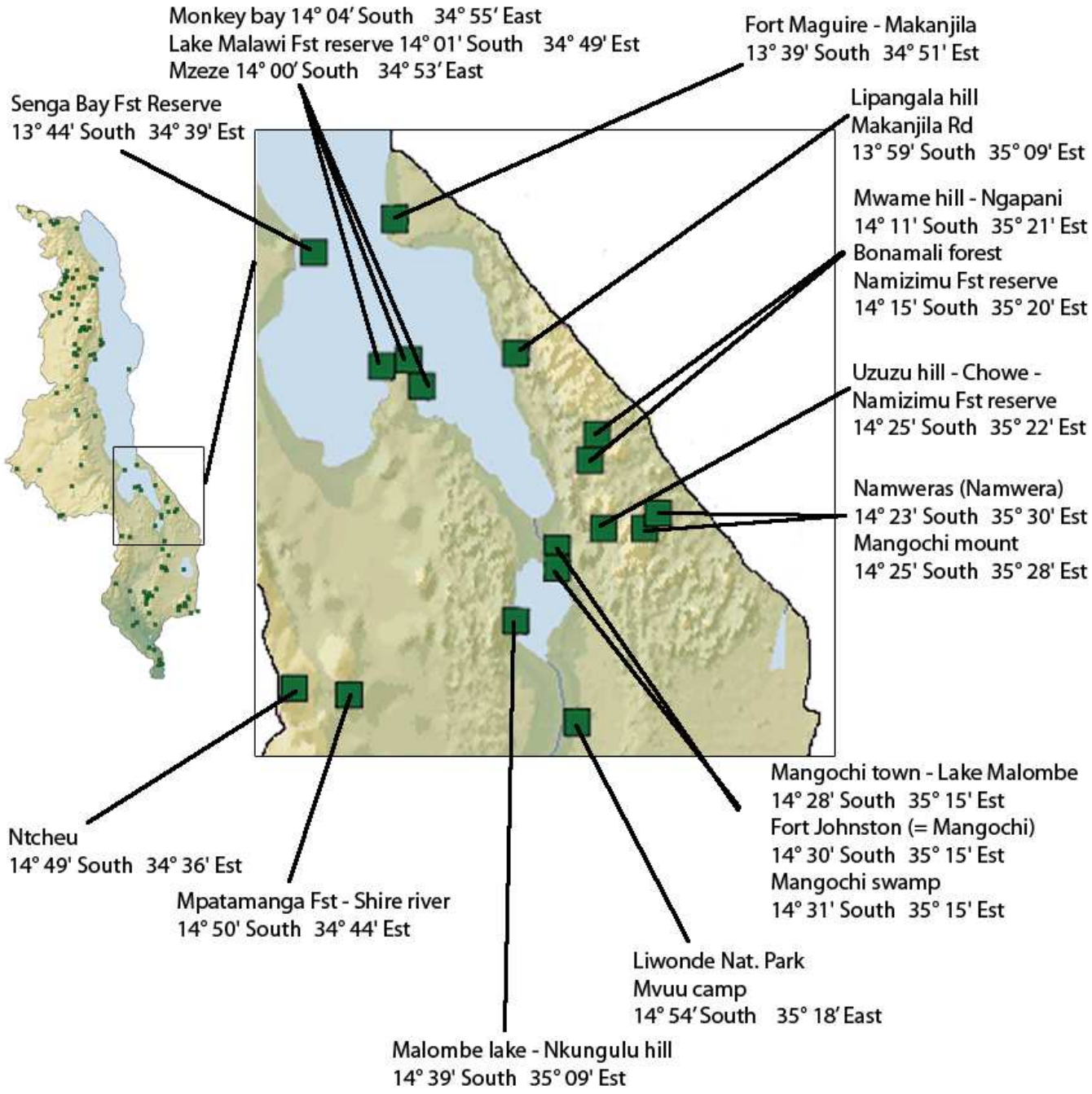
Mzuzu and Rumphi area (precedent page): in this area we visited the Lunyangwa Swamps. North of Mzuzu we went to the Choma Mount and the Uzumara Forest Reserve. See the landscape plate III: 7 – landscape from Uzumara Mountain.



Ntchisi Forest Reserve: this area is located along the western shore of Lake Malawi. See the landscape plate III: 4 – Ntchisi Mountains; 5 – Lake Malawi near Chinteche; 6 – Chinteche dry area.



Dzalanyama range and Dedza Mountains: these areas and mountains are located at the south end of the central part of Malawi. In the Dzalanyama range we went to the Mushitu Forest Reserve, not far from Kasitu Rock. See the landscape plate III: 1 – top of Dedza Mountains; 2 – Mushitu Forest in Dzalanyama range; 3 – Lilongwe area from Dzalanyama elevations.



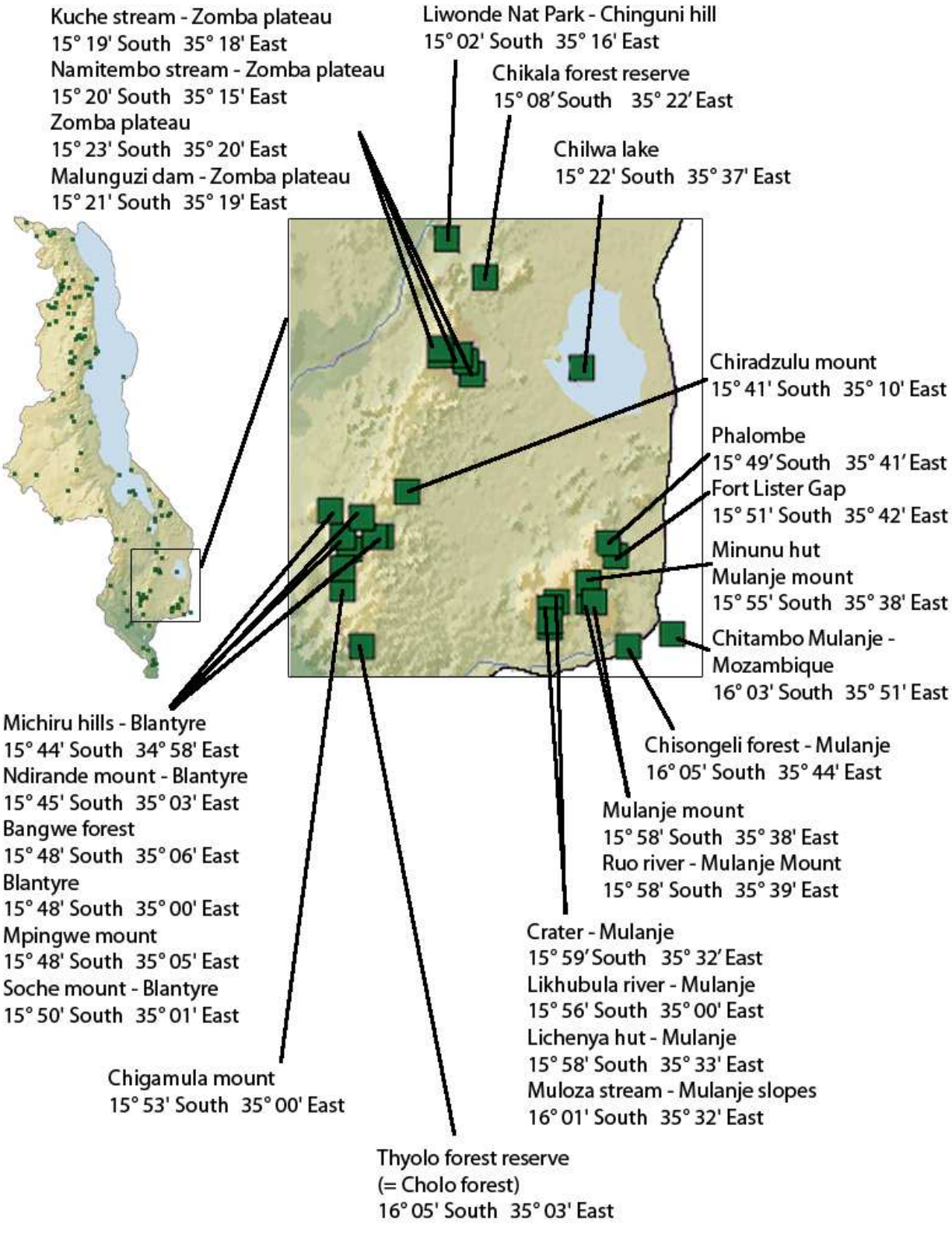
Zomba plateau (next page): this area is one of the most famous locations in Malawi for butterfly fauna. But the primary forest is now reduced to a small patch around the Mulungezi River and larger patches near the peak and around Chingwi's Hole with an extensive cauldron of forest on the side of the mountain. Near Chingwi's Hole the Kuche and Namitembo streams flow. See the landscape plate II: 1 and 3 – Top of Zomba Plateau.

Blantyre area (next page)**:** this area is surrounded with hills (Mishiru, Soche, Ndirande and a little bit further Chiradzulu). See the landscape plate I: 1 – Ndirande Mount (Blantyre); 2 – Michiru Mount (Blantyre); 3 – Soche Mount (Blantyre).

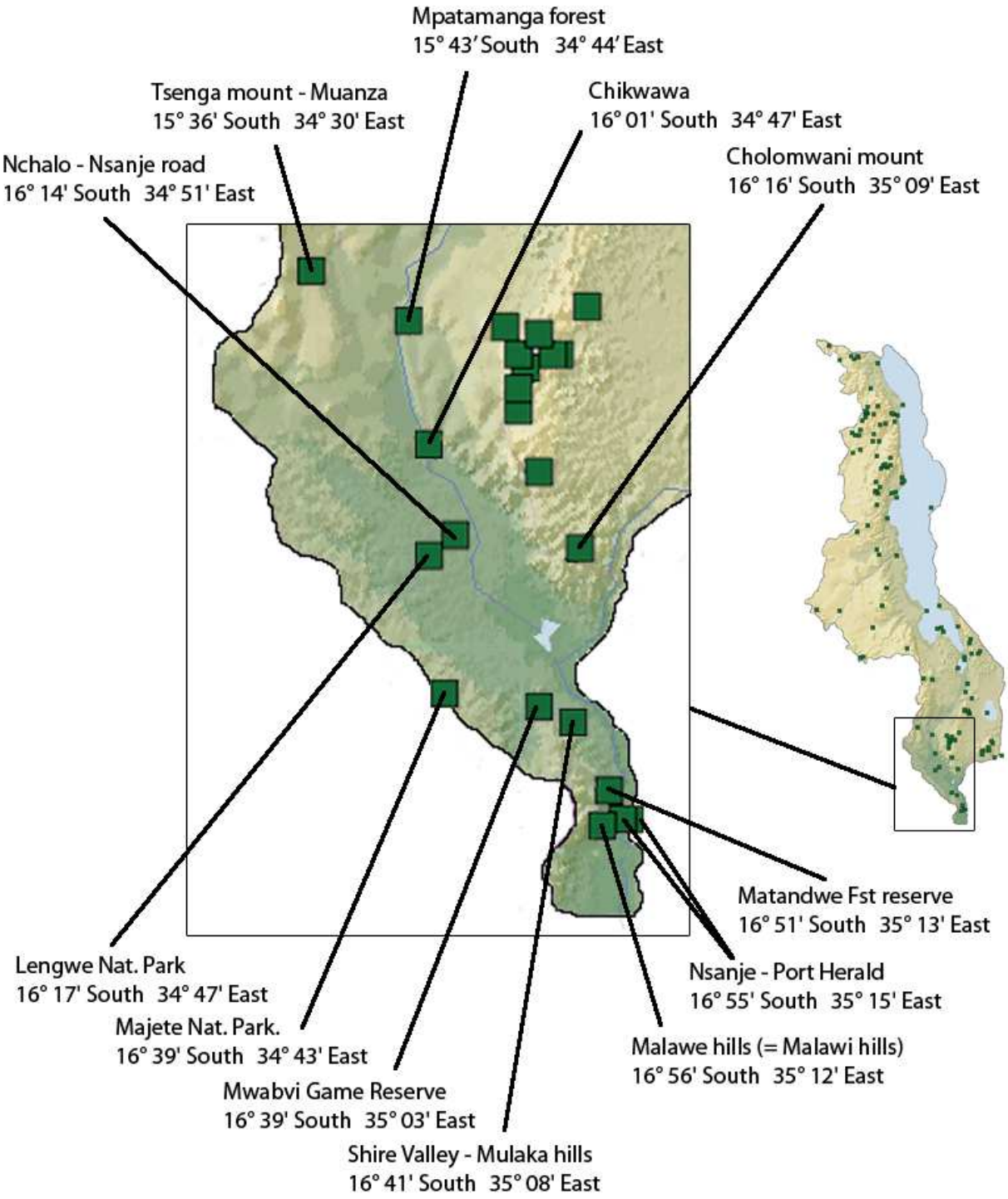
Thyolo area (old Cholo area) (next page)**:** very well known as the Thyolo Escarpment. In this area the Thyolo Mount (= Cholo Mount – landscape plate I picture 4) has been visited several times, especially in the Satemwa tea Estate, in which a patch of old primary forest remains. We also went to the south of this escarpment (Cholomwani Mountain), and down on its slopes near the Shire River (Chikwawa).

Mulanje Forest Reserve Mountain: one of the most famous places in Malawi for its endemic fauna and flora. Fort Lister Gap is situated north of the Mulanje Mountain (Phalombe area). The Ruo River is on the south, the Likhubula River is on the Western side and the Lychenia Plateau is at the summit (2000 m). See the landscape plate II: 4 – Mulanje near Likhubula; 5 – Ruo River; 6 – Lichenya Plateau.

See page for the area records table of Mulanje.



Low Shire river area: this area constitutes the end of the Rift Valley. The Shire River flows into the Zambezi River. This area contains many interesting mountains and reserves: Malawi Hill (or Malawe Hill) in the south, Matandwe Forest Reserve, Mwabvi Game Reserve, Lengwe National Park, Nsanje area. See the landscape plate I: 5 – Malawi Hill; 6 – Shire River near Nsanje from Malawi Hill.



Endemic species in Malawi

If the Lake Malawi area has been the object of many new *Acraea* descriptions, we are quite sure that there is no endemic species in Malawi despite the existence of such unusual areas as Mulanje Mount (the initial objective of the research of one of us (D. B.) was to study the biodiversity of the *Acraea* fauna of Mulanje Mount). We present here the list of taxa whose type areas (second column) include Malawi or the Lake Malawi area:

Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* ab. *aquilia* Thurau, 1903	Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* ab. *fusca* Le Doux, 1932	Deutsch-O-Afrika; Nyassaland, Lower Shire-Valley, N.O.-Rhodesie, Midd Luangwa-Valley; Süd O.-Rhodesia, Umtali
Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* ab. *pauperata* Thurau, 1903	Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* ab. *nyassicola* Strand, 1911	Nyassa See
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* f. *reducta* Howarth, 1969	Zambia: Nyika Plateau, Malawi-Zambian border
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* f. *radiata* Howarth, 1969	Malawi: Malawi-Zambian border, Nyika
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* f. *alba* Howarth, 1969	Malawi: Malawi-Zambian border, 7000 feet
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* f. *flava* Howarth, 1969	Malawi: Malawi-Zambian border, Nyika Plateau, Cholo Mt, Soche Mt, Poroto Mts, Ihoho forest, Mpingwe, Limbe
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* f. *handmani* Howarth, 1969	Malawi: Malawi-Zambian border, 7000 feet
Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice* f. *nyasae* Carpenter, 1920	Mt Mlanje, Nyassaland
Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice montana* f. *nicega* Suffert, 1904	Nyassa See
orangica Henning & Henning, 1996 = *Acraea* (*Actinote*) *anacreon*	Nyika plateau in Malawi, eastern Zambia
Acraea (*Acraea*) *asema* Hewitson, 1877	Lake Nyassa
fuelleborni Thurau, 1903 = *Acraea* (*Actinote*) *baxteri*	Langenburg, N. -Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *boopis choloui* Pierre, 1979	Cholo Mts, Malawi, Hauts plateaux S.O. du lac Nyassa
flavomaculata Lanz, 1896 = *Acraea* (*Actinote*) *cabira*	Parumbira (Malawi) and Tanganjika (Tanzanie)
biraca Suffert, 1904 = *Acraea* (*Actinote*) *cabira*	Langenburg, Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *caldarena* Hewitson, 1877	Lake Nyassa
Acraea (*Actinote*) *encedana* Pierre, 1976	Congo Belge, Kadjudju, Ouganda, Kenya, Angola, Nord Zambie, Sud Soudan, Malawi, Rhodésie
Acraea (*Acraea*) *epaea melina* Thurau, 1903	Langenburg, N. -Nyassa See
Acraea (*Actinote*) *esebria* f. *inaureata* Eltringham, 1912	Nyassaland (Nr. Florence Bay)
Acraea (*Actinote*) *goetzei* Thurau, 1903	Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *leucopyga* Aurivillius, 1904	Kigonsera, Nyassaland
liszti Suffert, 1904 = *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *leucopyga*	Ungoni, Nyassa See
Acraea (*Acraea*) *natalica* f. *albiventris* Le Doux, 1923	Nyassa, Britisch-Ostafrika, Natal, Kigonsera, Deutsch-Ostafrika, Delagoa Bay, Rhodesia
derbela Hewitson, 1877 = *Acraea* (*Actinote*) *orinata*	Lake Nyassa
Acraea (*Acraea*) *punctellata* Eltringham, 1912	Nyassaland (Zomba), Angoniland, Delagoa Bay ?
Acraea (*Actinote*) *serena* f. *excentrica* Thurau, 1903	Langenburg, N. -Nyassa See, Usaramo
Acraea (*Actinote*) *serena* f. *venturina* Thurau, 1903	Langenburg, N. -Nyassa See
Acraea (*Actinote*) *serena* f. *reducta* Le Doux, 1928	Kilimatinde (Nyassa-See), Suksuk-Fluss (Abyssinien), Mahenge, Usalla, Mkomba (D. O. Afrika)
Acraea (*Actinote*) *ventura* Hewitson, 1877	Lake Nyassa

Mulanje area records

Taxon	Mulanje mount	Chisambo Mulanje	Chisongeli Mulanje	Esperanza Mulanje	Lichenya hut - Mulanje	Likhubula river - Mulanje	Minunu hut - Mulanje	Mulosa stream - Mulanje	Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	Ruo river
acara										X
acerata	X									X
acrita	X					X				X
aganice	X	X						X	X	X
anacreon	X				X	X			X	X
anemosa	X									
cabira	X							X	X	X
caldarena	X					X				
egina	X	X		X				X	X	X
encedon	X			X		X			X	X
epaea melina	X									
esebria	X					X		X		X
goetzei	X		X		X			X		X
igola	X	X				X				X
insignis	X									X
johnstoni	X					X			X	X
leucopyga						X				
machequena	X									
natalica	X					X		X	X	X
neobule	X								X	
oncaea	X					X			X	X
pentapolis epidica	X									X
pharsalus										X
punctatissima						X				
punctellata	X								X	
serena	X			X		X	X		X	X
ventura	X									
vumbui	X				X					X

For some records we have only "Mulanje mount" indication.

The *Acraea* distribution in Malawi can be separated in three areas: the northern area (from Mzuzu to north), the Central area (between Mzuzu and the north of Lake Malombe) and the southern area.

Taxon	North	Central	South
baxteri	X		
bergeriana	X		
bonasia	X		
cerita	X		
mufindi	X		
lyci	X		
scalivittata	X		
sotikensis	X		
montana	X	X	
perenna	X	X	
zetes	X	X	
acuta	X		X
epidica	X		X
acara	X	X	X
acerata	X	X	X
acrita	X	X	X
anacreon	X	X	X
anemosa	X	X	X
asema	X	X	X
cabira	X	X	X
caldarena	X	X	X
detecta	X	X	X
egina	X	X	X
encedon	X	X	X
esebria	X	X	X
goetzei	X	X	X
insignis	X	X	X
johnstoni	X	X	X
leucopyga	X	X	X
melina	X	X	X
natalica	X	X	X
neobule	X	X	X
oncaea	X	X	X
periphanes	X	X	X
pharsalus	X	X	X
punctatissima	X	X	X
serena	X	X	X
ventura	X	X	X
vumbui	X	X	X
petraea		X	
zonata		X	

Taxon	North	Central	South
aganice		X	X
axina		X	X
burni		X	X
cerasa		X	X
punctellata		X	X
quirina		X	X
rahira		X	X
atergatis			X
choloui			X
cuva			X
igola			X
machequena			X
perlucida			X

If we consider *atergatis*, 53 taxa are present in Malawi. Only 38 taxa occur in the northern area, 38 in the central area and 40 in the southern area. A total of 25 taxa are ubiquitous (48,1%). Only 7 (typically Tanzanian species) are found in the northern area (17,9%), 2 (*A. petraea* and *A. zonata* but with very few records) in the central area and 6 in the southern area (15%).

A. epidica and *A. acuta* have both a special distribution with records in both the north and the south, but absent from the central area. Lake Malawi seems to stop them from Mozambique and Tanzania (they are coastal species).

Today, *A. boopis choloui* is only known from Malawi. That should be the only endemic taxon. It could be the only endemic taxon, but it should also occur in Mozambique.

There are three species with two subspecies each (one in north, one in central area and one in the south): *aganice*, *cerasa* and *rahira*.

Finally, there is no endemic species from the Nyika Plateau or from Mulanje Mount, even if some species can be found quite only in those places (like *igola* on Mulanje Mount).

Bandawe	Nkhata Bay	11° 55’ South	34° 10’ East
Bangwe Mt	Blantyre	15° 48’ South	35° 06’ East
Blantyre	Blantyre	15° 48’ South	35° 00’ East
Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	Mangochi	14° 15’ South	35° 20’ East
Bua river	Nkhotakota	12° 45’ South	33° 16’ East
Chamambo Hill - S. Viphya	Mzimba - Viphya	11° 51’ South	33° 52’ East
Chawezga - Rukuru River - Nyika	Chitipa	10° 28’ South	33° 42’ East
Chelinda - Nyika	Chitipa - Nyika	10° 35’ South	33° 48’ East
Chelinda Km 8 - Zambia	Chitipa - Nyika	10° 34’ South	33° 40’ East
Chigamula Mt	Blantyre	15° 53’ South	35° 00’ East
Chikala Fst Res	Machinga	15° 08’ South	35° 22’ East
Chikangawa	Mzimba - Viphya	11° 50’ South	33° 49’ East
Chikwawa	Chikwawa	16° 01’ South	34° 47’ East
Chilwa lake	Zomba	15° 22’ South	35° 37’ East
Chinteche	Nkhata Bay	11° 50’ South	34° 09’ East
Chipala camp	Nkhotakota	12° 45’ South	33° 51’ East
Chipala Fst Res	Nkhotakota	12° 50’ South	33° 53’ East
Chiradzulu Mt	Chiradzulu	15° 41’ South	35° 10’ East
Chisanga Falls - Nyika	Chitipa - Nyika	10° 33’ South	33° 41’ East
Chisasira Fst - Chintheche	Nkhata Bay	11° 51’ South	34° 05’ East
Chisongeli Fst - Mulanje	Mulanje	16° 05’ South	35° 44’ East
Chitambo Mulanje - Mozambique	Mulanje	16° 03’ South	35° 51’ East
Chitipa - Nyika (Fort Hill)	Chitipa	09° 43’ South	33° 15’ East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	Thyolo	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Cholomwani Mt	Thyolo	16° 16’ South	35° 09’ East
Choma Mt	Nkhata Bay	11° 17’ South	34° 04’ East
Crater Mulanje Mt	Mulanje	15° 59’ South	35° 32’ East
Dedza Mt	Dedza	14° 20’ South	34° 20’ East
Deep Bay	Karonga	10° 26’ South	34° 16’ East
Dowa	Dowa	11° 39’ South	33° 56’ East
Dunduzu - Mzuzu	Mzimba	11° 24’ South	33° 57’ East
Dzalanyama Fst Res	Lilongwe	14° 28’ South	33° 38’ East
Esperanza - Mulanje	Mulanje	16° 02’ South	35° 32’ East
Fort Johnston (= Mangochi)	Mangochi	14° 30’ South	35° 15’ East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	Phalombe	15° 51’ South	35° 42’ East
Fort Maguire - Makanjila	Salima	13° 39’ South	34° 51’ East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	Chitipa	09° 29’ South	33° 05’ East
Juniper Fst - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 45’ South	33° 54’ East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	Nkhata Bay	11° 36’ South	34° 15’ East
Kamphambale road - Chintheche	Nkhata Bay	12° 15’ South	34° 01’ East
Kaninyinga Fst	Nkhata Bay	11° 24’ South	34° 04’ East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza Marsh	Lilongwe	10° 55’ South	33° 30’ East
Kaperekesi gate - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 32’ South	33° 40’ East
Kaporo road	Karonga	09° 46’ South	33° 52’ East
Kaseramba Fst - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 44’ South	33° 59’ East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	Lilongwe	14° 29’ South	33° 35’ East
Kasyaula - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 38’ South	33° 40’ East

Kawandama Hill - Viphya Mt	Mzimba - Viphya	12° 02’ South	33° 51’ East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	Mangochi	14° 01’ South	34° 49’ East
Lengwe Nat Park	Chikwawa	16° 17’ South	34° 47’ East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 33’ East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	Mulanje	15° 56’ South	35° 00’ East
Likoma island	Likoma Island	12° 05’ South	34° 43’ East
Lilongwe	Lilongwe	14° 00’ South	33° 47’ East
Lipangala Hill - Makanjila road	Mangochi	13° 59’ South	35° 09’ East
Livingstonia - Lake shore road jonction	Rumphi	10° 36’ South	34° 11’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hill	Machinga	15° 02’ South	35° 16’ East
Liwonde Nat Park (Mvuu Camp)	Machinga	14° 54’ South	35° 18’ East
Ludzi river	Kasungu	13° 44’ South	33° 15’ East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	Mzimba - Mzuzu	11° 26’ South	34° 01’ East
Lupaso - Mzuzu	Mzimba - Mzuzu	11° 25’ South	33° 58’ East
Luselo river - Nyika plateau	Rumphi	10° 41’ South	33° 37’ East
Luviri river - Rumphi	Rumphi	11° 01’ South	33° 47’ East
Luwawa - Perekezi Fst - Viphya	Mzimba - Viphya	12° 28’ South	33° 32’ East
Lwanjati Mt - Viphya Mt	Mzimba - Viphya	12° 22’ South	33° 42’ East
Majete Nat Park.	Chikwawa	16° 39’ South	34° 43’ East
Malawe Hill (= Malawi Hill)	Nsanje	16° 56’ South	35° 12’ East
Malidade - Mpherembe	Rumphi	11° 15’ South	33° 51’ East
Malombe lake - Nkungulu Hill	Mangochi	14° 39’ South	35° 09’ East
Manchewe Falls - Livingstonia	Karonga	10° 35’ South	34° 07’ East
Mangochi Mt	Mangochi	14° 25’ South	35° 28’ East
Mangochi swamp	Mangochi	14° 31’ South	35° 15’ East
Mangochi town - Lake Malombe	Mangochi	14° 28’ South	35° 15’ East
Matandwe Fst Res	Nsanje	16° 51’ South	35° 13’ East
Matipa Fst - Misuku Hill	Chitipa - Misuku	09° 39’ South	33° 26’ East
Mazamba - Viphya	Mzimba - Viphya	11° 45’ South	33° 54’ East
Mechinji Mt	Salima	13° 43’ South	32° 53’ East
Michiru Hill	Blantyre	15° 44’ South	34° 58’ East
Minunu hut - Mulanje Mt	Mulanje	15° 55’ South	35° 38’ East
Misuku	Chitipa - Misuku	09° 40’ South	33° 33’ East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	Nkhata Bay	11° 41’ South	34° 15’ East
Monkey bay	Mangochi	14° 04’ South	34° 55’ East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire River	Neno	15° 50’ South	34° 44’ East
Mpingwe Mt	Blantyre	15° 48’ South	35° 05’ East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hill)	Chitipa - Misuku	09° 39’ South	33° 32’ East
Mulanje Mt	Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 38’ East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	Mulanje	16° 01’ South	35° 32’ East
Mulunguzi dam - Zomba plateau	Zomba	15° 21’ South	35° 19’ East
Musese Hill - Viphya Mt	Nkhata Bay	11° 49’ South	33° 50’ East
Mwabvi Game Res	Nsanje	16° 39’ South	35° 03’ East
Mwame Hill - Ngapani	Mangochi	14° 11’ South	35° 21’ East
Mwasizi - Rumphi	Rumphi	10° 55’ South	33° 34’ East
Mzeze	Mangochi	14° 00’ South	34° 53’ East
Mzuzu	Mzimba - Mzuzu	11° 27’ South	33° 55’ East

Namitembo stream - Zomba plateau	Zomba	15° 20’ South	35° 15’ East
Namizimu Fst Res	Mangochi	14° 25’ South	33° 23’ East
Namweras (Namwera)	Mangochi	14° 23’ South	35° 30’ East
Nchalo - Nsanje road	Chikwawa	16° 14’ South	34° 51’ East
Ndirande Mt	Blantyre	15° 45’ South	35° 03’ East
Nganda - Nyika plateau	Chitipa - Nyika	10° 27’ South	33° 52’ East
Ngerenge	Karonga	09° 46’ South	33° 52’ East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	Nkhata Bay	11° 39’ South	34° 17’ East
Nkhonjela Mt - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 54’ South	33° 48’ East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	Mzimba - Mzuzu	11° 23’ South	33° 59’ East
Nkhotakota Game Res (Bua camp)	Nkhotakota	12° 51’ South	34° 10’ East
Nsanje	Nsanje	16° 55’ South	35° 15’ East
Ntcheu	Ntcheu	14° 49’ South	34° 36’ East
Ntchisi Fst	Ntchisi	13° 22’ South	34° 00’ East
Nthungwa Hill - Viphya Mt	Mzimba - Viphya	11° 40’ South	33° 50’ East
Nyamkhowa - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 34’ South	34° 05’ East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	Phalombe	15° 49’ South	35° 41’ East
Port Herald	Nsanje	16° 55’ South	35° 16’ East
Rumphi - Thumbi school	Rumphi	11° 01’ South	33° 53’ East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 39’ East
Senga Bay Fst Res	Salima	13° 44’ South	34° 39’ East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hill	Chikwawa	16° 41’ South	35° 08’ East
Soche Mt	Blantyre	15° 50’ South	35° 01’ East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	Rumphi - Nyika	10° 50’ South	33° 35’ East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	Thyolo	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	Mwanza	15° 36’ South	34° 30’ East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	Kasungu	10° 10’ South	33° 45’ East
Uyuzi Hill - Vwaza Marsh	Rumphi	11° 09’ South	33° 35’ East
Uzumara Fst	Rumphi	10° 42’ South	34° 08’ East
Uzuzu Hill - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	Mangochi	14° 25’ South	35° 22’ East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	Rumphi	10° 53’ South	33° 27’ East
Willindi Fst - Misuku Hill	Chitipa - Misuku	09° 42’ South	33° 29’ East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	Rumphi	11° 12’ South	33° 28’ East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	Rumphi	10° 34’ South	33° 42’ East
Zomba - Kuche river	Zomba	15° 20’ South	35° 18’ East
Zomba plateau	Zomba	15° 23’ South	35° 20’ East

1- Ndirande Mount near Blantyre, from Michiru Mount

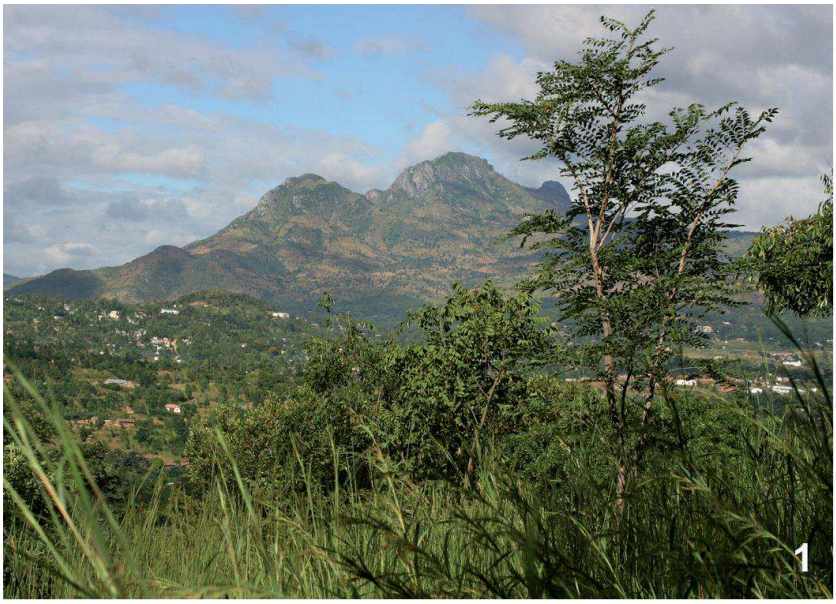
2- Slopes of Michiru Mount, near Michiru Reserve Forest (Blantyre area)

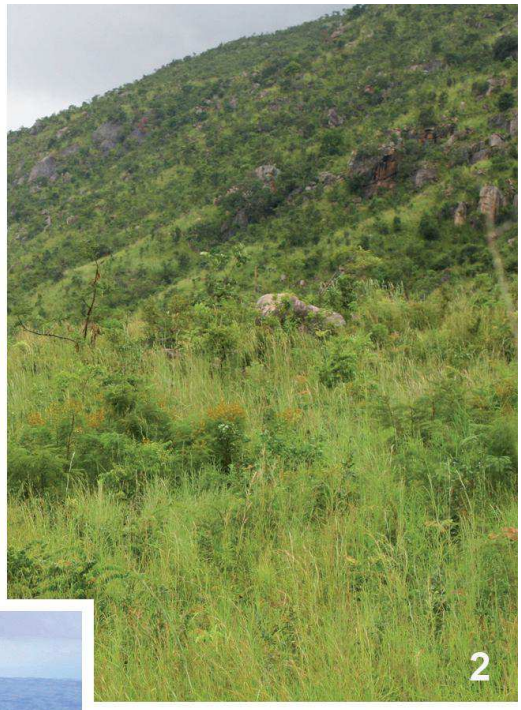
3- Top of Soche Mount (Blantyre area)

4- Top of Thyolo Mount (old CHolo Mount)

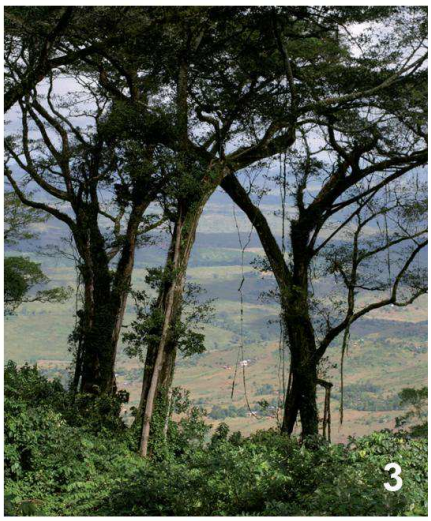
5- Top of Malawi (or Malawe) Hill

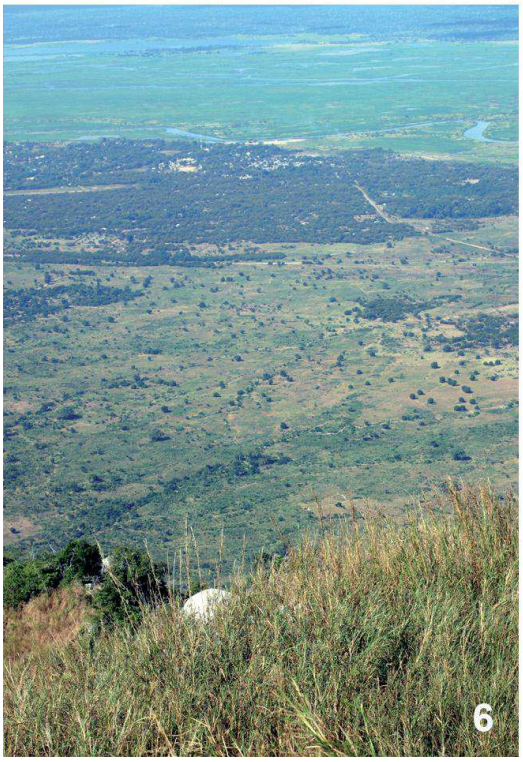
6- Shire river near Nsanje from Malawi (or Malawe) Hill


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1- Top of Zomba Plateau

2- Top of Mangochi Mount, near old Fort Mangochi

3- Top of Zomba Plateau

4- Mulanje Mount

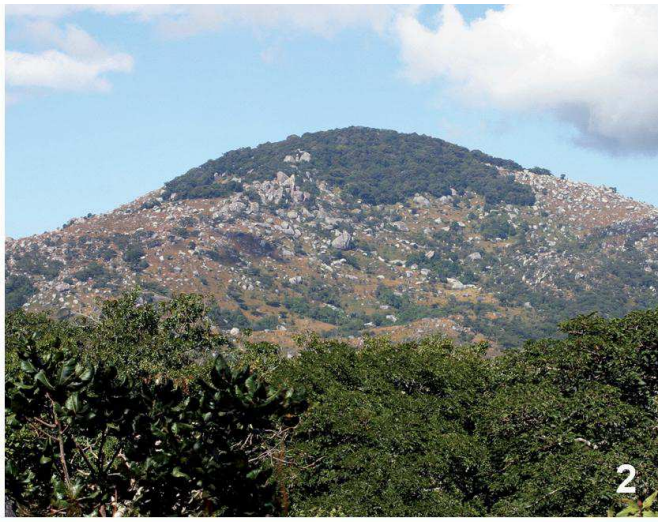
5- Ruo River - Mulanje Mount

6- Mulanje Mount - Lichenya Plateau

7- Namizimu Forest Reserve

8- Uzuzu Hill

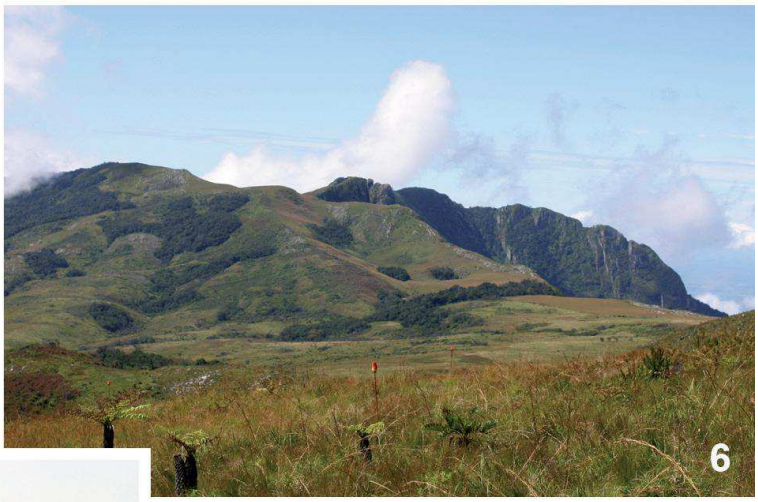

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1- Top of Dedza Mount

2- Mushitu Forest - Dzalanyama Range

3- View from top of Dzalanyama Range

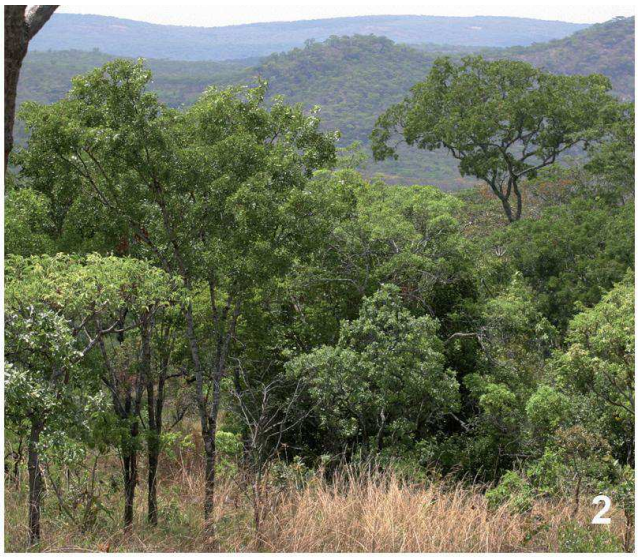
4- Ntchisi Forest

5- Malawi Lake near Chinteche

6- Chinteche area

7- Uzumara Hill


1

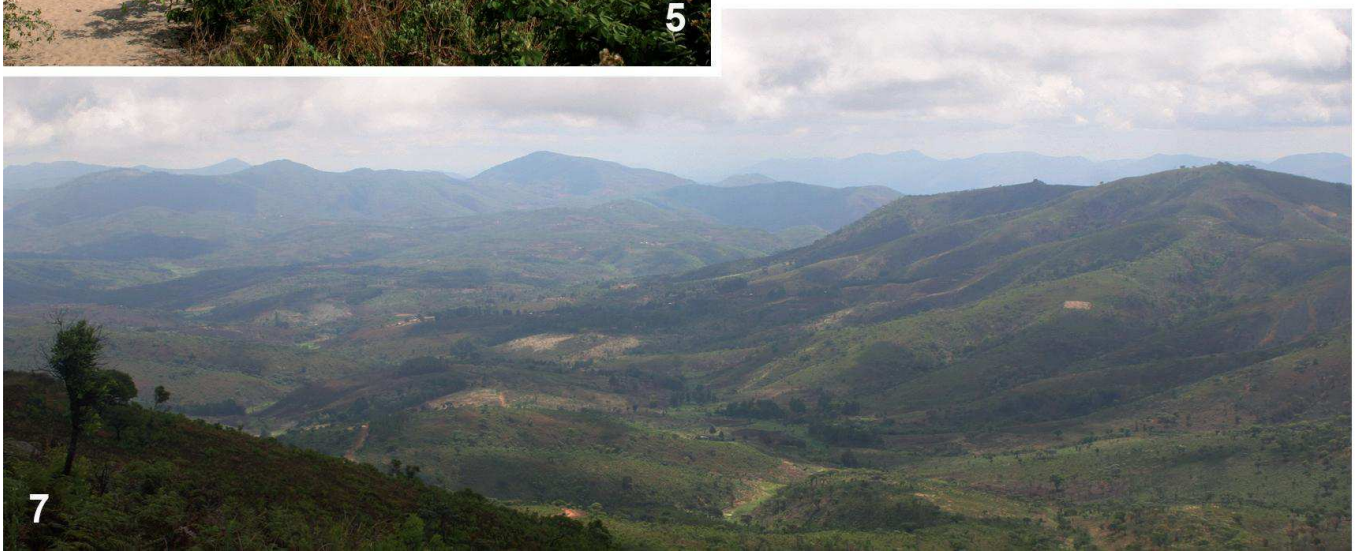

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1- Nyika Plateau near Chelinda

2- Mughese Forest

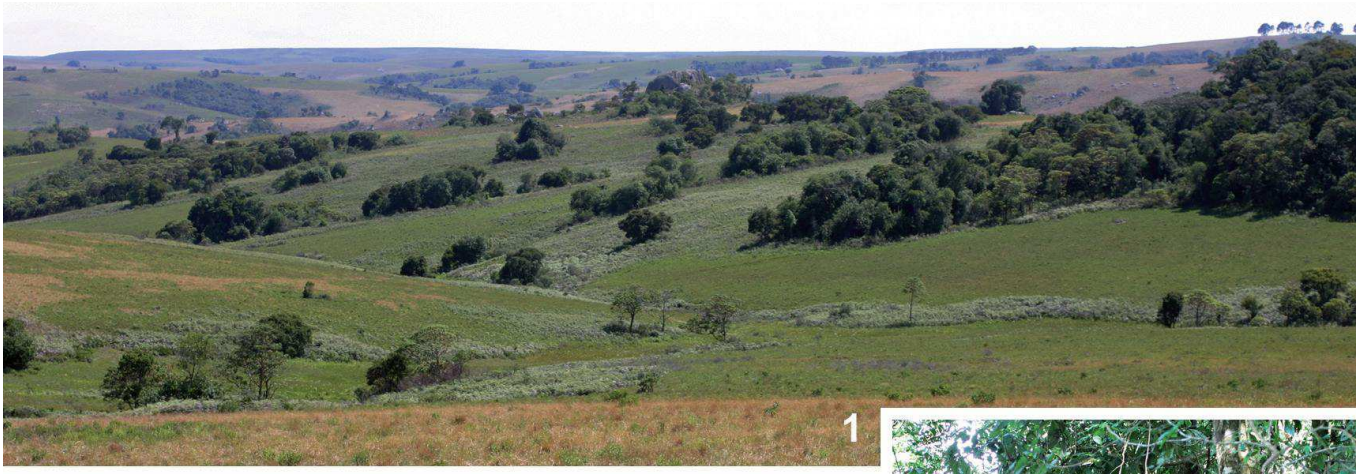
3- Inside Mughese Forest

4- Willindi Forest

5- Thazima Gate

6- Vwaza March

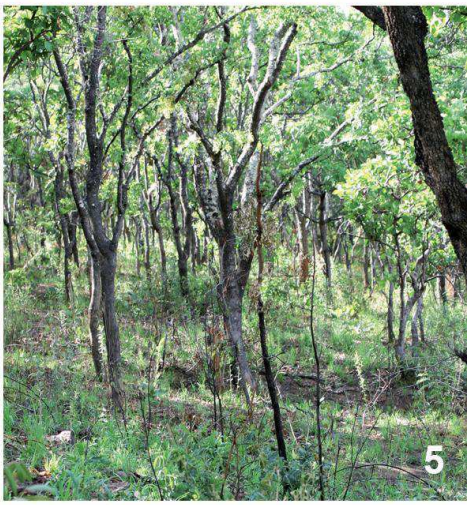
7- Nkhata Bay


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7

Host-plants of Acraeinae in Malawi

We present a list of host-plants known (or supposed) for Malawi species. The plants are listed in their actual classification order.

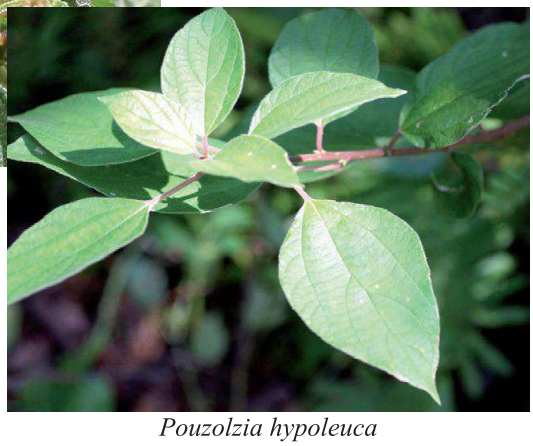
Class Magnoliopsida (= Dicotylédones)
Sub-class II Hamamelidae
Order 6 Urticales
Family Moraceae
Ficus asperifolia
Acraea pharsalus ?
Family Urticaceae
Boehmeria platyphylla
Acraea pharsalus ?
Acraea johnstoni
Fleurya ovalifolia
Acraea johnstoni
Pouzolzia hypoleuca
Acraea burni ?
Pouzolzia parasitica
Acraea acuta
Acraea johnstoni
Urera hypselodendron (= cordifolia)
Acraea esebria
Urera trinervis (= camerounensis)
Acraea vumbui
Acraea acuta
Urera woodii
Acraea igola


Boehmeria platyphylla


Fleurya ovalifolia


Urera hypselodendron


Pouzolzia parasitica


Pouzolzia hypoleuca


Urera trinervis

Sub-class III Caryophyllidae
Order 2 Polygonales
Family Polygonaceae

Polygonum tomentosum
Acraea rahira
Acraea rahira mufindi

Sub-class IV Dilleniidae
Order 3 Malvales
Family Tiliaceae

Triumfetta annua
Acraea goetzei
Acraea serena
Triumfetta pilosa
Acraea cabira
Acraea sotikensis
Acraea serena
Triumfetta rhomboidea
Acraea cabira
Acraea goetzei
Acraea serena
Triumfetta sp
Acraea cabira
Sparrmannia ricinocarpa
Acraea goetzei



Polygonum tomentosum



Triumfetta annua



Triumfetta sp



Sparrmannia ricinocarpa

Order 6 Violales
Family Flacourtiaceae

Caloncoba welwitschii
Acraea cepheus bergeriana
Lindackeria dentata
Acraea epaea melina ?
Myrianthus holstii
Acraea pentapolis epidica
Rawsonia lucida
Acraea cerasa ?
Xylotheca (= Oncoba) kraussiana
Acraea oncaea

Family Violaceae

Hybanthus capensis
Pardopsis punctatissima
Rinorea comvallaroides
Acraea boopis choloui
Acraea quirina



Caloncoba welwitschii



Rinorea comvallaroides



Rawsonia lucida



Myrianthus holstii



Hybanthus capensis

Family Turneraceae

Tricliceras (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata*
- *Acraea asema*
- *Acraea axina*
- *Acraea caldarena*
- *Acraea natalica*
- *Acraea neobule*
- *Acraea oncaea*
- *Acraea punctellata* ?

Tricliceras sp?
- *Acraea natalica*



Tricliceras longepedunculata

Family Passifloraceae

Adenia abyssinica (= Modecca abyssinica)
- *Acraea anemosa*

Adenia cissampeloides (= gummifera, = ophiocaulon)
- *Acraea acara*
- *Acraea zetes*
- *Acraea epaea melina ?*
- *Acraea natalica*
- *Acraea aganice*

Adenia rumicifolia (= lobata)
- *Acraea egina*

Adenia sp
- *Acraea anemosa*



Tricliceras sp



Adenia sp



Adenia rumicifolia



Adenia cissampeloides

Sub-class V Rosidae
Order 2 Fabales
Family Fabaceae (= s/family Leguminosae, Papilionoidae, Faboideae)

Aeschynomene abyssinica
Acraea anacreon
Acraea ventura
Aeschynomene oligophylla
Acraea anacreon
Desmodium salicifolium
Acraea encedon

Sub-class VI Asteridae
Order 2 Solanales
Family Solanaceae

Solanum
Acraea acerata

Family Convolvulaceae

Ipomoea batatas
Acraea acerata

Class Liliopsida (= Monocotylédones)
Sub-class III Commelinideae
Order 1 Commelinales
Family Commelinaceae

Commelina diffusa
Acraea encedon



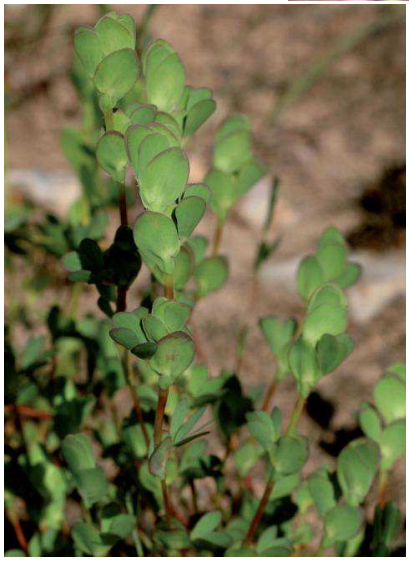
Aeschynomene abyssinica



Desmodium salicifolium



Commelina diffusa



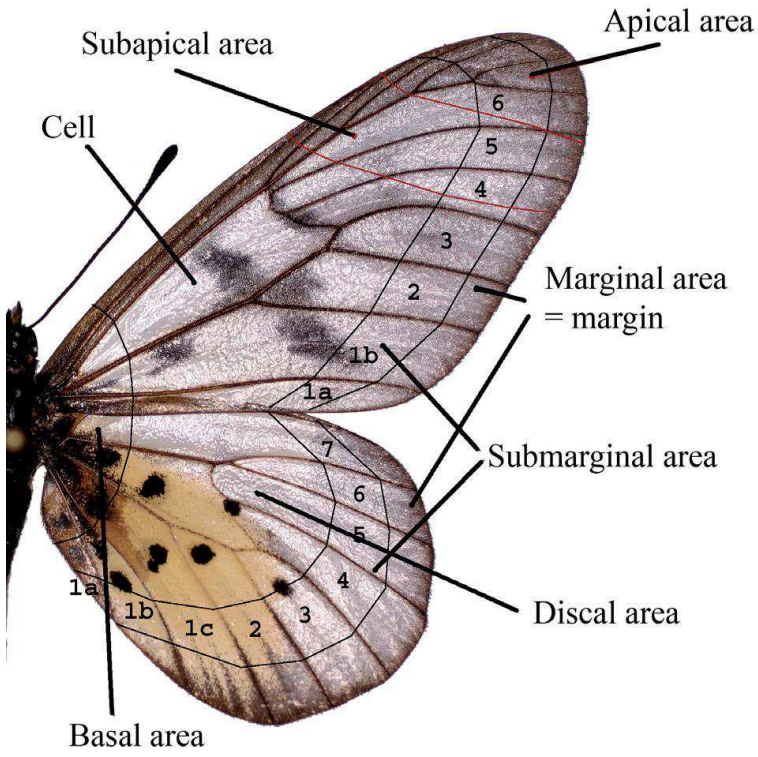
Aeschynomene oligophylla



Ipomoea batatas

Identification key for Acraeinae of Malawi

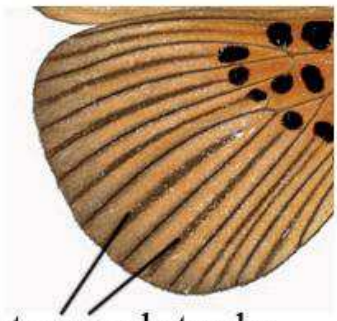
This key is mainly a visual key based on hindwing versos. Below is a basic glossary for a better understanding of the following alternatives and their respective descriptions.



Description of different areas of the wings



Interneural markings

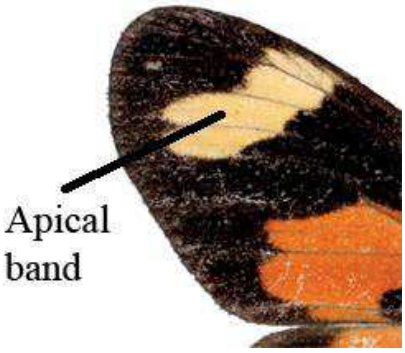


Interneural streaks



Submarginal spots

Discal spots

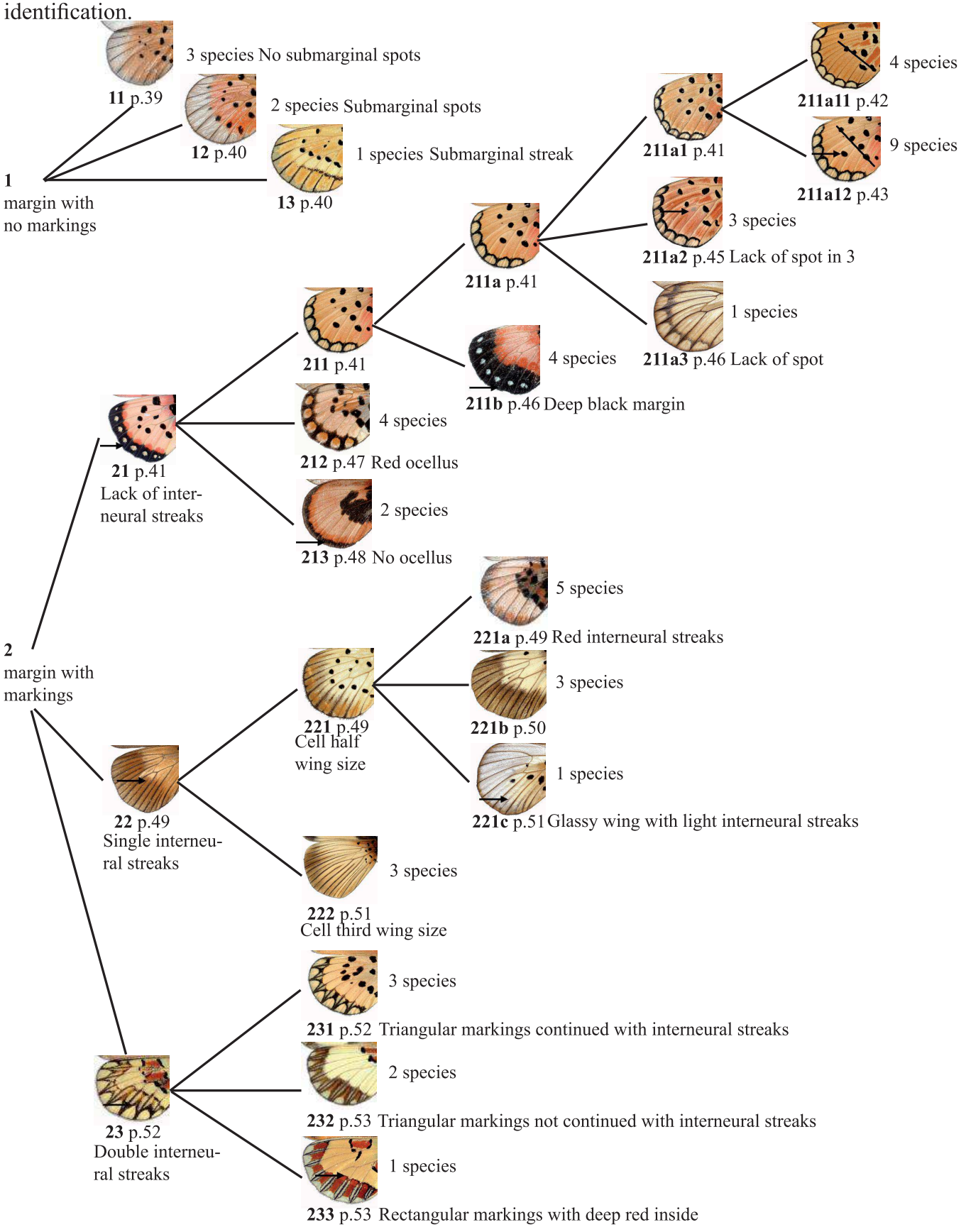


Apical band

Acraea bonasia is not in this key due to its recent discovery.

Visual table of different alternatives based on hindwing versos

This plate gives a global overview of all alternatives described in details in the following pages. One can directly go to an alternative's description if drawing corresponds to the the species which requires identification.



In that key we have attempted to construct species groups with hind wing versos, and especially with the hind wing margins. In the Acraeinae, hind wing margins are important to distinguish species from each other. For each group, we present one or two criteria which will lead to the good choice. Of course it is sometimes not so easy, as species are much variable.

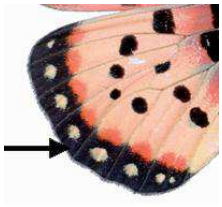
For each alternative a typical specimen is represented. All species known from Malawi are represented in that key (even hypothetical species except *Acraea bonasia* recently discovered).

Alternative 0:

Alternative 1: glassy or pale margin, without any marking. Veins only are visible and there are absolutely no interneural markings (5 species).
Alternative 2: the margin presents markings, spots, interneural markings, ocellus or streaks, or a dark colour (44 species).

The above alternative separates species in two unequal groups, as first one contains only 6 species, in which margin characters are totally absent.

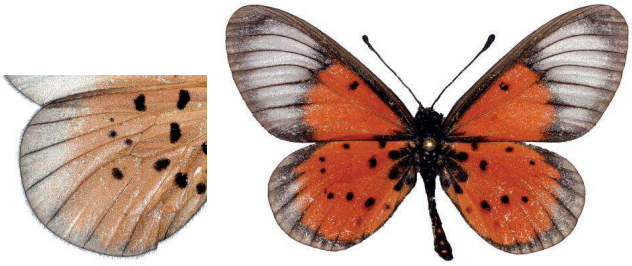
In the second group, margin characters are very important.

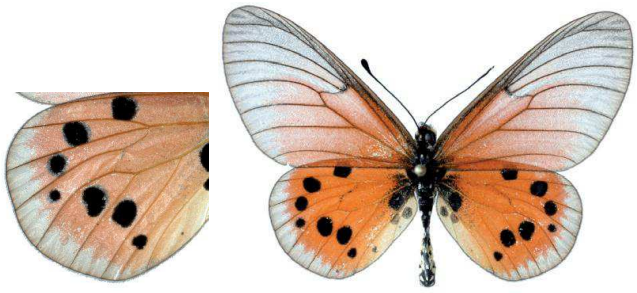

Arrow showing margin markings

Alternative 1:

Alternative 11: no submarginal spot: only one spot in each area (2 species) or a merged streak (1 species).
Alternative 12: submarginal spots (second row of spots) (2 species).
Alternative 13: submarginal spots are replaced by a streak (1 species).

Alternative 11: *A. cerasa* presents a red base ground colour on fore wings and little spots on hind wings. *A. cuva* presents more glassy fore wings and bigger spots on hind wings, which are situated sometimes near margin (but are not considered as submarginal spots). Both are small *Acraea*.
Acraea zonata presents a merged line of discal spots.


A. cerasa

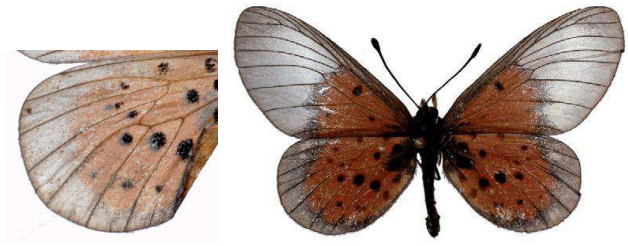


A. cuva

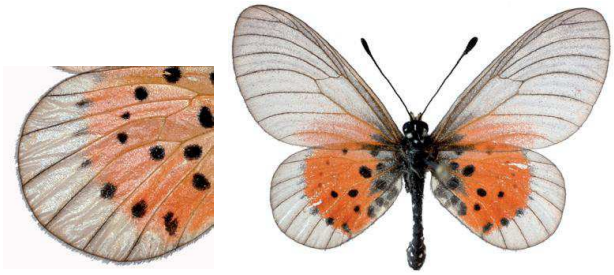


A. zonata

Alternative 12: *A. cerasa cerita* is very closed to *A. cerasa*, but presents a row of submarginal spots. *A. quirina* also presents a row of submarginal spots but more glassy forewings.



A. cerasa cerita



A. quirina

Alternative 13: *A. rahira* and *A. rahira mufindi.* For distinction between the two subspecies see *rahira* chapter.



A. rahira mufindi

Alternative 2:

Alternative 21: margin presents ocelli or simple dark coloured area, and no internervular lines (26 species).
Alternative 22: interneural streaks only are visible and there is no ocellus (12 species).
Alternative 23: margin presents double interneural streaks which make triangular shapes or rectangular shapes (6 species).

Alternative 21:

Alternative 211: margin presents pale ocelli, yellow or white, but not red. These ocelli can be edged by a fine line or included in a dark ground colour area (20 species).
Alternative 212: ocelli are red (4 species).
Alternative 213: margin presents only a dark coloured border and no ocellus (2 species).

Alternative 211:

Alternative 211a : ocelli are outlined by a fine line (17 species).
Alternative 211b: ocelli are included in a dark ground colour area (4 species). This dark area is sometimes a broad one. Distinction with choice 211a is eventually difficult with specimens having a more slight black area which seems to be a single line outlining ocellus.

Alternative 211a1: area 3 is spotted (13 species).
Alternative 211a2: area 3 is not normally spotted (3 species).
Alternative 211a3: no spots on hind wings (1 species).

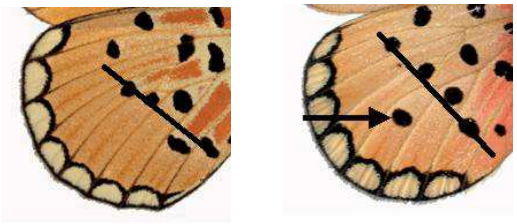
It is not always easy to decide between 211a1 and 211a2. Sometimes, even if area 3 is normally not spotted, it is possible to see spots of the upper side or to find specimens with spots. For instance, *A. acrita* is usually not spotted in area 3 (in Malawi), but sometimes specimens are spotted in this area.



Drawing showing lack of spot in space 3 (arrow)

Alternative 211a1:

Alternative 211a11: if one draws a line from area 1b spot to area 6 spot, area 3 spot will be at the cell side (4 species). See drawing below.
Alternative 211a12: area 3 spot is out of the line near margin (9 species).

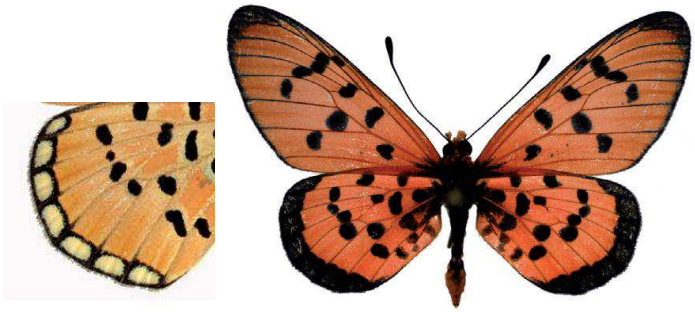


Choice 211a11 at left and 211a12 at right

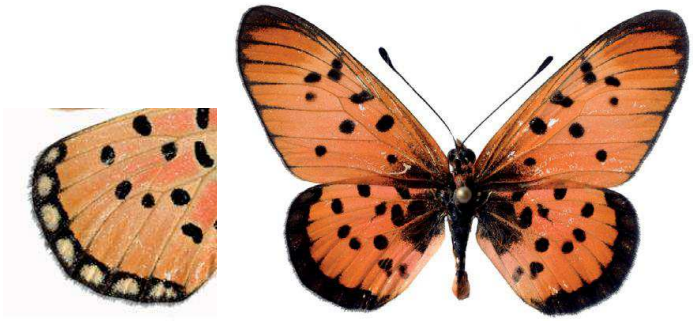
Choice 211a11 (4 species):

Choice 211a111: ocelli are clear and rounded in shape; outlines are thin black lines (2 species).
Choice 211a112: ocelli are more rectangular in shape; black outlines are heavier and continued by black lines on veins. Red area is usual at inner part of the margin (2 species).

Choice 211a111: the distinction between these 2 species (*A. punctallata* and *A. periphanes*) is not easy and normally done by position of forewing apical spots. In *punctellata* hind wings are often more spotted. Sometimes *periphanes* does not present apical spots at forewings, something which never occurs for *punctellata*.

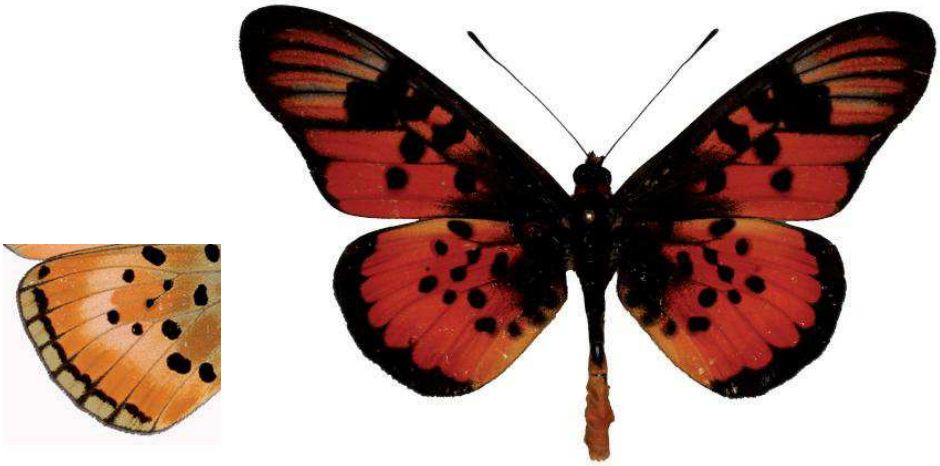


A. punctallata



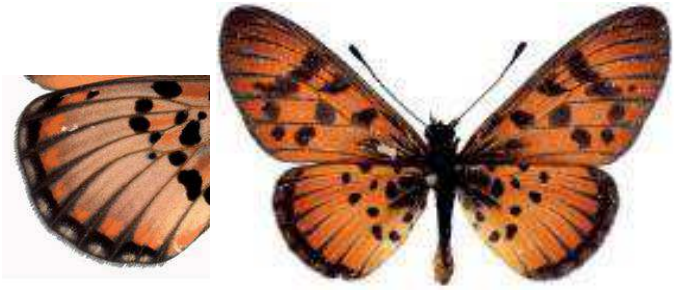
A. periphanes

Choice 211a112: the distinction between these 2 species (*A. egina* and *A. petraea*) is easily done by size, as *egina* is a large *Acraea* and *petraea* a medium one.



A. egina

A. egina is subject to many variations in the forewing apical area.



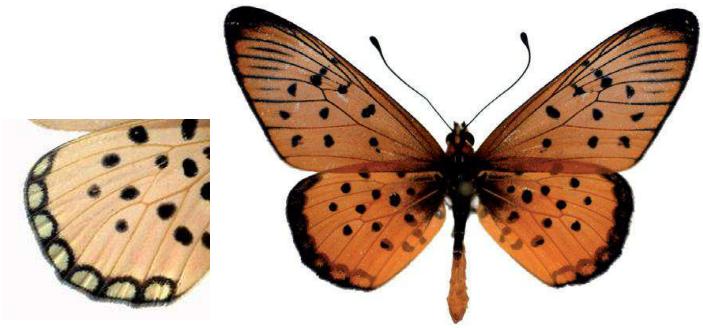
A. petraea

Alternative 211a12 (9 species - most important and difficult group):

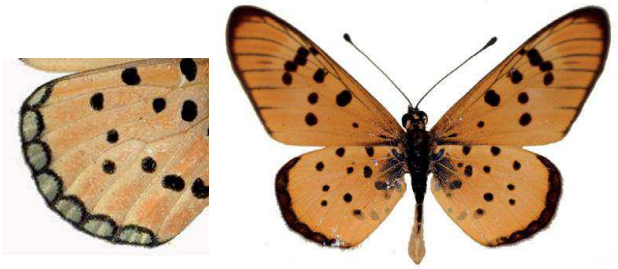
Alternative 211a121: margin ocelli are rounded in shape (7 species).
Alternative 211a122: margin ocelli are not rounded in shape, but triangular or rectangular (2 species).

Alternative 211a121: in this group, species can be distinguished by size and upper side forewing apical area.

A first group contains *A. oncaea* and *A. axina*. These 2 species do not present black apical area but interneural apical markings. *A. axina* is smaller

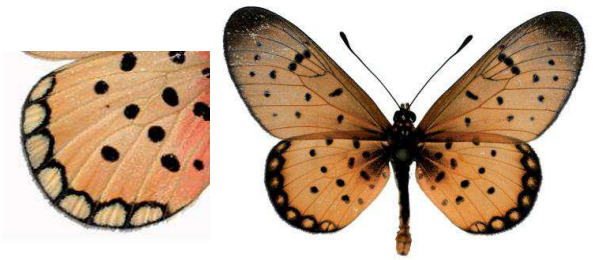


A. oncaea

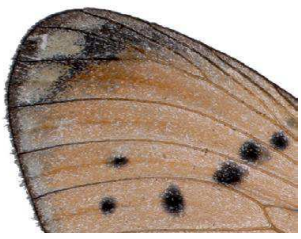


A. axina

A. asema (third picture) is a smaller *Acraea* with a reduced black apical area. This forewing apical area presents a little white area at the underside (this character belongs to *violarum* group of *Acraea*). No interneural drawings in apical area.

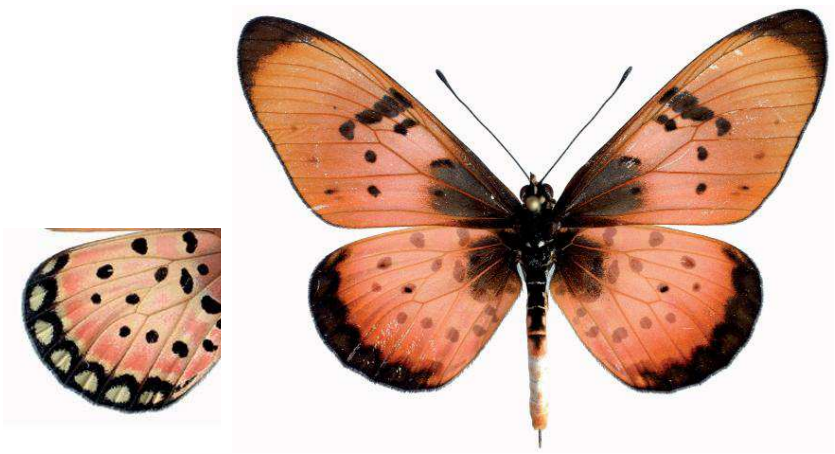


A. asema



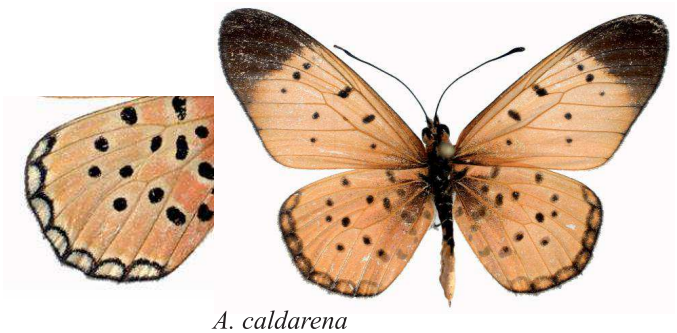
White area on forewing verso

A. natalica is a large *Acraea* with a black apical area. This very common species also presents a black margin at the upper side of hind wings.



A. natalica

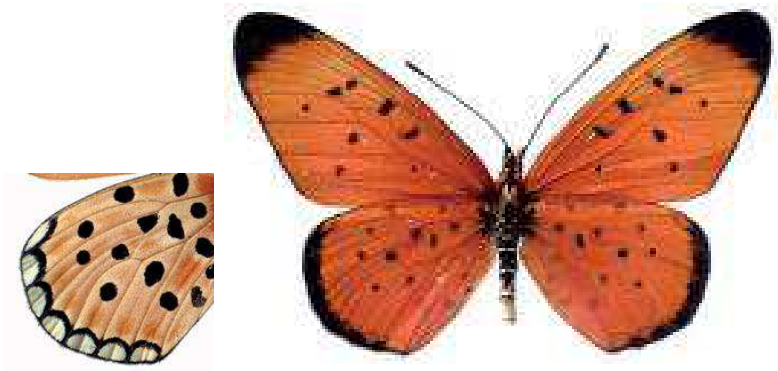
Last group is composed of *A. caldarena*, *A. leucopyga* and *A. pudorella detecta*. They are medium *Acraea* with a strong black apical area on forewings. Distinction between *caldarena* and *pudorella* is not easy. We present it in detail under *pudorella* in the following chapter.



A. caldarena



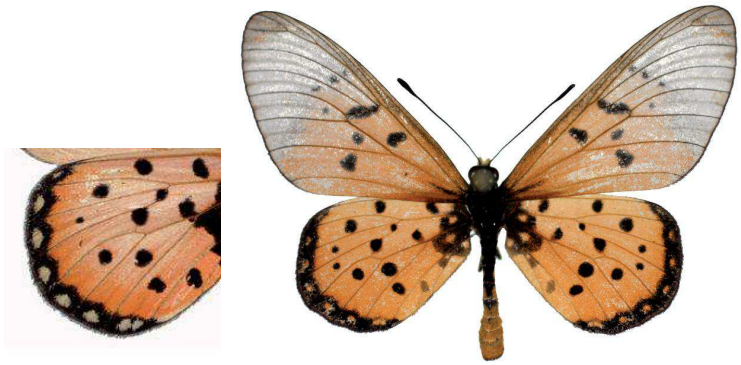
A. pudorella detecta



A. leucopyga can be distinguished by the reduced black apical area, and by the row of sub apical forewing spots position. It is often a wider species than *caldarena*.

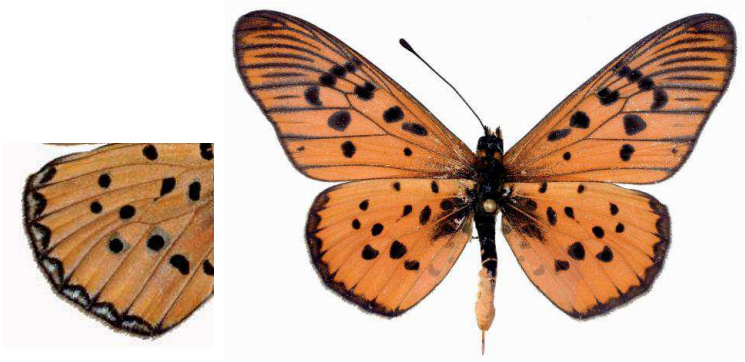
A. leucopyga

Alternative 211a122: this choice contains only 2 species, *A. neobule* and *A. atergatis* (later is hypothetical in Malawi).



A. neobule has half glassy fore wings; it is not the case for *A. atergatis*.

A. neobule



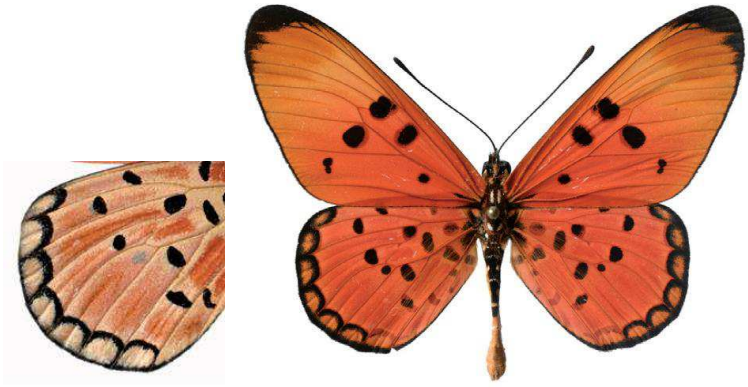
A. atergatis

A. atergatis has a recto very close to *A. oncaea* and can be confused with it.

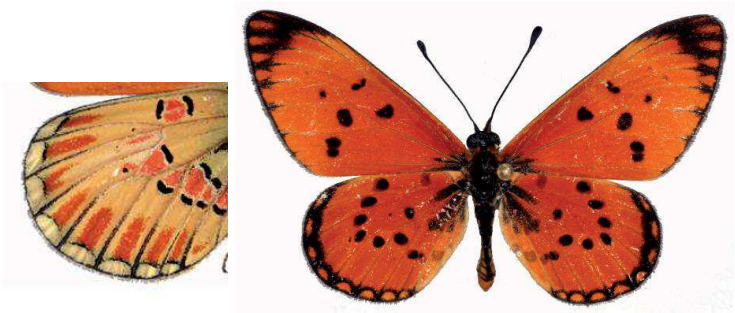
Alternative 211a2:

Only 3 species belong to this group: *A. acrita*, *A. anacreon* and *A. cepheus bergeriana*.

A. acrita (first) and *A. anacreon* (second) can be confused comparing upper side, but are very different on their undersides. *A. anacreon* verso is typical with two lines of little spots lining a red area. *A. anacreon* presents also an additional interneural streak in space 1c. *A. anacreon* is a very variable species on the upper side, but the underside has always the same drawings, with only a variation of the width of the area lined by two rows of spots.



A. acrita



A. anacreon



A. cepheus bergeriana

A. cepheus bergeriana presents a margin with rectangular ocelli and dark lines on veins at its inner border.

Alternative 211a3: only one species without any spot on hind wings.

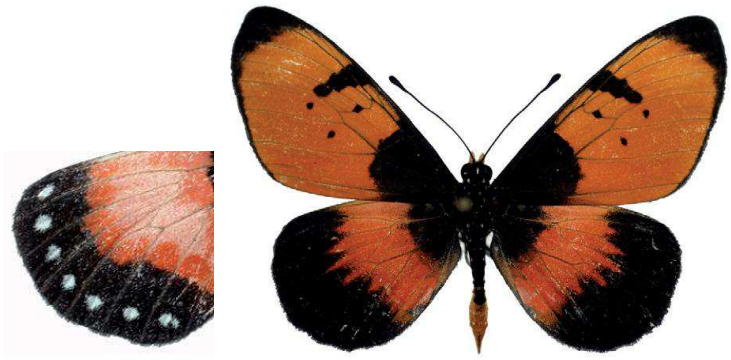


A. rabbaiae perlucida

Alternative 211b: the margin presents a dark area in which white ocelli are included. This dark area is sometimes wide. But distinction within alternative 211a is sometimes difficult as some specimens have a slighter black area which seems to be a single line outlining ocelli.

Only 4 species are included in this choice. We can distinguish two groups:

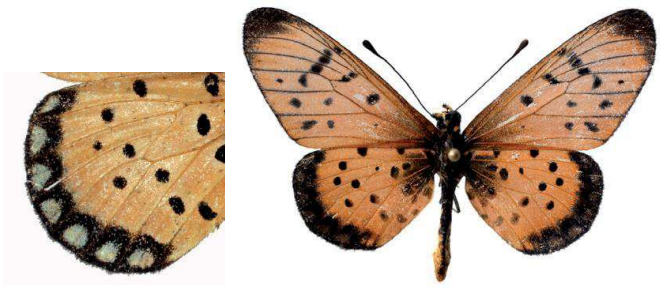
A. anemosa first is the only *Acraea* in Malawi which presents a very large dark margin.



A. anemosa

Secondly, the three other species are *A. lyci*, *A. acara* and *A. zetes*. These three species have similar hind wing undersides.

A. lyci is not easily separated by hind wing underside from *A. acara* and *A. zetes*. But it is a medium *Acraea* and its upper side is totally distinct from the two previous. The upper side is close to *A. caecilia*. This species can also be confused with some *A. oncaea* variations, but does not present interneural markings on the apical area of forewings, and females are very distinct.

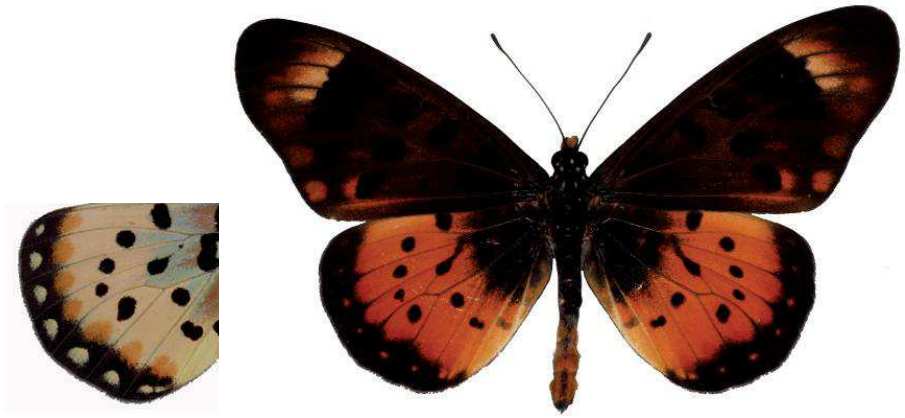


A. lyci

The two last species, *A. acara* and *A. zetes*, are distinguished by their upper sides.



A. acara



A. zetes

A. zetes presents smoked forewings in its typical pattern. *A. acara* is always lighter, and all forewing spots are well drawn in a clear red ground colour.

Alternative 212: ocelli are red. Only 4 species belong to this choice: *A. burni*, *A. boopis choloui*, *A. machequena* and *A. perenna*. It is very easy to distinguish these four species from each other by their undersides. *A. burni* is a little yellow and spotted *Acraea.*



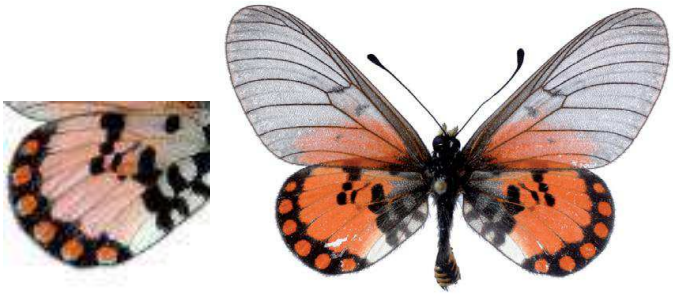
A. burni

A. machequena is an orange spotted *Acraea* (male) or yellow (female). It is easy to separate this species from the previous one by the margin which features black spots under red ones.



A. machequena

A. boopis choloui and *A. perenna* are red *Acraea*. But *choloui* is a medium one and presents glassy apical forewing areas, whilst *perenna* is a large *Acraea* without glassy area.



A. boopis choloui

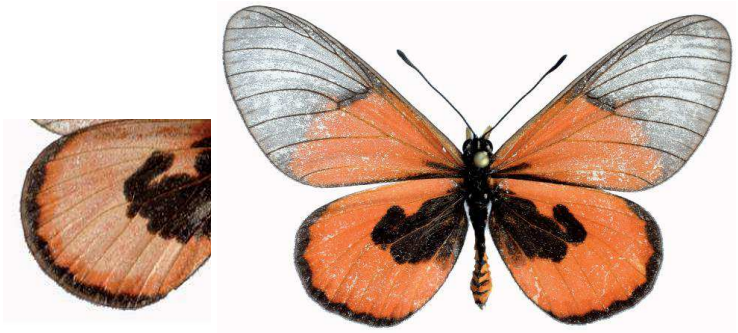


A. perenna

A. perenna forewings are also typical in shape.

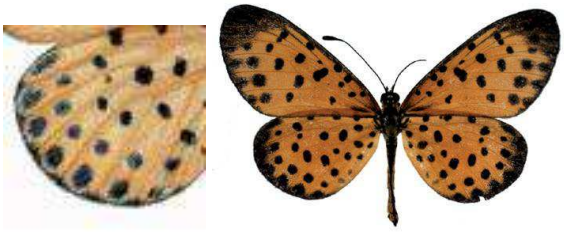
Alternative 213: only two species correspond to that choice.

A. insignis is a red *Acraea* with glassy apical forewings. It could be confused with *A. baxteri* by underside. But *baxteri* hind wing underside belongs to another group (choice 221), as it presents interneural streaks.



A. insignis

P. punctatissima is a very little spotted *Acraea* (?) with an upper side which differs from all other *Acraea*. It could be confused with *lycaenidae* species. Recent genetic classification places it outside of Acraeinae subfamily.



P. punctatissima

Alternative 22:

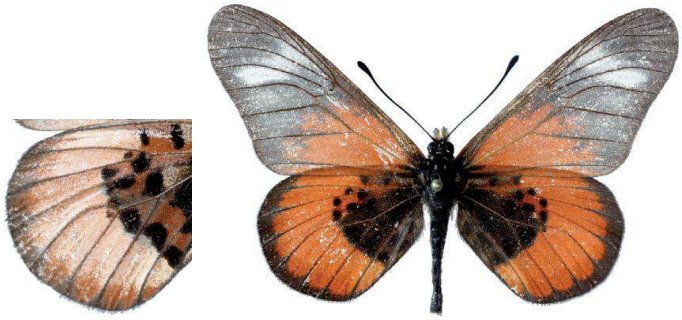
Alternative 221: cell is half the wing in size (9 species).
Alternative 222: cell is only one third of the wing in size (3 species).

Alternative 221:

Alternative 221a: interneural streaks of margin area do not extend to cell; they cover about 1/3 of the hind wing in size (5 species).
Alternative 221b: interneural streaks reach cell and sometimes extend into it (space 3 or 4) (3 species).
Alternative 221c: glassy margin with interneural streaks. As interneural streaks are not always very visible, there is possible confusion with choice 1 (1 species).

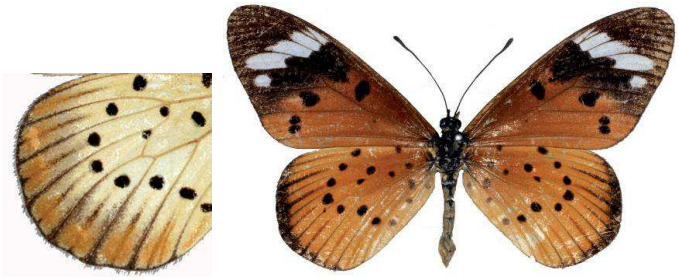
Alternative 221a: interneural streaks can be red or black.

A first group of three species presents usually red interneural streaks (sometimes black for *A. encedon*). These streaks are sometimes not very visible. The first species (*A. baxteri*) presents a large light area between margin and cell, but base of wings is dark brown in colour. The second species (*A. encedon*) presents a light ground colour at base of wings. The third species (*A. igola*) presents a smoked ground colour. These three species are easily distinguished by their upper sides.



A. baxteri

A. baxteri can be confused with *A. insignis*. *A. insignis* forewings are more rounded in shape and apical area is glassy without white band (but for *baxteri* this band is not visible on old specimens). The best criterion remains the lack of interneural streaks on *insignis* hind wing under side.



A. encedon

A. encedon ground colour is orange brown. But it can be also white or yellow.



A.igola

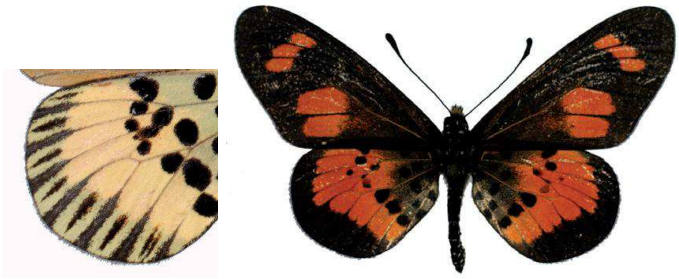
A second group of two species presents black and large interneural streaks. The first species (*A. pharsalus*) presents triangular interneural streaks which do not extend beyond the inner part of margin.

The second species (*A. vumbui*) presents interneural streaks which do not reach wing border, and which extend slightly to the outer margin border. These two species are also easily distinguished by upper side.



A. pharsalus

A. pharsalus forewing white apical band can be also orange.

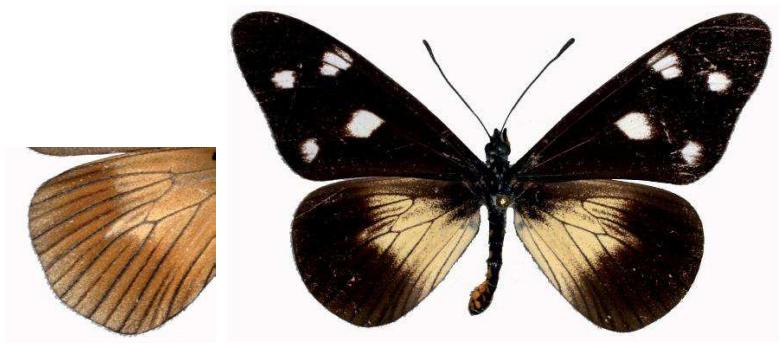


A. vumbui

Alternative 221b: These three species are not easily distinguished by hind wing verso. *A. acuta* and *A. esebria* margins are less wide than those of *A. johnstoni*. *A. acuta* is a little *Acraea*, while *A. johntoni* and *A. esebria* are medium in size. But *A. acuta* and *A. johnstoni* are sometimes very similar in markings and colour. *A. esebria* is more distinctive. All these species, represented here in yellow and black forms, present also white and black, red and black or orange and black forms.



A. acuta

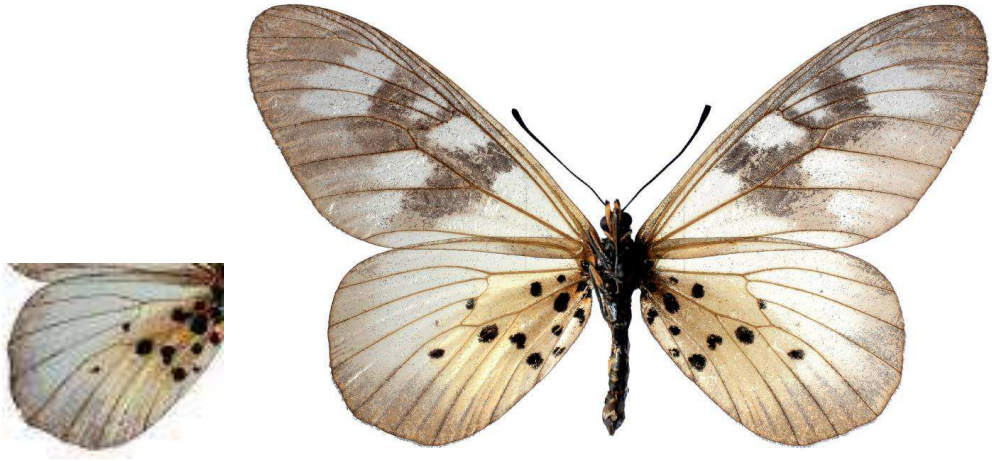


A. johnstoni



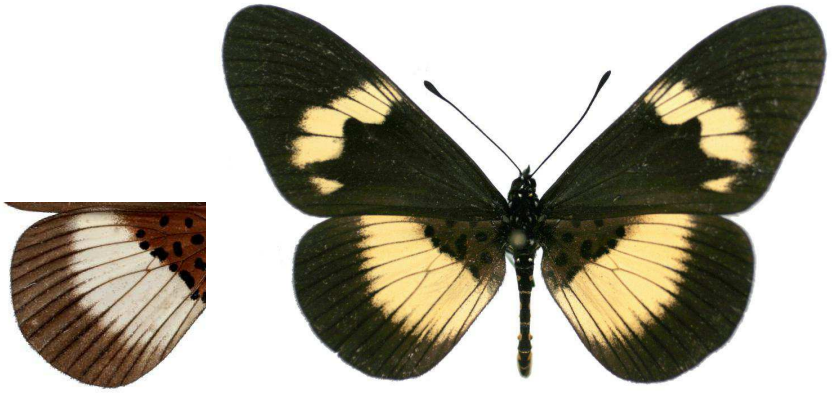
A. esebria

Alternative 221c: *A. pentapolis epidica* is the only species of this choice.



A. pentapolis epidica

Alternative 222: only three species belong to this group. *A. aganice* is represented by two subspecies in Malawi: nominate subspecies and *montana* one. *A. epaea melina* and *A. scalivittata* are the two other species of this alternative. All these large species can easily be distinguished by their upper sides.



A. aganice

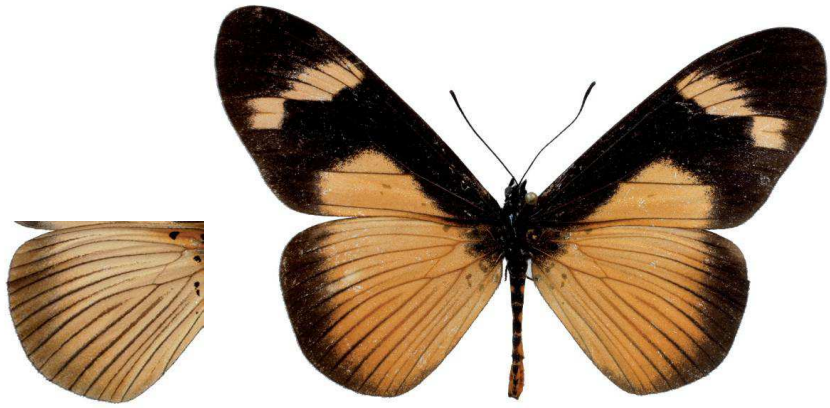


A. aganice montana



A. scalivittata

A. aganice and *A. scalivittata* can be easily separated by their apical band, which is narrow for *scalivittata*.



A. epaea melina

A. epaea melina female is black and white. But the forewing presents a light basal band, a character which makes a clear difference with the two former species.

Alternative 23:

Alternative 231: margin triangular markings done with two interneural streaks which are continued by a single black or red line (3 species).
Alternative 232: margin triangular markings done with interneural streaks which are not continued by a single line (2 species).
Alternative 233: the two interneural streaks make a rectangular shape deeply coloured with red (1 species).

Alternative 231: *A. acerata, A. ventura* or *A. serena. A. acerata* is easily distinguished from the two other species by its upper side. *A. ventura* and *A. serena* can only be distinguished by their underside.

All these species are little ones.



A. acerata

Distinction between *ventura* and *serena* is done by the margin inner border. The margin is narrower in *ventura* at 4-5 area and «the border is at that point deeply invaded by the ground colour» (Eltringham).



A. serena



A. ventura

Distinction cannot be done with the sub apical black band which varies considerably in *serena*.

Alternative 232: *A. cabira* and *A. sotikensis*. The distinction between *cabira* and *sotikensis* is explained in the next chapter under *cabira*.

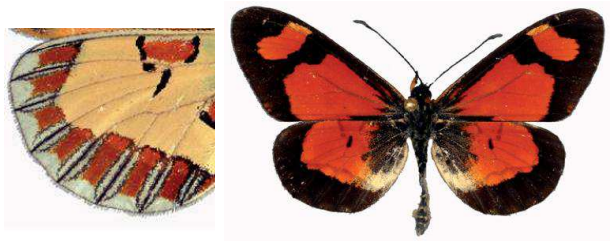


A.cabira



A. sotikensis

Alternative 233: *A. goetzei*. This is a very small *Acraea*.



A. goetzei

Acraeinae species in alphabetic order

Acraea acara 55
Acraea acerata 58
Acraea acrita 60
Acraea acuta 63
Acraea aganice and *Acraea aganice montana* 66
Acraea anacreon 69
Acraea anemosa 74
Acraea asema 77
Acraea atergatis 80
Acraea axina 81
Acraea baxteri 83
Acraea boopis cholui 84
Acraea burni 87
Acraea cabira 89
Acraea caldarena 93
Acraea cepheus bergeriana 97
Acraea cerasa and *Acraea cerasa cerita* 100
Acraea cuva 102
Acraea egina 104
Acraea encedon 107
Acraea epaea melina 111
Acraea esebria 113
Acraea goetzei 116
Acraea igola 120
Acraea insignis 122
Acraea johnstoni 124
Acraea leucopyga 128
Acraea lyci 131
Acraea machequena 132
Acraea natalica 134
Acraea neobule 138
Acraea oncaea 141
Acraea pentapolis epidica 145
Acraea perenna 148
Acraea periphanes 150
Acraea petraea 152
Acraea pharsalus 154
Acraea pudorella detecta 157
Pardopsis punctatissima 160
Acraea punctellata 163
Acraea quirina 166
Acraea rabbaiae perlucida 169
Acraea rahira and *Acraea rahira mufindi* 170
Acraea scalivittata 173
Acraea serena 174
Acraea sotikensis 178
Acraea ventura 180
Acraea vumbui 183
Acraea zetes 186
Acraea zonata 188

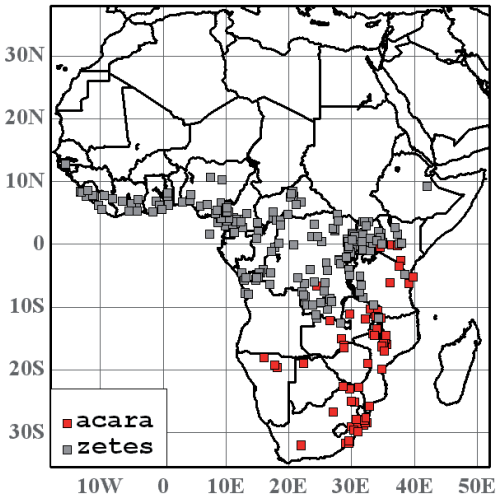
We list hereafter the species names in alphabetic order. *Acraea vumbui* and *Acraea lyci* are considered as good species in this work.
A cladistic classification is presented at the end.

Acraea acara

Acraea (*Acraea*) *acara* Hewitson, 1865 [Exot. Butt. (*Acraea*) 3: 16, t. 3, fig. 19, 20, RSA «Natal» and White Nile (?)]

Acraea acara and *Acraea zetes* Linné, 1758, are today considered as two different species. Originally described as a good species by Hewitson, a status later confirmed by Trimen (1887 and 1889), *acara* was considered as a simple variety of *zetes* by Aurivillius (1898, 1906) and Neave (1910) and as the oriental subspecies by Eltringham (1912). If Overlaet (1955) confirmed the status of species, Carcasson (1961), Van Son (1963), Carcasson and Ackery (1981) and Larsen (1991) keep it always as a subspecies. So did Gifford in his work.

We follow J. Pierre in his opinion that they are two different species. Although they have a wide area where they fly together (it is the case in northern Malawi where we caught both species), their geographical distribution (see maps) confirms that.

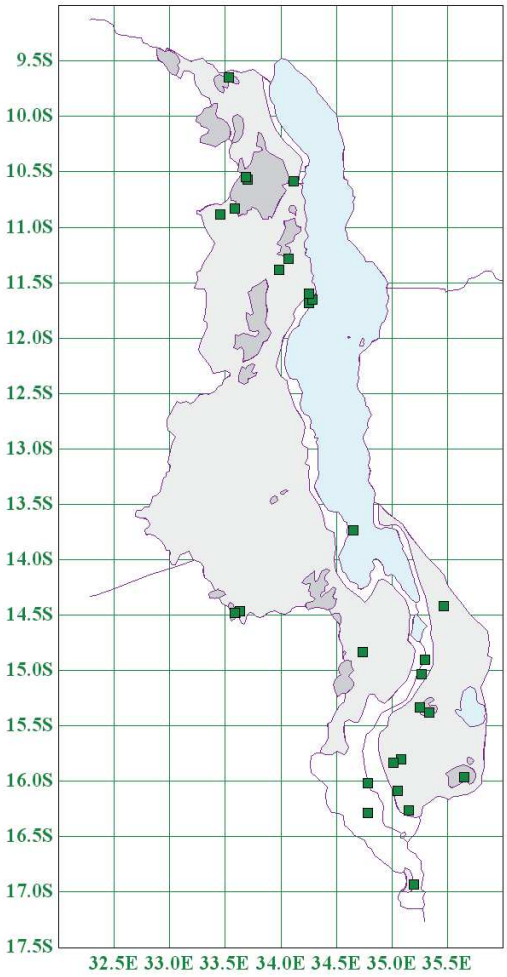


General distribution of *acara* and *zetes*

A. acara seems to occur everywhere in Malawi; Gifford said: “Fringes of closed formations from rift to high plateau, and on warmer mountains”. If we found *acara* regularly, it was never in a great number, but only isolated specimens, except once on Chikwawa escarpment.

Distribution in Malawi

Chikwawa	16° 01’ South	34° 47’ East
Chisanga Falls - Nyika	10° 33’ South	33° 41’ East
Cholomwani Mt	16° 16’ South	35° 09’ East
Choma Mt	11° 17’ South	34° 04’ East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28’ South	33° 38’ East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36’ South	34° 15’ East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29’ South	33° 35’ East
Lengwe Nat Park	16° 17’ South	34° 47’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02’ South	35° 16’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Mvuu Camp	14° 54’ South	35° 18’ East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56’ South	35° 12’ East
Manchewe falls - Livingstonia	10° 35’ South	34° 07’ East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25’ South	35° 28’ East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41’ South	34° 15’ East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50’ South	34° 44’ East
Mpingwe Mt	15° 48’ South	35° 05’ East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39’ South	33° 32’ East
Namitembo stream - Zomba plateau	15° 20’ South	35° 15’ East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39’ South	34° 17’ East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23’ South	33° 59’ East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58’ South	35° 39’ East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44’ South	34° 39’ East
Soche Mt	15° 50’ South	35° 01’ East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50’ South	33° 35’ East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53’ South	33° 27’ East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34’ South	33° 42’ East
Zomba plateau	15° 23’ South	35° 20’ East



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X										X
South				X				X	X	X	X	



The food-plant, which is often *Adenia cissampeloides*, but also other Passifloraceae (*Adenia*, *Passiflora*), grows in all areas: dry, forested, mountains and low altitude. We found a larva in Mughese forest (see photographs below), but we never completed the breading. We think that there are no differences between *acara* and *zetes* first stages.



acara, ♂r, Chikwawa



acara, ♀r, Mughese Fst



acara, ♂r, Zavo - Nyika plateau



acara, ♀v, Mughese Fst



acara, ♂v, Zavo - Nyika plateau



acara, ♀r, Chikwawa



acara, ♂r, Kasitu Rock, Dzalanyama



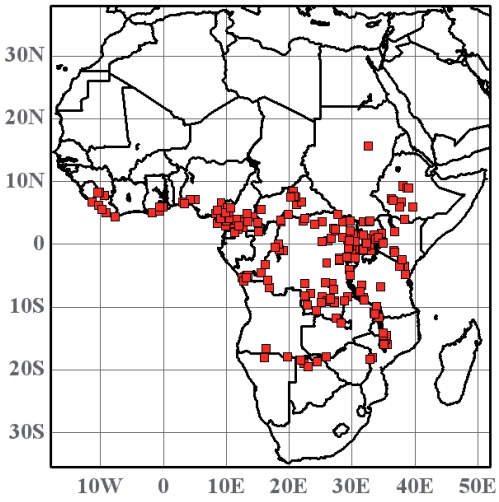
acara, ♀r, Mangoschi

Acraea acerata

Acraea (*Actinote*) *acerata* Hewitson, 1874 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (4), 13: 381, «Between Mansu and the river Prah» (Ghana)]

Acraea *acerata* is a common butterfly in West Africa and central Africa. It is less common in Malawi.

We did not breed it in Malawi, but we bred it in other countries (Cameroon and Uganda for instance). It was feeding on *Ipomea batatas* (Convolvulaceae) or *Solanum* sp (Solanaceae).

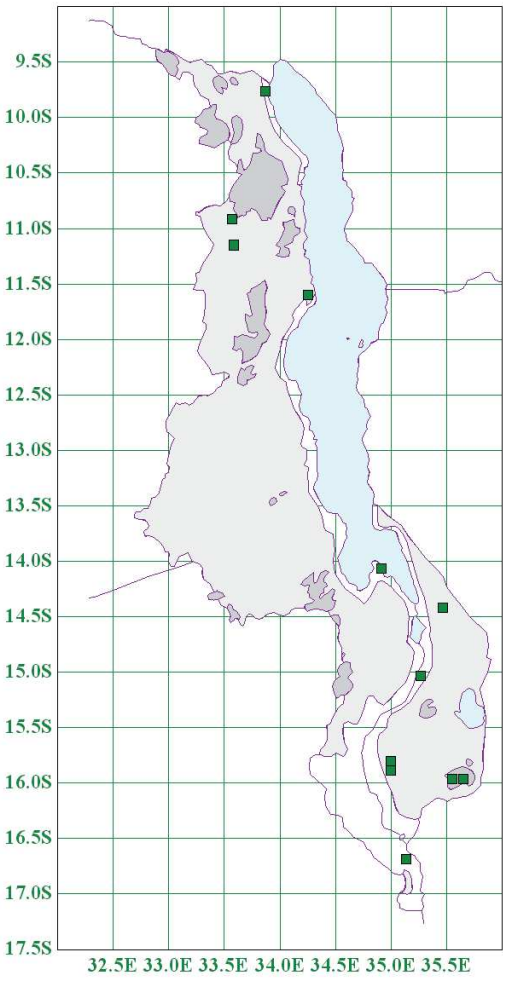


Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chigamula Mt	15° 53' South	35° 00' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Mwasizi - Rumphi	10° 55' South	33° 34' East
Ngerenge	09° 46' South	33° 52' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hll	16° 41' South	35° 08' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East



acerata caterpillar (Uganda)

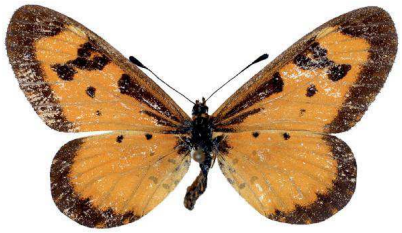


Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North			X		X							
South					X							



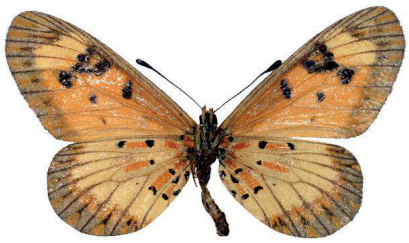
acerata, ♂r, Kalwe Fst, Nkattha Bay



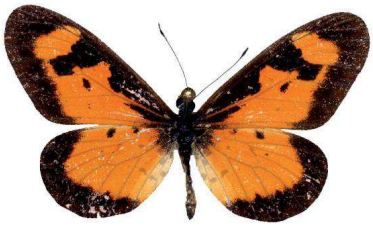
acerata, ♀r, Kalwe Fst, Nkattha Bay



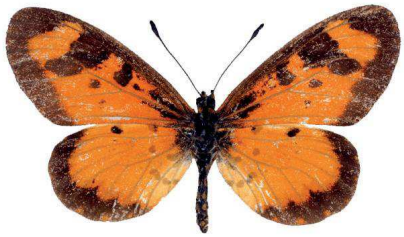
acerata, ♂v, Kalwe Fst, Nkattha Bay



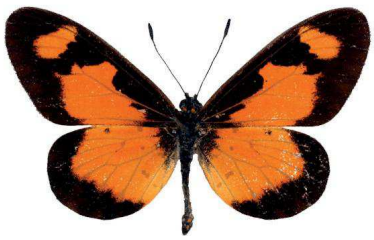
acerata, ♀v, Kalwe Fst, Nkattha Bay



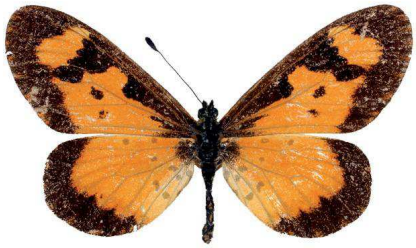
acerata, ♂r, Kalwe Fst, Nkattha Bay



acerata, ♀r, Mwazizi, Rumphi hills



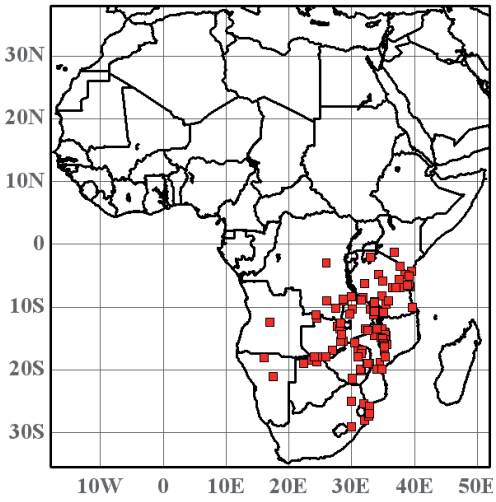
acerata, ♂r, Mwazizi, Rumphi hills



acerata, ♀r, Mwazizi, Rumphi hills

Acraea acrita

Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* Hewitson, 1865 [Exot. Butt. (Acraea) 3: 16, t. 8, f. 18, «Zambesi»]



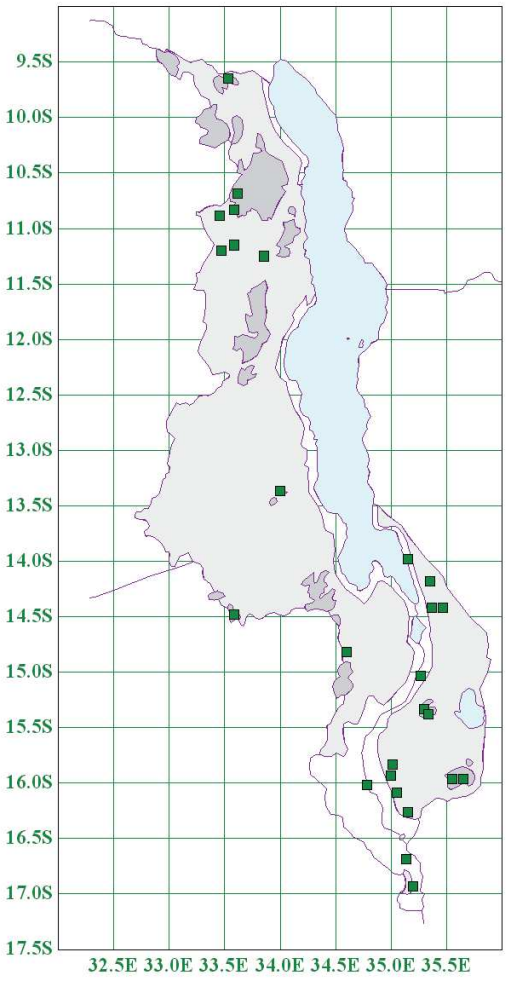
Acraea acrita is not uncommon in Malawi, but seems to be mainly found in Brachystegia woodland. Many forms have been described, due essentially to the variability of the female (i.e. *fusca* Le Doux, 1932).

In Vwaza Marsh there is a very nice and constant population of the form *msamwiae* Strand, 1911 – see the specimen of the plate with blackish hind wing marginal suffusions.

We never bred this *Acraea*.

Distribution in Malawi

Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Cholomwani Mt	16° 16' South	35° 09' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59' South	35° 09' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Luselo river - Nyika plateau	10° 41' South	33° 37' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Malidade - Mpherembe	11° 15' South	33° 51' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Ntcheu	14° 49' South	34° 36' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hll	16° 41' South	35° 08' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	11° 12' South	33° 28' East
Zomba - Kuche river	15° 20' South	35° 18' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Flight period: our records by month and area

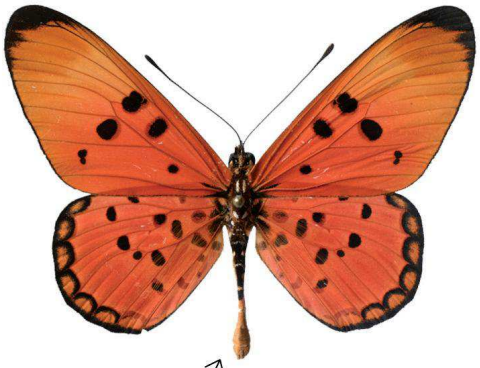
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X
South					X	X		X	X	X	X	



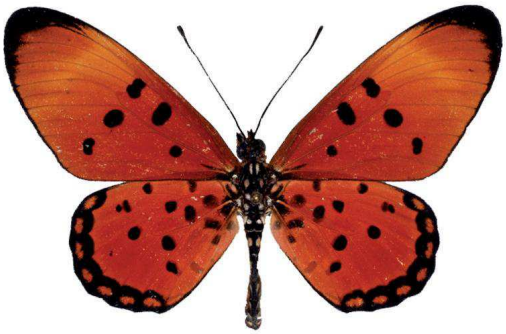


Acraea acrita, Uzuzu hill near Mangochi

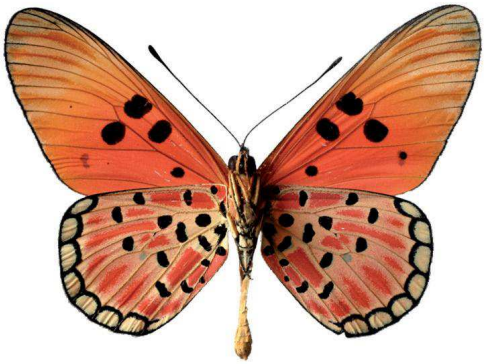




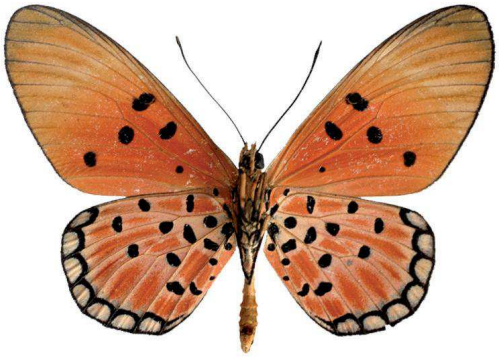
acrita, ♂r, Uzuzu hills



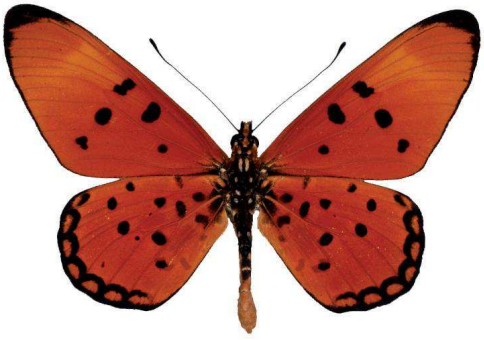
acrita, ♀r, Thazima gate, Nyika



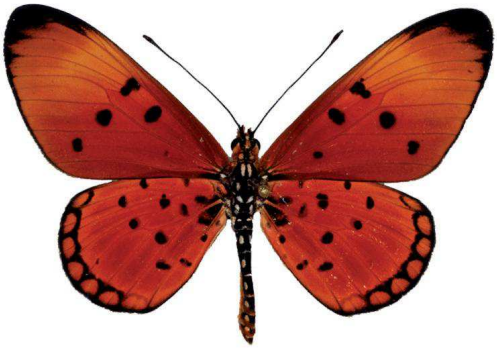
acrita, ♂v, Uzuzu hills



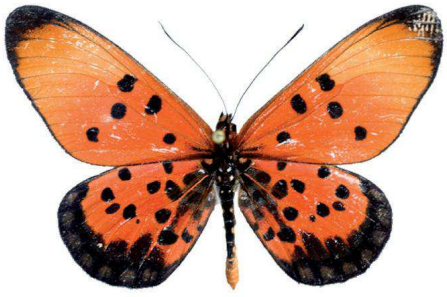
acrita, ♀v, Thazima gate, Nyika



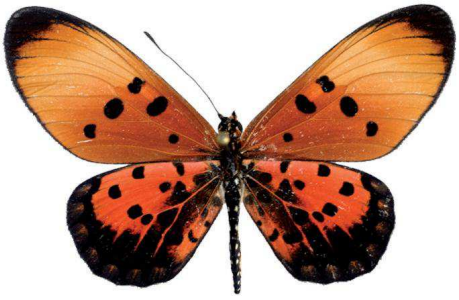
acrita, ♂r, Kasitu rock



acrita, ♀r, Ntchisi Fst



acrita f. *msamwiae*, ♂r, Vwaza Marsh



acrita f. *msamwiae*, ♀r, Vwaza Marsh

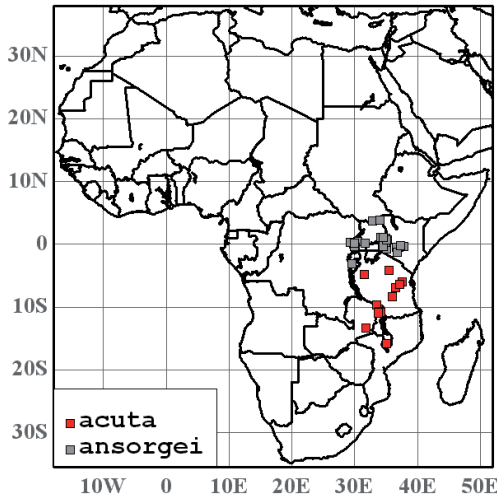
Acraea acuta

Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* Howarth, 1969 [Proc. Ent. Soc. Lond., 38 : 146, «Poroto Mts, Ihoho forEast, Ngozi crater, Mbeya» (Tanzanie)]

Acraea acuta is today considered as the species which replaces *Acraea ansorgei* in Tanzania and Malawi. Gifford's records of *ansorgei* must be attributed to *acuta*. Gifford said that this butterfly is known from Ndirande and Soche mounts only (Blantyre). We found it in the north, but this species is rare.

Many forms have been described, and many of them occur in Malawi (see the plate).

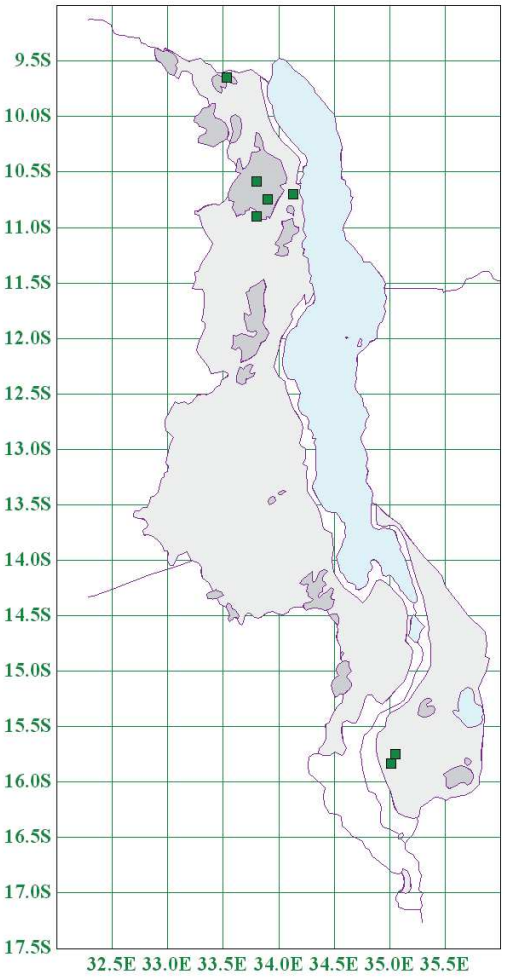
We bred it on *Pouzolzia parasitica* (Urticaceae) in Mughese.



General distribution of acuta and ansorgei

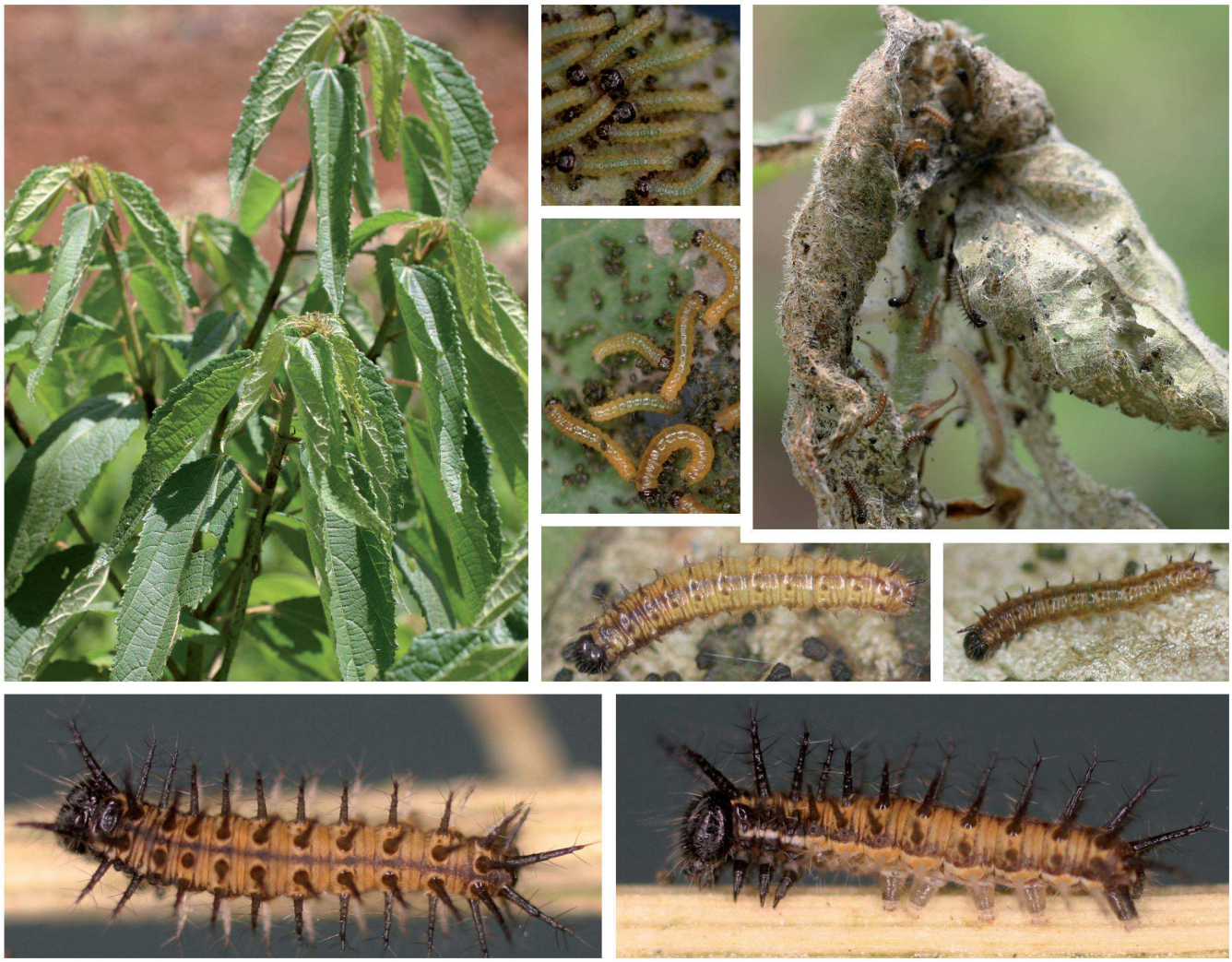
Distribution in Malawi

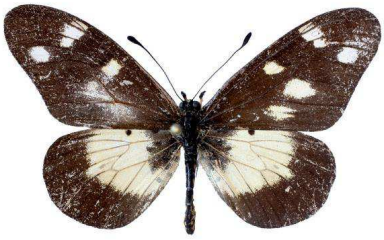
Chelinda - Nyika	10° 35' South	33° 48' East
Juniper Fst - Nyika plateau	10° 45' South	33° 54' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Ndirande Mt	15° 45' South	35° 03' East
Nkhonjela Mt - Nyika plateau	10° 54' South	33° 48' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East



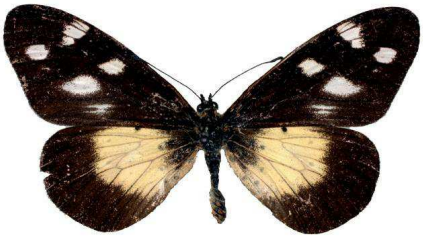
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X								X
South												

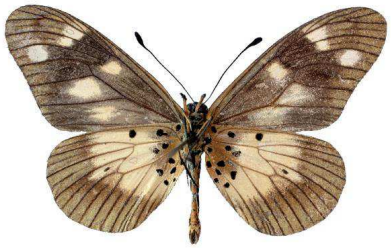




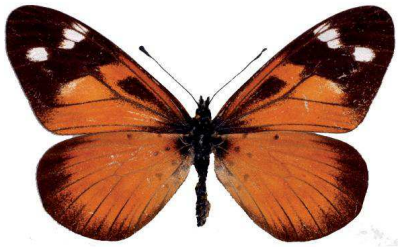
acuta, ♂r, Mughese Fst



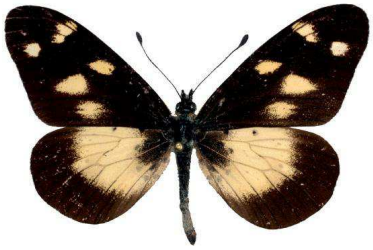
acuta, ♀r, Mughese Fst



acuta, ♂v, Mughese Fst



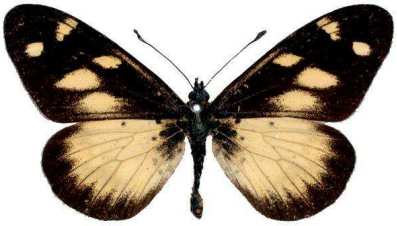
acuta, ♀r, Misuku hill



acuta, ♂r, Mughese Fst



acuta, ♀r, Soche Mt
Gifford collection Blantyre



acuta, ♂r, Juniper Fst, Nyika



acuta, ♀r, Ndirande Mt
Gifford collection Blantyre

Acraea aganice and aganice montana

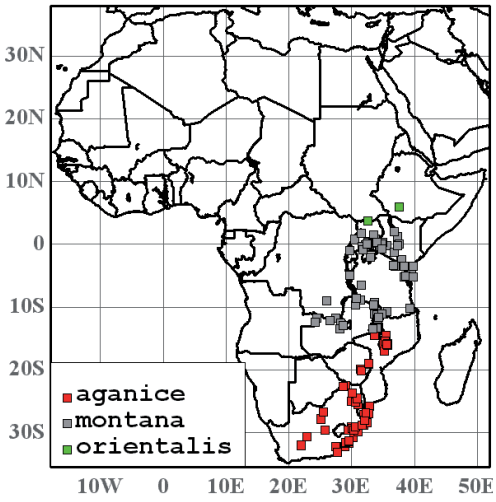
Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice* Hewitson, 1852 [Exot. Butt. (*Acraea*) 1: 58, pl. 29, fig. 6, «Natal» (RSA)]

Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice montana* Butler, 1888 [Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. : 91, n° 2, «Slopes of Kilima-njaro, 3000 - 5000 feet» (Tanzanie)]

= *Acraea aganice montana* f. *nyasae* Carpenter, 1920

We found two subspecies in Malawi. The nominate species occurs in the south and the subspecies *montana* in the north.

When looking at the geographical distribution of *aganice* in Africa, one can see that Malawi is exactly in the middle of the range. Numerous descriptions have been published as subspecies or form of *aganice* (especially for Malawi: *nicega* Suffert, 1904, *nyasae* Carpenter, 1920). Today we recognize as valid only three of them: *aganice aganice* from South Africa to Malawi (male with yellow discal bands), *aganice montana* (male with deep orange discal bands), from Malawi to Uganda and *aganice orientalis* Ungemach, 1932 (discal band pale orange and narrower) in Ethiopia, Sudan and north of Uganda.



General distribution of aganice

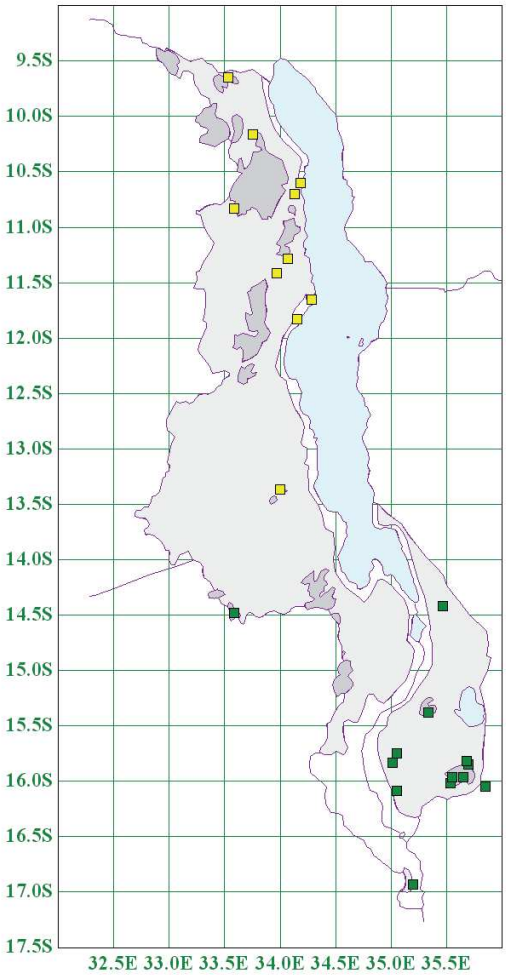
Distribution in Malawi

***A. aganice*:**

Chitambo Mulanje - Mozambique	16° 03' South	35° 51' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Lupaso - Mzuzu	11° 25' South	33° 58' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01' South	35° 32' East
Ndirande Mt	15° 45' South	35° 03' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

***A. a. montana*:**

Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Livingstonia - Lake shore road jonction	10° 36' South	34° 11' East
Lupaso - Mzuzu	11° 25' South	33° 58' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X	X			X		X		X
South		X		X	X	X			X	X		X

So the names *nyassae* (as D'Abrera) or *nyasae* (as Carpenter) are not valid. Firstly Carpenter gave the name *nyasae* to the "local variety" of aganice in Mulanje Mount. Secondly, Gifford said "described from Mulanje, but no types in BM or Hope Dept" and also "*aganice* occurs with it". Thirdly, we do not believe that the differences are well-founded: "Differs in broader pale markings, h/w discal band being broader than terminal band" (Gifford). We have long series of *aganice* from south Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa, and we do not consider that the Mulanje population differs from the rest of the range (especially Zomba where the species is very common).

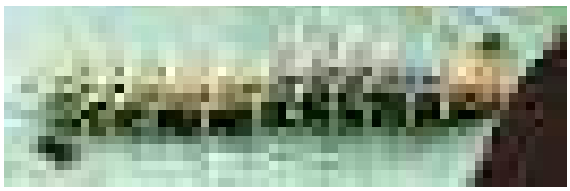


aganice female, Zomba Plateau

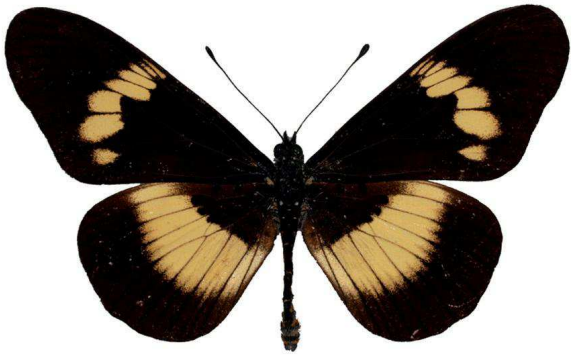
Another name must be put in discussion. The name *nicega* is used for some female forms (*Acraea* (*Acraea*) *aganice montana* f. *nicega* Suffert, 1904). This form was originally described as a good subspecies by Suffert. Jordan (1916) considered that it was a synonym. Le Doux (1937) said that it was a good female form. Carcasson (1961) and D'Abrera (1998) considered it instead as a good subspecies. In fact, this is today the name used by us for females which have hind wing discal bands yellow in colour and not white. It cannot be a good subspecies as both *aganice aganice* and *aganice montana* have females which fit the *nicega* description (especially in Malawi – see the plate).

The two subspecies are common in Malawi, but prefer highlands (Mulanje, Zomba, Thyolo mount, Malawi hill for *aganice*, and Nyika, Mughese, Uzumara, Choma mount for *montana*). One of us (R. M.) caught a *montana* specimen in Dzalanyama range (Kasitu rocks, see the plate), which seems to be the transitional area of the two subspecies.

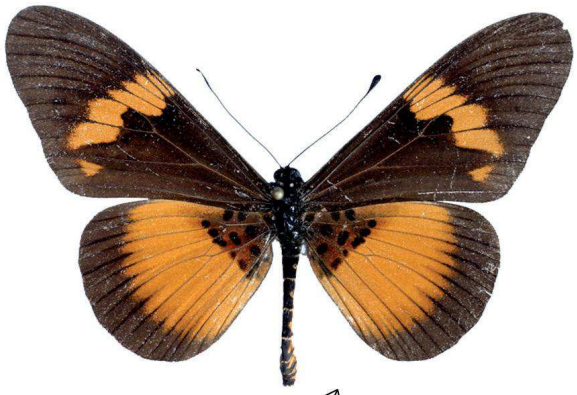
We did not breed *aganice* in Malawi, but we did in Zimbabwe. This species feeds on *Adenia gummifera* (Passifloraceae). We found a laying in Zomba, but we did not have the time to breed it.



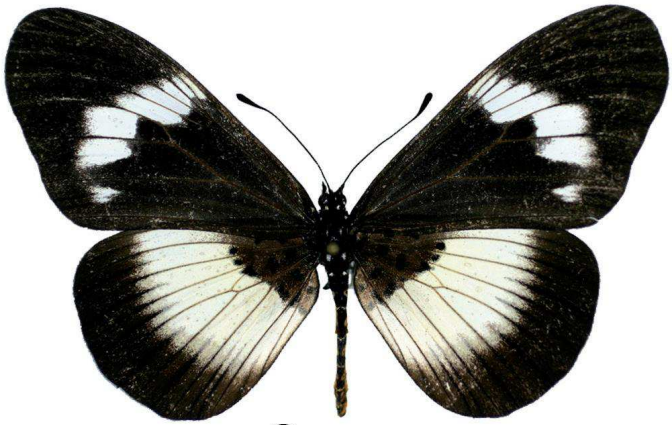
aganice caterpillar, Vumba, Zimbabwe



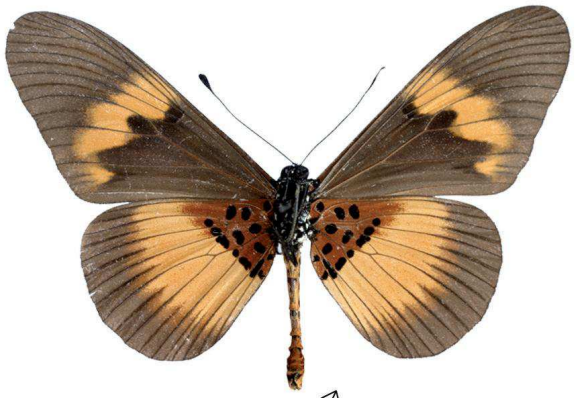
aganice, ♂r, Zomba Plateau



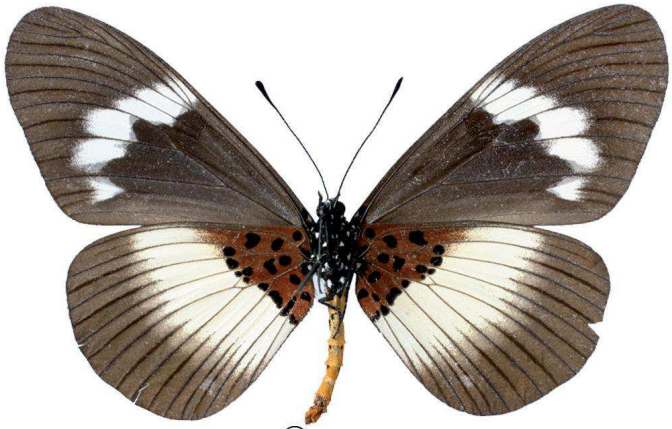
aganice montana, ♂r, Mughese Fst



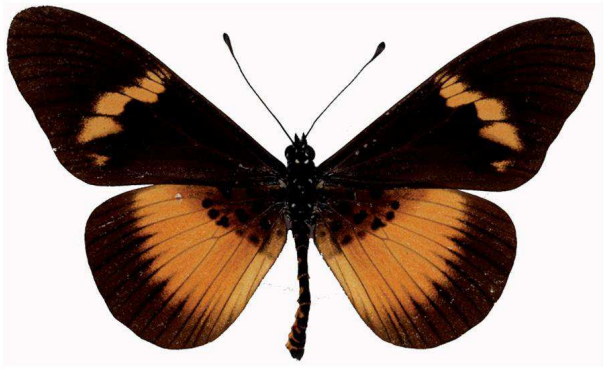
aganice, ♀r, Zomba Plateau



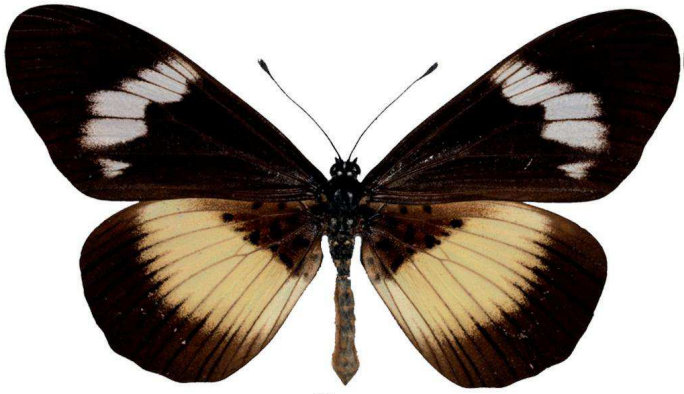
aganice montana, ♂v, Mughese Fst



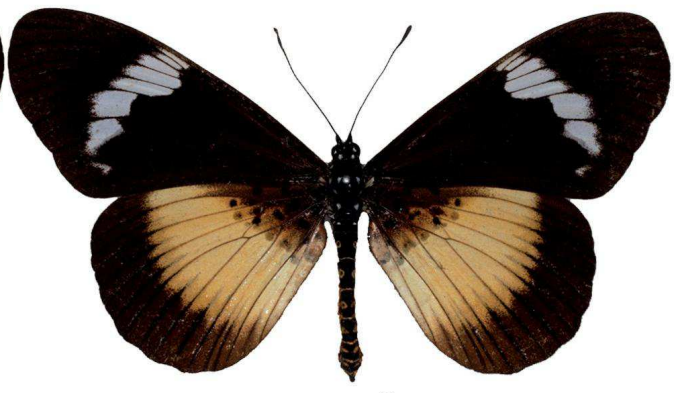
aganice, ♀v, Zomba Plateau



aganice, ♂r, Kasitu Rock



aganice, ♀r, Mulanje Mt

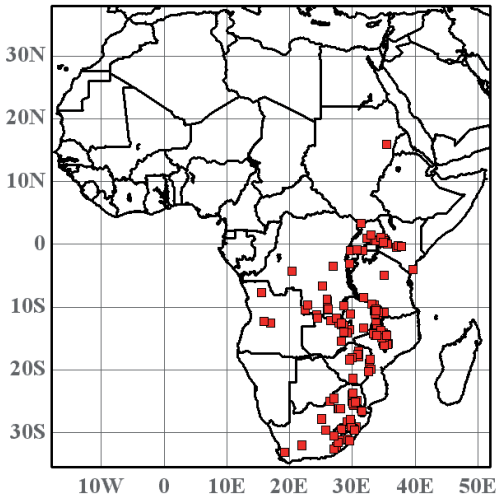


aganice montana, ♀r, Mughese Fst

Acraea anacreon

Acraea (*Actinote*) *anacreon* Trimen, 1868 [Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond.: 77, pl. 6, fig. 3-5, RSA «Kaffraria, Sogana; Umvoti, Natal»]

? =Acraea parei orangica Henning & Henning, 1996 [Metamorphosis, vol. 7, No. 2: 75, «Nyika plateau in Malawi, eastern Zambia»]



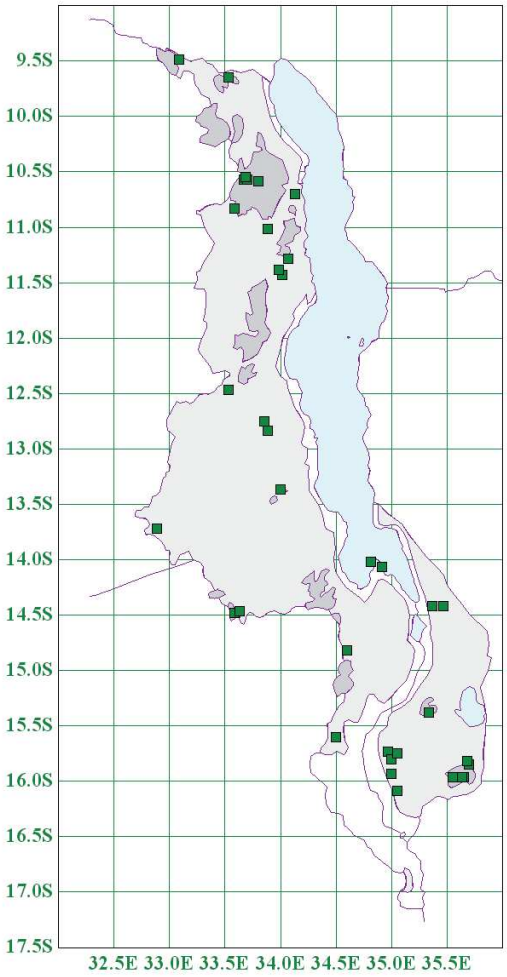
General distribution of *anacreon* lato-sensu

Gifford said in his work: « subspeciation confused ». In fact numerous subspecies and forms have been described in the group *anacreon*. J. Pierre actually thinks that there is no possibility to distinguish clearly different species or subspecies.
The main form in Malawi is similar to *induna* Trimen, 1895 description. But we found also specimens which are similar to typical *anacreon*, *anacreontica* Grose-Smith, 1898, *lusinga*, Overlaet, 1955 or *bomba*, Grose-Smith, 1889

This species seems to be present in all highlands in Malawi and we also found it in Lake Malawi National Park. The food-plant is *Aeschynomene abyssinica* (Fabaceae). It grows especially in dry mountain forests (Brachystegia forests). We also saw females laying on *Aeschynomene oligophylla* (Fabaceae) on Nyika plateau. The larva is very similar to caterpillar of *A. ventura* (which feeds on the same food-plant) and *A. serena* (which never feeds on this plant). It may be distinguished by the cephalic drawings (patches) which have a characteristic shape and a deep brown colour. The body of the caterpillar is more yellowish than the ones of *ventura* and *serena*.

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chelinda - Nyika	10° 35' South	33° 48' East
Chelinda Km 8 - Zambia	10° 34' South	33° 40' East
Chipala camp	12° 45' South	33° 51' East
Chipala Fst Res	12° 50' South	33° 53' East
Chisanga falls - Nyika	10° 33' South	33° 41' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01' South	34° 49' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	11° 26' South	34° 01' East
Luwawa - Perekezi Fst - Viphya	12° 28' South	33° 32' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Mechinji Mt	13° 43' South	32° 53' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Ndirande Mt	15° 45' South	35° 03' East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23' South	33° 59' East
Ntcheu	14° 49' South	34° 36' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Rumphi - Thumbi school	11° 01' South	33° 53' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East



Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34' South	33° 42' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

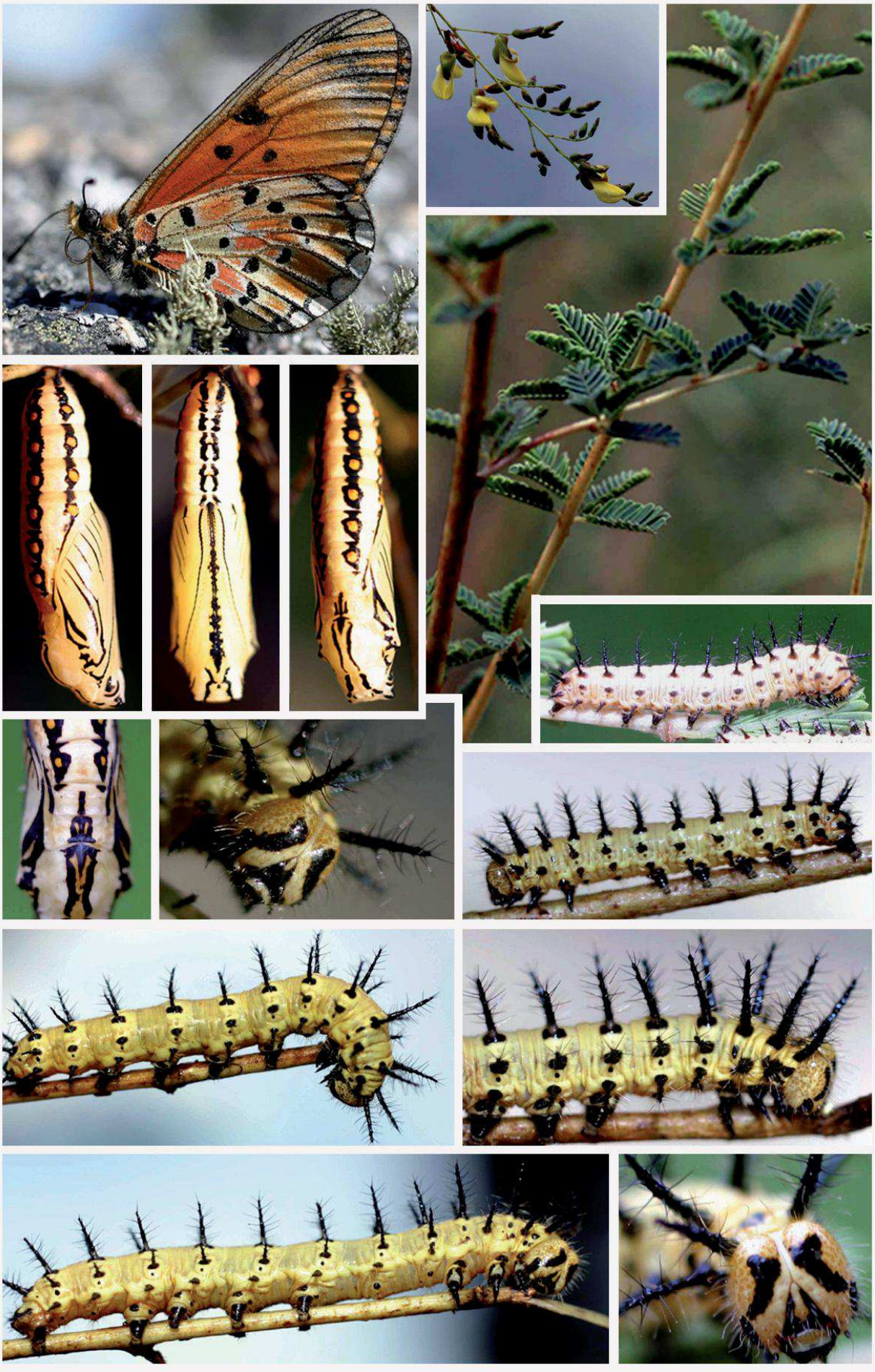
In fact, it is also true that in the type locality of *Acraea parei orangica* Henning & Henning, 1996, one can find specimens which are close to the Uganda ones described as *anacreontica*: "The restricted curve of spots on the hind wing shows an affinity to the northern subspecies *anacreontica*, and is more restricted than in the nominate subspecies". But today, J. Pierre does not recognize *anacreontica* as a good subspecies, and our series of *anacreon* from all over Africa shows that specimens with this pattern are present in all populations. This is the same problem for *anacreontica*, Grose-Smith, 1898, *induna*, Trimen, 1895, *speciosa*, Wichgraf, 1909, *lusinga*, Overlaet, 1955 or *bomba*, Grose-Smith, 1889.

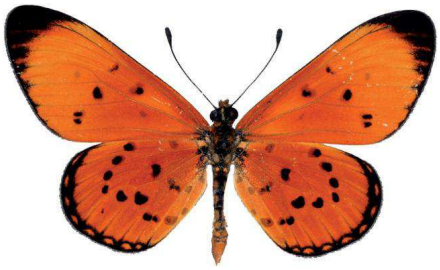


Series of *anacreon* specimen's verso from Malawi showing the gradual transition to *orangica* pattern

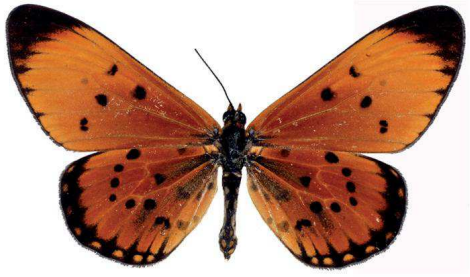
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
South		X		X	X						X	

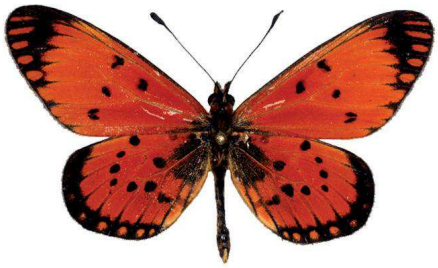




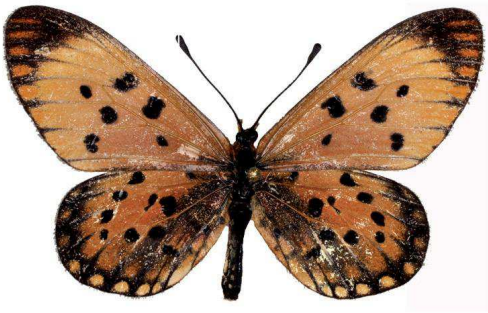
anacreon, ♂r, Mzuzu



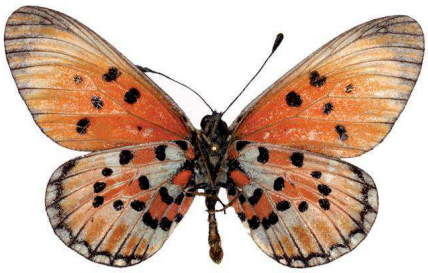
anacreon, ♀r, Kasitu Rock



anacreon, ♂r, Mulanje



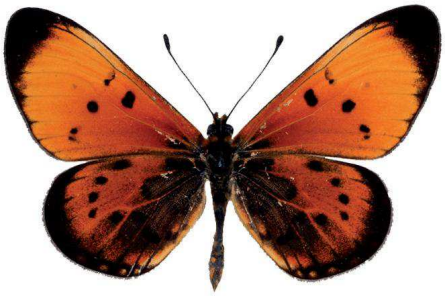
anacreon, ♀r, Mulanje



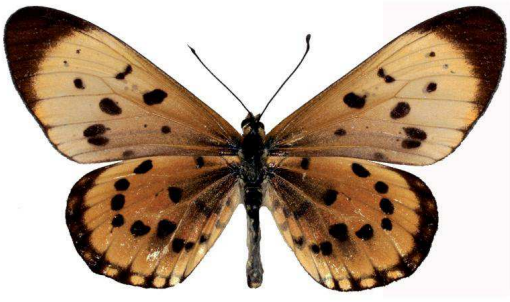
anacreon, ♂v, Mughese Fst



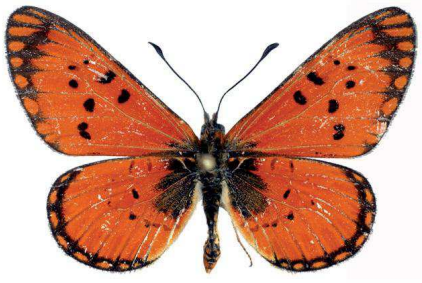
anacreon, ♀v, Cholo Mt



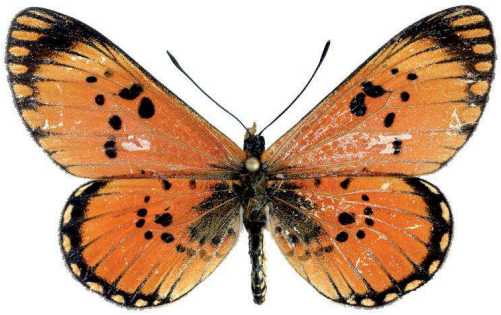
anancreon, ♂r, Kasitu Rock



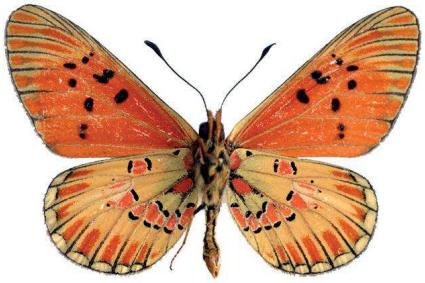
anacreon, ♀r, Kasitu Rock



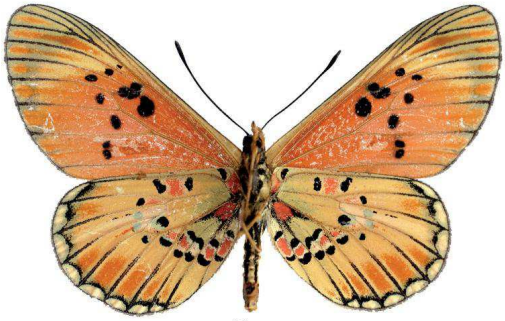
orangica?, ♂r, Chepolwe Fst



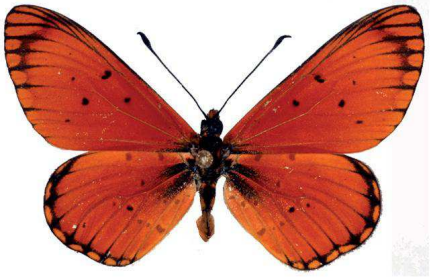
orangica?, ♀r, Chepolwe Fst



orangica?, ♂v, Chepolwe Fst



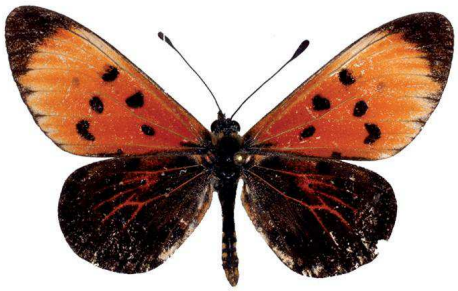
orangica?, ♀v, Chepolwe Fst



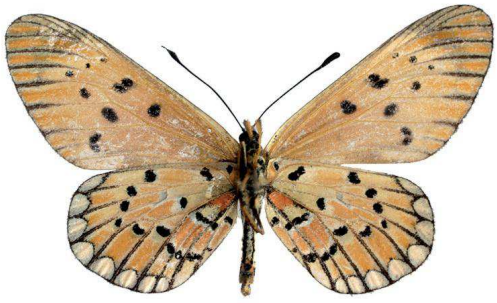
orangica?, ♂r, Chepolwe Fst



anacreon, ♀r, Chepolwe Fst



anacreon, ♂r, Mughese Fst

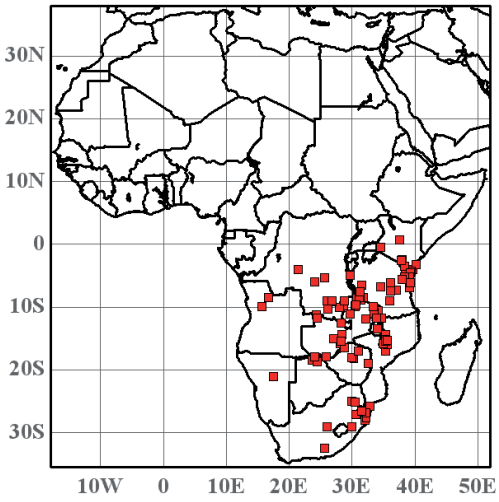


anacreon, ♀v, Chepolwe Fst

Acraea anemosa

Acraea (*Acraea*) *anemosa* Hewitson, 1865 [Exot. Butt. (*Acraea*) 3: 15, t. 8, fig. 14, 15, Zambesi]

Acraea anemosa is a common ubiquitous species in Eastern and Southern Africa. It occurs usually in dry areas. Gifford gave only records from the South, but it occurs also in the North, especially in Vwaza Marsh, in which we bred it on a small *Adenia* (Passifloraceae) which has not been determined (see the biology cycle plate). It seems not to be *Adenia* (*Modecca*) *abyssinica* on which *anemosa* has already been recorded.

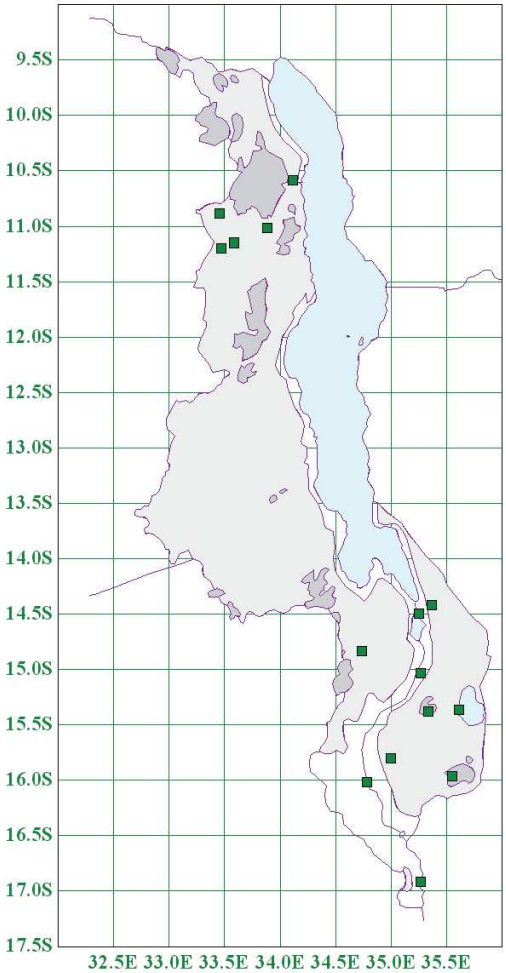


General distribution of *anemosa*

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chilwa lake	15° 22' South	35° 37' East
Fort Johnston (= Mangochi)	14° 30' South	35° 15' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Manchewe falls - Livingstonia	10° 35' South	34° 07' East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50' South	34° 44' East
Port Herald	16° 55' South	35° 16' East
Rumphi - Thumbi school	11° 01' South	33° 53' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	11° 12' South	33° 28' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East


anemosa Vwaza Marsh

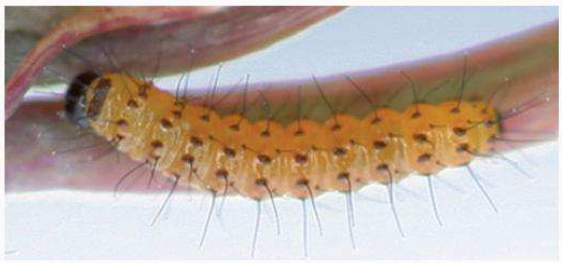
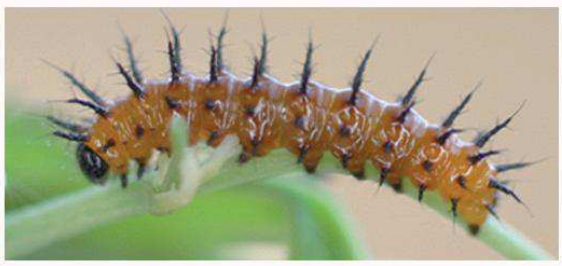
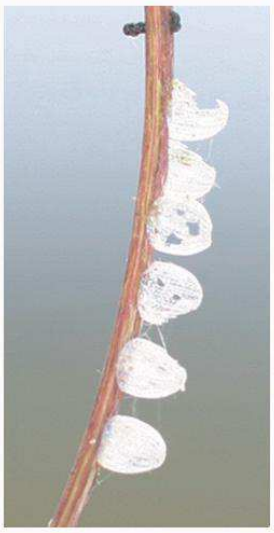


Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X								X	X
South											X	

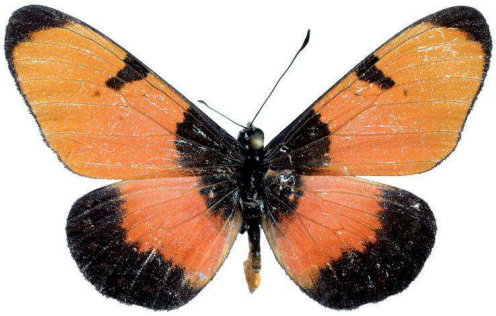




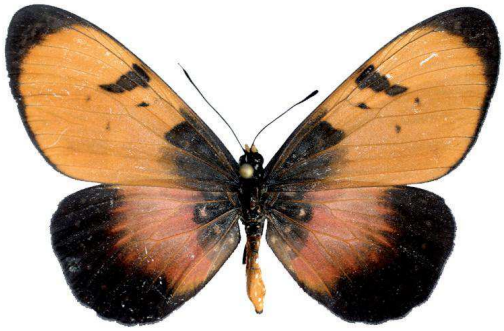






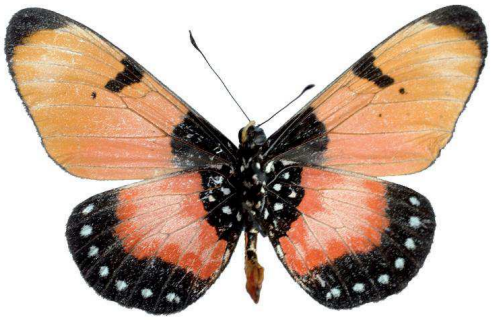




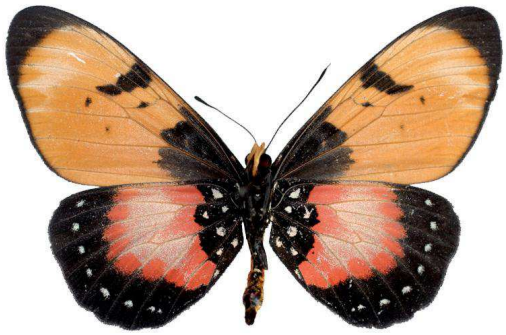
anemosa, ♂r, Vwaza Marsh



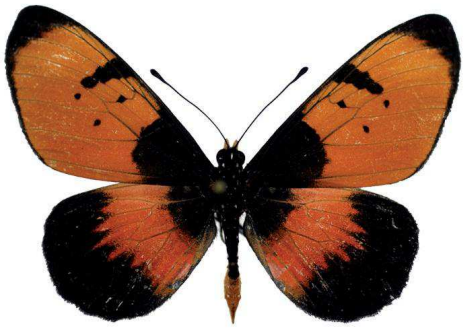
anemosa, ♀r, Vwaza Marsh



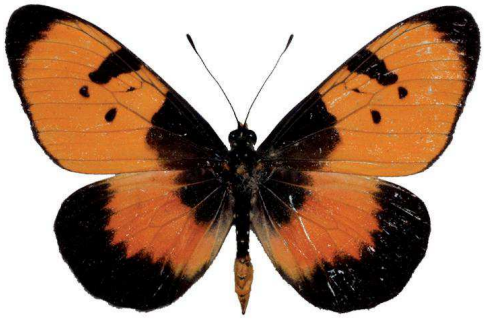
anemosa, ♂v, Vwaza Marsh



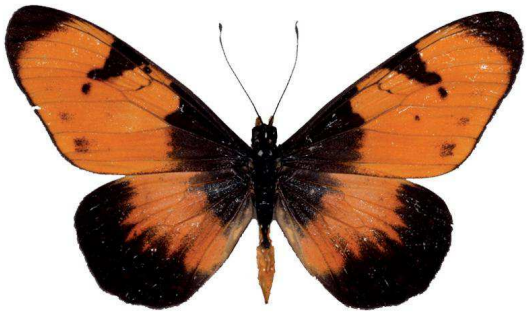
anemosa, ♀v, Vwaza Marsh



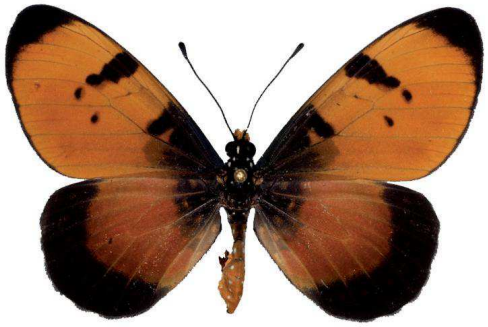
anemosa, ♂r, Chikwawa



anemosa, ♀r, Blantyre



anemosa, ♂r, Mpatamanga

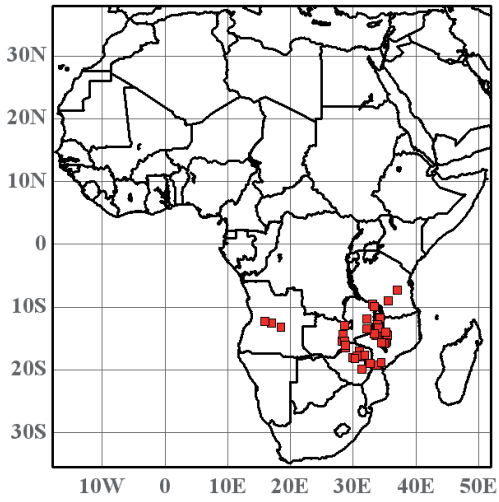


anemosa, ♀r, Rumphi hills

Acraea asema

Acraea (*Acraea*) *asema* Hewitson, 1877 [Ent. Mo. Mag., 14: 52, «Lake Nyassa»]

This species belongs to the group *violarum*. Many forms of *violarum* have been described later and *Acraea violarum gracilis* Wichgraf, 1909, defines the northern subspecies of *Acraea violarum*, which occurs in Zimbabwe, (type locality: Mashunaland). It is difficult to distinguish *asema* from these forms. The best criterion to distinguish both species is the apical line of dots which is more developed in violarum.
Asema is a little *Acraea*, common in Malawi, lake Nyassa being the type area. We bred it on Dzalanyama range. The host plant is *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (Turneraceae). The larva is close to that of *caldarena*, but has a bright white longitudinal band.

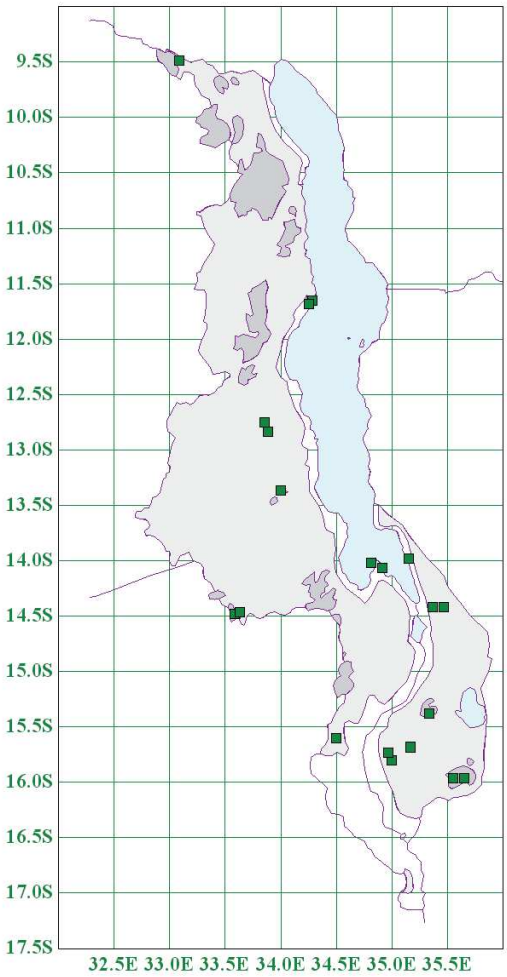


General distribution of *asema*

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chipala camp	12° 45' South	33° 51' East
Chipala Fst Res	12° 50' South	33° 53' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01' South	34° 49' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59' South	35° 09' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East


asema, Dzalanyama



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X		X			X		X	X
South				X		X		X				

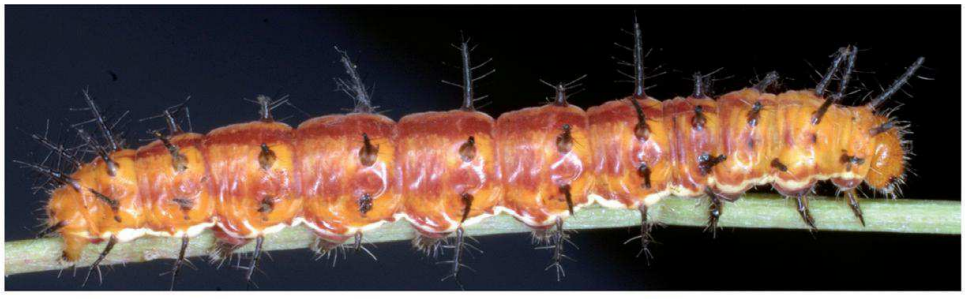






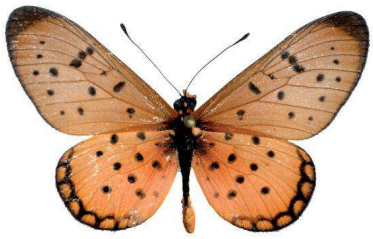




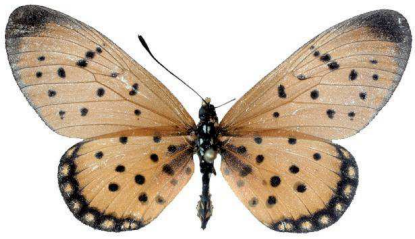




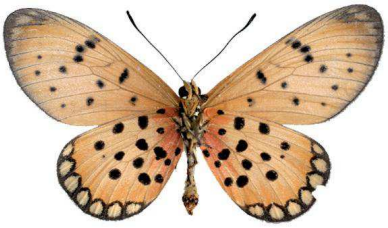




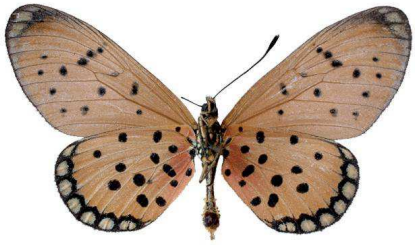
asema, ♂r, Dzalanyama



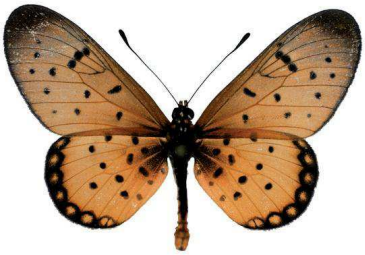
asema, ♀r, Michiru Mt



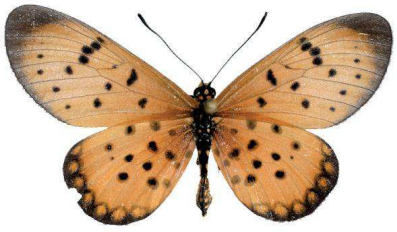
asema, ♂v, Dzalanyama



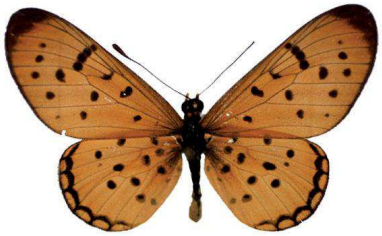
asema, ♀v, Michiru Mt



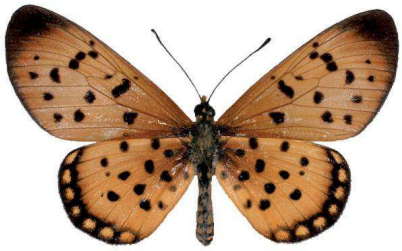
asema, ♂r, Michiru Mt



asema, ♀r, Dzalanyama



asema, ♂r, Nkatta Bay

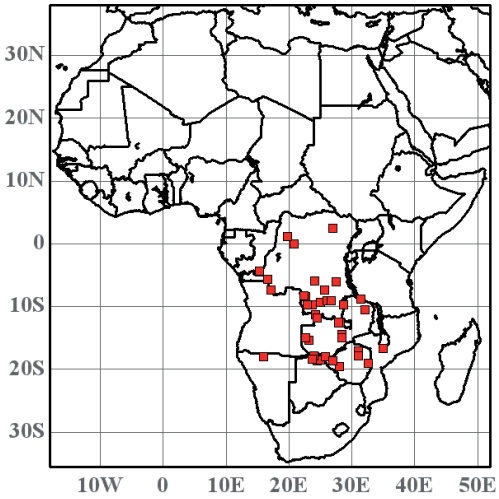


asema, ♀r, Kasitu Rock

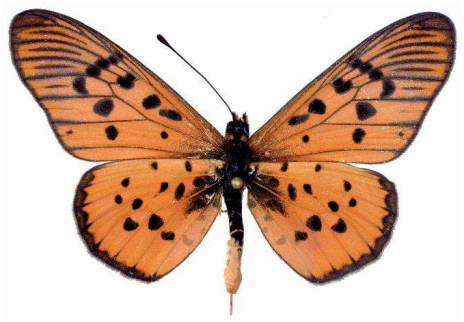
Acraea atergatis

Acraea (*Acraea*) *atergatis* Westwood, 1881, [Oates, Matabaleland: 342, pl. F, fig. 1, 2, «Victoria Falls» (Zambie)]

This species is recorded by R. Dowsett near Dande stream in Mwabvi Game reserve. We never caught it again, despite conducting some research in that locality. As the specimen caught by Dowsett has not been conserved, we cannot confirm the record. But it is a credible record, as this species is flying in Zambia and in Zimbabwe (see the general map).

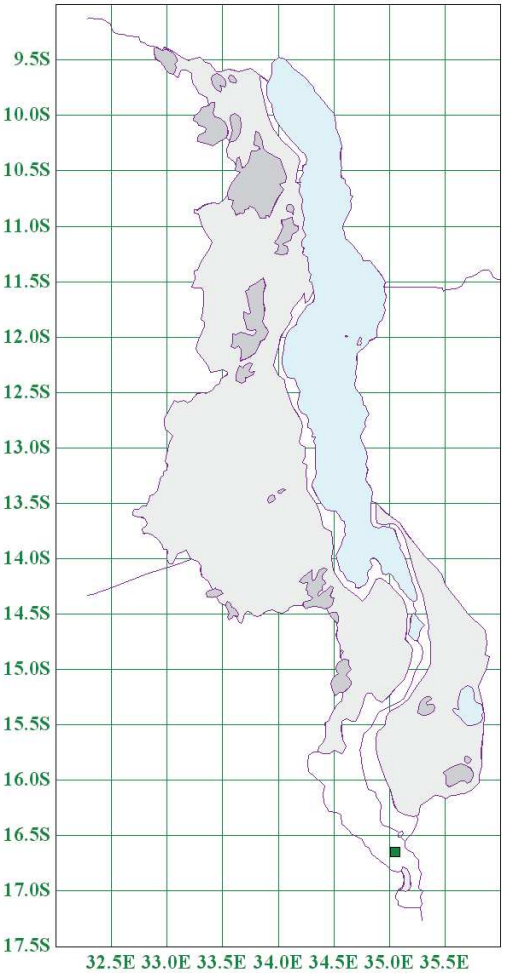


General distribution of *atergatis*


A. atergatis male, Chingola, Zambia

Distribution in Malawi

Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39' South	35° 03' East



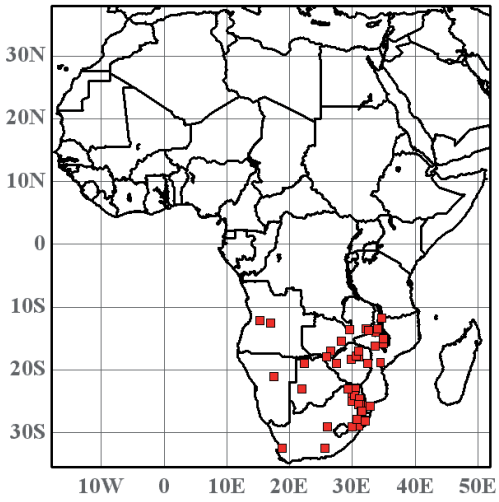
Acraea axina

Acraea (*Acraea*) *axina* Westwood, 1881 [in Entomology. Oates, F., Matabele Land and the Victoria Falls, 344, pl. F, fig. 5, 6, «Tati et Gwailo fluv.» (Zimbabwe)]

Although this *Acraea* can be common in South Africa, it is a rare butterfly in Malawi.

We bred it in Zimbabwe on *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (Turneraceae).

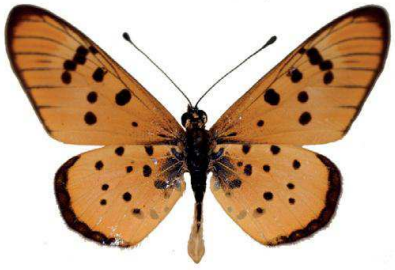
In Malawi we saw one specimen in Gifford collection, and we recently caught it in one locality: Senga Bay.



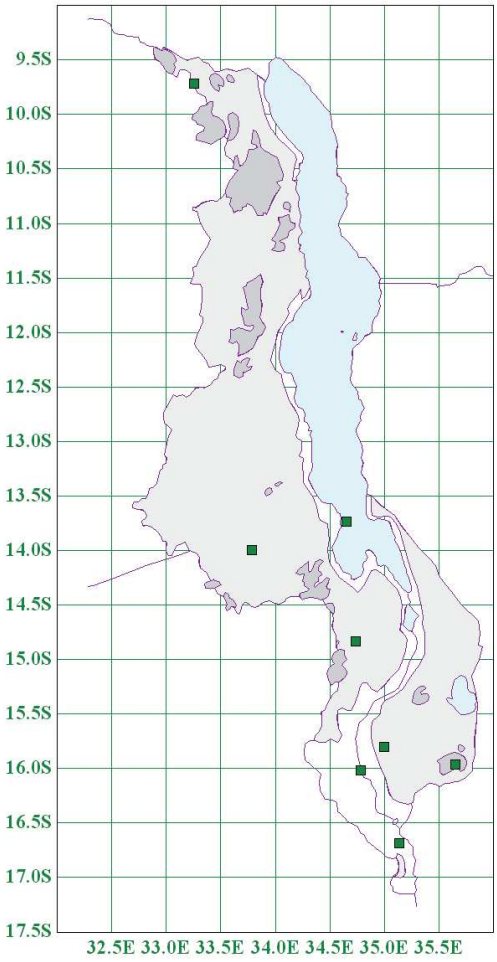
General distribution of *axina*

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chitipa - Nyika (Fort Hll)	09° 43' South	33° 15' East
Lilongwe	14° 00' South	33° 47' East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50' South	34° 44' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hll	16° 41' South	35° 08' East

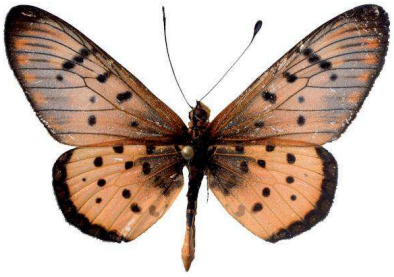

A. axina male, Mpatamanga, in Gifford Blantyre's collection


axina female, Gwebi river, Zimbabwe

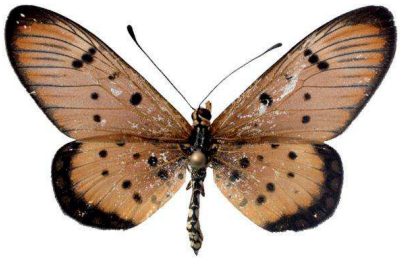


Flight period: our records by month and area

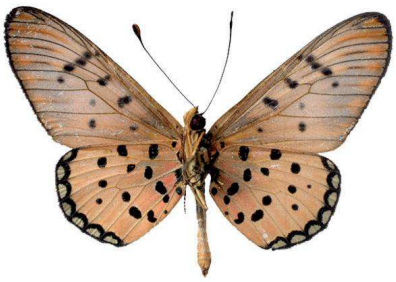
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X										
South												



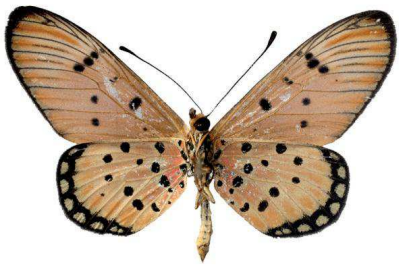
axina, ♂r, Senga Bay



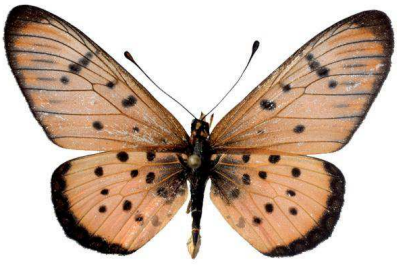
axina, ♀r, Senga Bay



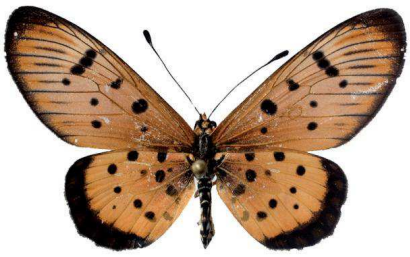
axina, ♂v, Senga Bay



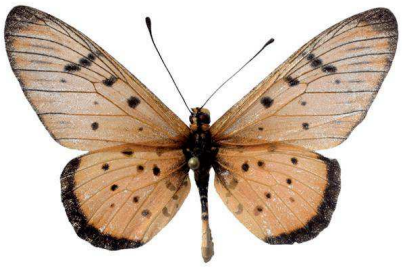
axina, ♀v, Senga Bay



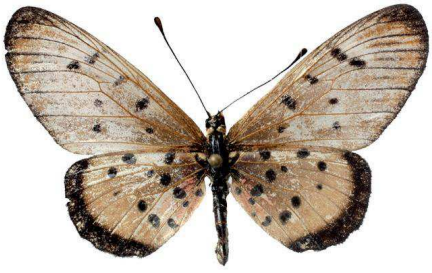
axina, ♂r, Senga Bay



axina, ♀r, Senga Bay



axina, ♂r, Senga Bay



axina, ♀r, Senga Bay

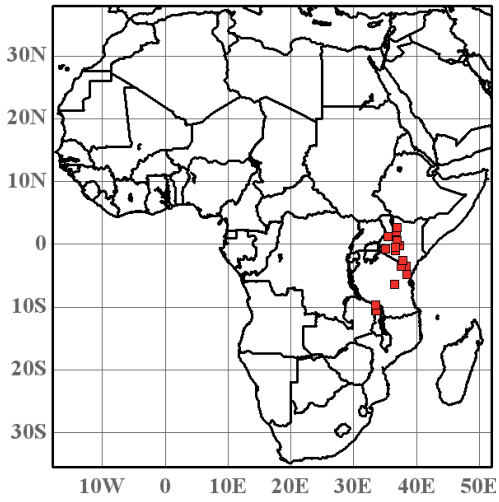
Acraea baxteri

Acraea (*Actinote*) *baxteri* Sharpe, 1902 [The Entomologist: 40, «Mpapwa, German east Africa» (Tanzanie)]

Gifford said that only one record was confirmed for this species: Matipa fst, Misuku Mountains (Gray). Indeed this species is certainly very rare in Malawi. Dowset recorded it at Chisanga falls and Chowo, Nyika plateau. It was also recently recorded (1985) by Bampton in Chowo, Nyika plateau, Zambia part (The Butterflies of Zambia, 2002, Heath, Newport & Hancok D.), which is only a few kilometers from Dowsett's record.

This butterfly can be confused with *insignis*, which is very common in Misuku area.

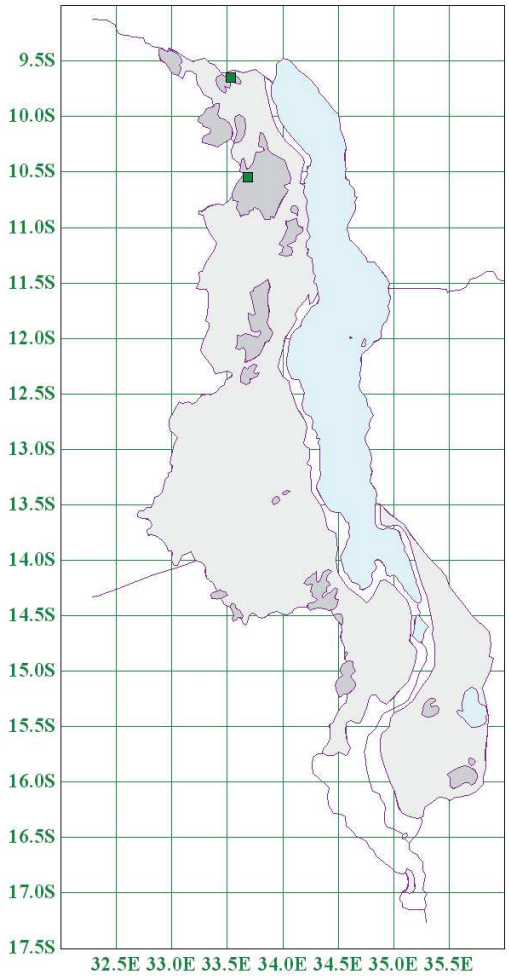
We never caught this species, despite several trips to Chisanga falls.

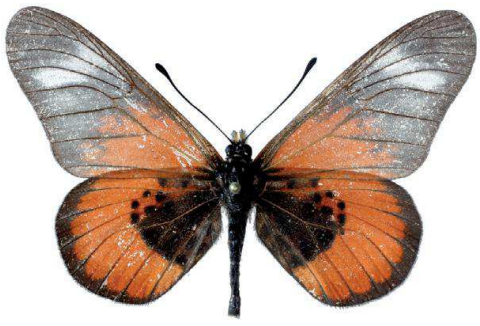


General distribution of *baxteri*

Distribution in Malawi

Chisanga falls - Nyika	10° 33' South	33° 41' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East

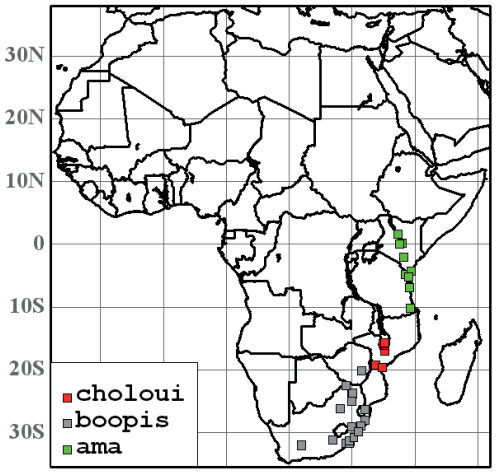



A. baxteri male, Kombora Mts (Tanzanie)

By the courtesy of ABRI (S. Collins) we had the communication of the first stages of this *Acraea*, which are close to *pharsalus*.

Acraea boopis choloui

Acraea (*Acraea*) *boopis choloui* Pierre, 1979 [Ann. Soc. Ent. Fr., 15 : 735, «Cholo Mts» (Malawi)]



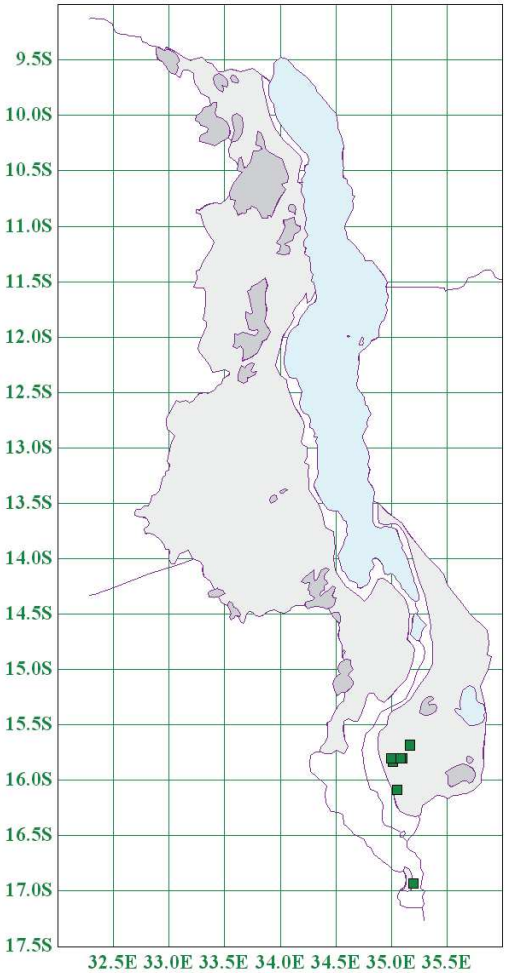
General distribution of *boopis*

This species is recorded by Gifford under the name *admatha*, Hewitson, 1865. In fact, J. Pierre, in his paper on *admatha* group (1979) demonstrates that there are several species under the name *admatha*. One of them, *A. boopis* has a subspecies known especially from Malawi, to which J. Pierre gave the name *choloui* in reference to its main locality of capture (BMNH collection): Cholo mount. See the distribution map which gives the distribution of *boopis boopis*, *boopis ama* and *boopis choloui*. So the *admatha* records in Gifford's book are in fact *boopis choloui*. This subspecies is known only from southern mountains of Malawi on the edges and and inside evergreen forests. We bred *choloui* on Tyolo mount (= Cholo mount) at the edge of the little patch of evergreen forest that remains in Satemwa Estate only. The larva feeds on *Rinorea comvallaroides* (Violaceae) (F. Dowsett-Lemaire determination).

Distribution in Malawi

Bangwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 06' East
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mpingwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 05' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East

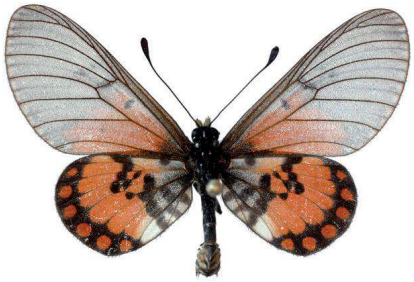

A. boopis choloui female, Thyolo Mt



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South				X	X				X	X		

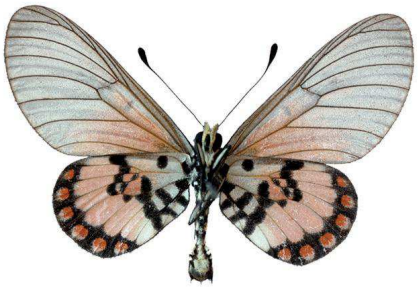




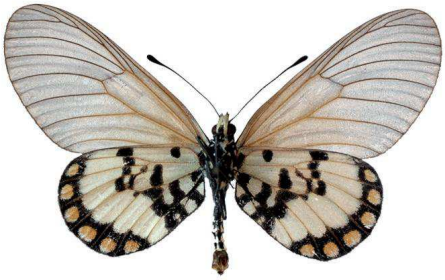
choloui, ♂r, Soche mount



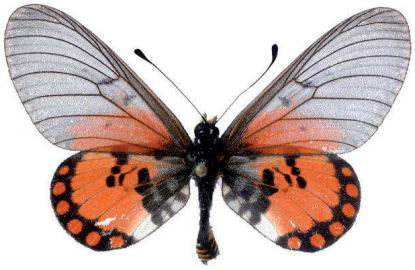
choloui, ♀r, Thyolo Fst



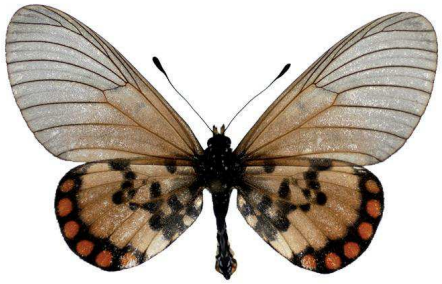
choloui, ♂v, Soche mount



choloui, ♀v, Thyolo Fst



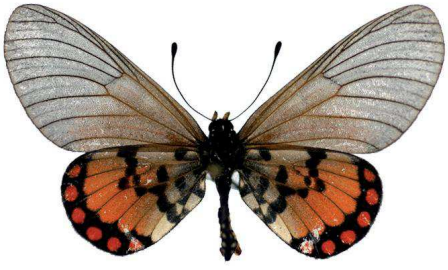
choloui, ♂r, Chiradzulu mount



choloui, ♀r, Thyolo Fst



choloui, ♂r, Thyolo Fst



choloui, ♀r, Thyolo Fst

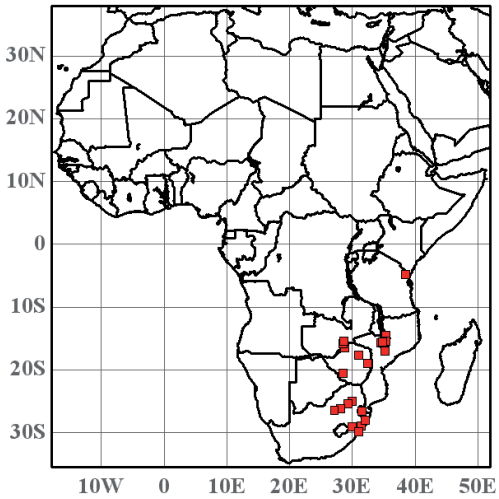
Acraea burni

Acraea (*Actinote*) *burni* Butler, 1896 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), 18: 467, «Tugela, Natal» (RSA)]

Acraea burni, which is today recognised as a good species and not an *obeira* subspecies (*obeira*, Hewitson, 1863, occurs in Madagascar), is known only in the south of Malawi.

This species has been recorded in Usambara mounts by Kielland. But it is typically a South African species, which occurs also in Zimbabwe and Zambia.

We bred it in Zimbabwe (Bernaud & Pierre, 1998) in Christon Bank on *Pouzolzia hypoleuca* (Urticaceae). We found it in Malawi only on Tsenga mount and we did not have the chance to see the larvae.



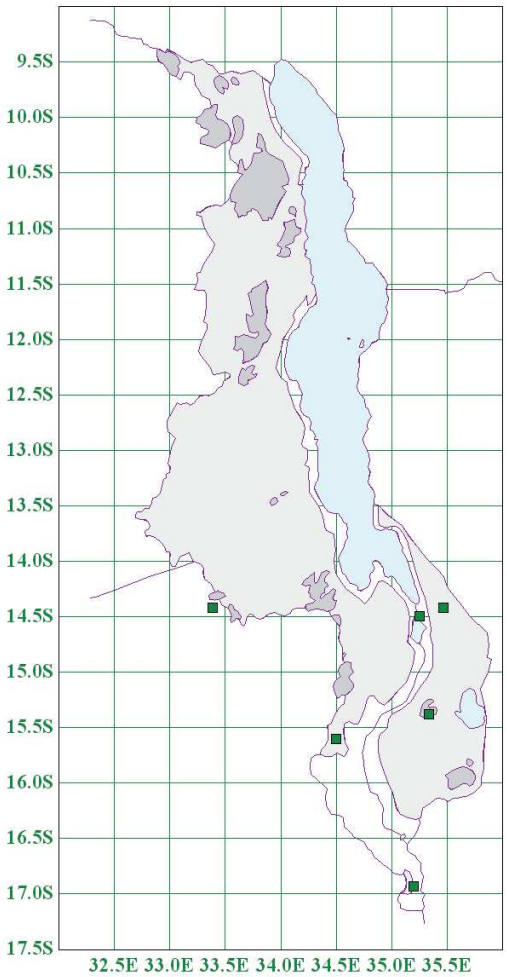
General distribution of *burni*

Distribution in Malawi

Fort Johnston (= Mangochi)	14° 30' South	35° 15' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	33° 23' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

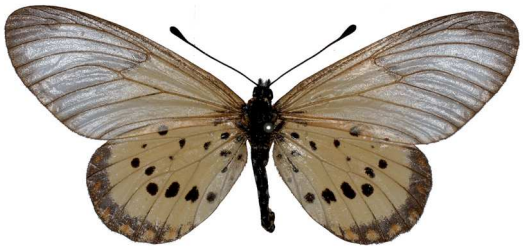

Male (left) and female (right) of *A.burni,* Tsenga Mt


burni caterpillar, Christon Bank, Zimbabwe

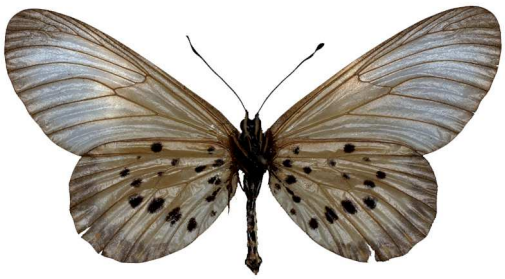




burni, ♀r, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)



burni, ♀r, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)



burni, ♀v, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)



burni, ♀v, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)



burni, ♀r, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)



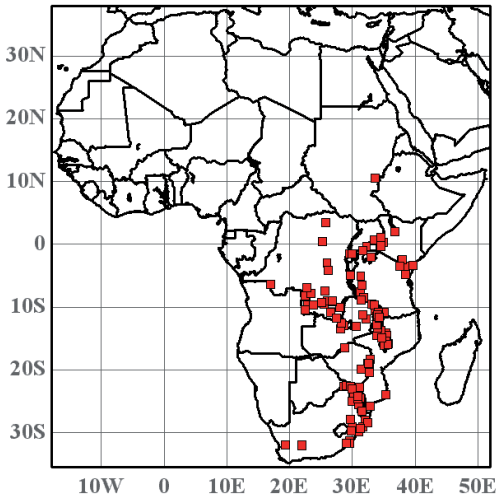
burni, ♀v, Maiwale (Ft Johnston)

Series of *A. burni* ♀
from Lamborn collection
Hope entomological collections
Oxford Museum

Acraea cabira

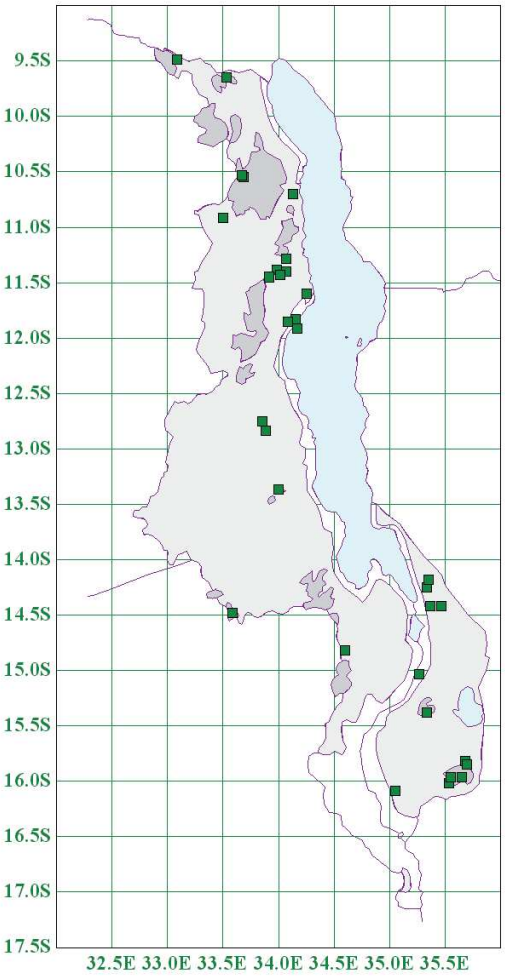
Acraea (*Actinote*) *cabira* Hopffer, 1855 [Monatsb. Akad. Wiss. Berl.: 640, «Inhambane, Mossambique»]

This *Acraea* is very common everywhere. In the north of the country, from Mughese forest to Nyika plateau, it can be easily confused with *Acraea sotikensis*. In fact, these two species belong to a very difficult group which has many forms, red and yellow. We recently published an important paper on this group (Bernaud & Pierre, 2007). Both *cabira* and *sotikensis* have yellow and red forms. The caterpillars are identical and the genitalia similar. We are able to distinguish them only by the shape of the black basal patch of the forewings and by the shape of the basal part of the hind wings underside (see next page – it is a very clear criteria).



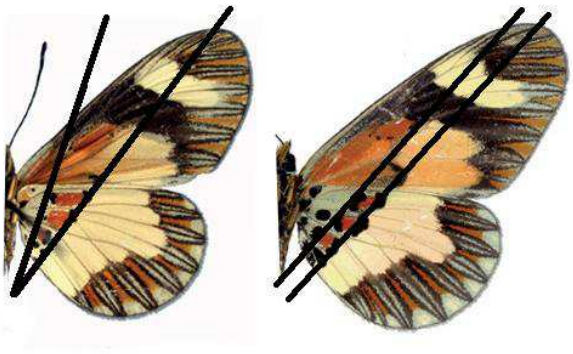
Distribution in Malawi

Bandawe	11° 55’ South	34° 10’ East
Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15’ South	35° 20’ East
Chinteche	11° 50’ South	34° 09’ East
Chipala camp	12° 45’ South	33° 51’ East
Chipala Fst Res	12° 50’ South	33° 53’ East
Chisanga falls - Nyika	10° 33’ South	33° 41’ East
Chisasira Fst - Chintheche	11° 51’ South	34° 05’ East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Choma Mt	11° 17’ South	34° 04’ East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51’ South	35° 42’ East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29’ South	33° 05’ East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36’ South	34° 15’ East
Kaninyinga Fst	11° 24’ South	34° 04’ East
Kaperekesi gate - Nyika plateau	10° 32’ South	33° 40’ East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29’ South	33° 35’ East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza marsh	10° 55’ South	33° 30’ East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 33’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02’ South	35° 16’ East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	11° 26’ South	34° 01’ East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25’ South	35° 28’ East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39’ South	33° 32’ East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01’ South	35° 32’ East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11’ South	35° 21’ East
Mzuzu	11° 27’ South	33° 55’ East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23’ South	33° 59’ East
Ntcheu	14° 49’ South	34° 36’ East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22’ South	34° 00’ East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49’ South	35° 41’ East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58’ South	35° 39’ East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42’ South	34° 08’ East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25’ South	35° 22’ East
Zomba plateau	15° 23’ South	35° 20’ East



So many forms have been described. The form *apecida* Oberthür, 1893 is the red form of *cabira*. The names *natalensis* Staudinger, 1896 and *biraca* Suffert, 1904 are today considered as synonyms of *cabira*.

We bred *Acraea cabira* many times in Malawi (see the biology plate) on several *Trimufetta sp* (Tiliaceae): *Triumfetta pilosa* (Uzuzu hills), *Triumfetta rhomboidea* (Mughese forest).



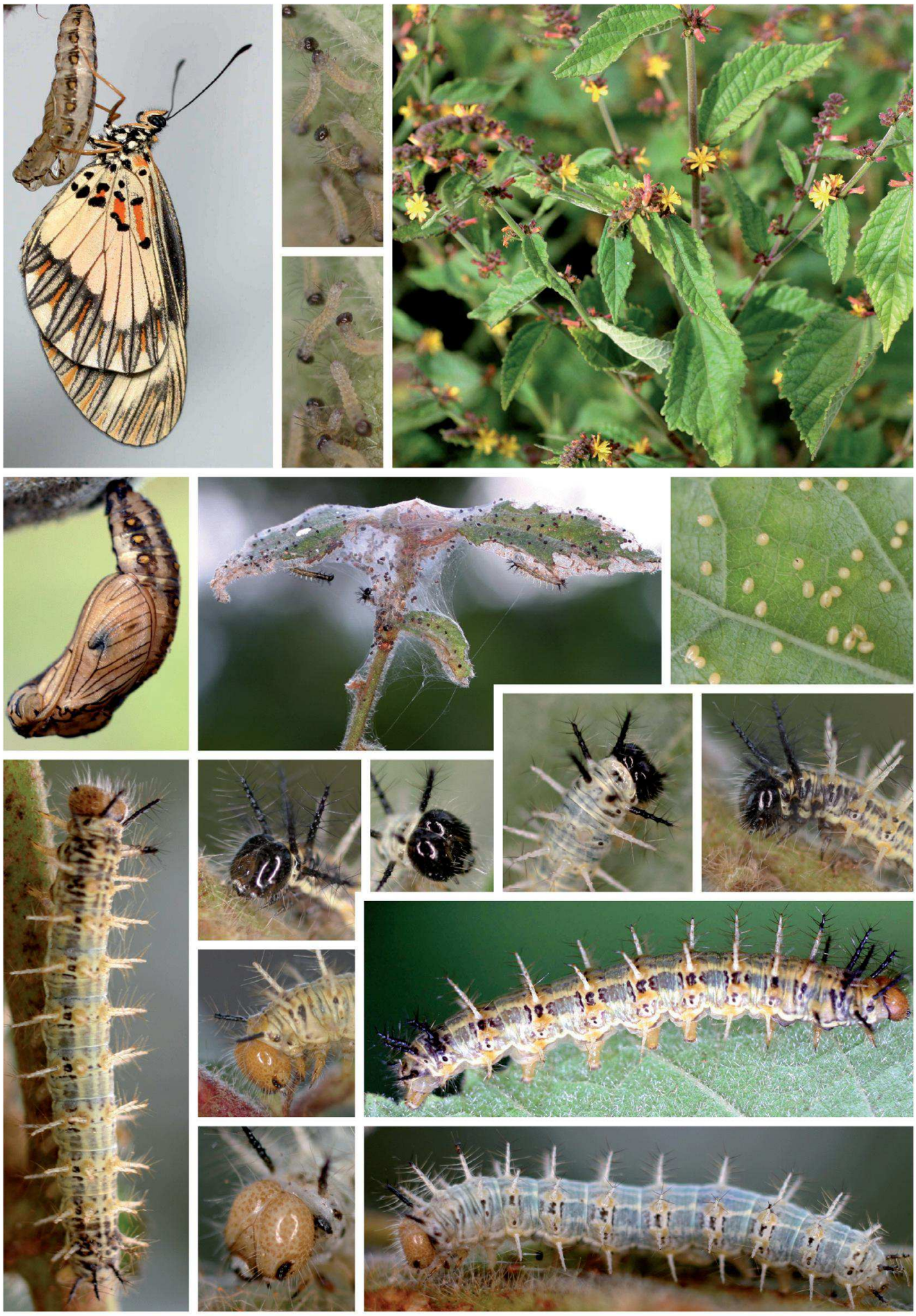
Criteria to distinguish *cabira* (left) and *sotikensis* (right)

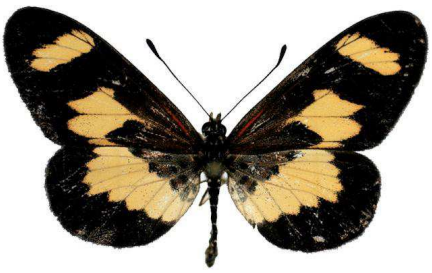


Acraea cabira in Fort Lister Gap (Mulanje)

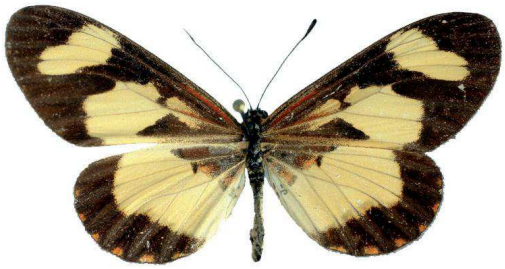
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
South			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

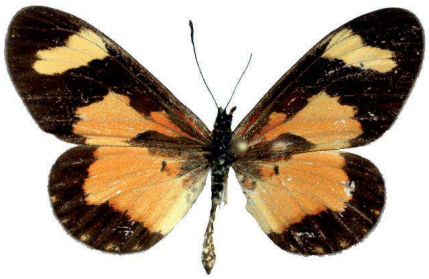




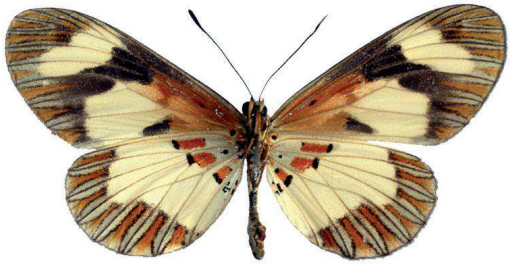
cabira, ♂r, Fort Lister Gap



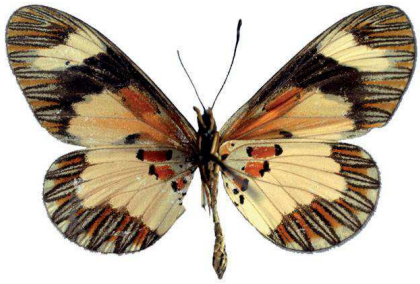
cabira, ♀r, Chinteche



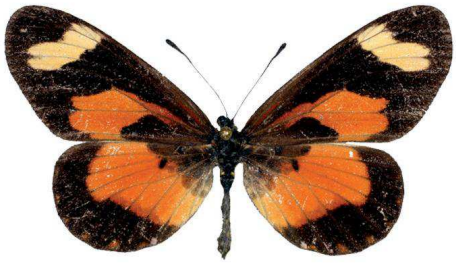
cabira, ♂r, Mughese Fst



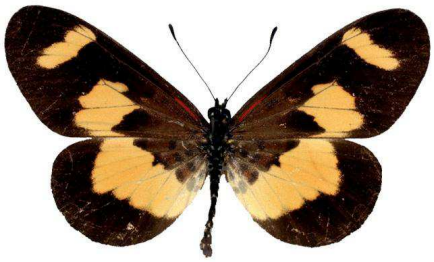
cabira, ♀v, Chinteche



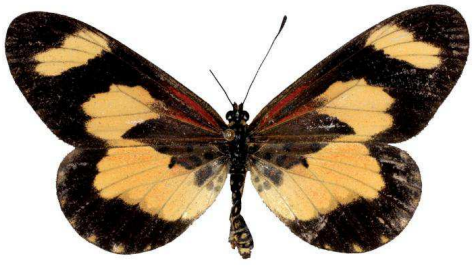
cabira, ♂v, Mughese Fst



cabira, ♀r, Ntchisi Fst



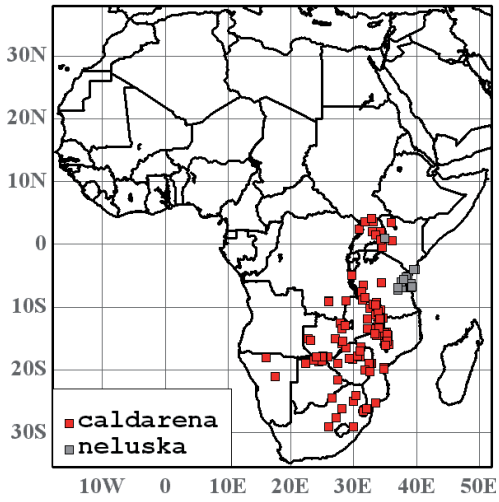
cabira, ♂r, Chinteche



cabira, ♀r, Ruo River

Acraea caldarena

Acraea (*Acraea*) *caldarena* Hewitson, 1877 [Ent. Mo. Mag., 14: 52, «Lake Nyassa»]



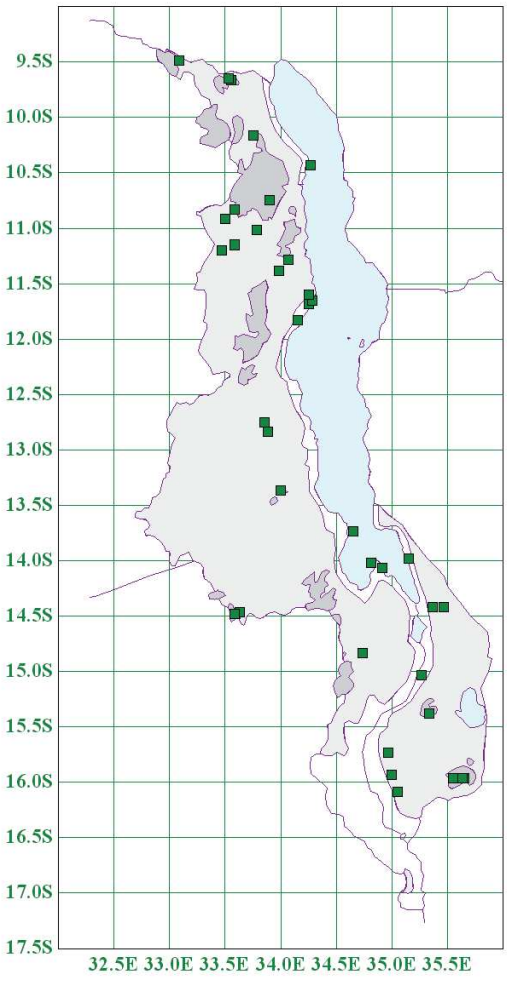
This is one of the most common *Acraea* in Malawi, Lake Nyassa being the type area. It is also a common inhabitant of all Eastern and Southern Africa. We notice that in the north of Tanzania a variation named *neluska* could be a valid subspecies.

We must also point out that in Malawi this species is confused with *Acraea pudorella detecta* (see this *Acraea*). *Acraea pudorella* has much the same pattern as *caldarena*, especially in Malawi (in northern of Tanzania *pudorella* has the same pattern as *caldarena neluska*!). But the two species have very distinct genitalia (see the drawings under *pudorella* species). To distinguish *pudorella* and *caldarena,* we also use the position of the h. wing spots in spaces 4-5-6. In *caldarena* they are more rectilinear than in *pudorella* (see photographs under *pudorella* species).

So many records in Malawi show a confusion between the two species.

Distribution in Malawi

Chinteche	11° 50’ South	34° 09’ East
Chipala camp	12° 45’ South	33° 51’ East
Chipala Fst Res	12° 50’ South	33° 53’ East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Choma Mt	11° 17’ South	34° 04’ East
Deep Bay	10° 26’ South	34° 16’ East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28’ South	33° 38’ East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29’ South	33° 05’ East
Juniper Fst - Nyika plateau	10° 45’ South	33° 54’ East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36’ South	34° 15’ East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29’ South	33° 35’ East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza marsh	10° 55’ South	33° 30’ East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01’ South	34° 49’ East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 33’ East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56’ South	35° 00’ East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59’ South	35° 09’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02’ South	35° 16’ East
Luviri river - Rumphi	11° 01’ South	33° 47’ East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25’ South	35° 28’ East
Michiru Hll	15° 44’ South	34° 58’ East
Misuku	09° 40’ South	33° 33’ East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41’ South	34° 15’ East
Monkey bay	14° 04’ South	34° 55’ East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50’ South	34° 44’ East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39’ South	33° 32’ East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58’ South	35° 38’ East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39’ South	34° 17’ East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23’ South	33° 59’ East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22’ South	34° 00’ East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58’ South	35° 39’ East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44’ South	34° 39’ East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50’ South	33° 35’ East



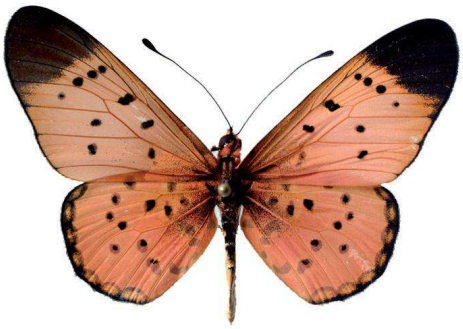
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	11° 12' South	33° 28' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

We bred *caldarena* many times on *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (Turneraceae). The larva is not marked with brown or black lines as the ones of *oncaea* and *natalica*. It is a very variable larva in colour, as it can go from yellow to red. We noticed that the larva becomes red when it feeds on the red flowers of the host plant.

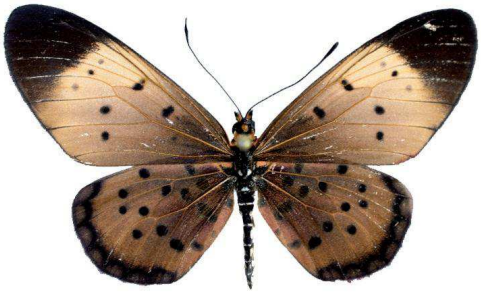
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
South				X		X		X	X	X	X	

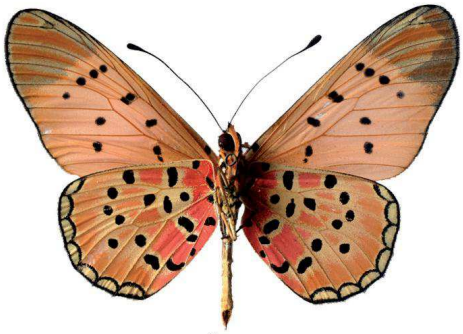




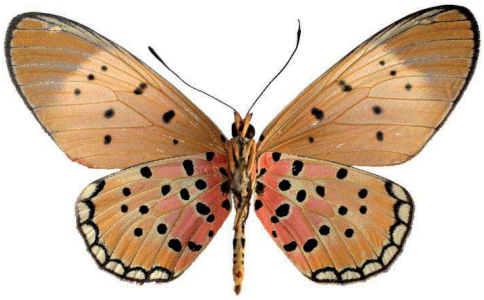
caldarena, ♂r, Lipangala Hill



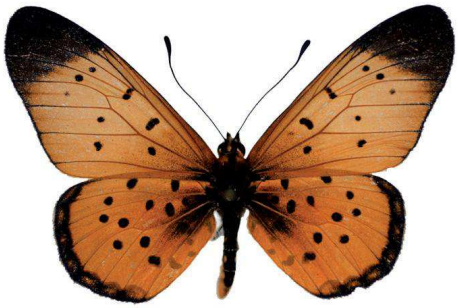
caldarena, ♀r, Dzalanyama



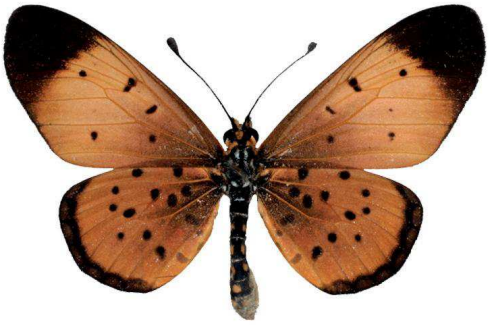
caldarena, ♂v, Lipangala Hill



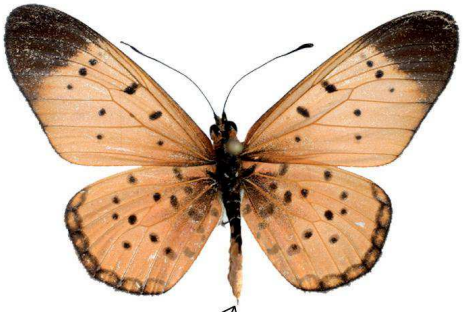
caldarena, ♀v, Dzalanyama



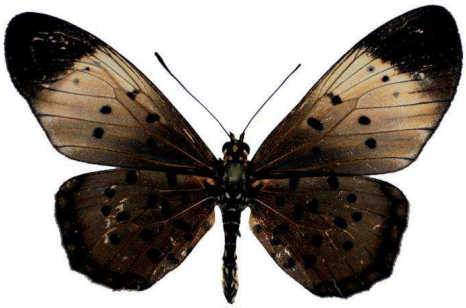
caldarena, ♂r, Mulanje



caldarena, ♀r, Uledi - Nyika



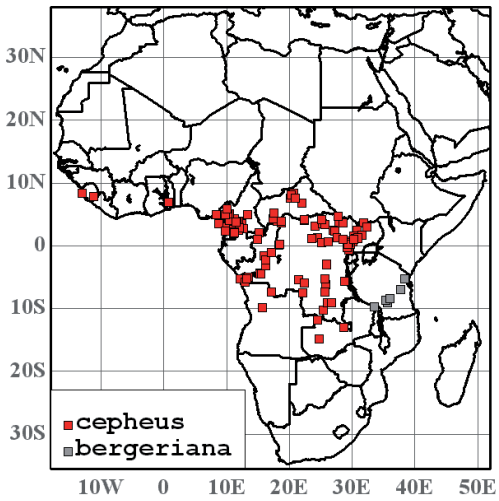
caldarena, ♂r, Dzalanyama



caldarena, ♀r, Michiru Mt

Acraea cepheus bergeriana

Acraea (*Acraea*) *cepheus bergeriana* Pierre, 1979 [C. R. Soc. Biogéogr. 481 : 79, en note, "Mts Uluguru" (Tanzanie)]



This subspecies of *Acraea cepheus* was not recorded from Malawi, but only from Tanzania. We found a very nice population in Mughese forest at the border of Tanzania.

This subspecies is clearer and smaller than the nominate subspecies and looks like a little *Acraea petraea* (especially females). The apical band of the female can be white or orange (see the plate).

As we bred it on *Caloncoba welwitschii* (Flacourtiaceae), we noticed that the first stages are like the ones of the nominate *cepheus* (see the biology plate).

Distribution in Malawi

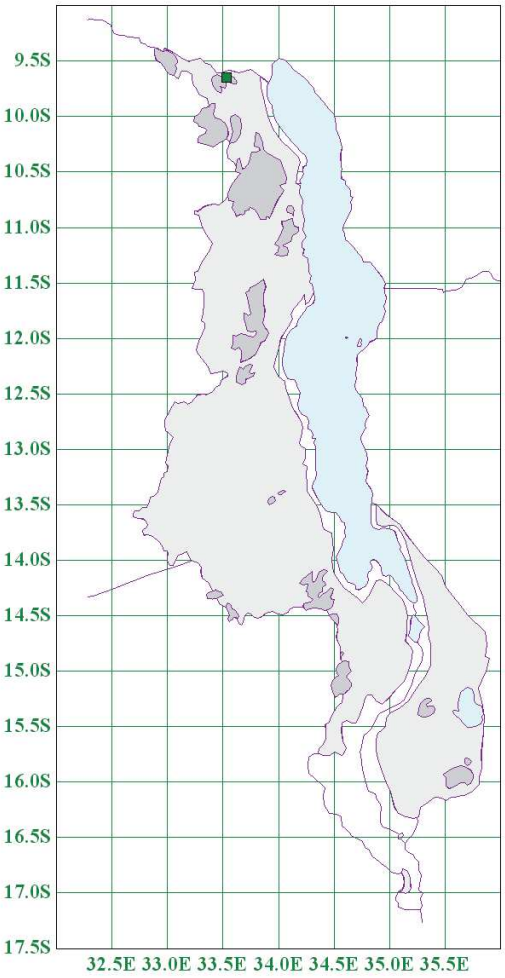
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll) 09° 39' South 33° 32' East



Acraea cepheus bergeriana male, Mughese Forest



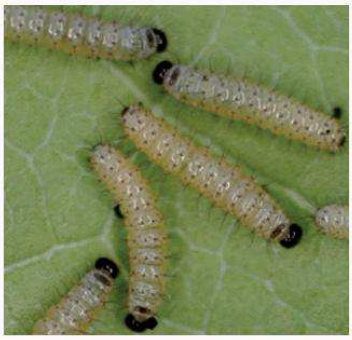
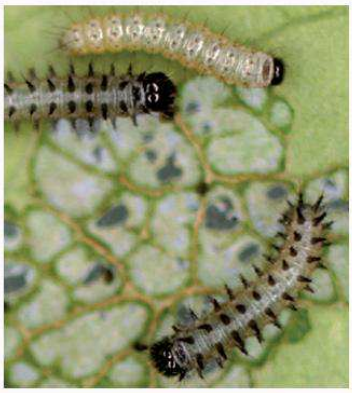
Acraea cepheus bergeriana male, Mughese Forest



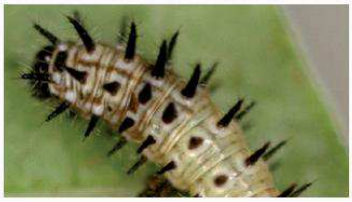
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X				X					X	X
South												



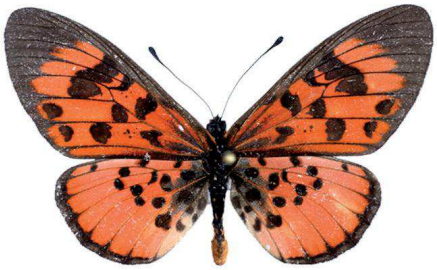





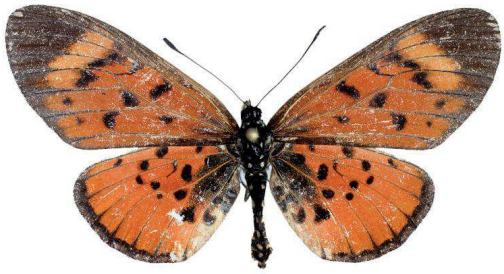




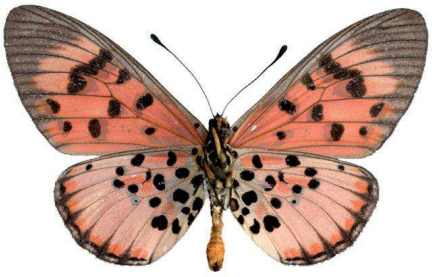


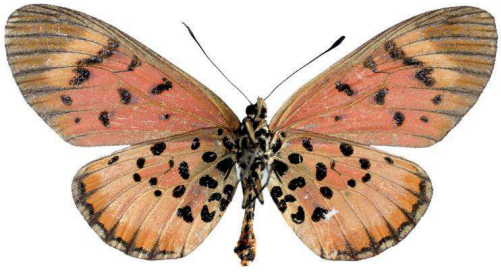
bergeriana, ♂r, Mughese Fst



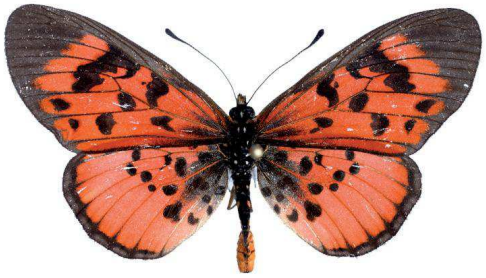
bergeriana, ♀r, Mughese Fst



bergeriana, ♂v, Mughese Fst



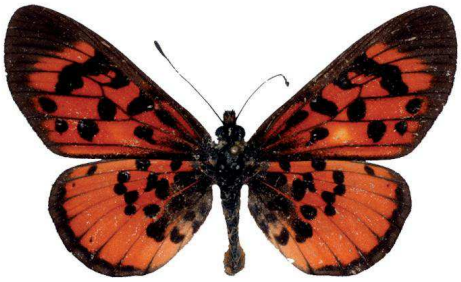
bergeriana, ♀v, Mughese Fst



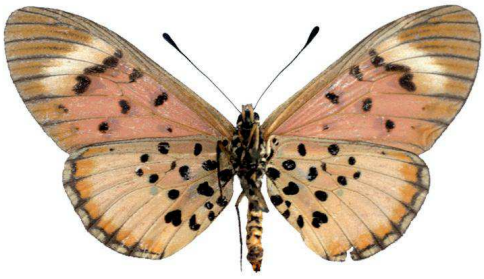
bergeriana, ♂r, Mughese Fst



bergeriana, ♀r, Mughese Fst



bergeriana, ♂r, Mughese Fst



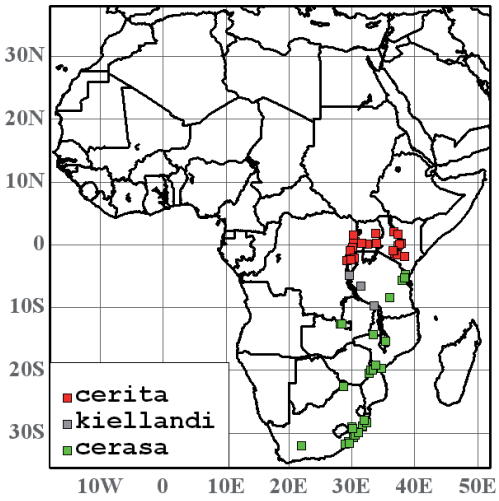
bergeriana, ♀v, Mughese Fst

Acraea cerasa and ***cerasa cerita***

Acraea cerasa Hewitson, 1861 [Exot. Butt. (*Acraea*) 2: 40, pl. 2, fig. 10, «Natal» (RSA)]

Acraea cerita Sharpe, 1906 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (7), 18: 75, «Entebbe» (Uganda)]

= *Acraea cerasa kiellandi* Carcasson, 1964 [J. East Afr. & Ug. Nat. Hist. Soc., 24 : 70,"Wanzizi, Mpanda district, Western Tanganyika" (Tanzanie)]



Acraea cerasa was recorded first in Malawi by one of us (R. M). Its foodplant could be *Rawsonia lucida* (Flacourtiaceae) which grows on Zomba plateau.

This species is represented by a subspecies in Uganda, Rwanda and West Kenya (*cerita*). The distinction is made by the submarginal spots of the hind wings.

A. kiellandi has been described as a subspecies of *A. cerasa*. Recent records let us consider that it is a synonym of *A. cerasa cerita* which occurs from Uganda to north of Malawi, in highland forests (Bernaud & Ducarme, 2008).

We caught some specimens in Mughese forest which can be referred to *cerita*. Before those records, *cerita* was unknown from Malawi.

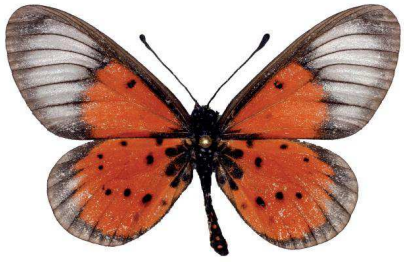
Distribution in Malawi

A. c. cerasa

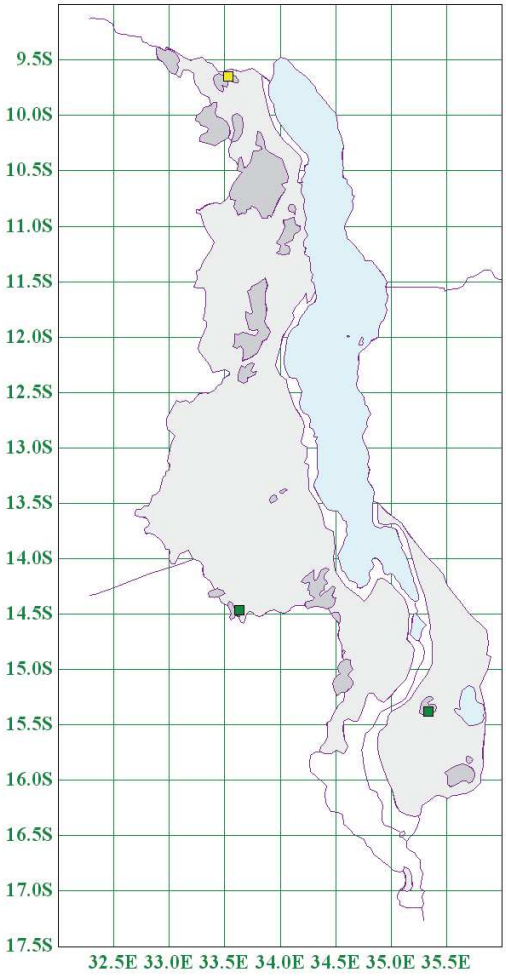
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

A. c. cerita

Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East

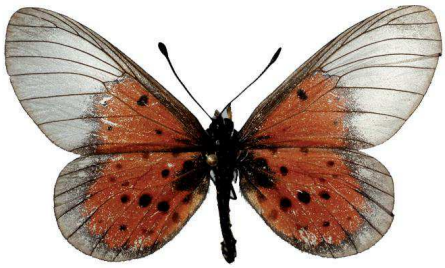


Acraea cerasa male, Zomba plateau

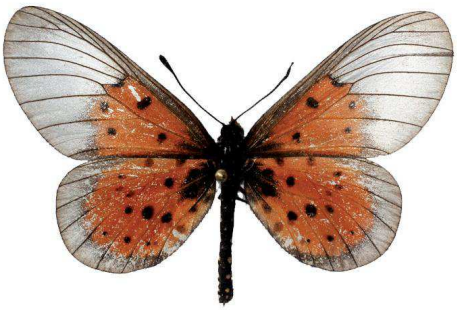


Flight period: our records by month and area

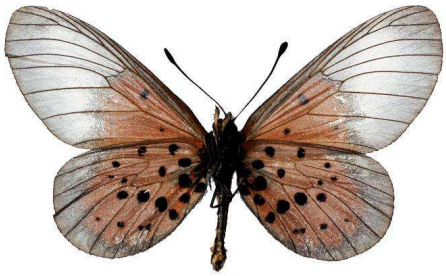
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North									X			X
South		X										



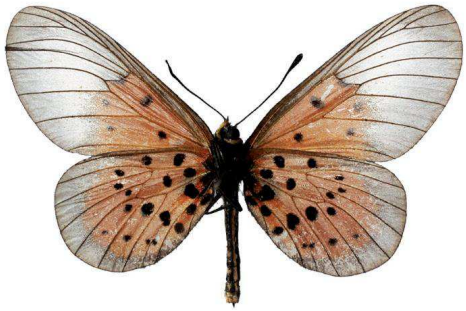
cerita ♂r, Mughese Fst



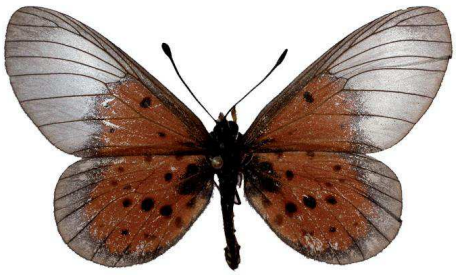
cerita ♀r, Mughese Fst



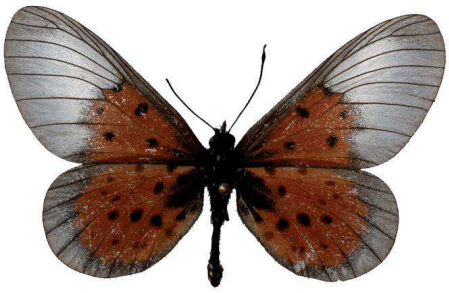
cerita ♂v, Mughese Fst



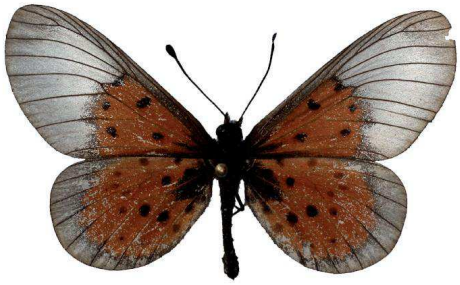
cerita ♀v, Mughese Fst



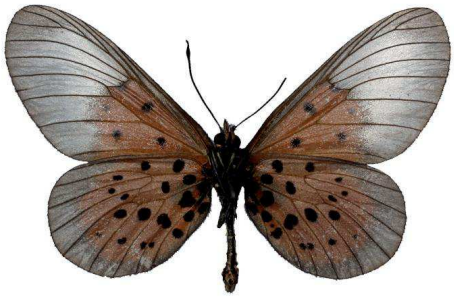
cerita ♂r, Mughese Fst



cerita ♂r, Mughese Fst



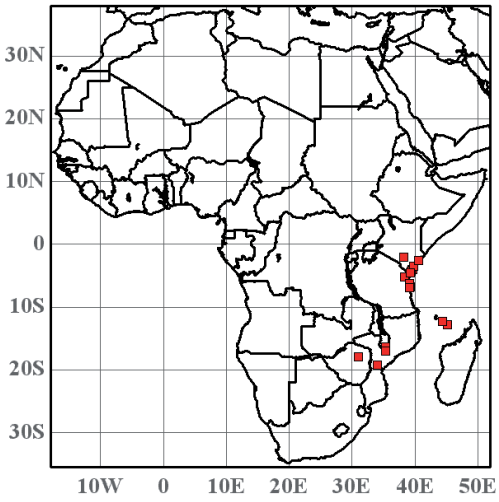
cerita ♂r, Mughese Fst



cerita ♂v, Mughese Fst

Acraea cuva

Acraea (*Acraea*) *cuva* Grose-Smith, 1889 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), 3: 126, «Mombasa» (Kenya)]



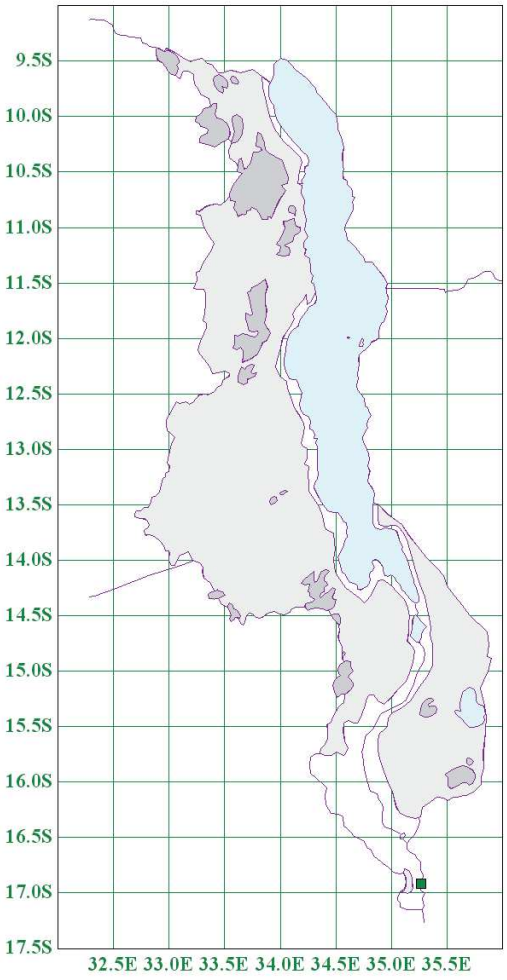
This species is recorded by Gifford, who writes: « Port Herald, rare, taken by Handman on many occasions at Lantana flowers in his garden, but not known elsewhere. »

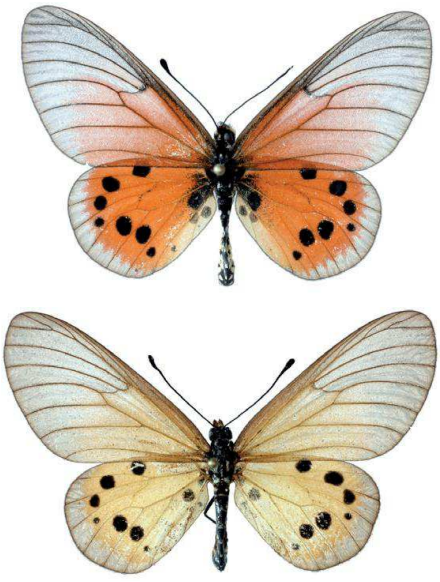
We found a little series from Lamborn collection in Hope entomological collections (see plate).

This butterfly is known from Mozambique and can occasionally make incursions into Malawi.

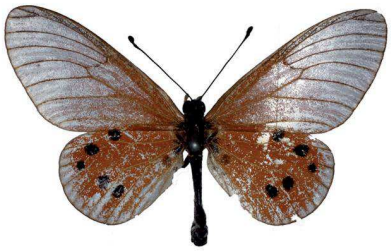
Distribution in Malawi

Port Herald	16° 55' South	35° 16' East

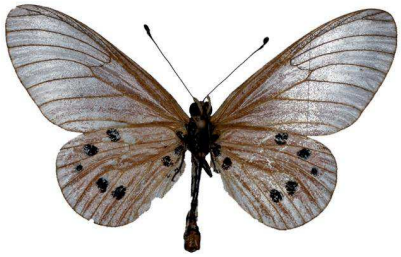




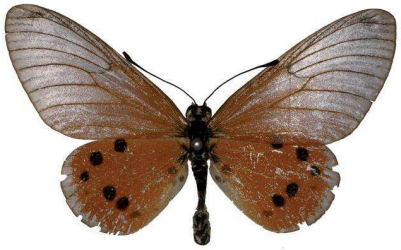
Acraea cuva male (up) and female (down) from Kenya



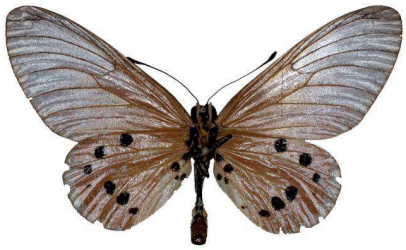
cuva, ♂ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



cuva, ♂ v, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



cuva, ♂ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)

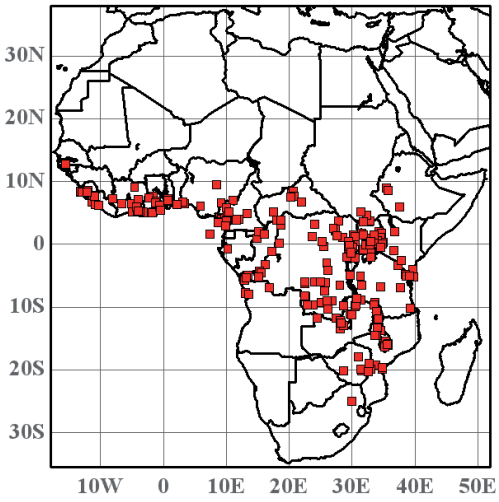


cuva, ♂ v, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)

Series of *A. cuva* ♂
from Lamborn collection
Hope entomological collections
Oxford Museum

Acraea egina

Acraea (*Acraea*) *egina* Cramer, 1775 [Pap. Exot., 1: 64, pl. 39, f. F, G, no type locality]

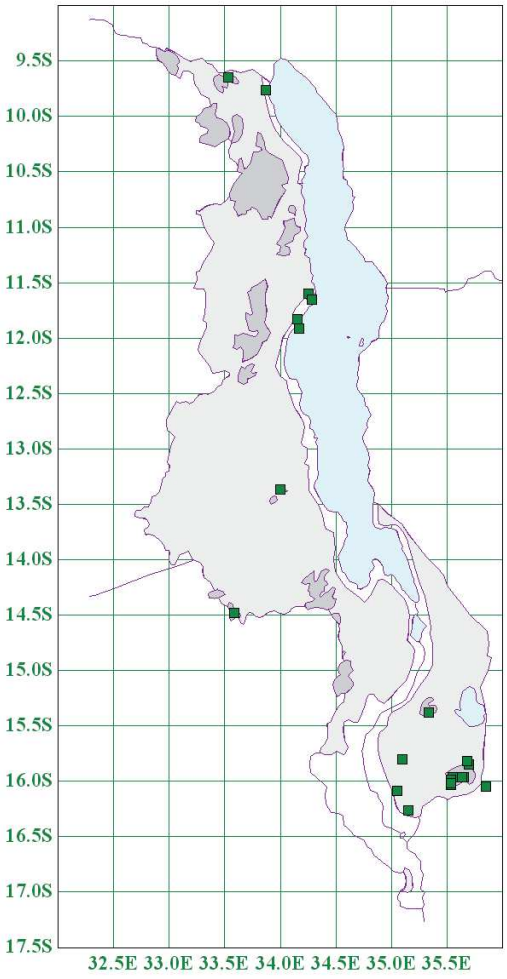


Acraea egina is a beautiful red butterfly, very common everywhere in Africa. Several subspecies have been described but none is valid and *areca* is considered as a simple form, as well as *harrisoni*, Sharpe, 1904.

We caught *egina* everywhere. We found the larva on its usual food plant *Adenia rumicifolia* (Passifloraceae) (= *Adenia lobata*, F. Dowsett-Lemaire communication; See also: Evergreen forest flora of Malawi, F. White, F. Dowsett-Lemaire and J. D. Chapman, 2001) in Thyolo mount (see photographs below).

Distribution in Malawi

Bandawe	11° 55' South	34° 10' East
Bangwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 06' East
Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Chitambo Mulanje - Mozambique	16° 03' South	35° 51' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Cholomwani Mt	16° 16' South	35° 09' East
Crater Mulanje Mt	15° 59' South	35° 32' East
Esperanza Mulanje	16° 02' South	35° 32' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kaporo road	09° 46' South	33° 52' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01' South	35° 32' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



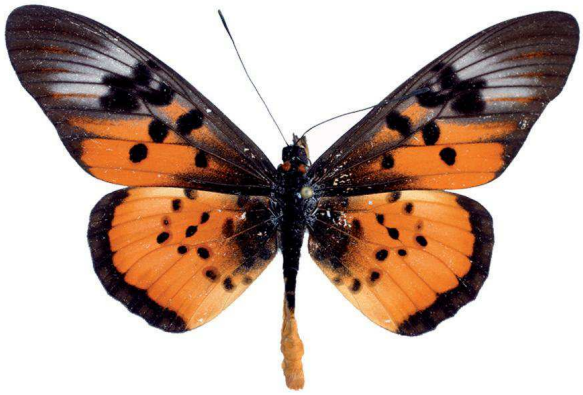
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North			X	X	X		X		X			X
South		X		X	X	X	X			X	X	

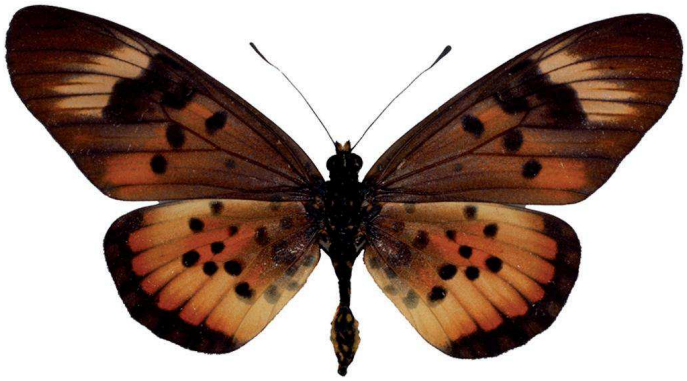




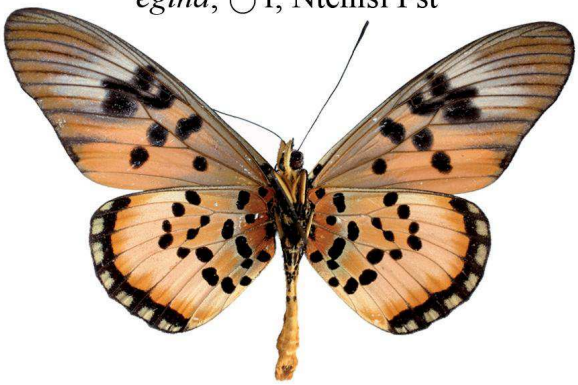
egina female laying, Lambaréné, Gabon



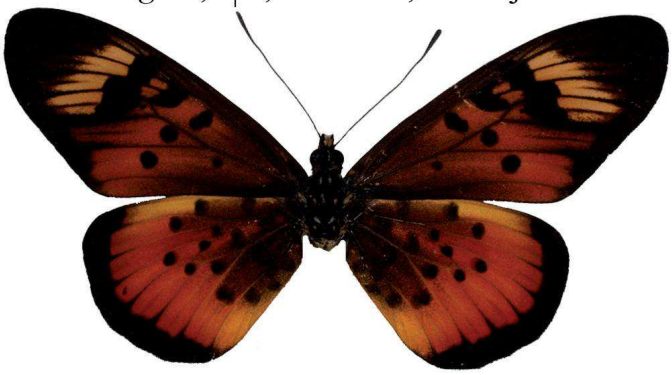
egina, ♂r, Ntchisi Fst



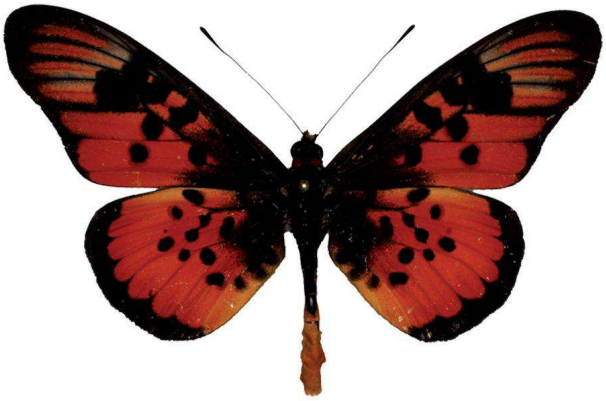
egina, ♀r, Ruo river, Mulanje



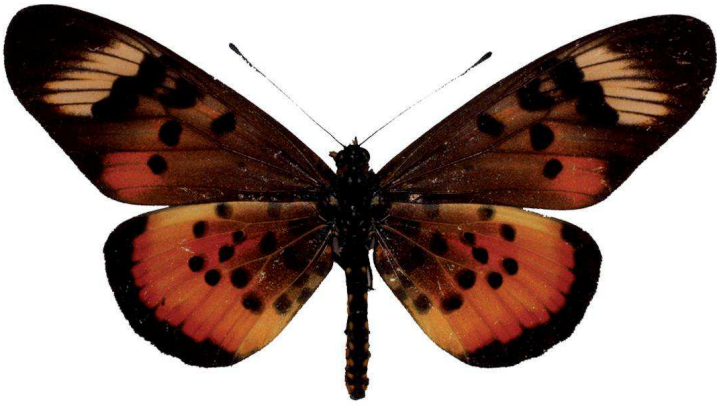
egina, ♂v, Ntchisi Fst



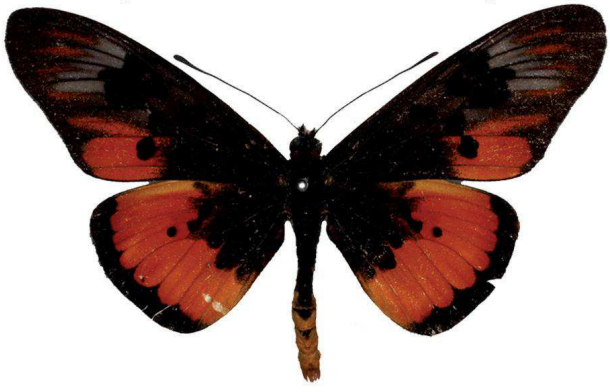
egina, ♀r, Kasitu rock



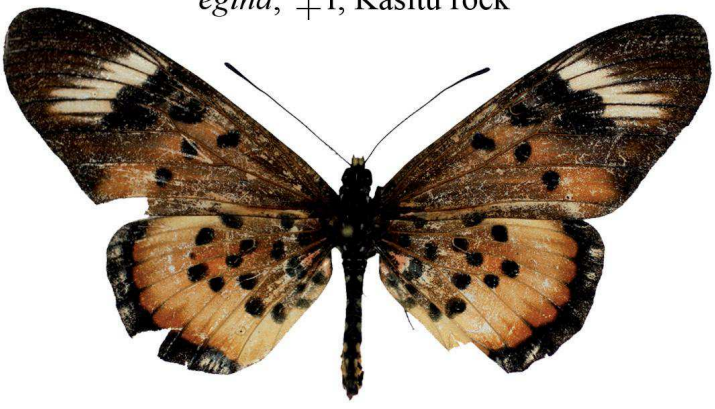
egina, ♂r, Ruo river, Mulanje



egina, ♀r, Kasitu rock



egina, ♂r, Mughese Fst

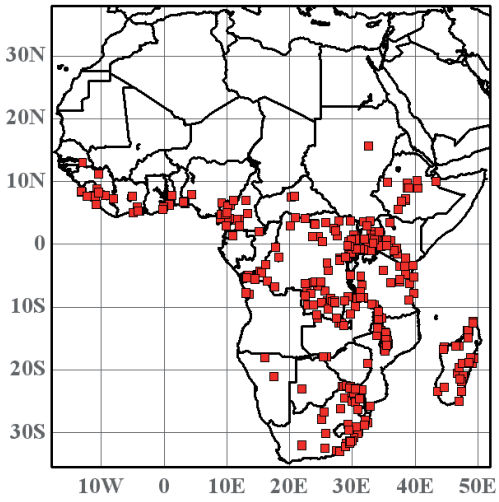


egina, ♀r, Mulanje

Acraea encedon

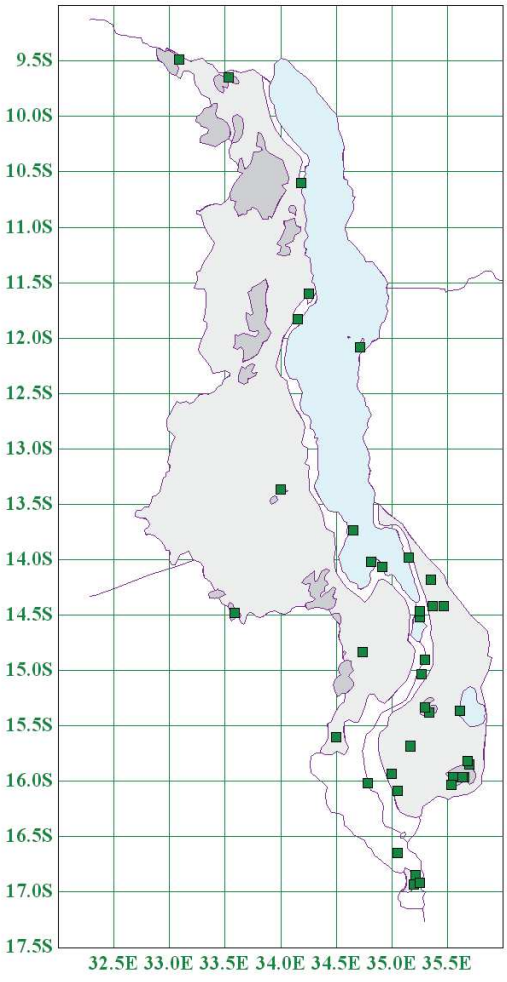
Acraea (*Actinote*) *encedon* Linné, 1758 [Syst. Nat. ed. 10: 488 «Indiis», false locality]

Acraea encedon is one of the most common *Acraea* of Africa. It occurs everywhere (Madagascar included). We have many records in Malawi. J. Pierre proves in a famous paper (1976) that another species was confused with it: *Acraea encedana*. The two species can only be distinguished by genitalia and first stages. So, in his paper, J. Pierre recorded *encedana* from Malawi, but that is supported neither by any locality, nor by any specimen today. We believe that this record is doubtful. We caught thousands of specimens of *encedon* in Malawi, but never *encedana*.



Distribution in Malawi

Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chilwa lake	15° 22' South	35° 37' East
Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Esperanza Mulanje	16° 02' South	35° 32' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01' South	34° 49' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Likoma island	12° 05' South	34° 43' East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59' South	35° 09' East
Livingstonia - Lake shore road jonction	10° 36' South	34° 11' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Mvuu Camp	14° 54' South	35° 18' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Mangochi swamp	14° 31' South	35° 15' East
Mangochi town - Lake Malombe	14° 28' South	35° 15' East
Matandwe Fst Res	16° 51' South	35° 13' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50' South	34° 44' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39' South	35° 03' East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Nsanje	16° 55' South	35° 15' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East



Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zomba - Kuche river	15° 20' South	35° 18' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

This species is extremely variable in colour. Many forms have been described. Some of them are today considered as synonyms or merely aberrations (*lycoides*, *fulva*, *infuscatoides*, *fumosa*), but the following forms can easily be distinguished from the nominate one: *lycia* Fabricius, 1775 (white and black) and *daira* Godman & Salvin, 1884 (ground colour is brown, black apical patch and white subapical bar disappear).

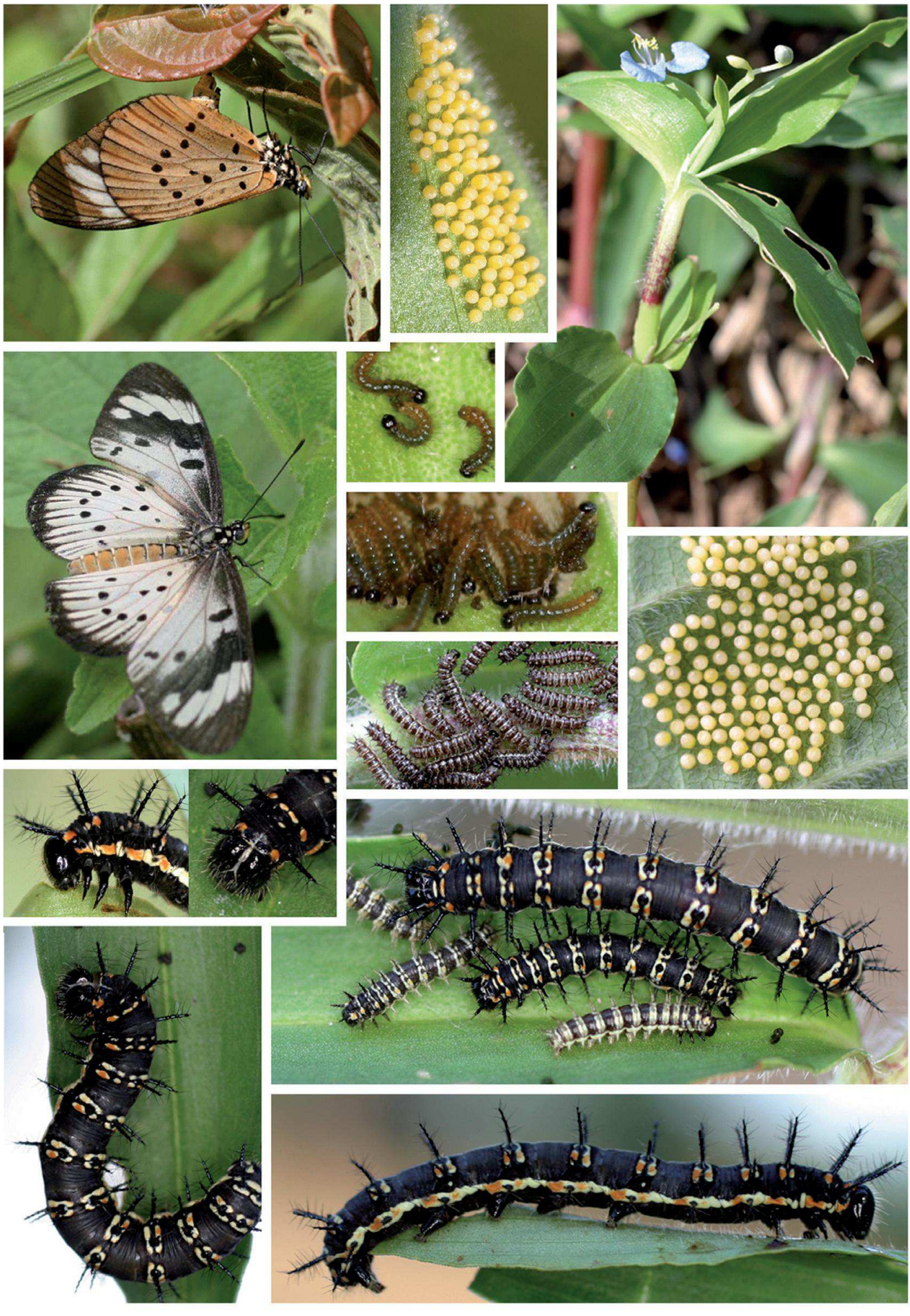
This butterfly feeds on *Commelina diffusa* (Commelinaceae) and also especially in Southern Malawi on the usual food plant of *Acraea encedana*: *Desmodium salicifolium* (Fabaceae), which both grow along rivers or in swampy areas (this last fact is very unusual for *encedon*, but it confirms some citations on this plant). We have bred it many times in Malawi (see the biology plate), as well as in other countries.

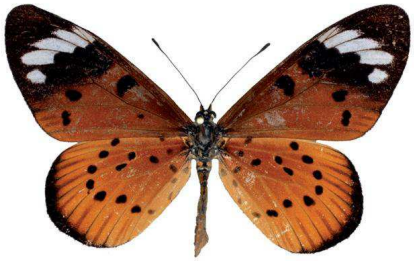


Acraea encedon female, Fort Lister Gap

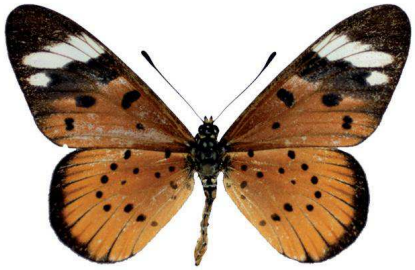
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X	X	X	X	X				X
South				X	X		X					

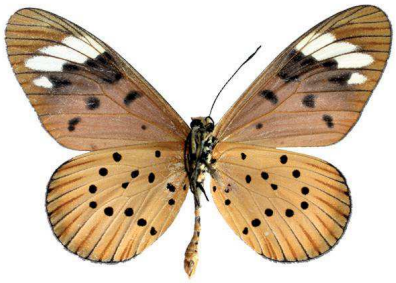




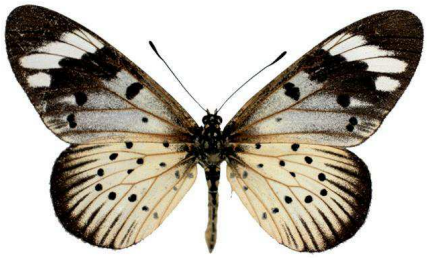
encedon, ♂r, Ntchisi Fst



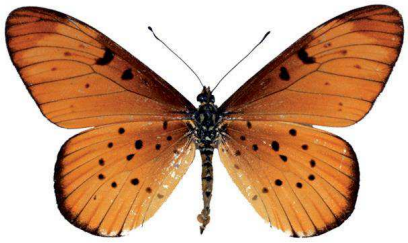
encedon, ♀r, Chiradzulu Mt



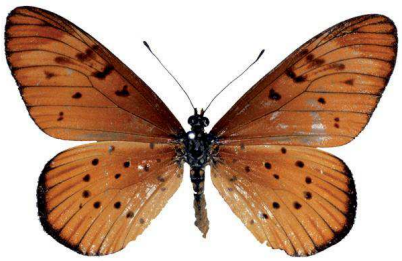
encedon, ♂v, Mughese Fst



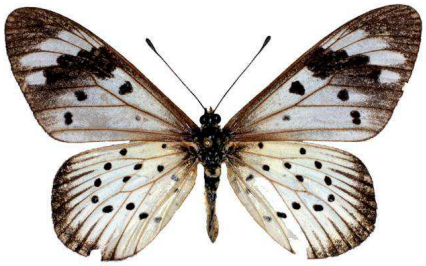
encedon, ♀r, Fort Lister Gap



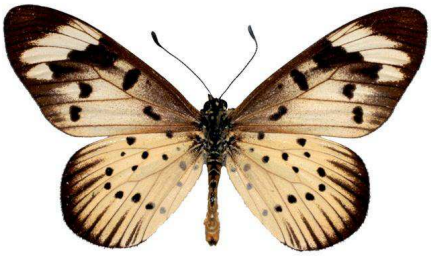
encedon, ♂r, Zomba Plateau



encedon, ♂r, Mughese Fst



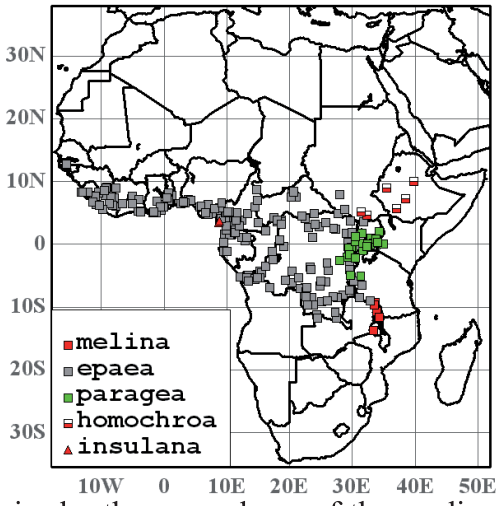
encedon, ♂r, Mulanje



encedon, ♂r, Nsanje

Acraea epaea melina

Acraea (*Acraea*) *epaea melina* Thurau, 1903 [Deutsche Ent. Zeit., Berlin, 48 : 135, «Langenburg, N. -Nyassa See» (Tanzanie)]

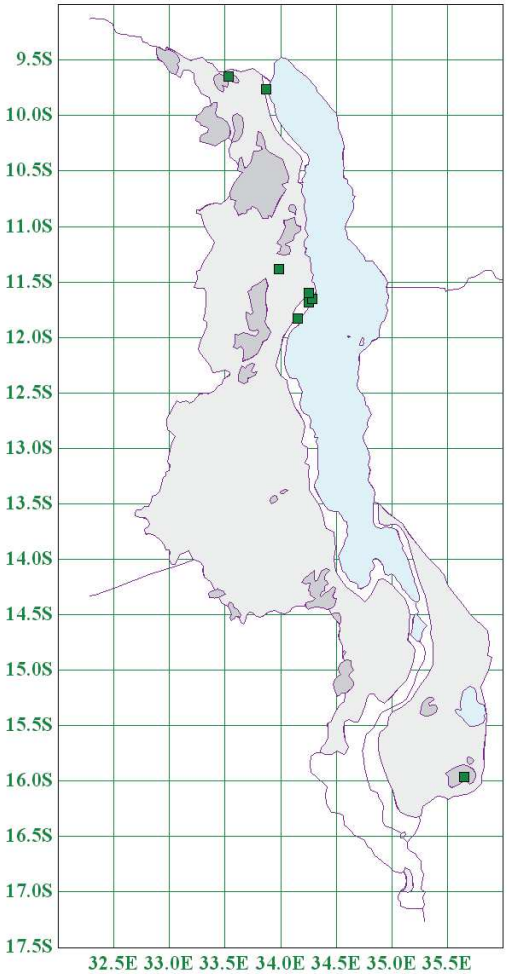


This subspecies belongs to the species *epaea*, which is a very common species from Western to Eastern Africa, especially central Africa. The subspecies *melina* is quite endemic in Malawi. We have a few records from Southern Tanzania, no records from Zambia, though it may occur along the border of Malawi. In Malawi *epaea melina* occurs in the north (which is the type area), and especially along Lake Malawi "in dense scrub round fringes of closed Brachystegia forest" said Gifford. We found a nice colony at the top of Mughese forest. Mzuma record is from Dowsett and was the most southerly spot recorded. But we had the surprise to find recently a specimen on Mulanje mount.

The pattern of *melina* is easily recognised from all other subspecies by the open shape of the median band (like *Acraea tellus*). The male is always pale ochraceous in colour and the female is bright white. When the female flies in the forest, it look like a Danaidae species.

Distribution in Malawi

Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kaporo road	09° 46' South	33° 52' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23' South	33° 59' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East



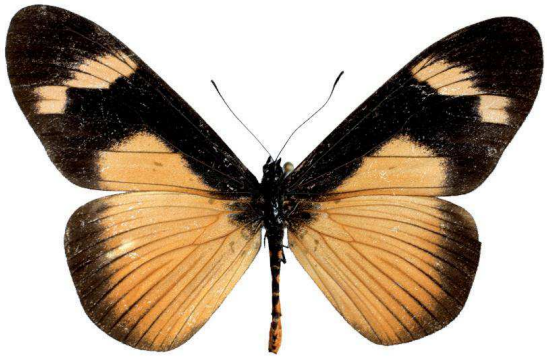
We did not breed *melina*, but like the nominate species it should feed on Passifloraceae. We bred *epaea epaea* in Cameroon on *Lindackeria dentata* (Passifloraceae) and *Adenia cissampeloides* (Passifloraceae).



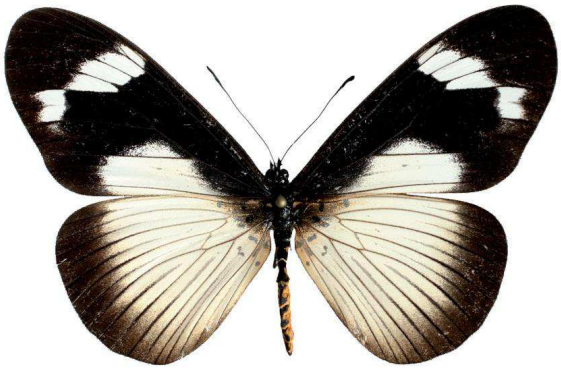
epaea caterpillar in Cameroun

Flight period: our records by month and area

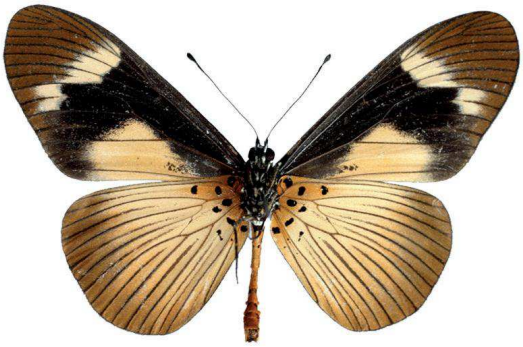
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X
South												X



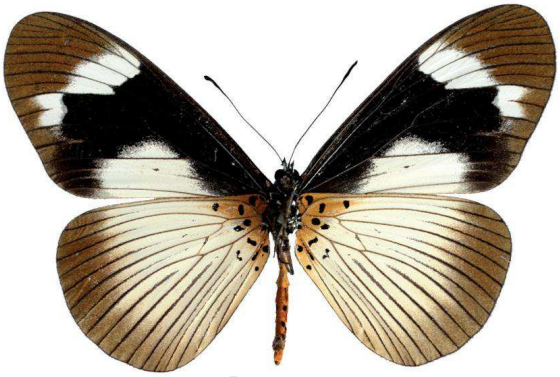
melina, ♂r, Mughese Fst



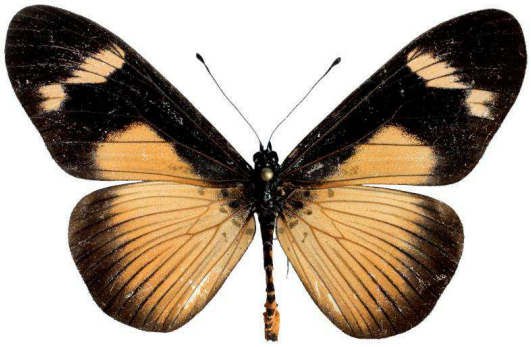
melina, ♀r, Mughese Fst



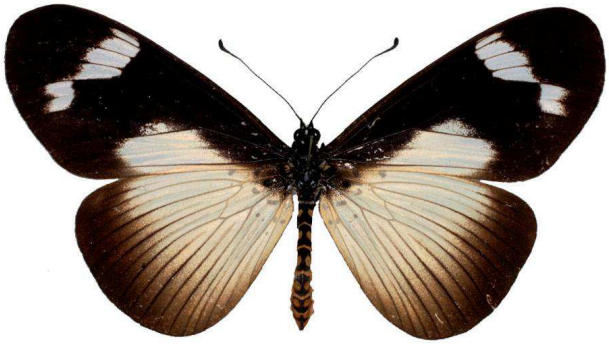
melina, ♂v, Mughese Fst



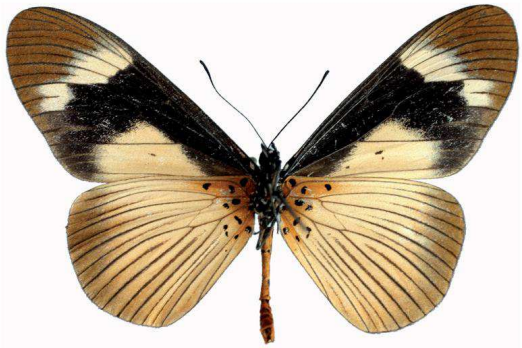
melina, ♀v, Mughese Fst



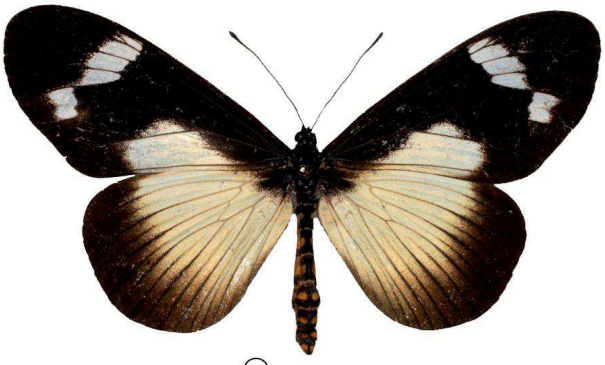
melina, ♂r, Mughese Fst



melina, ♀r, Mkwazi Fst



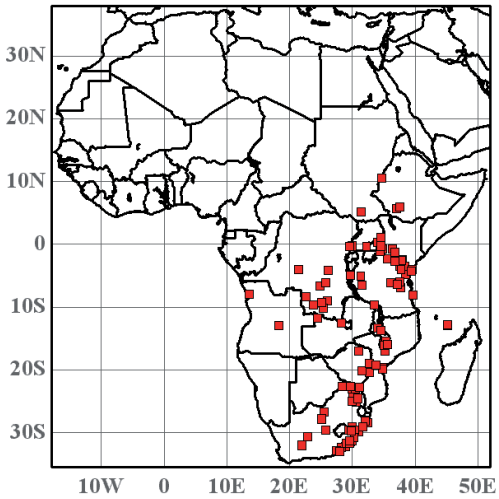
melina, ♂v, Mughese Fst



melina, ♀r, Mughese Fst

Acraea esebria

Acraea (*Actinote*) *esebria* Hewitson, 1861 [Exot. Butt. (*Acraea*) 2: 40, t. 2, f. 11, «Natal» (RSA)]

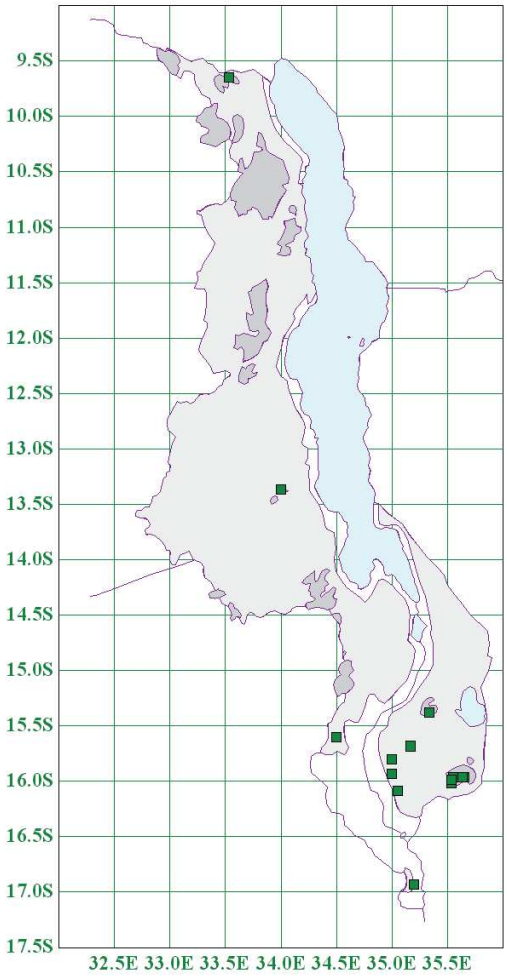


Acraea esebria is also a common inhabitant of forests in Malawi. Many forms have been described: *protea* Trimen, 1862 (white and black form) is the commonest, but sometimes we found nice red populations (typical form). We found also the form *jacksoni* Sharpe, 1890 which is orange in colour.

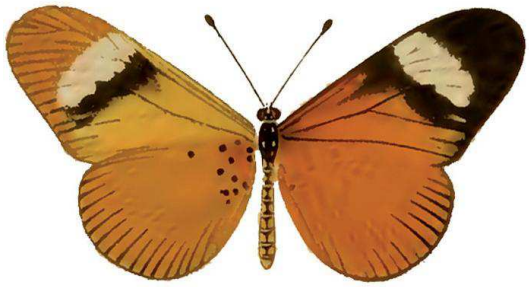
We bred this species many times on *Urera hypselodendron* = *cordifolia* (Urticaceae). The larva is similar to that of *jodutta*, but the head is black (*jodutta*'s is red).

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Crater Mulanje Mt	15° 59' South	35° 32' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01' South	35° 32' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Eltringham, in his monograph, described *Acraea jodutta inaureata* (Ent. Soc. Lond.: 328, pl. 5, fig. 8) from Malawi (Nyassaland - Nr. Florence Bay). Our records in Malawi show that this is in fact a form of *esebria* (see *esebria* plate).



inaureata, pl. 5 fig. 8 (Eltringham 's monograph)

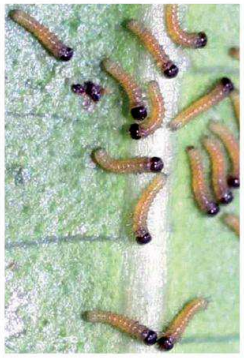
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	

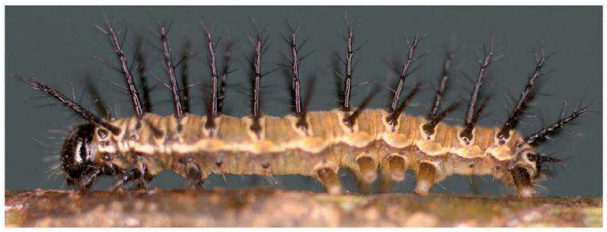




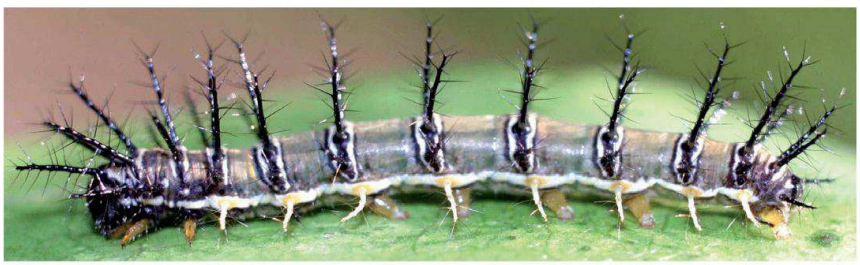




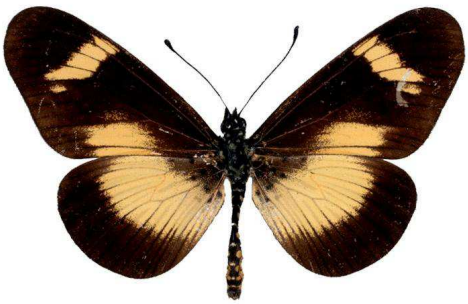








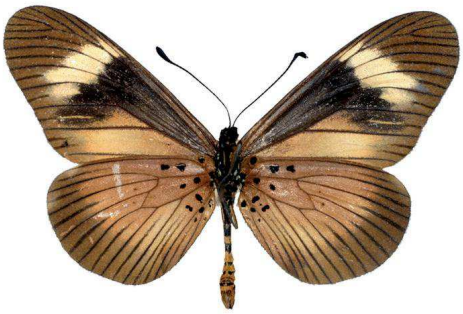




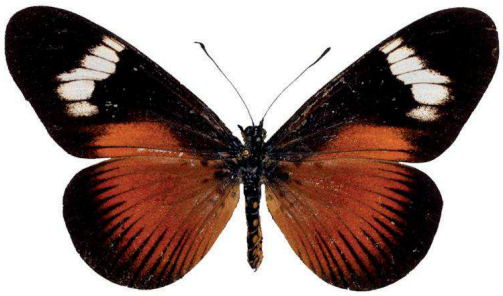
esebria, ♂r, Mulanje



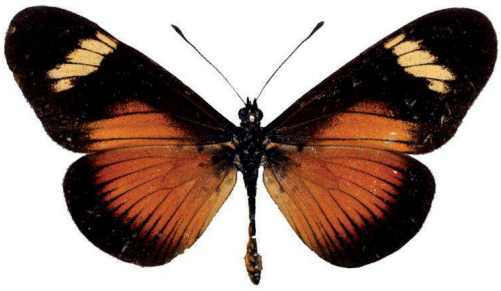
esebria, ♀r, Mulanje



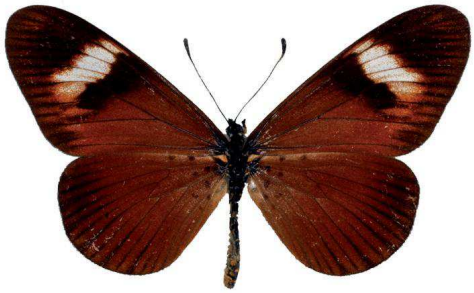
esebria, ♂v, Ntchisi Fst



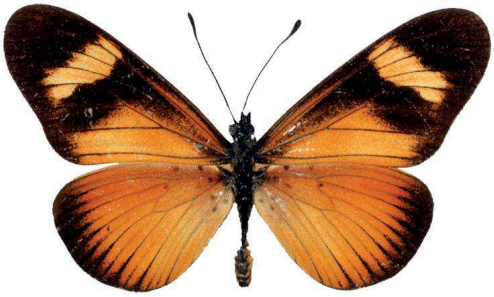
esebria, ♀r, Ntchisi Fst



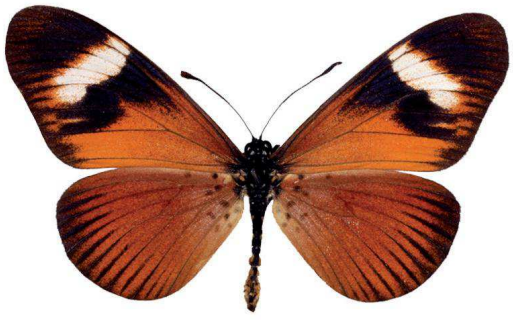
esebria, ♂r, Ntchisi Fst



esebria, ♀r, Kasitu Rock



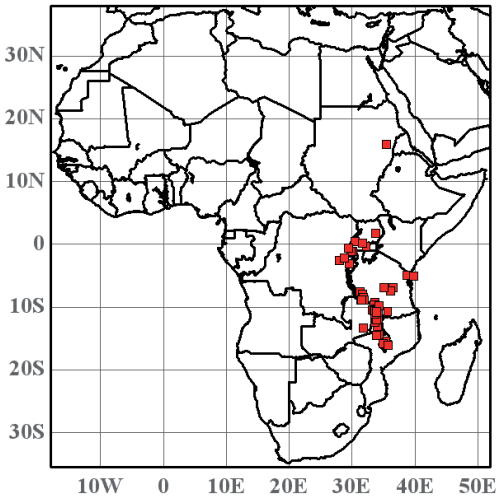
esebria, ♂r, Mulanje



esebria, ♀r, Limbe

Acraea goetzei

Acraea (*Actinote*) *goetzei* Thurau, 1903 [Deutsche Ent. Zeit., Berlin 48: 132, «Nyassa See»]



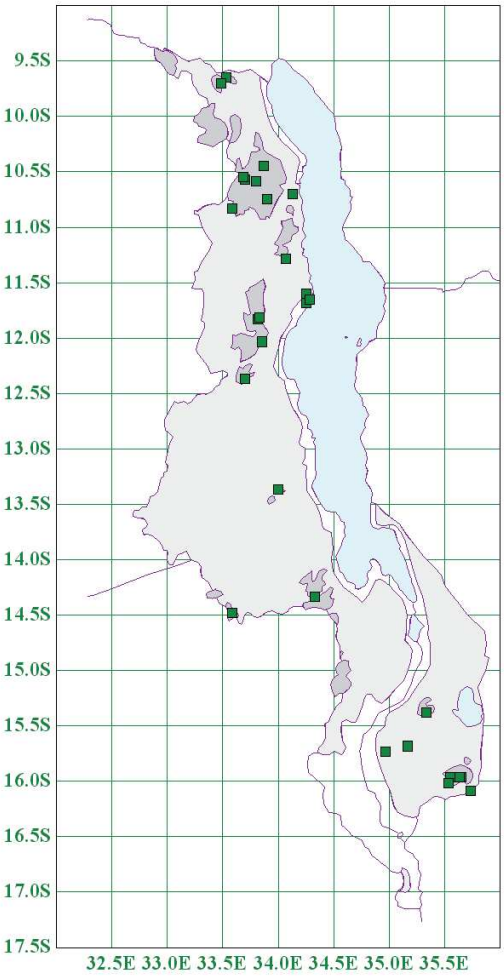
Acraea goetzei is a common inhabitant of mountains in Malawi, Lake Nyassa being the type area. Thousands of specimens were flying on Zomba plateau in April 2005.

We bred it several times on *Sparrmannia ricinocarpa* (Tiliaceae) which seems to be its commonest food plant in Malawi, but also on *Triumfetta annua* (Tiliaceae) and perhaps *Triumfetta rhomboidea*.

This little *Acraea* has a special flight, which is fast and disorderly.

Distribution in Malawi

Chelinda - Nyika	10° 35' South	33° 48' East
Chikangawa	11° 50' South	33° 49' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Chisanga falls - Nyika	10° 33' South	33° 41' East
Chisongeli Fst - Mulanje	16° 05' South	35° 44' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dedza Mt	14° 20' South	34° 20' East
Juniper Fst - Nyika plateau	10° 45' South	33° 54' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Kawandama Hll - Viphya Mt	12° 02' South	33° 51' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Lwanjati Mt - Viphya Mt	12° 22' South	33° 42' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01' South	35° 32' East
Musese Hll - Viphya Mt	11° 49' South	33° 50' East
Nganda - Nyika plateau	10° 27' South	33° 52' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Willindi Fst - Misuku Hll	09° 42' South	33° 29' East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34' South	33° 42' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
South			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	





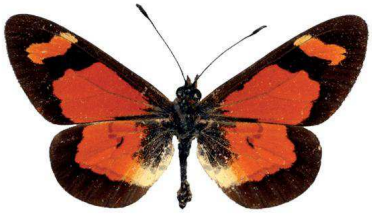
Acraea goetzei, Zomba plateau



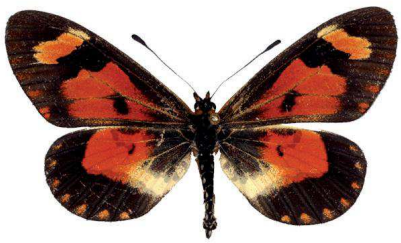
We regularly found many *goetzei* caught by a *Desmodium* sp. plant. This plant has spines and glue. It is a trap for these little butterflies which feed on its blue flowers.







goetzei, ♂r, Nganda - Nyika



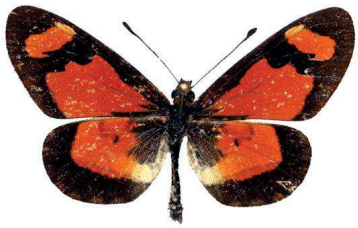
goetzei, ♀r, Ruo River



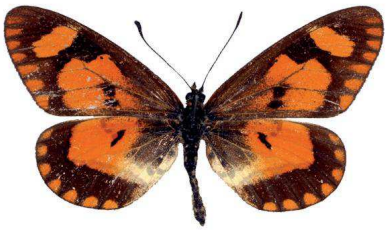
goetzei, ♂v, Dedza Mt



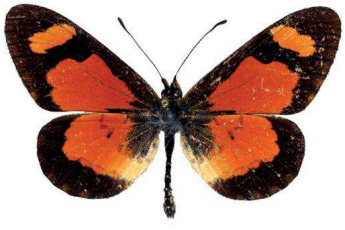
goetzei, ♀v, Thazima Gate



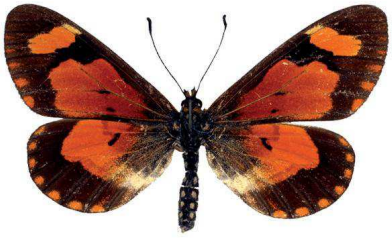
goetzei, ♂r, Ruo River



goetzei, ♀r, Zomba Plateau



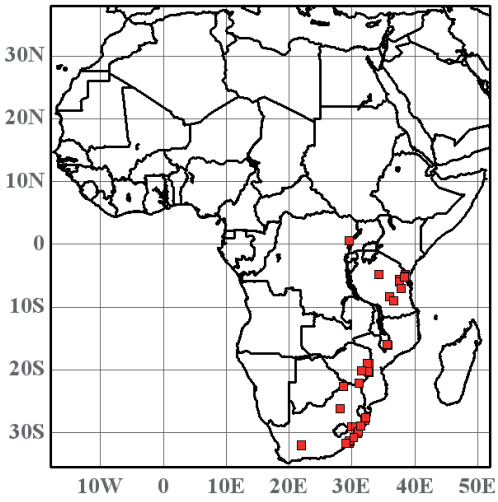
goetzei, ♂r, Mughese Fst



goetzei, ♀r, Juniper Fst

Acraea igola

Acraea (*Actinote*) *igola* Trimen, 1889 [S. Af. Butt., 3 [add. Species] : 379, RSA «Zululand : Etshowe» (RSA)]



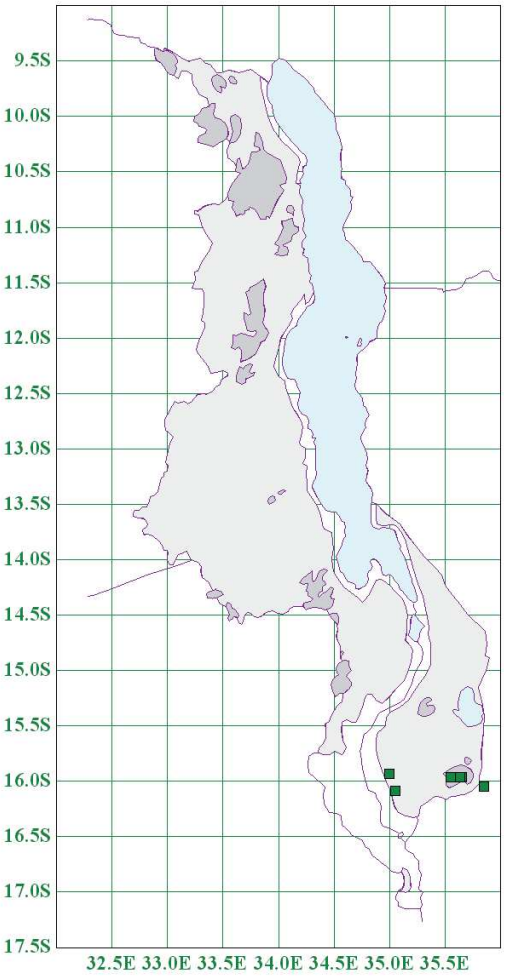
Acraea igola was known only from Mulanje mount in Malawi, but we recently caught a specimen on Thyolo Mountain. This species was not recorded by Gifford, and is perhaps a recent inhabitant in Malawi (it is typically an East and South African species - see the distribution map).

We did not breed it but this species is recorded on Urticaceae family.

Its food plant in South Africa is *Urera woodii* (Urticaceae) (Van Son).

Distribution in Malawi

Chitambo Mulanje - Mozambique	16° 03' South	35° 51' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East

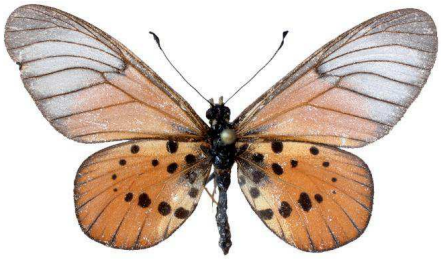


Flight period: our records by month and area

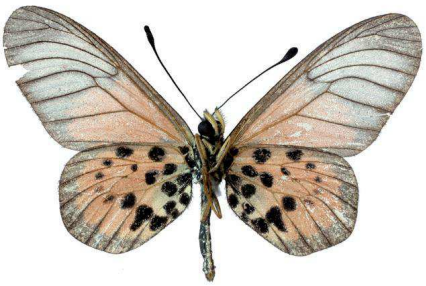
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South	X			X							X	X



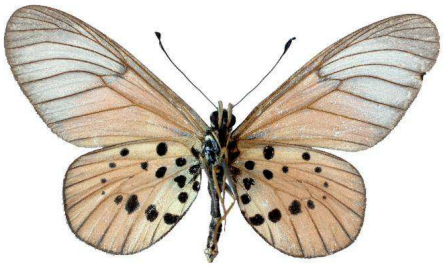
igola, ♂r, Ruo River



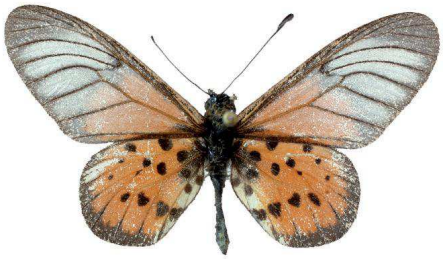
igola, ♀r, Ruo River



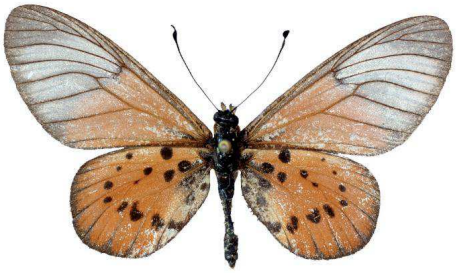
igola, ♂v, Likhubula



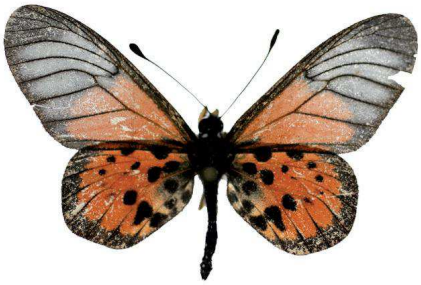
igola, ♀v, Ruo River



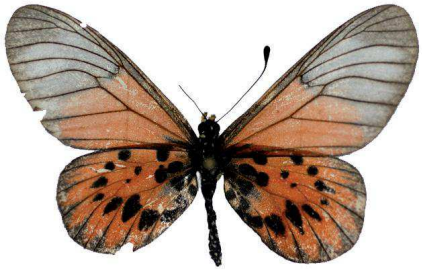
igola, ♂r, Ruo River



igola, ♀r, Ruo River



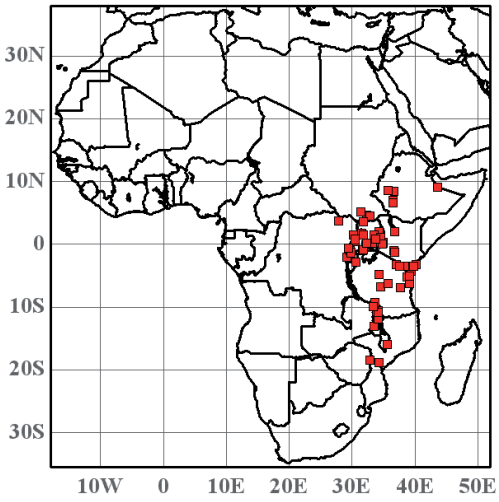
igola, ♂r, Mulanje Mt



igola, ♀r, Mulanje Mt

Acraea insignis

Acraea (*Acraea*) *insignis* Distant, 1880 [Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond. : 184, pl. 19, fig. 6, «Magila, East Africa» (Tanzanie)]



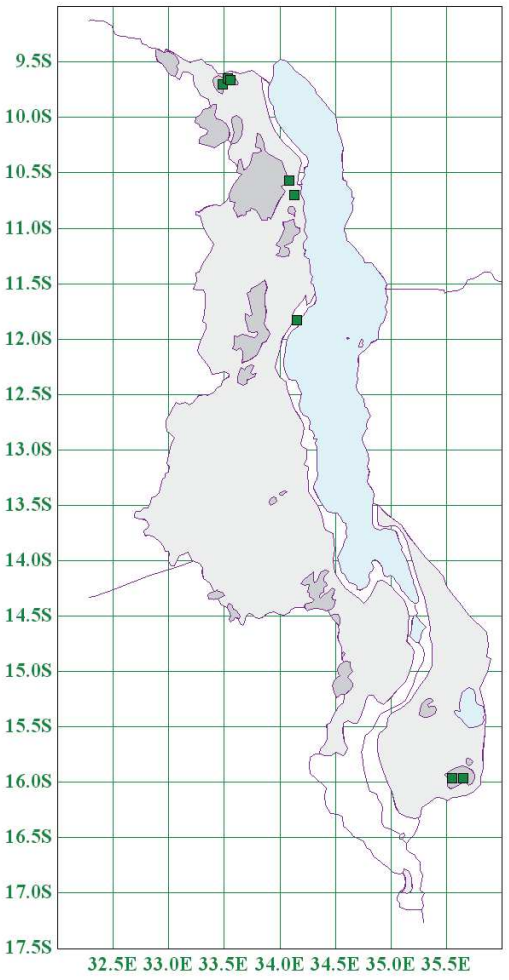
This species is a very nice butterfly which is locally common in the north (Misuku area), but very rare in the south.

Gifford recorded it from Mulanje mount. We found some specimens there in August 2008. This species is also known in Gorongoza mount in Mozambique and Pungwe Bridge in Zimbabwe (caught by Bernaud & Pierre, 1998). We also recently obtained specimens from Mt Mabu in Mozambique (J. Bayliss).

We do not know anything about its biology, but we received from ABRI (S. Collins) a photograph of its larva.

Distribution in Malawi

Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Misuku	09° 40' South	33° 33' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Nyamkhowa - Nyika plateau	10° 34' South	34° 05' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Willindi Fst - Misuku Hll	09° 42' South	33° 29' East

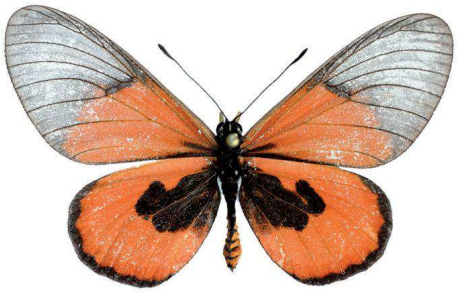




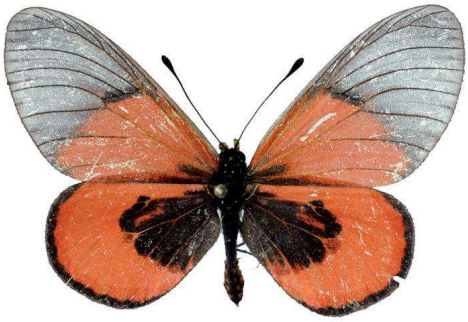
insignis caterpillar, by courtesy of ABRI (S. Collins)

Flight period: our records by month and area

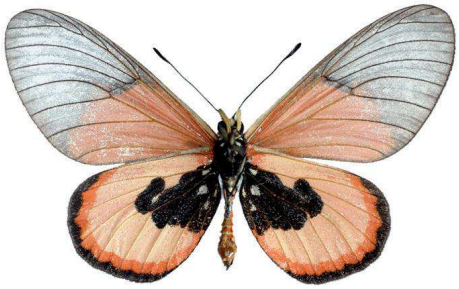
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X		X	X	X		X		X		X
South				X				X		X		



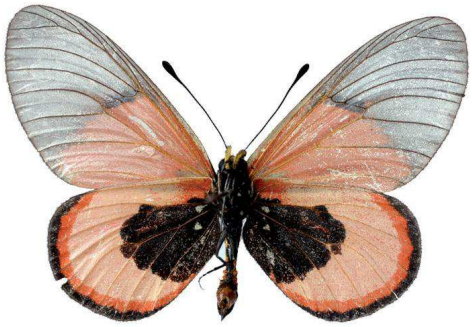
insignis, ♂r, Willindi Fst



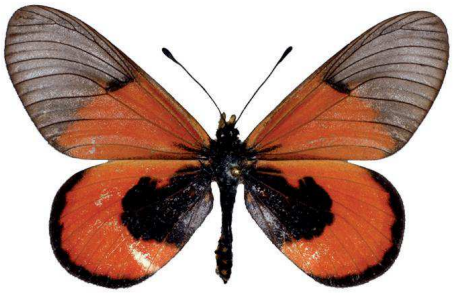
insignis, ♀r, Uzumara Mt



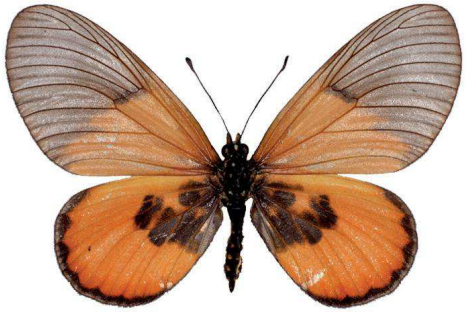
insignis, ♂v, Willindi Fst



insignis, ♀v, Uzumara Fst



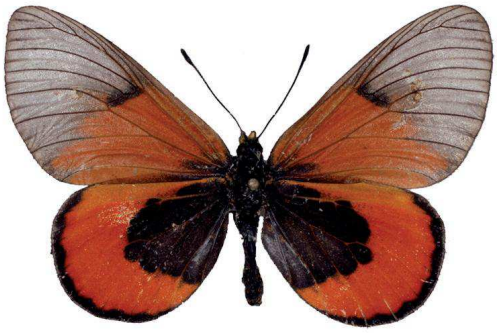
insignis, ♂r, Mughese Fst



insignis, ♀r, Mulanje Mt



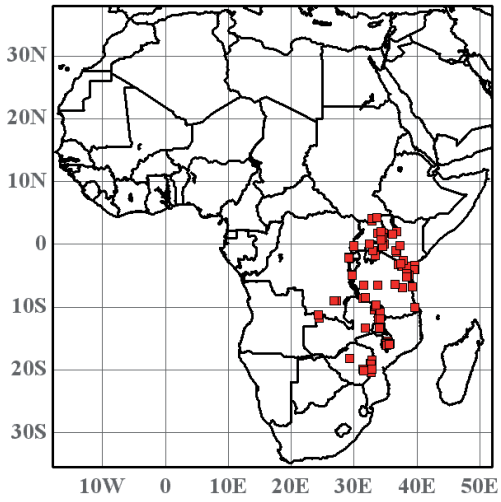
insignis, ♀r, Vwaza Marsch



insignis, ♀r, Mughese Fst

Acraea johnstoni

Acraea (*Actinote*) *johnstoni* Godman, 1885 [Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.: 537 "Kilima-njaro, 5500 feet" (Tanzanie)]



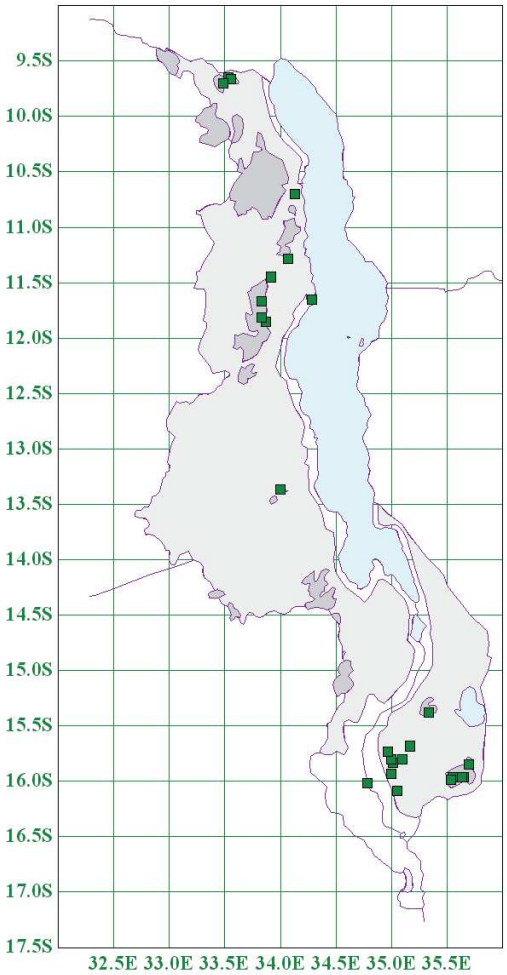
Acraea johnstoni is a common inhabitant of East Africa. It flies everywhere in Malawi, but especially at the edges of forests.

We found many forms but actually not yet the typical form. The main form in Malawi is the form *confusa* Rogenhofer, 1891, which is black and white in colour, or sometime with yellow or ochreous hind wings. We found the form *fulvescens* Oberthür, 1893, which is entirely tawny in colour on Mulanje.

We bred it several times on different food plants: *Boehmeria platyphylla* (Urticaceae) on Thyolo, *Fleurya ovalifolia* (Urticaceae) on Zomba, *Pouzolzia parasitica* (Urticaceae) in Mughese forest. It certainly feeds on other Urticaceae plants as well.

Distribution in Malawi

Bangwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 06' East
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chamambo Hll - S. Viphya	11° 51' South	33° 52' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Crater Mulanje Mt	15° 59' South	35° 32' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Misuku	09° 40' South	33° 33' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Musese Hll - Viphya Mt	11° 49' South	33° 50' East
Mzuzu	11° 27' South	33° 55' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Nthungwa Hll - Viphya Mt	11° 40' South	33° 50' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Willindi Fst - Misuku Hll	09° 42' South	33° 29' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
South		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	



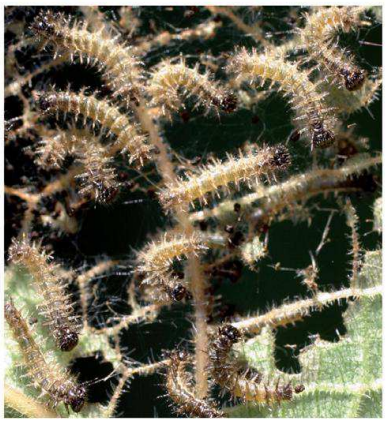

Acraea johnstoni, Mughese Fst

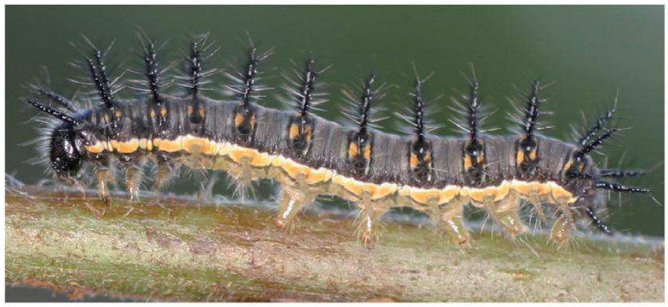




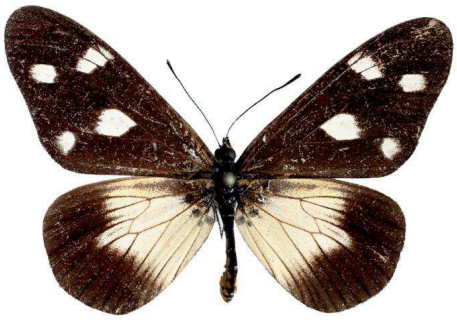




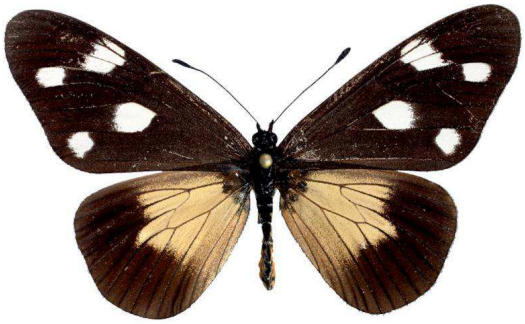



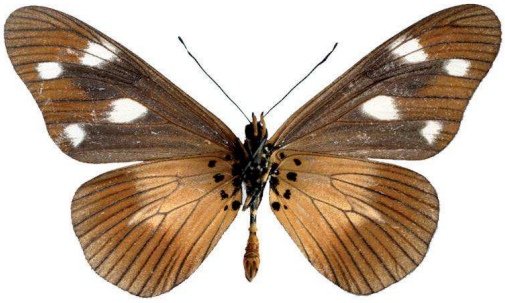




johnstoni, ♂r, Mughese Fst



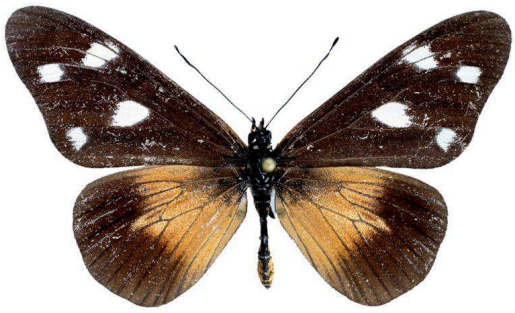
johnstoni, ♀r, Mughese Fst



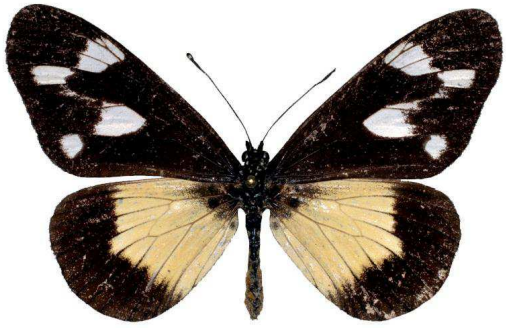
johnstoni, ♂v, Mughese Fst



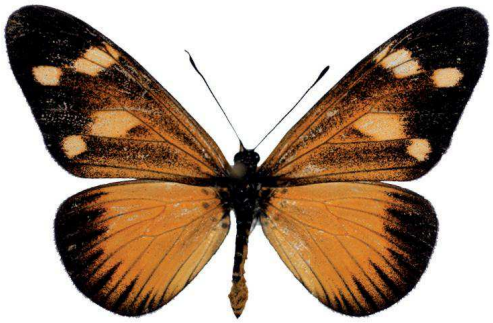
johnstoni, ♀v, Mughese Fst



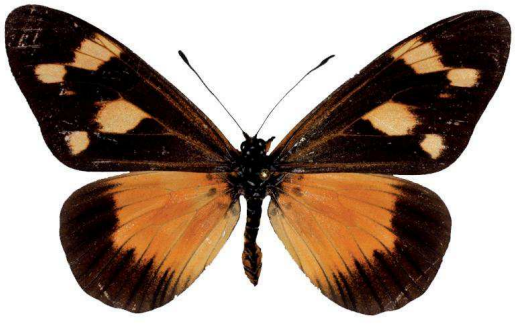
johnstoni, ♂r, Mughese Fst



johnstoni, ♀r, Ruo River



johnstoni, ♂r, Mulanje Mt



johnstoni, ♂r, Ruo River

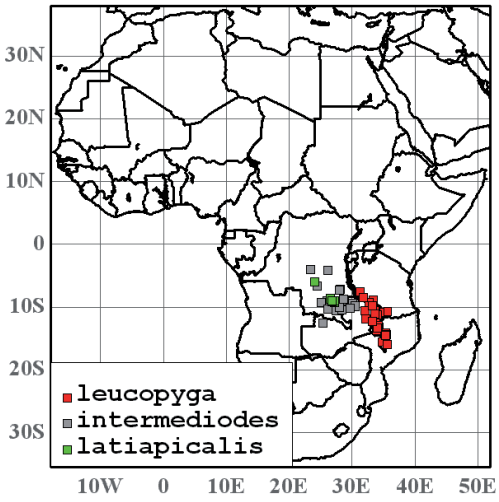
Acraea leucopyga

Acraea (*Acraea*) *leucopyga* Aurivillius, 1904, [Ent. Tidskr., 25 : 92, fig. 32, « Kigonsera, Nyassaland » (Tanzanie)]

This rare butterfly is quite an endemic *Acraea* of Malawi, one of the type areas being Nyasaland. It must occur also in adjacent areas of Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique.

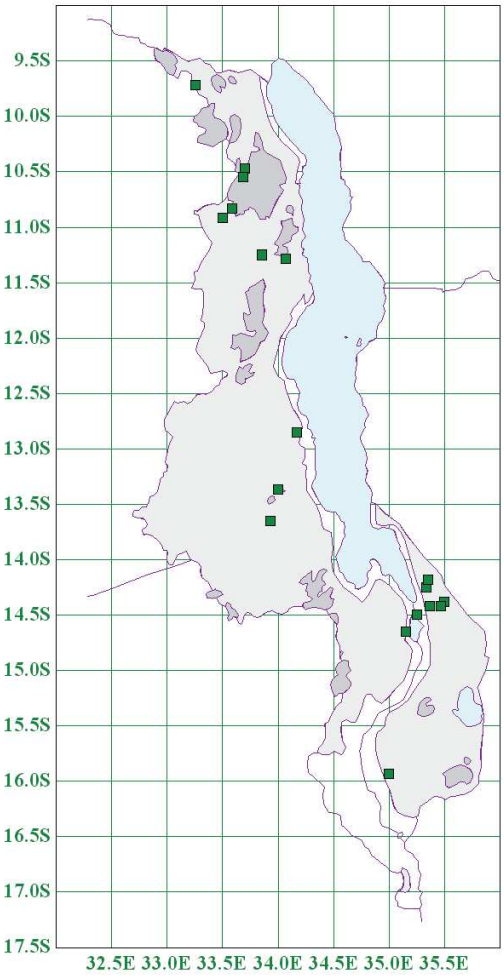
This *Acraea* is often confused with *Acraea intermediodes* Carcasson, 1995 (*Acraea intermedia* Wichgraf, 1909) which flies in northern of Zambia and southern Congo. The subspecies *Acraea leucopyga latiapicalis* Joicey & Talbot, 1921 from Shaba is in fact a synonym of *intermediodes*.

The general distribution map shows in green the distribution of *latiapicalis*, which is in the area of *intermediodes*.



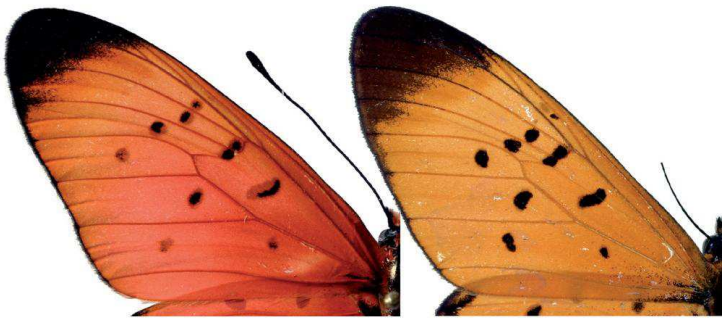
Distribution in Malawi

Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15' South	35° 20' East
Chawezga - Rukuru river - Nyika	10° 28' South	33° 42' East
Chisanga falls - Nyika	10° 33' South	33° 41' East
Chitipa - Nyika (Fort Hll)	09° 43' South	33° 15' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dowa	13° 39' South	33° 56' East
Fort Johnston (= Mangochi)	14° 30' South	35° 15' East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza marsh	10° 55' South	33° 30' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Malidade - Mpherembe	11° 15' South	33° 51' East
Malombe lake - Nkungulu Hll	14° 39' South	35° 09' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Namweras (Namwera)	14° 23' South	35° 30' East
Nkhotakota Game Res (Bua camp)	12° 51' South	34° 10' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East





By courtesy of Alan Gardiner we had the communication of the caterpillar of *Acraea intermediodes* (Ntumbachushi falls, Zambia). The larva of *Acraea leucopyga* should be very close. It is difficult to distinguish it from that of *caldarena* .



leucopyga *intermediodes*

Studying type specimens of MRAC (Tervuren Museum) we recognised the typical pattern of *intermediodes*.

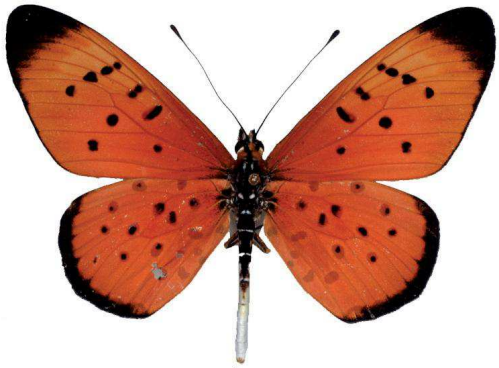
The distinction between *leucopyga* and *intermediodes* is made by the subapical forewing row of dots which are close to the cell in *intermediodes* and the apical black patch which is wider in *intermediodes*.

Flight period: our records by month and area

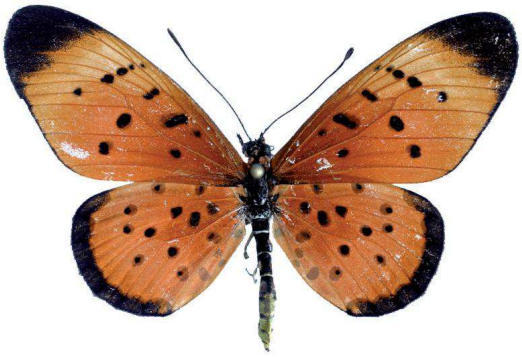
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North						X		X		X	X	
South						X		X			X	



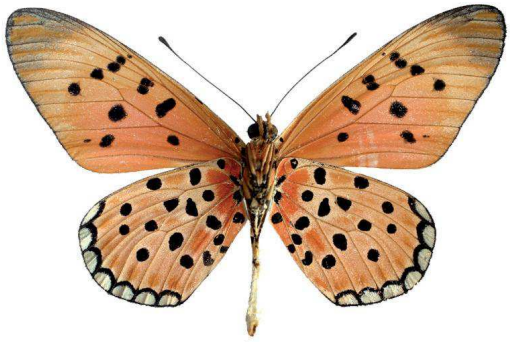
Acraea leucopyga, Uzuzu hills



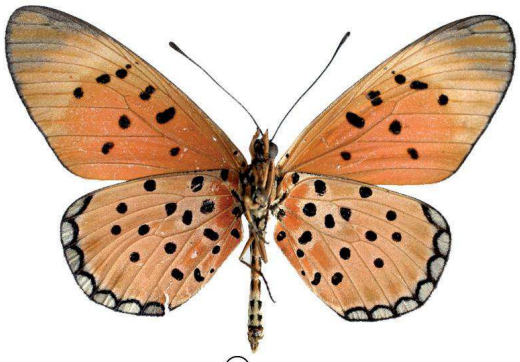
leucopyga, ♂r, Thazima Gate



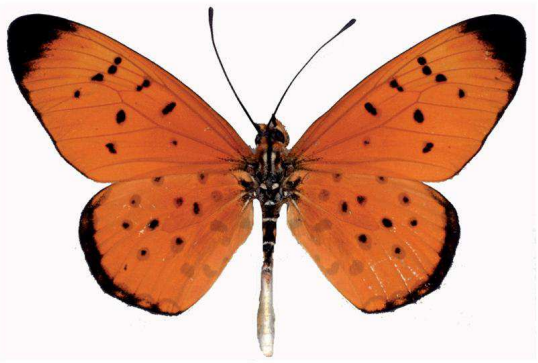
leucopyga, ♀r, Thazima Gate



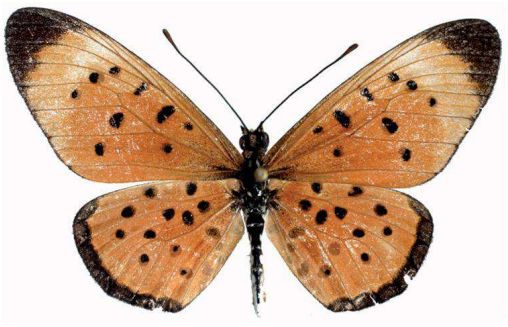
leucopyga, ♂v, Thazima Gate



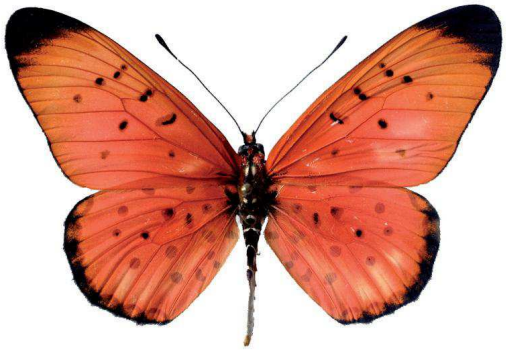
leucopyga, ♀v, Thazima Gate



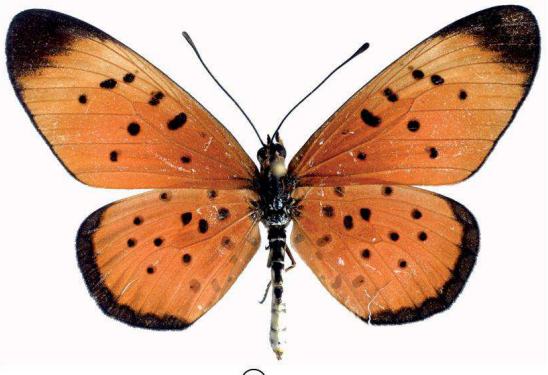
leuxopyga, ♂r, Rukuru, Nyika



leucopyga, ♀r, Ntchisi Fst



leucopyga, ♂r, Uzuzu Hills



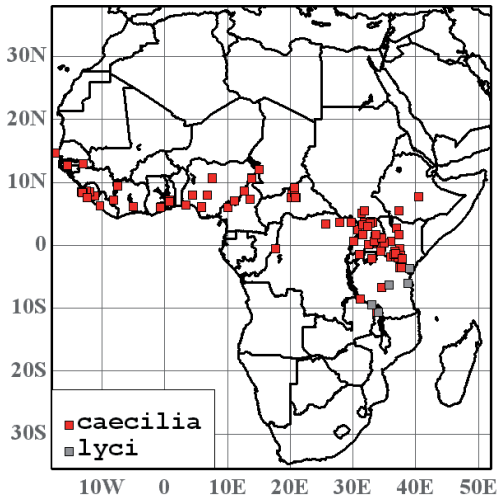
leucopyga, ♀r, Thazima Gate

Acraea lyci

Acraea (*Acraea*) *lyci* Pierre, 2006 [Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr., 111 (4), 2006: 544, «Sekenne escarpment, 4° 50 S. - 34° 50 E, Zanguebar» (Tanzanie)]

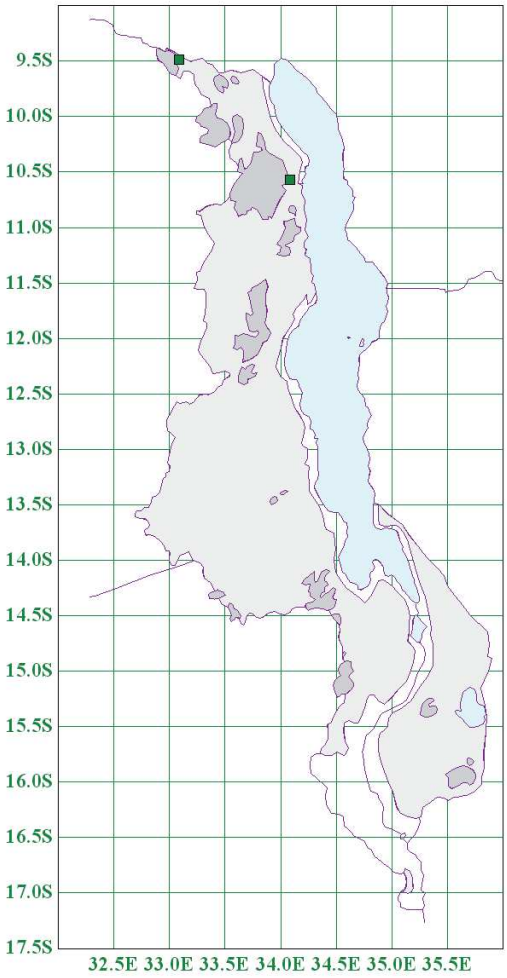
This *Acraea* is very rare in Malawi and has not been bred by us. It has been recently described by J. Pierre from northern Tanzania. In fact its genitalia are notably different from *caecilia* and close to *oncaea.* This species has been certainly confused with *caecilia* which presents some distinctive populations in eastern Kenya and northern Tanzania (*Acraea* (*Acraea*) *caecilia pudora* Aurivillius, 1910 [Sjöstedt's Exp. Kilimandj. Lep.: 4, «Kibonoto, Kilimandjaro» (Tanzanie)]).

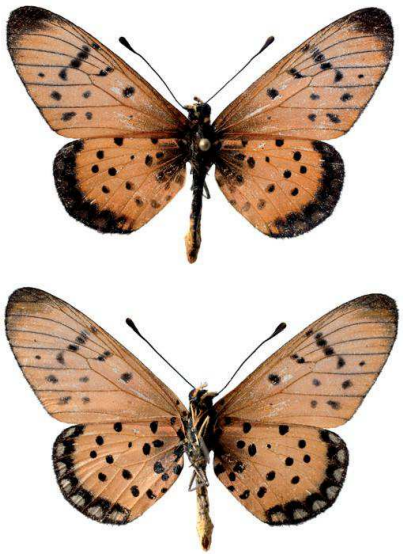
Gifford recorded *caecilia* from Nyamkhowa on Nyika plateau. We think that it was a *lyci* record.



Distribution in Malawi

Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Nyamkhowa - Nyika plateau	10° 34' South	34° 05' East





Acraea lyci male from Ifisa hills, recto and verso

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X								
South												

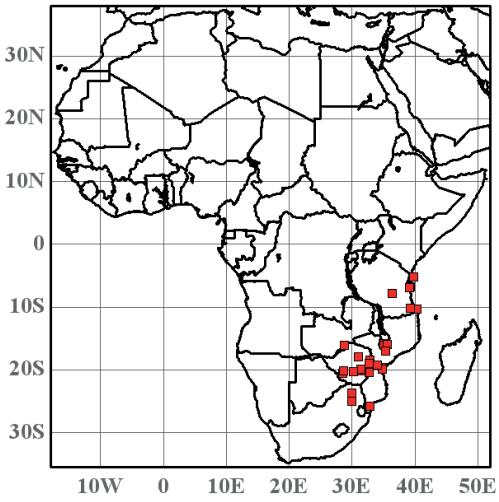
Acraea machequena

Acraea (*Acraea*) *machequena* Grose-Smith, 1887 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (5), 9 : 62, « Delagoa Bay » (Mozambique)]

This species is also very rare in Malawi. But sometimes it makes incursions into south from Mozambique where it is not so rare.

We never found this species ourselves in Malawi.

We give below the photograph of two specimens from Gifford collection in Blantyre (male left and female right).



Distribution in Malawi

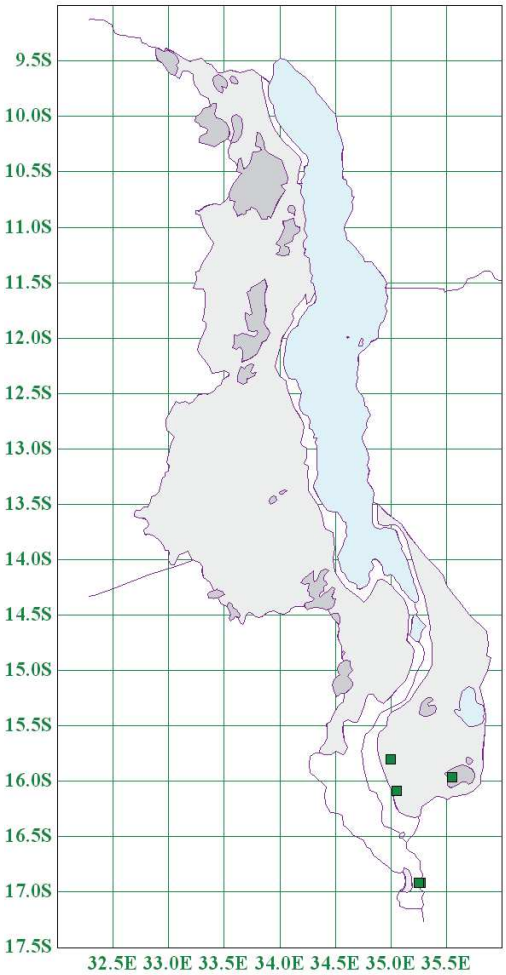
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Nsanje	16° 55' South	35° 15' East
Port Herald	16° 55' South	35° 16' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East



Acraea machequena, Gifford collection, Blantyre

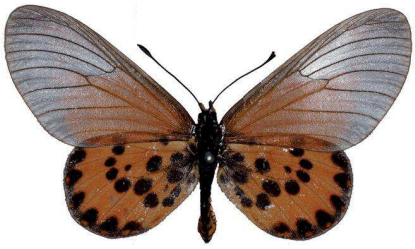


By courtesy of Alain Gauthier in Mayotte we received communication of the caterpillar of *Acraea ranavalona* (which is the vicariate species of *machequena*). The larva feeds on *Passiflora foetida* and *Passiflora suberosa.*



Flight period: our records by month and area

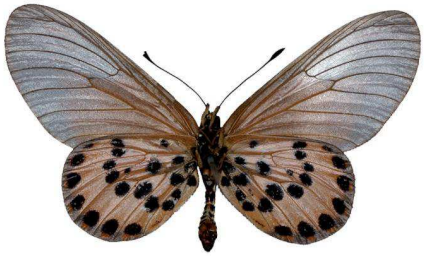
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South				X	X							



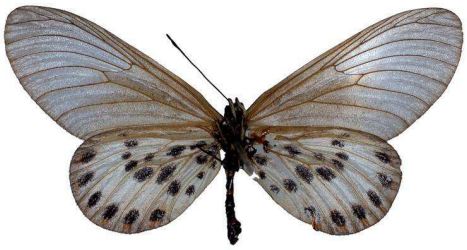
machequena, ♂ r, Mlanje Boma



machequena, ♀ r, Mlanje Boma

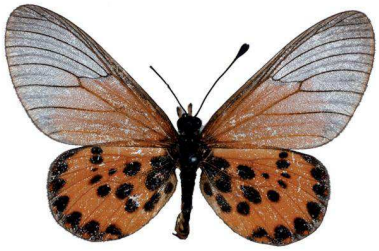


machequena, ♂ v, Mlanje Boma

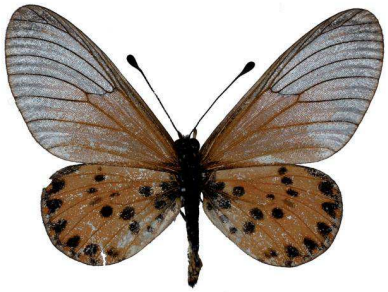


machequena, ♀ v, Mlanje Boma

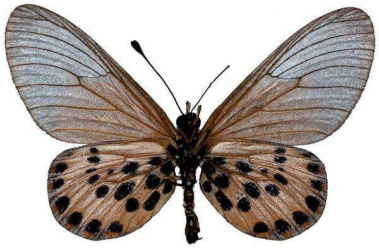
Above, series of *A. machequena*
Hope entomological collections, Oxford Museum



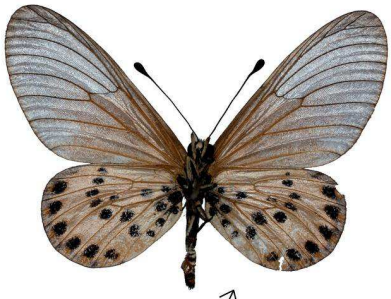
machequena, ♂ r, Blantyre



machequena, ♂ r, Blantyre



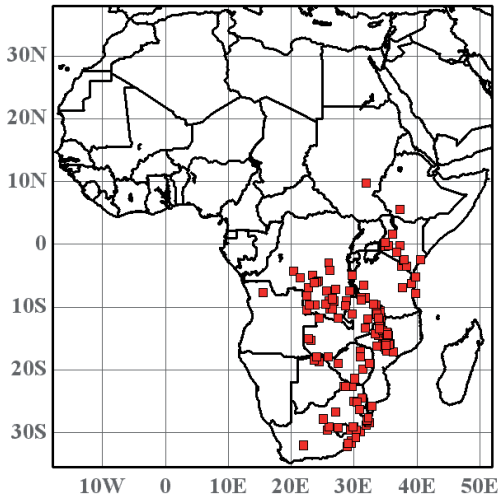
machequena, ♂ v, Blantyre



machequena, ♂ v, Blantyre

Acraea natalica

Acraea (*Acraea*) *natalica* Boisduval, 1847 [Voy. Deleg., 2: 590, «Baie de Port-Natal» (RSA)]

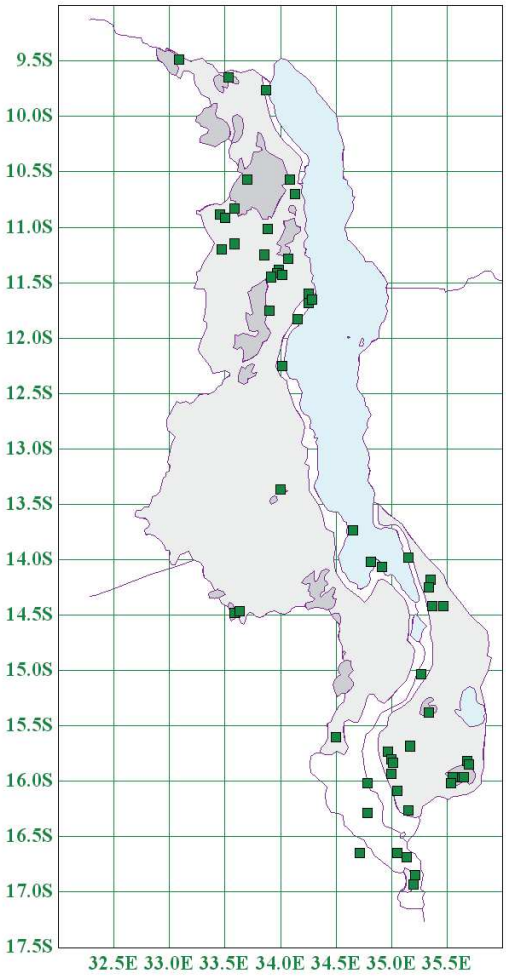


This species is common everywhere. We found it in Malawi in all areas.

We also bred it many times on *Adenia cissampeloides* (= *gummifera*; = *ophiocaulon*) (Passifloraceae), *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* and in Matandwe fst reserve: *Tricliceras* sp. (seems to be *T. elata*) (Turneraceae). The larva is very variable in colour (see the plate).

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15' South	35° 20' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Cholomwani Mt	16° 16' South	35° 09' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kamphambale road - Chintheche	12° 15' South	34° 01' East
Kaporo road	09° 46' South	33° 52' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza marsh	10° 55' South	33° 30' East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01' South	34° 49' East
Lengwe Nat Park	16° 17' South	34° 47' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59' South	35° 09' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	11° 26' South	34° 01' East
Lupaso - Mzuzu	11° 25' South	33° 58' East
Majete Nat Park.	16° 39' South	34° 43' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Malidade - Mpherembe	11° 15' South	33° 51' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Matandwe Fst Res	16° 51' South	35° 13' East
Mazamba - Viphya	11° 45' South	33° 54' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Muloza stream - Mulanje slopes	16° 01' South	35° 32' East
Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39' South	35° 03' East



Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Mzuzu	11° 27' South	33° 55' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23' South	33° 59' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Nyamkhowa - Nyika plateau	10° 34' South	34° 05' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Rumphi - Thumbi school	11° 01' South	33° 53' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hll	16° 41' South	35° 08' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	11° 12' South	33° 28' East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34' South	33° 42' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

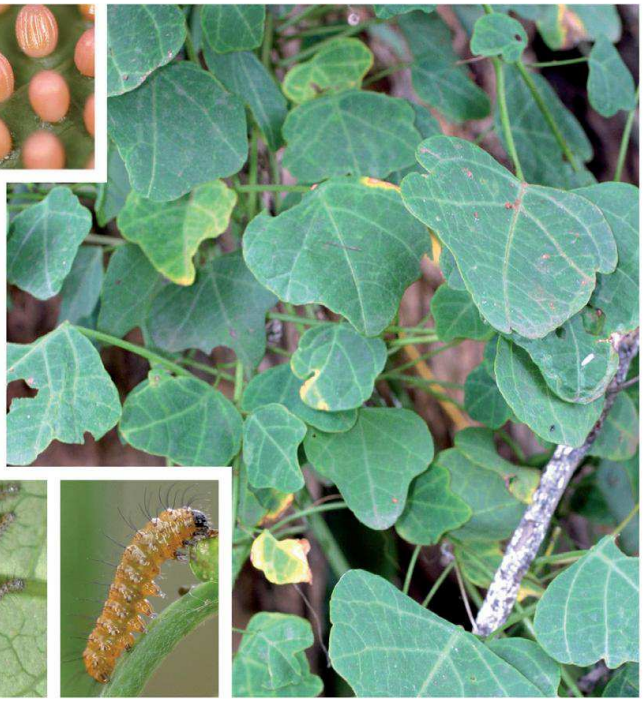
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
South				X							X	



Acraea natalica predation by a spider in Malawi (Mulanje Mount)

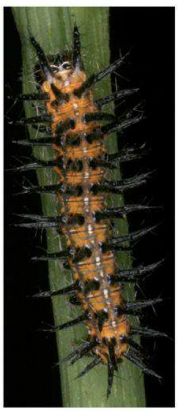


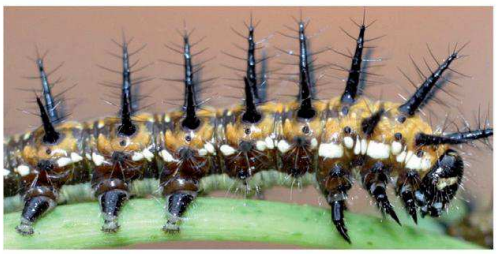






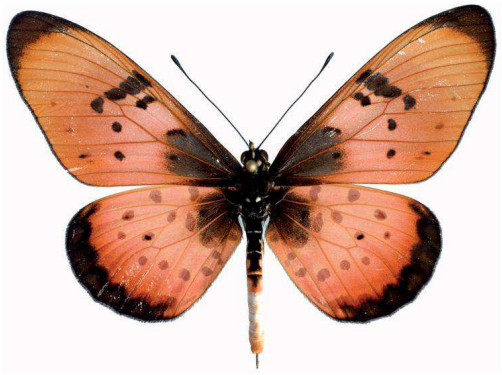


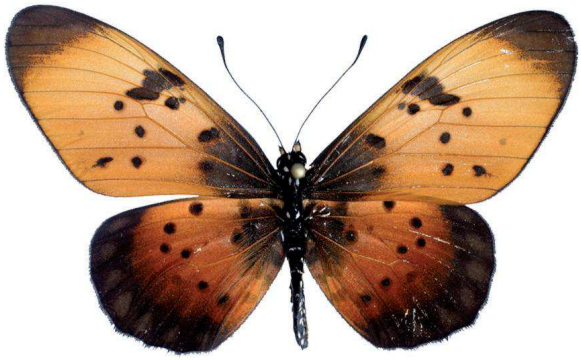




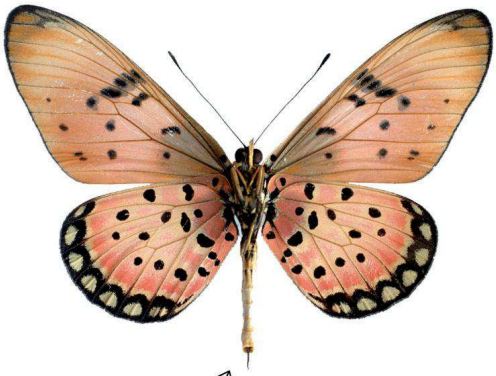


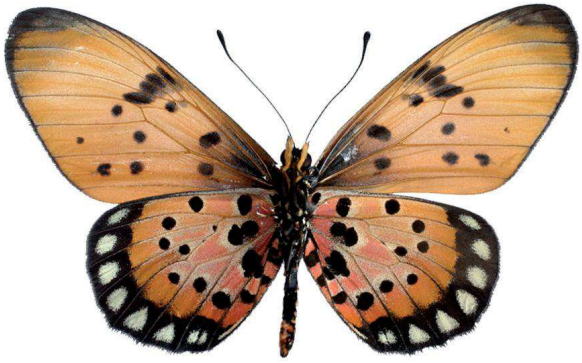
natalica, ♂r, Mughese



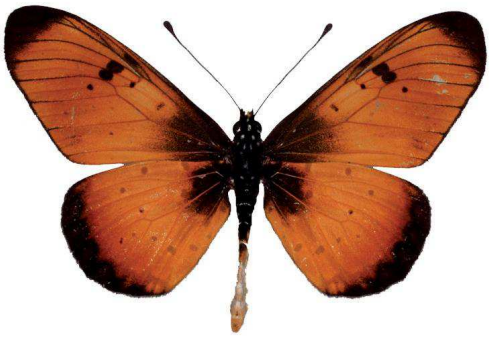
natalica, ♀r, Mughese Fst



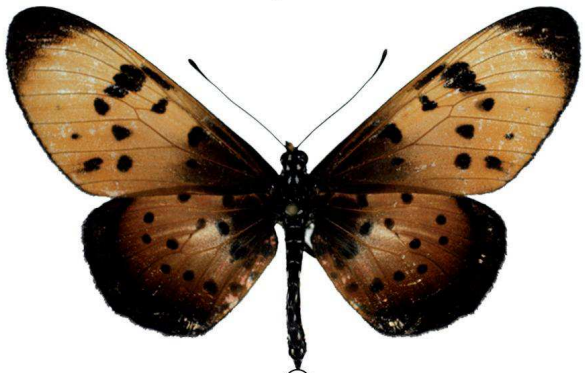
natalica, ♂v, Mughese Fst



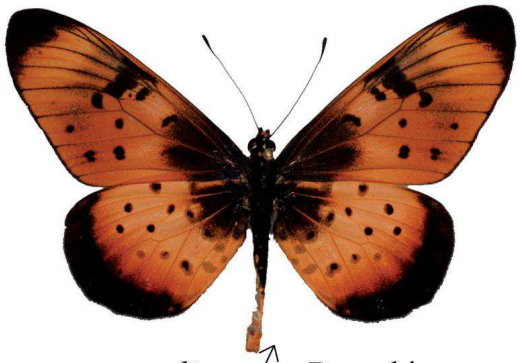
natalica, ♀v, Mughese Fst



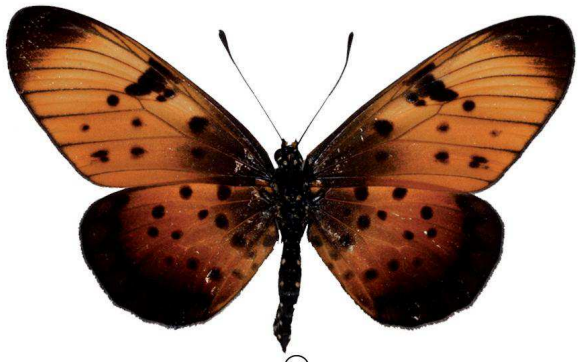
natalica, ♂r, Muloza Stream



natalica, ♀r, Fort Lister



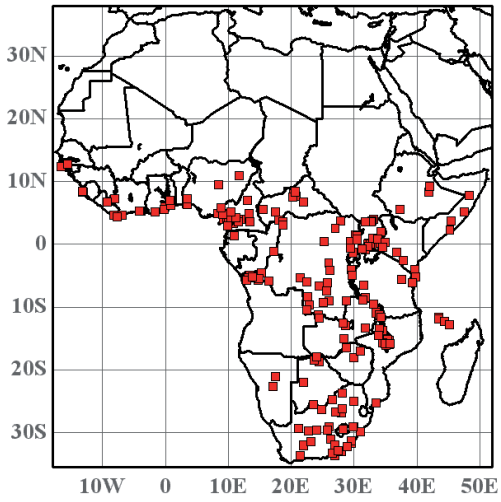
natalica, ♂r, Rumphi



natalica, ♀r, Blantyre

Acraea neobule

Acraea (*Acraea*) *neobule* Doubleday, 1850 [in Doubleday & Westwood [1846-1852], Gen. Diurn. Lep. : 140, n° 8, t. 19, fig. 3, «Congo»]

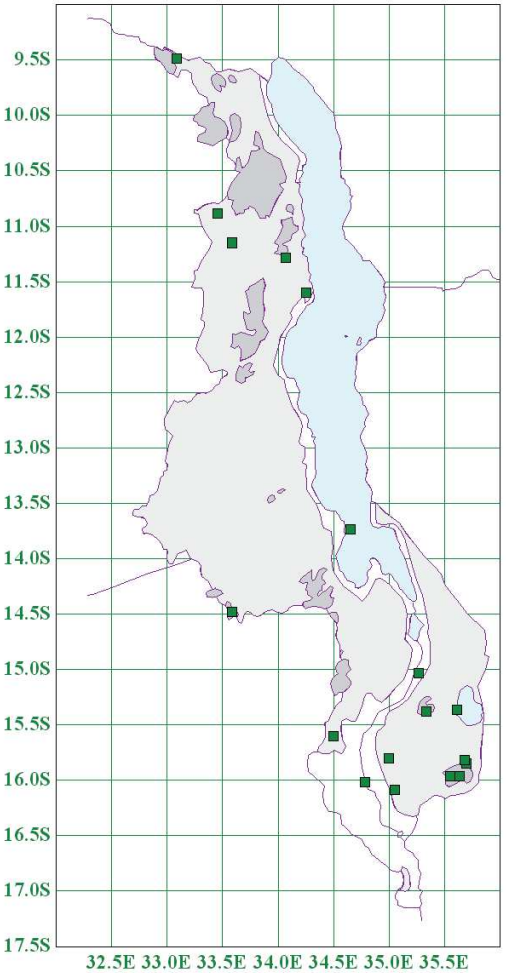


This species is very common everywhere in Africa (except Madagascar). Many descriptions have been made for this species, but today we think that only the nominate subspecies is right and that all the other descriptions are synonyms. When Gifford wrote his book *neobule* was considered as a subspecies of *A. terpsichore* (= *terpsicore,* Linné, 1758), Asiatic species. We state today that this interpretation which comes from Le Doux (1921) is wrong. In Malawi this species is occasionally found in open areas.

We bred it at Fort Lister Gap (Phalombe district) on the slopes of Mulanje Mount. The larva was feeding on *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (Turneraceae). But the species has been bred by one of us (D. B.) on several other food plants from the Passifloracaea family in other countries (Cameroon, Uganda, Benin).

Distribution in Malawi

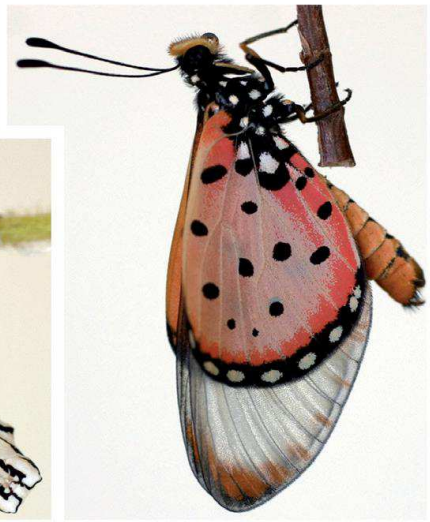
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chilwa lake	15° 22' South	35° 37' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

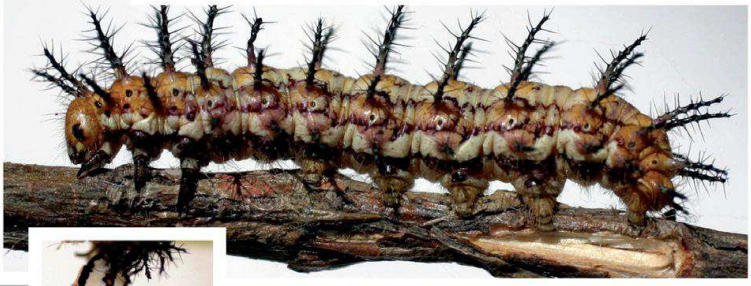


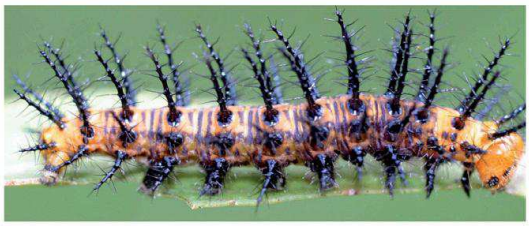
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X	X			X				
South												



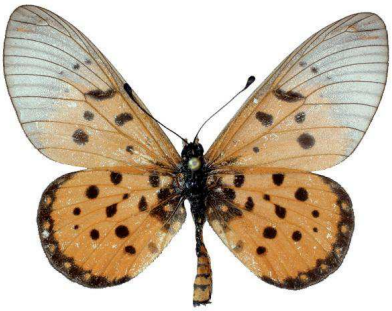



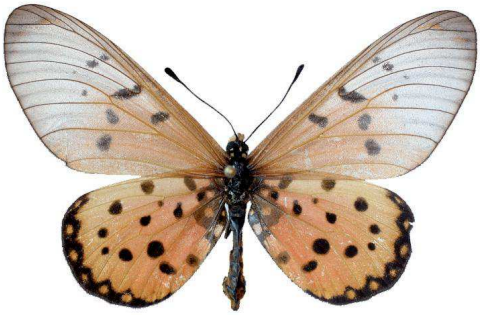




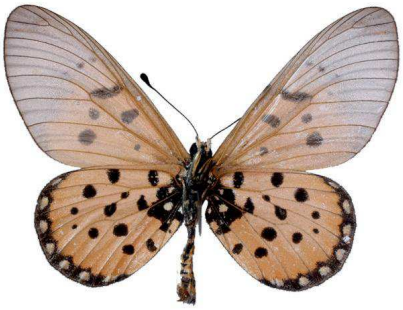


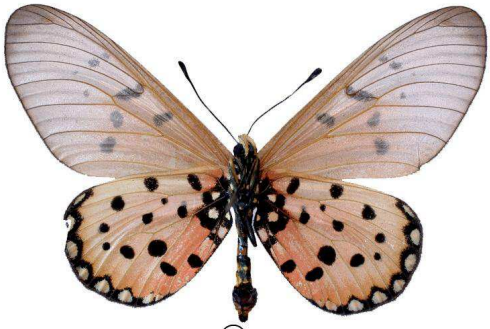
neobule; ♂r, Uzuzu Hills



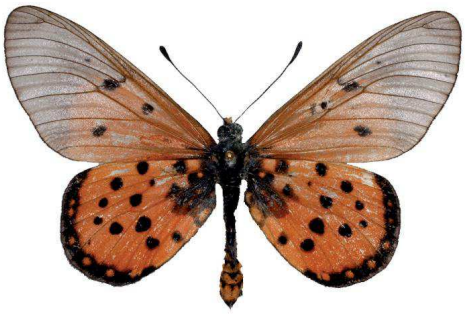
neobule, ♀r, Kalwe Fst



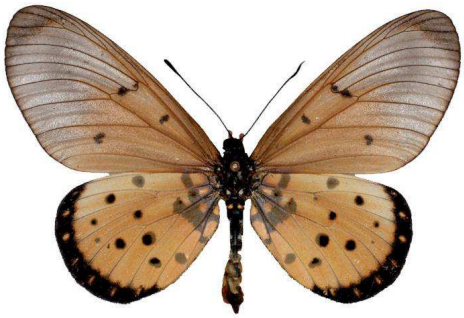
neobule, ♂v, Uzuzu Hills



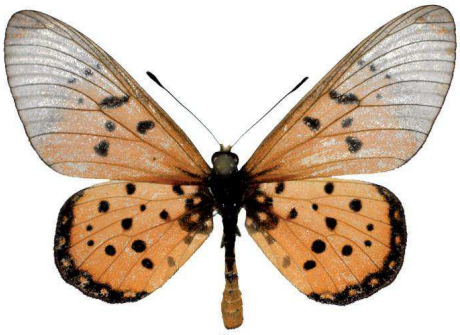
neobule, ♀v, Kalwe Fst



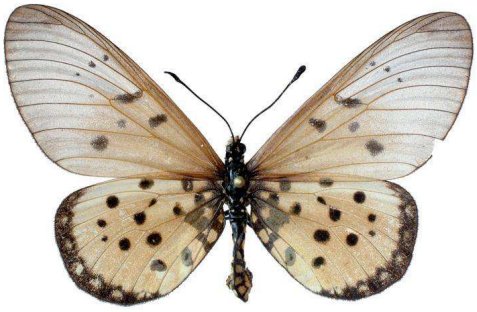
neobule, ♂r, Vwaza Marsh



neobule, ♀r, Tsenga Mt



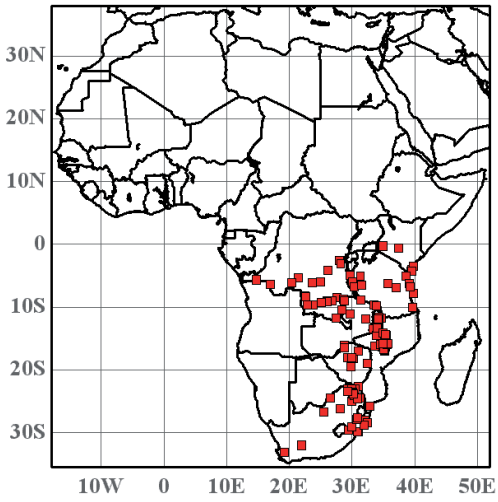
neobule, ♂r, Chikwawa



neobule, ♀r, Dzalanyama

Acraea oncaea

Acraea (*Acraea*) *oncaea* Hopffer, 1855 [Monatsb. Akad. Wiss. Berl.: 640, «Mossambique» (Mozambique)]



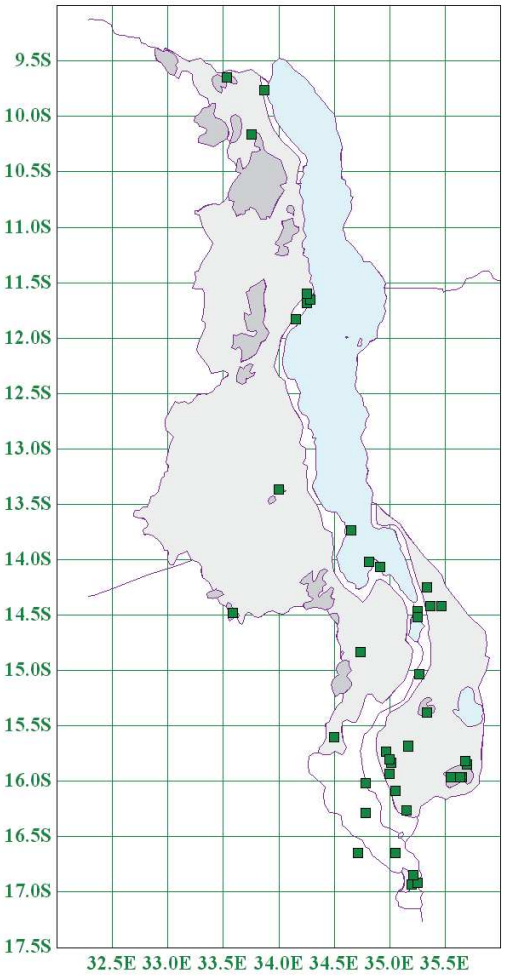
Acraea oncaea is a very common species in all of East and South Africa, and especially in Malawi, more in the south than the in the north. It flies in all open areas, sometimes in great numbers. Several female forms have been described as it is always a very variable species (from smoked gray form with a nice subapical white band – *alboradiata*, Suffert, 1904 – to pale brown form without apical band – *defasciata*, Suffert, 1904).

So it is very easy to see copulations and to find the larva on *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (*Turneraceae*). Other food plants have been recorded: *Xylotheca* (= *Oncoba*) *kraussiana* (Flacourtiaceae), *Adenia* (= *Modecca*) species (Passifloraceae).

We noticed, during the copulations that sometimes the male and sometimes the female conducts the flight. It seems that the first one which takes off becomes the leader.

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48’ South	35° 00’ East
Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15’ South	35° 20’ East
Chikwawa	16° 01’ South	34° 47’ East
Chinteche	11° 50’ South	34° 09’ East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41’ South	35° 10’ East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05’ South	35° 03’ East
Cholomwani Mt	16° 16’ South	35° 09’ East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51’ South	35° 42’ East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36’ South	34° 15’ East
Kaporo road	09° 46’ South	33° 52’ East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29’ South	33° 35’ East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01’ South	34° 49’ East
Lengwe Nat Park	16° 17’ South	34° 47’ East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58’ South	35° 33’ East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56’ South	35° 00’ East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02’ South	35° 16’ East
Majete Nat Park.	16° 39’ South	34° 43’ East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56’ South	35° 12’ East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25’ South	35° 28’ East
Mangochi swamp	14° 31’ South	35° 15’ East
Mangochi town - Lake Malombe	14° 28’ South	35° 15’ East
Matandwe Fst Res	16° 51’ South	35° 13’ East
Michiru Hll	15° 44’ South	34° 58’ East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41’ South	34° 15’ East
Monkey bay	14° 04’ South	34° 55’ East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50’ South	34° 44’ East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39’ South	33° 32’ East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58’ South	35° 38’ East
Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39’ South	35° 03’ East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39’ South	34° 17’ East
Nsanje	16° 55’ South	35° 15’ East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22’ South	34° 00’ East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49’ South	35° 41’ East



Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X
South		X		X	X	X		X		X	X	X

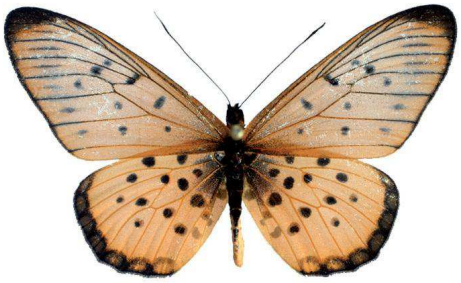


Acraea oncaea female, Lengwe Nat. Park

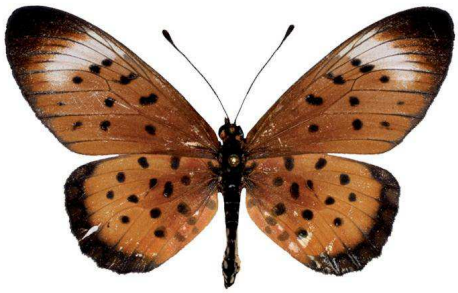


Acraea oncaea male, Mulanje Mount

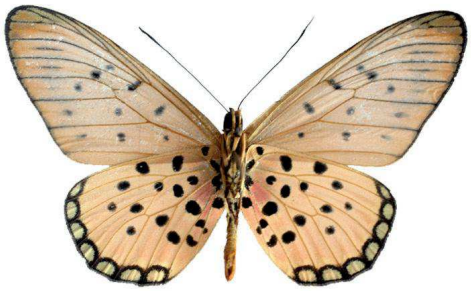




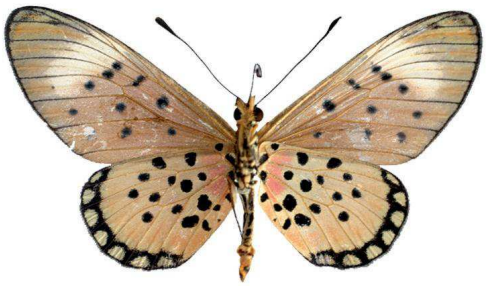
oncaea ♂r, Mkuwadzi



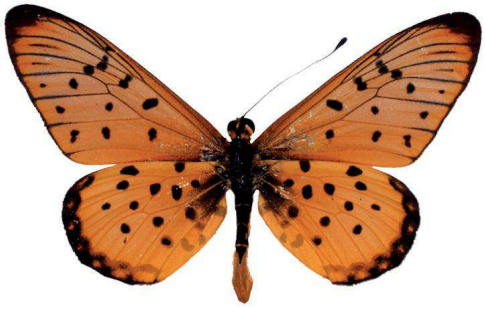
oncaea, ♀r, Mulanje



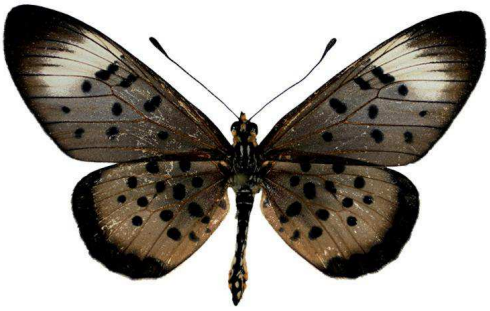
oncaea, ♂v, Mkuwadei



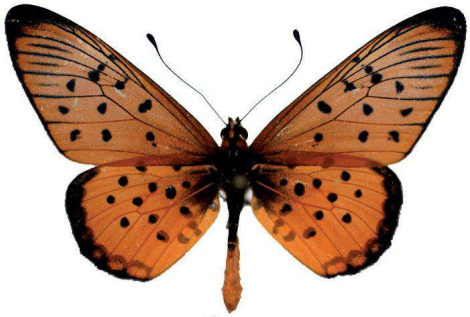
oncaea, ♀v, Mkuwadzi fst



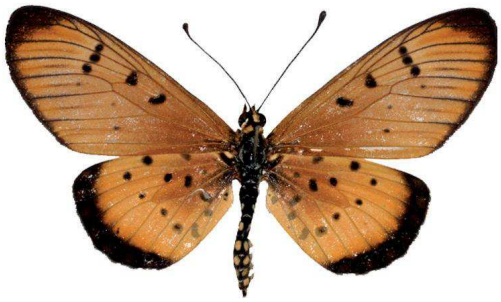
oncaea, ♂r, Mpatamanga



oncaea, ♀r, Thyolo



oncaea, ♂r, Chikwawa

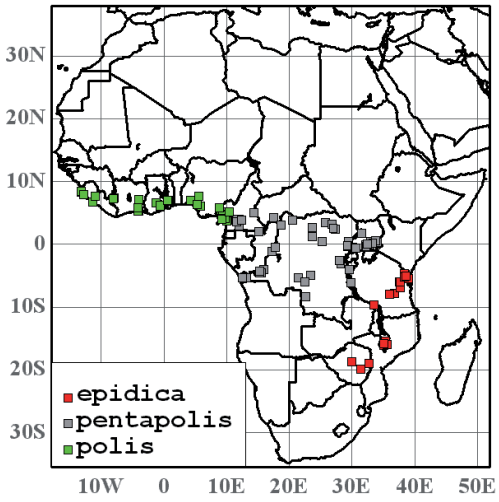


oncaea, ♀r, Mpatamanga

Acraea pentapolis epidica

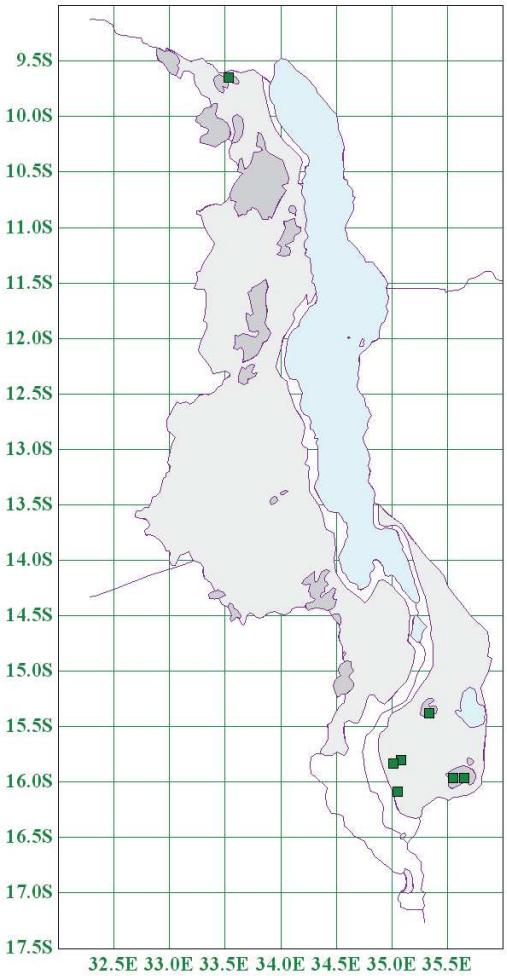
Acraea (*Actinote*) *pentapolis epidica* Oberthür, 1893 [Etud. d'Ent., 17 : 18, pl. 3 , fig. 33, «Usambara, Pangani» (Tanzanie)]

This subspecies belongs to the *pentapolis – polis* group. The nominate species *pentapolis pentapolis* occurs everywhere in central Africa. The West Africa population of *pentapolis* has been described as a new species: *A. polis* (see the distribution map). So *epidica* is the subspecies which occurs from Zimbabwe to northern Tanzania, especially along the coast. It differs from the nominate species by the following characters: "It is generally much larger, having an expanse of 80-90 mm. The blackish markings in f.w. are much darker and more definite. In the h.w. the basal spots are large and confluent, forming a conspicuous basal black mark. The patch of pale scales is lemon-ochreous and well developed, and there are usually a few tawny scales on the hind margin on underside" (Eltringham, 1912).



Distribution in Malawi

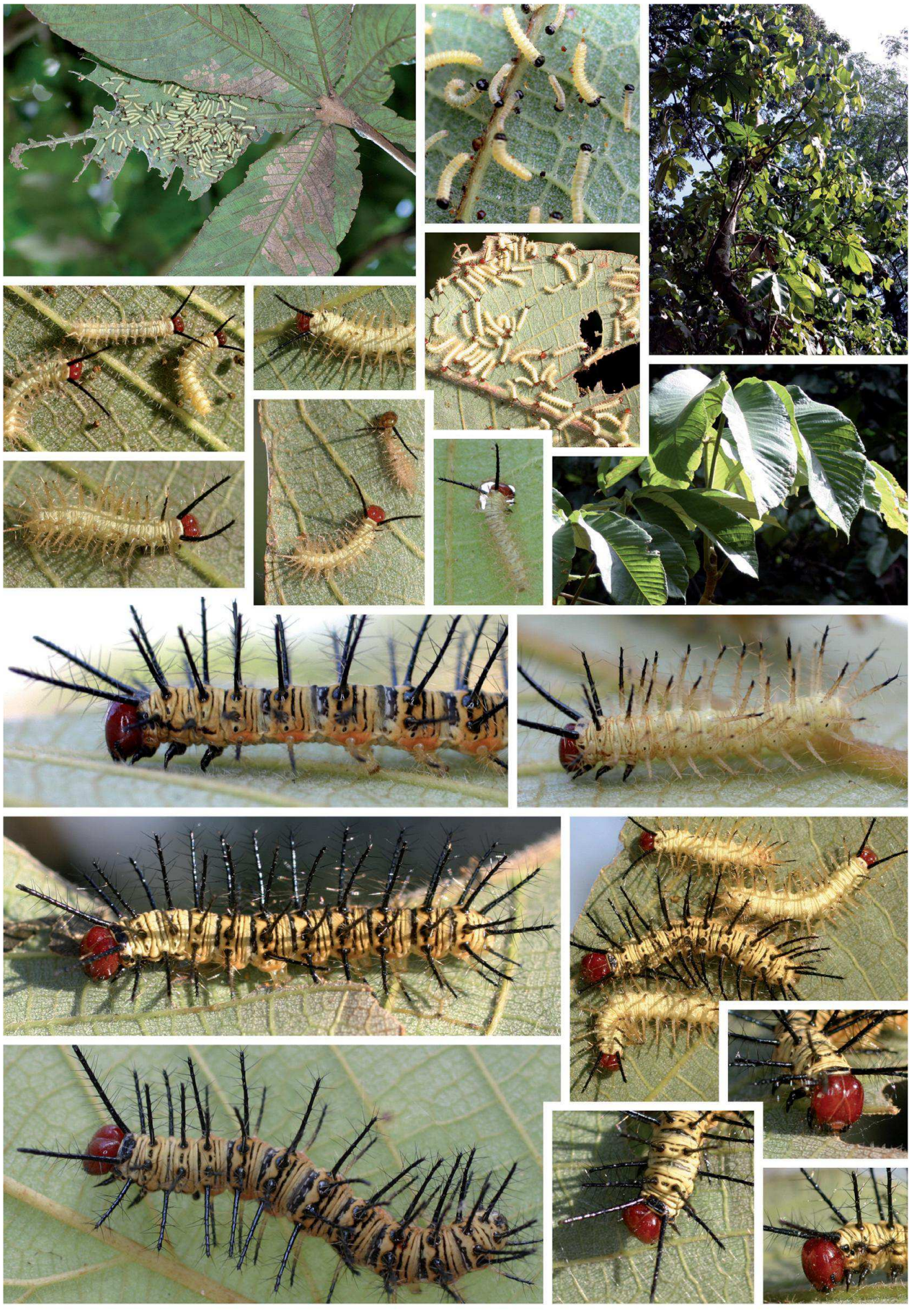
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Mpingwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 05' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



We found a very nice colony on Zomba plateau and another one on Thyolo mount (Satemwa Estate). We had the opportunity to breed it. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of a very common tree in Malawi: *Myrianthus holstii* (Flacourtiaceae).

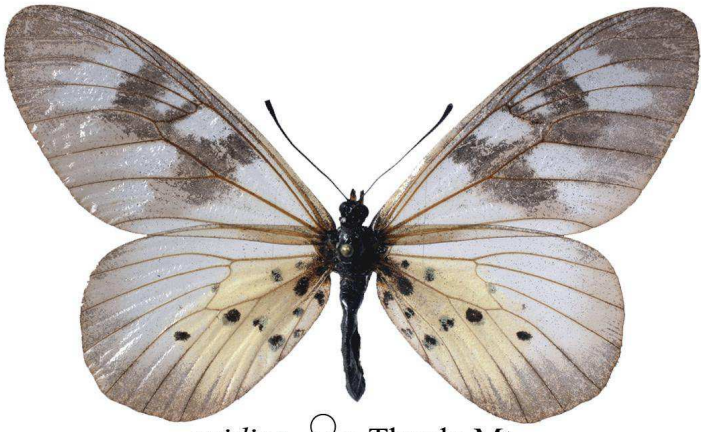
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South		X		X	X	X			X	X	X	





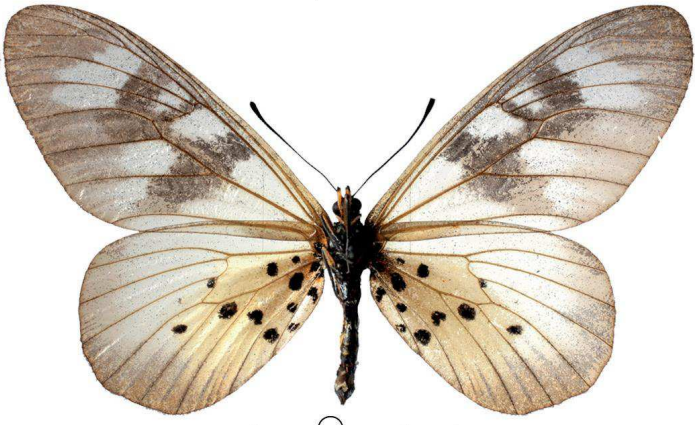
epidica, ♂r, Thyolo Mt



epidica, ♀r, Thyolo Mt



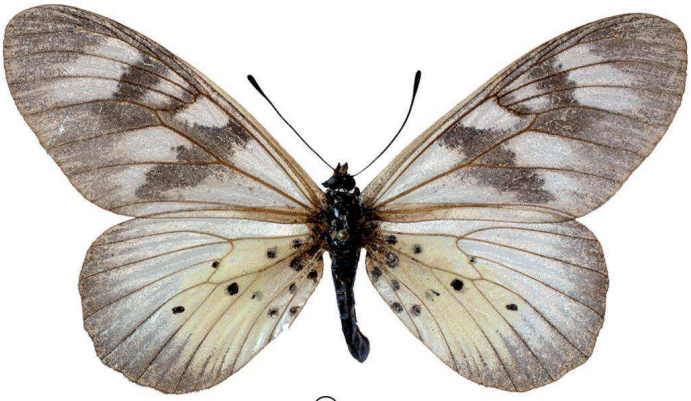
epidica, ♂v, Thyolo Mt



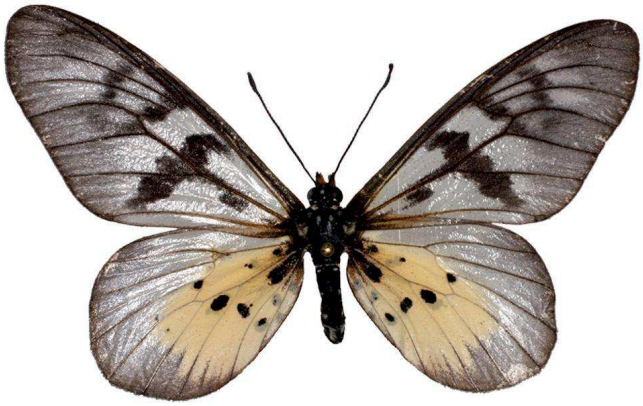
epidica, ♀v, Thyolo Mt



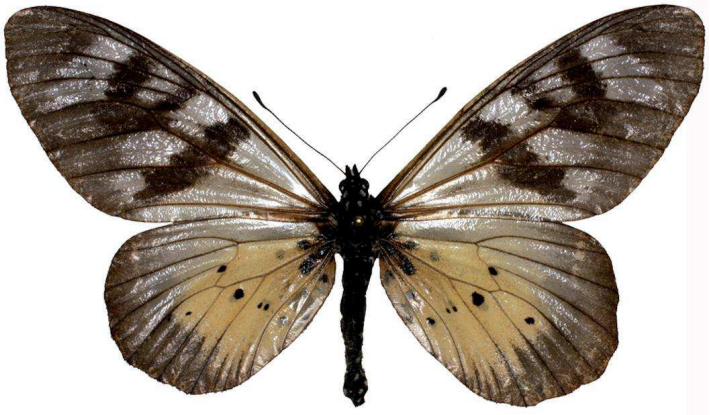
epidica, ♂r, Thyolo Mt



epidica, ♀r, Thyolo Mt



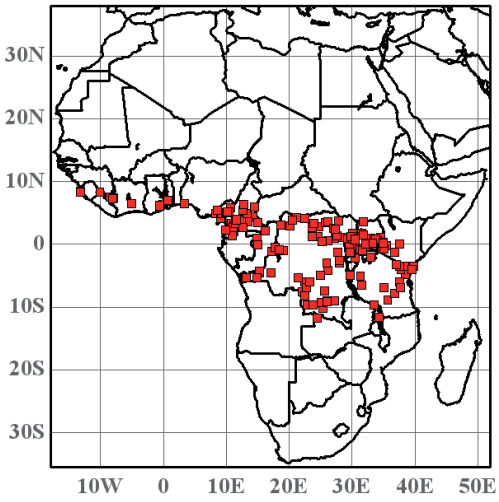
epidica, ♂r, Ruo river



epidica, ♀r, Ruo river

Acraea perenna

Acraea (*Actinote*) *perenna* Doubleday, 1850 [in Doubleday & Westwood [1846-1852], Gen. Diurn. Lep., pl. 19, f. 4 ; p. 141 [1847], «Ashanti» (Ghana)]



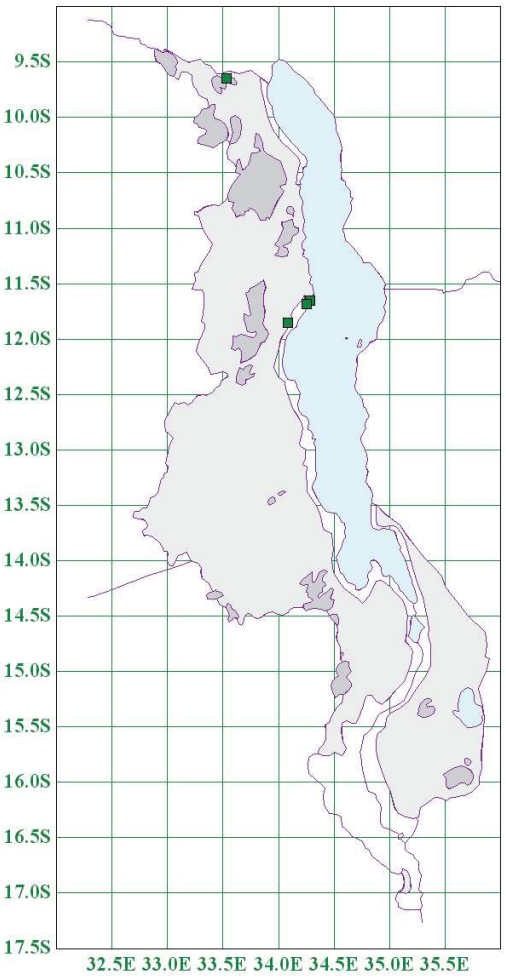
Acraea perenna is known from West to East Africa (see the distribution map). Northern Malawi is the southernmost point of its distribution.

In north of Malawi we found sometimes the clear form which is named *thesprio*. It flies with the typical form and is not considered today as a valid subspecies.

Despite the fact that this *Acraea* is common in many parts of Africa its first stages are not well known. We caught few specimens in Malawi and never bred it in that country. But we bred it recently on *Bridelia micrantha* (Euphorbiaceae) in Uganda.

Distribution in Malawi

Chisasira Fst - Chintheche	11° 51' South	34° 05' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East





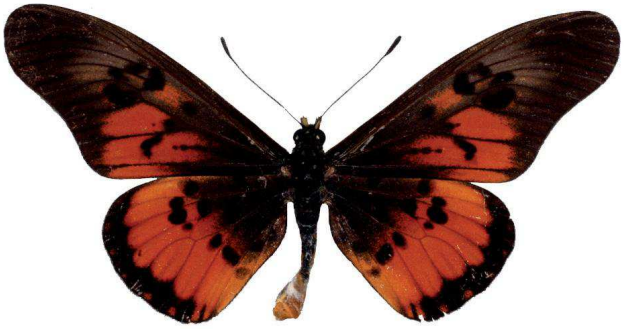
Acraea perenna caterpillar in Uganda (Kalinzu forest) on *Bridelia micrantha*



Bridelia micrantha

Flight period: our records by month and area

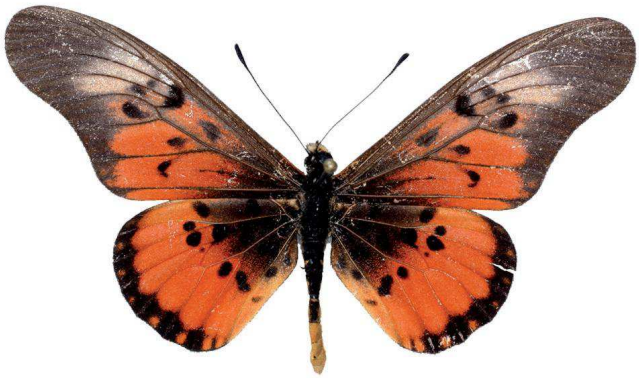
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North					X					X		
South												



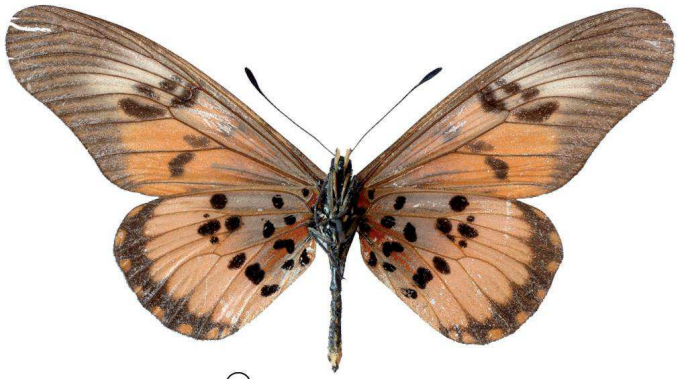
perenna, ♂r, Mkuwadzi fst



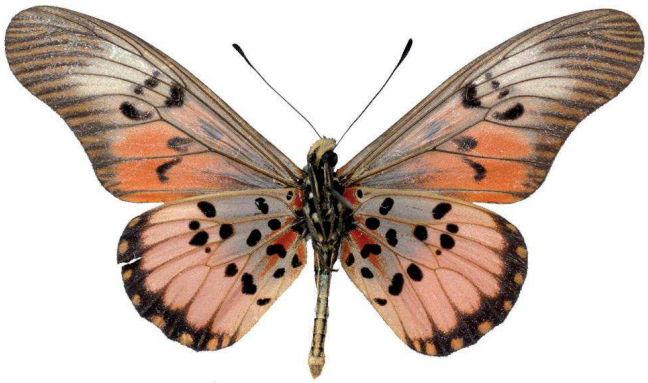
perenna, ♂r, thesprio f., Chinteche



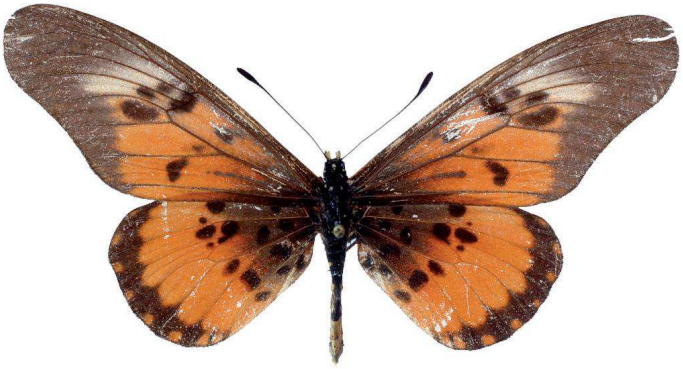
perenna, ♂r, thesprio f., Mughese fst



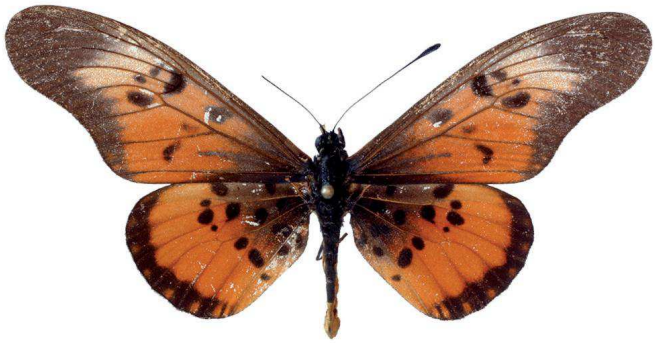
perenna, ♀v, thesprio f., Chinteche



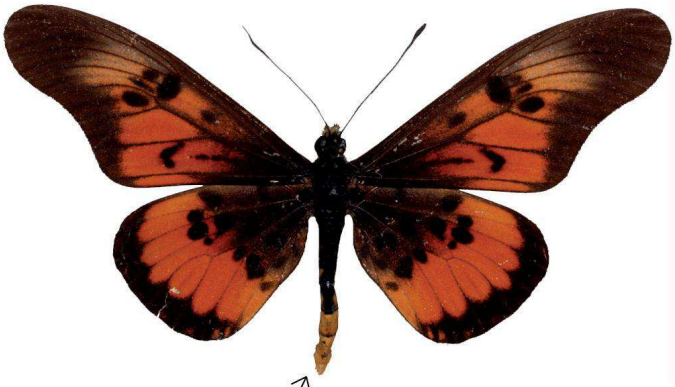
perenna, ♂v, thesprio f., Mughese fst



perenna, ♀r, thesprio f., Chinteche



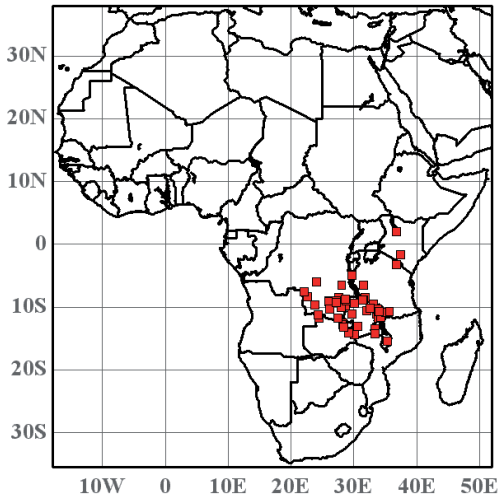
perenna, ♂r, thesprio f., Nkhatta Bay



perenna, ♂r, Chisasira fst

Acraea periphanes

Acraea (*Acraea*) *periphanes* Oberthür, 1893 [Etud. d'Ent. 17: 20, pl. 2, fig. 23,»Lac Tanganika» (Tanzanie ?)]



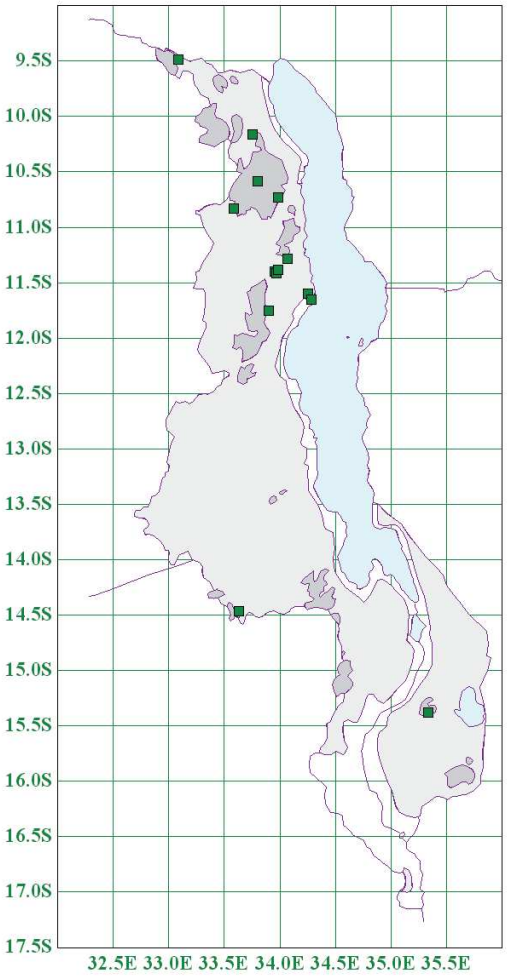
Acraea periphanes is not rare in northern Malawi. It has been recorded in Dzalanyama range (one specimen is in FRIM collection) and in Zomba. But this last record has never been confirmed (as Gifford said). If confirmed, it should be the southernmost point of its distribution.

This butterfly is variable and many forms have been described. We state today that only the three following descriptions are valid forms:

- *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *periphanes* f. *umida*, described as *Acraea onerata* forma *umida* Wichgraf, 1909;
- *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *periphanes* f. *melaina* Eltringham, 1911;
- *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *periphanes* f. *acritoides* Eltringham, 1911.

Distribution in Malawi

Chelinda - Nyika	10° 35' South	33° 48' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dunduzu - Mzuzu	11° 24' South	33° 57' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kaseramba Fst - Nyika plateau	10° 44' South	33° 59' East
Lupaso - Mzuzu	11° 25' South	33° 58' East
Mazamba - Viphya	11° 45' South	33° 54' East
Nkhata bay - Bungulo Mt	11° 39' South	34° 17' East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23' South	33° 59' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

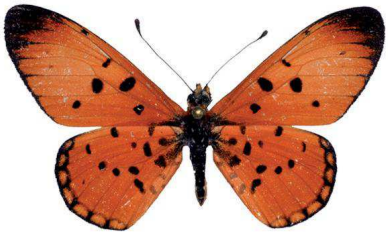


Gifford reported *beni* which is today considered as a synonym of *periphanes*.

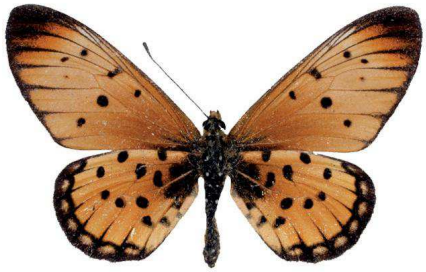
We never bred this *Acraea*, despite finding it regularly in Choma mount near Mzuzu. We have no information about its first stages.

Flight period: our records by month and area

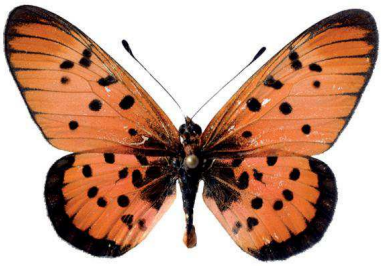
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X		X	X		X				X	X	X
South												



periphanes, ♂r, Dunduzu fst



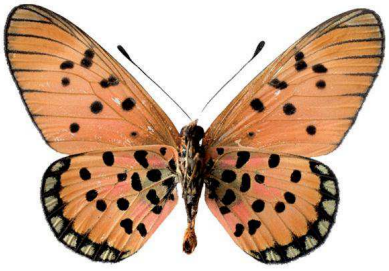
periphanes, ♀r, Nchorongo



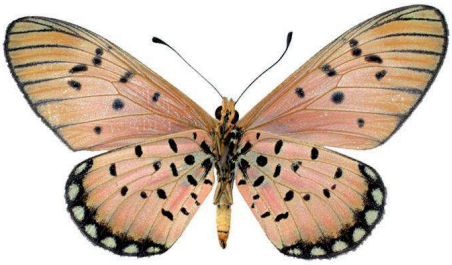
periphanes, ♂r, Ifisa hills



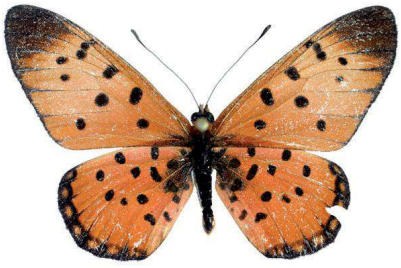
periphanes, ♀r, Choma Mt



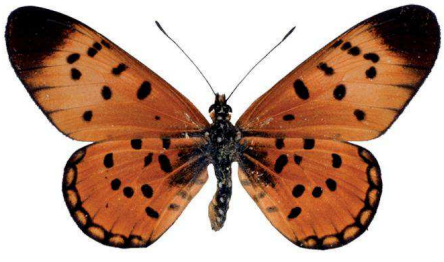
periphanes, ♂v, Ifisa hills



periphanes, ♀v, Choma Mt



periphanes, ♂r, Choma Mt



periphanes, ♀r, Nchorongo

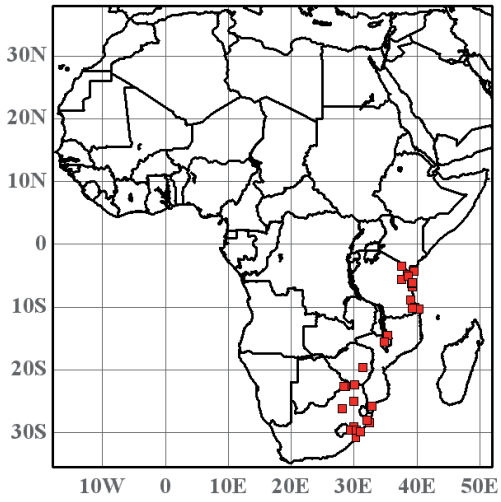
Acraea petraea

Acraea (*Acraea*) *petraea* Boisduval, 1847 [Voy. Deleg. 2: 589, «Port-Natal» (RSA)]

Acraea petraea is a common South African butterfly.

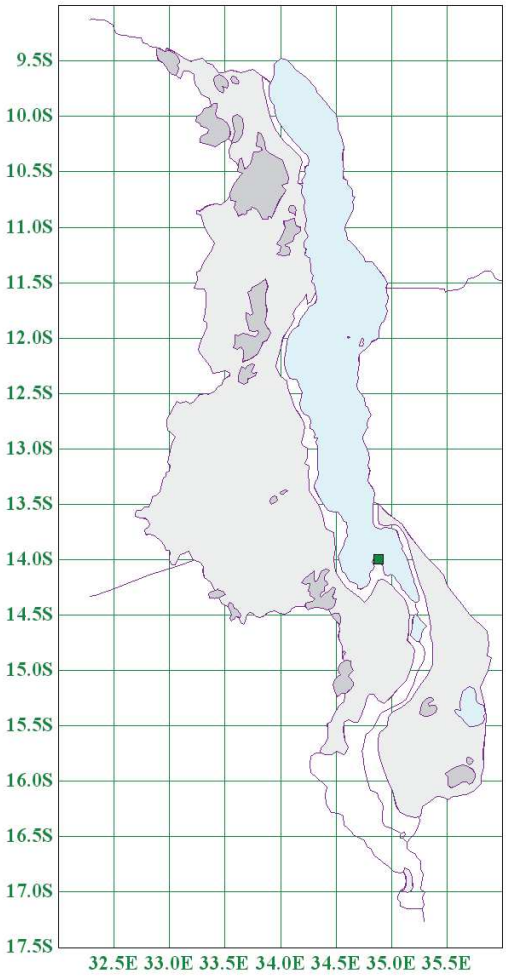
It has been recorded in Malawi by a "long series in Hope Dept" by Gifford from Fort Jonhston area. The distribution of *petraea* in Africa (see the map below) shows that it is not surprising. But this butterfly has never been recorded since in Malawi.

The first stages of *Acraea petraea* have been well known for a long time (RSA). This *Acraea* feeds on *Xylotheca kraussiana* and *kotzei* (Falcourtiaceae).



Distribution in Malawi

Mzeze	14° 00' South	34° 53' East

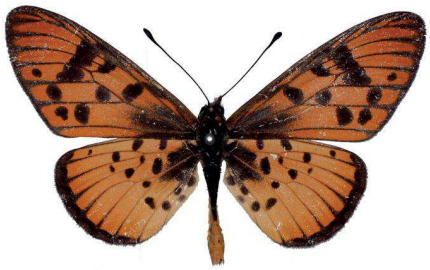




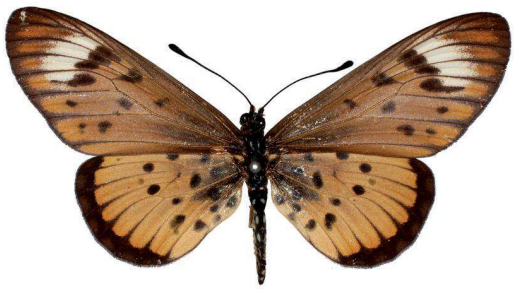
Acraea petraea male, Dar es Salam (Tanzania)



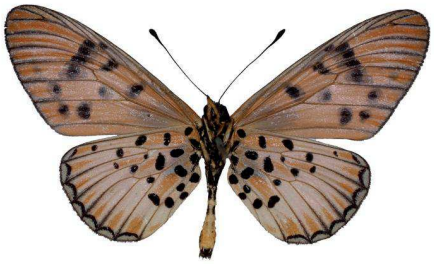
By courtesy of ABRI (S. Collins) we had the communication of the larva of *Acraea petraea*, which is close to that of *cepheus*.



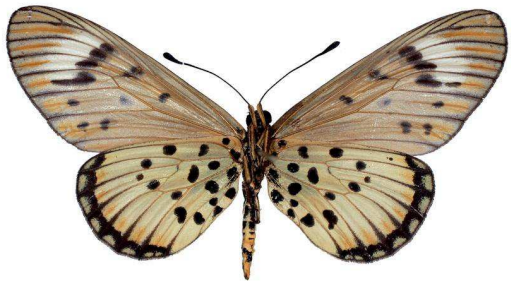
petraea, ♂ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



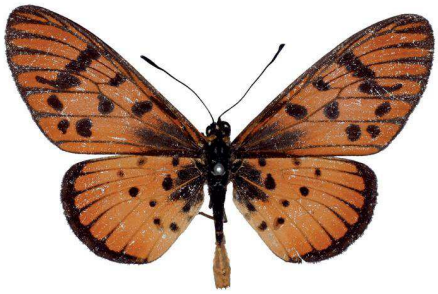
petraea, ♀ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



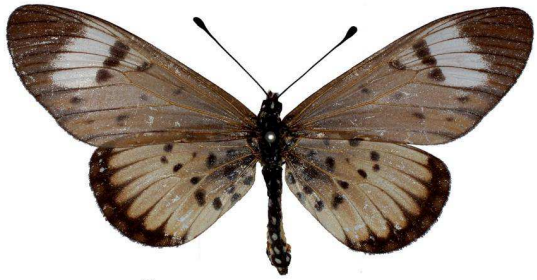
petraea, ♂ v, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



petraea, ♀ v, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



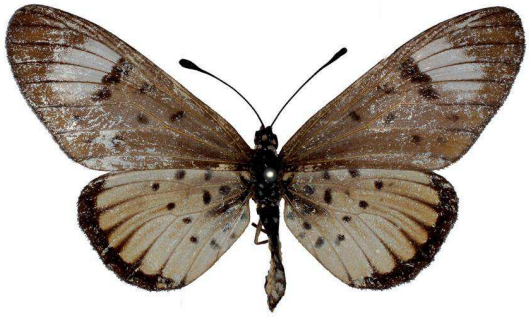
petraea, ♂ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



petraea, ♀ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)



petraea, ♂ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)

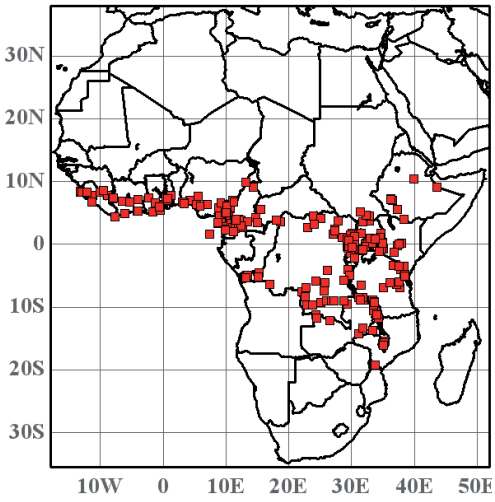


petraea, ♀ r, Mzeze (45 km Ft Johnston)

Series of *petraea* from Lamborn collection,
Hope entomological collections, Oxford Museum

Acraea pharsalus

Acraea (*Actinote*) *pharsalus* Ward, 1871 [Ent. Mo. Mag., 8: 81, «Camaroons» (Cameroun)]



Acraea pharsalus is a common butterfly in all of Africa. This species is traditionally distributed in three subspecies:

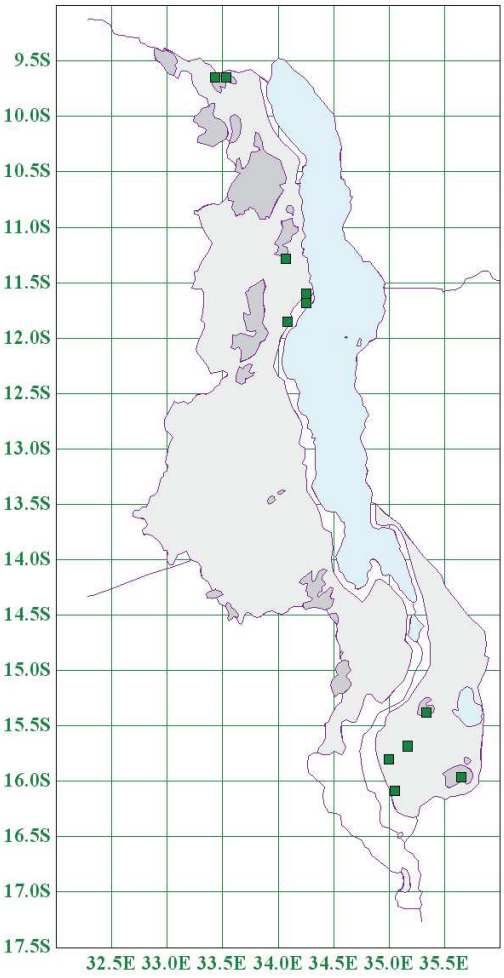
- *pharsalus* Ward, 1871;
- *pharsaloides* Holland, 1892;
- *rhodina* Rothschild, 1902.

But we consider today that *pharsaloides* is not a good subspecies, as we caught it together with the nominate subspecies on Zomba plateau.

We did not breed this species in Malawi, but its first stages are well known (Cameroon breeding). This species feeds on several species of Urticaceae (*Boehmeria platyphylla*, *Laportea* or *Fleurya ovalifolia*) and Moraceae (*Ficus asperifolia*).

Distribution in Malawi

Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Chisasira Fst - Chintheche	11° 51' South	34° 05' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Matipa Fst - Misuku Hll	09° 39' South	33° 26' East
Mkuwadzi Fst - Nkhata bay	11° 41' South	34° 15' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East





Acraea pharsalus caterpillar in Cameroon

Flight period: our records by month and area

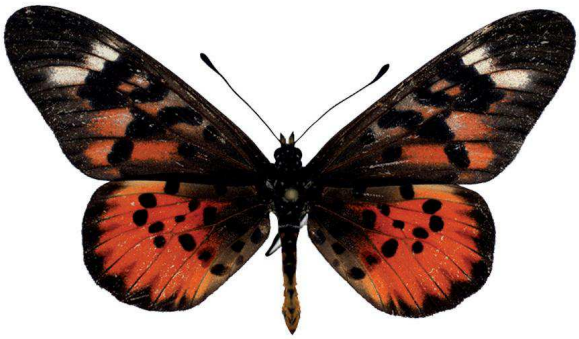
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X				X	X				X		X
South		X	X	X								



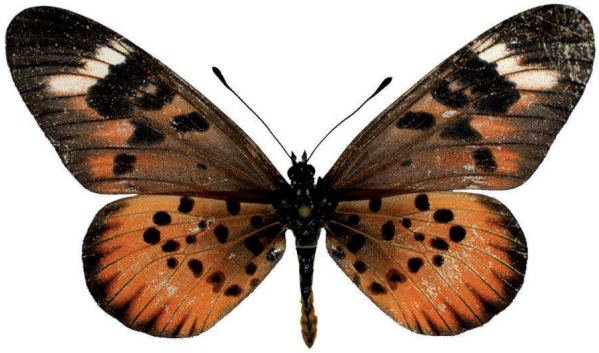




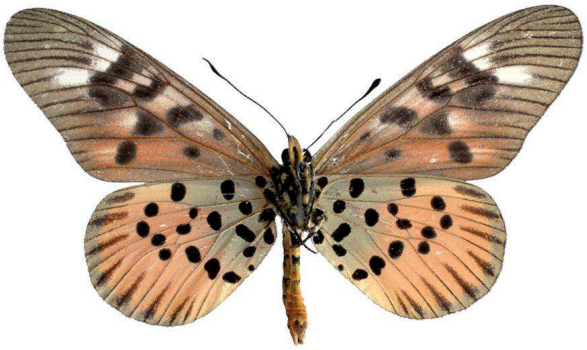
Acraea pharsalus male on Zomba Plateau



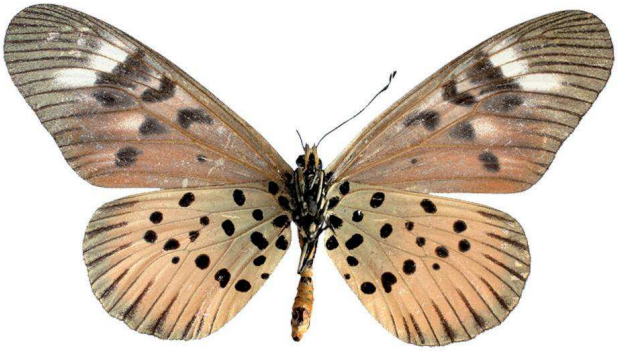
pharsalus, ♂r, Zomba plateau



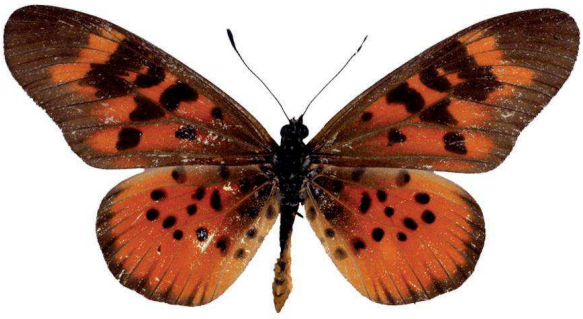
pharsalus, ♀r, Zomba plateau



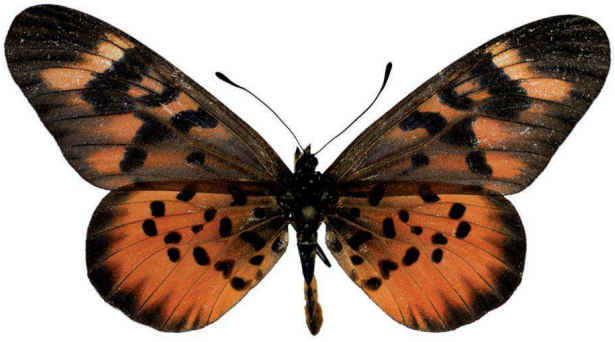
pharsalus, ♂v, Mughese Fst



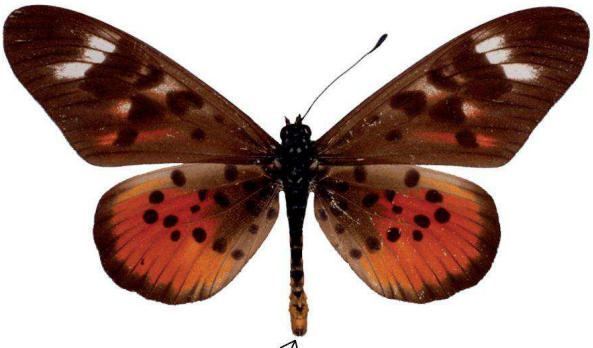
pharsalus, ♀v, Mughese Fst



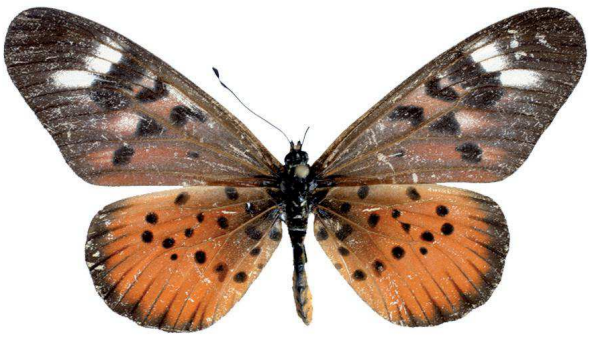
pharsalus, ♂r, Chinteche



pharsalus, ♀r, Zomba plateau



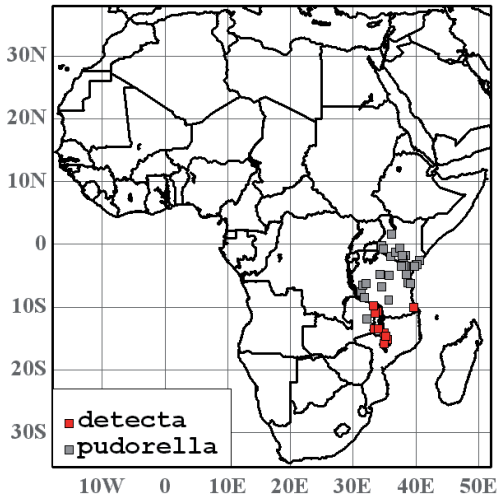
pharsalus, ♂r, Matipa Fst



pharsalus, ♀r, Mughese Fst

Acraea pudorella detecta

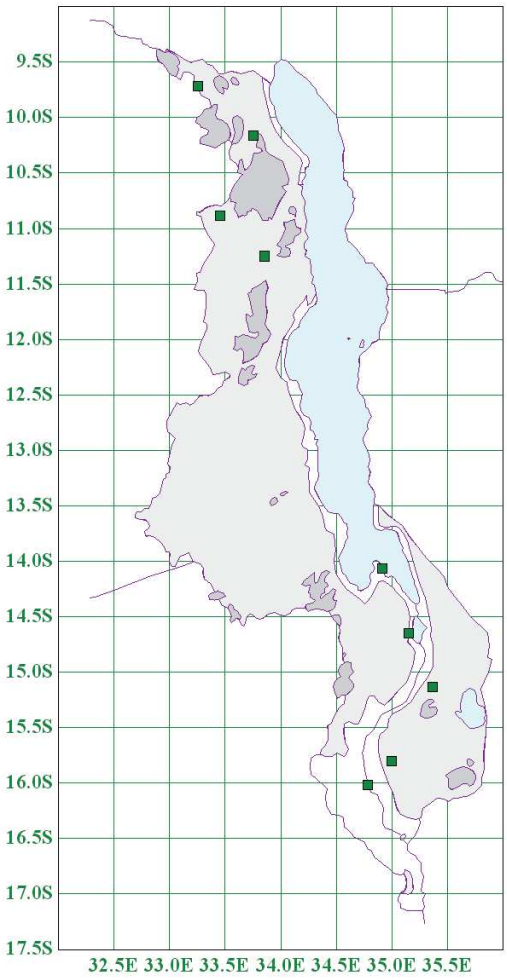
Acraea (*Acraea*) *pudorella detecta* Neave, 1910 [Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.: 24, pl. 1, fig. 6, 6a, «Luangwa valley»]



In Malawi the subspecies *detecta* only has been quoted (Eltringham, Gifford). We caught very few *Acraea pudorella detecta* in this country. This butterfly, although not as common as *Acraea caldarena* often appears in records. We must however be careful with such records, as the two species are very similar. Our records are only Nyika and recently Vwaza marsch and Malidade, Mpherembe. We never found it in Monkey bay, despite many records from that locality. We only found *caldarena* in this area. Gifford said that *pudorella* lives in "deciduous woodland of drier type than for *caldarena*". herebelow are the features distinguishing *caldarena* from *pudorella*.

Distribution in Malawi

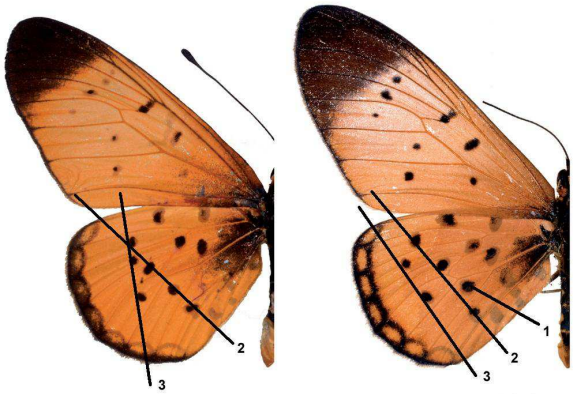
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chikala Fst Res	15° 08' South	35° 22' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chitipa - Nyika (Fort Hll)	09° 43' South	33° 15' East
Malidade - Mpherembe	11° 15' South	33° 51' East
Malombe lake - Nkungulu Hll	14° 39' South	35° 09' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Malidade - Mpherembe	11° 15' South	33° 51' East



The nominate subspecies of *pudorella* can be distinguished from the subspecies *detecta* by the great reduction or lack of the black apical patch of the forewings (like *caldarena neluska* in Tanzania). On the contrary, the subspecies *detecta* has the same pattern as nominate *caldarena* in Malawi. It is a remarkable fact that in north-eastern Tanzania the pattern of the two species is the same, but different from the pattern of the other areas. The two patterns present a nice convergence. It is also the reason for so many confusions between the two species.

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X					X	X				
South												

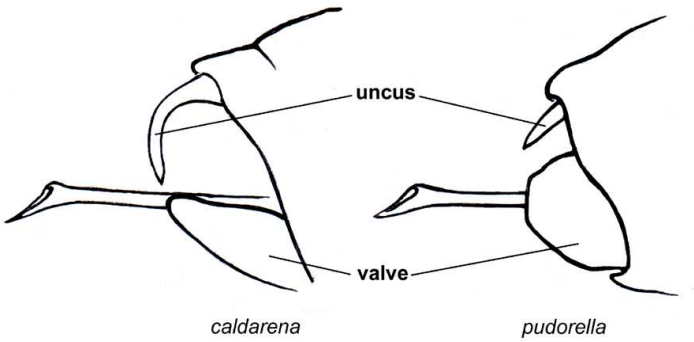


caldarena (left) and *pudorella* (right)

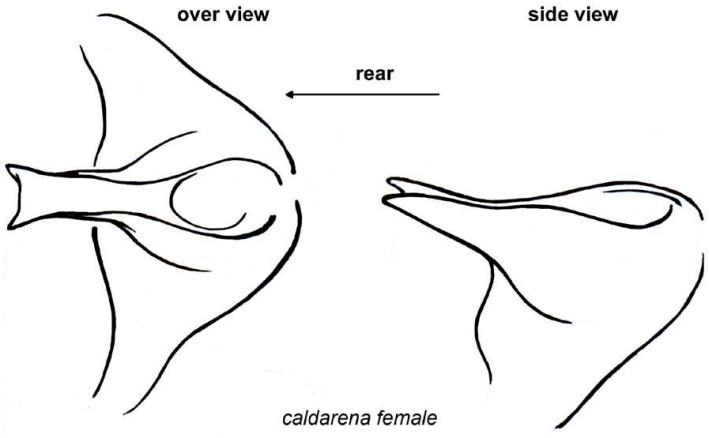
Imagos are very similar and the only difference one can find is the following one: the line of submarginal dots made by the dots of areas 1b, 2, 4 and 6 (2) is crossing the line made by the submarginal dots of areas 3 and 5 (3) in *caldarena* (left wings) but not in *pudorella* (right wings); the dot inside area 2 (1) is not under the line 2 for *pudorella*. So the polygon made by the 6 dots is totally different between the two species. This criterion is not always very clear, but the position of the submarginal dot of area 5 is always nearer to the margin in *pudorella*.

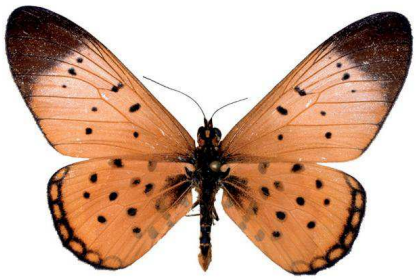
But although the distinction of pattern is not immediately evident, the two species can be easily distinguished by genitalia differences (even without dissection).

The male *pudorella* valve has a round shape, whilst that of *caldarena* is pointed.

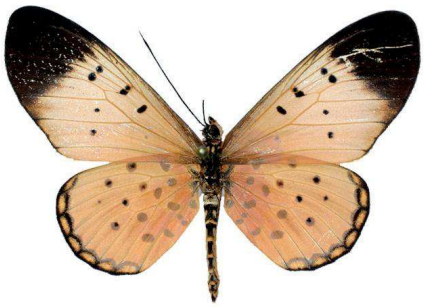


Genitalia female genitalia of *caldarena* present a very nice prominent structure which does not exist in *pudorella.*

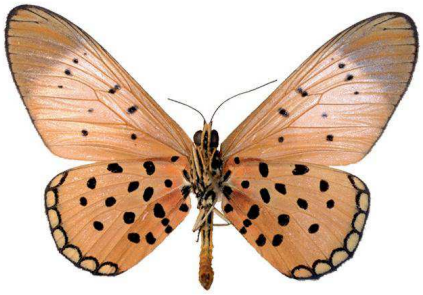




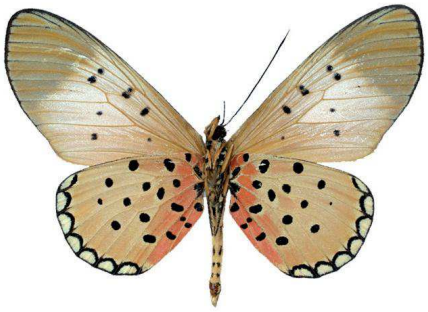
detecta, ♂r, Wvaza Marsch



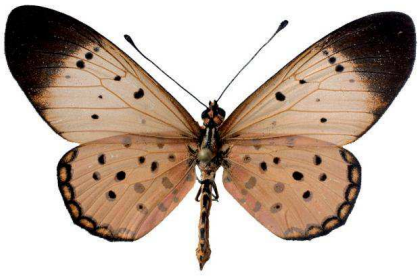
detecta, ♀r, Chitipa - Nyika



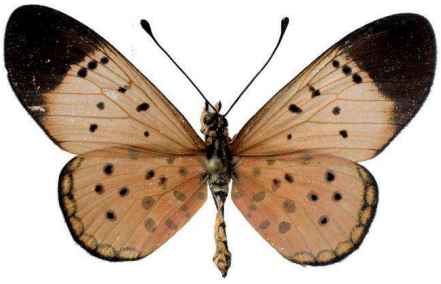
detecta, ♂v, Wvaza Marsch



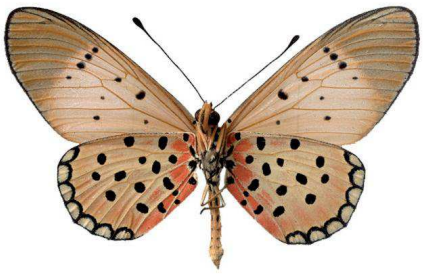
detecta, ♀v, Chitipa - Nyika



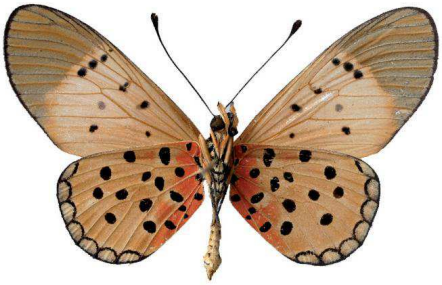
detecta, ♂r, Malidade, Mpherembe



detecta, ♂r, Malidade, Mpherembe



detecta, ♂v, Malidade, Mpherembe



detecta, ♂v, Malidade, Mpherembe

Pardopsis punctatissima

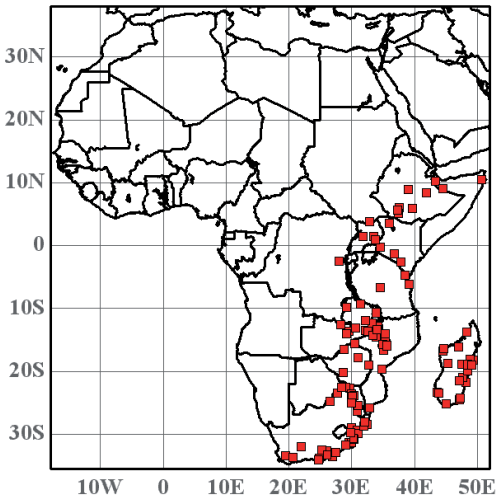
Pardopsis punctatissima Boisduval, 1833 [Faune de Mag.: 31, pl. 6, f. 2, «Tamatave» (Madagascar)]

This species is distributed in all East African countries (and in Madagascar). It is an inhabitant of dry places, savannahs and Brachystegia woodland. We recently found one specimen on Nyika plateau.

Its biology is peculiar and very distinctive from all other *Acraea*. Recent genetic and molecular analysis seems to indicate that this species is not an *Acraea* but may belong to the *Issoria* genus (Nymphalidae, Argynninae).

We bred it in Michiru mount, near Blantyre. The female lays its eggs one by one on *Hybanthus capensis* (Violaceae). The caterpillar presents two very long spins at the first segment (see the plate).

punctatissima

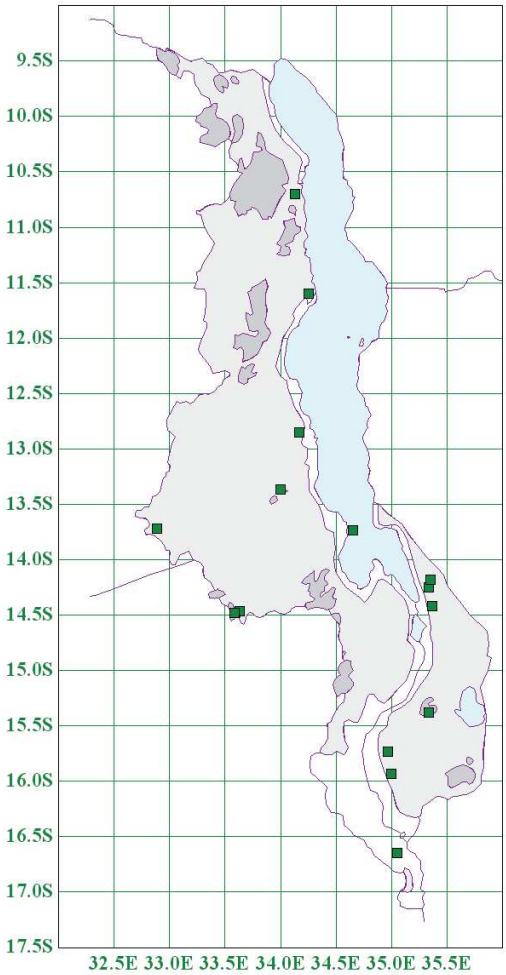


Distribution in Malawi

Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15' South	35° 20' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Mechinji Mt	13° 43' South	32° 53' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39' South	35° 03' East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Nkhotakota Game Res (Bua camp)	12° 51' South	34° 10' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Pardopsis punctatissima, Uzuzu hills



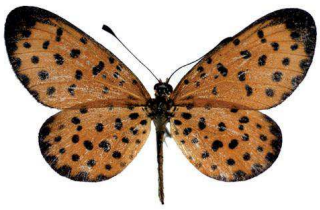
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North				X								X
South				X		X					X	





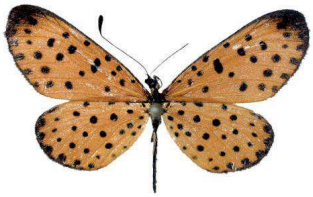
punctatissima, ♂r, Dzalanyama



punctatissima, ♀r, Michiru Mt



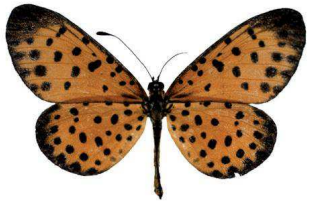
punctatissima, ♂v, Dzalanyama



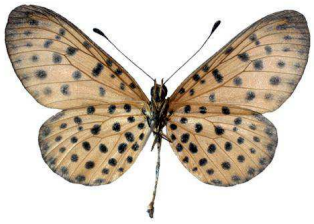
punctatissima, ♂r, Kapanji - Nyika



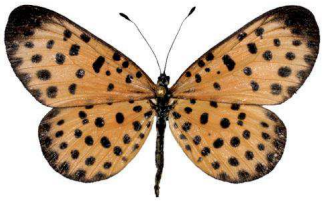
punctatissima, ♂r, Mwame hills



punctatissima, ♂r, Michiru Mt



punctatissima, ♂v, Mwame hills



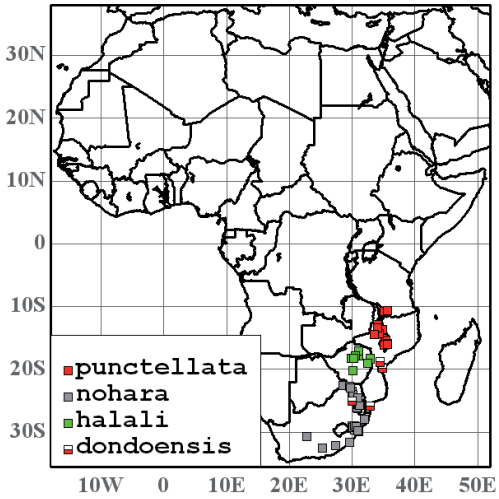
punctatissima, ♂r, Mulanje

Acraea punctellata

Acraea (*Acraea*) *punctellata* Eltringham, 1912 [Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond. : 129, t. 5, f. 9, «Dedza Mt, Central Angoniland» (Malawi)]

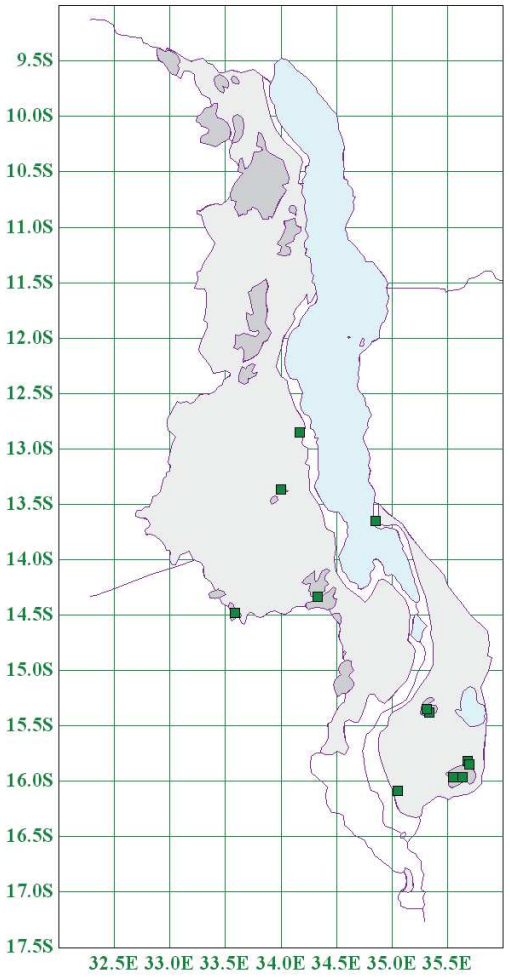
This *Acraea* is very rare in Malawi and quite known only from this country. Originally described as a subspecies of *nohara* Boisduval, 1847, *punctellata* is now considered as a good species. Gifford recorded it from several areas in Malawi, but we found it only in Mulanje area and Dzalanyama range.

We never bred this *Acraea*, but we bred *nohara* in Zimbabwe on *Tricliceras* (= *Wormskioldia*) *longepedunculata* (Turneraceae) and we expect that its food plant is the same.



Distribution in Malawi

Dedza Mt	14° 20' South	34° 20' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Fort Maguire - Makanjila	13° 39' South	34° 51' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Mulunguzi dam - Zomba plateau	15° 21' South	35° 19' East
Nkhotakota Game Res (Bua camp)	12° 51' South	34° 10' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

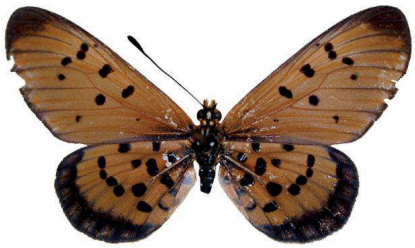


Flight period: our records by month and area

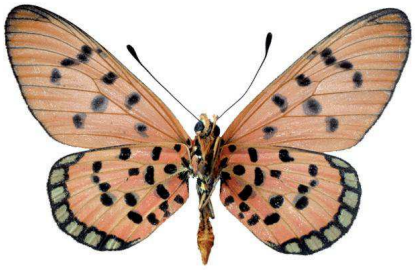
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												
South				X								



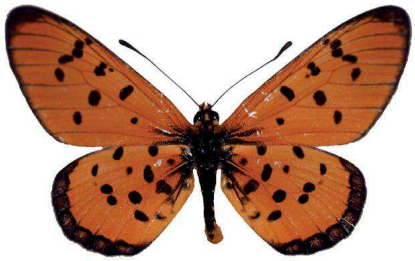
puntellata, ♂r, Fort Lister Gap



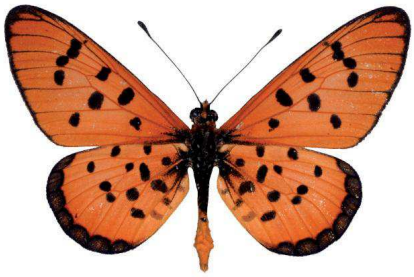
punctellata, ♀r, Zomba Plateau
(Gifford collection)



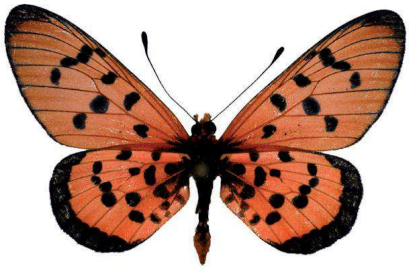
punctellata, ♂v, Fort Lister Gap



punctellata, ♂r, Zomba Plateau
(Gifford collection)



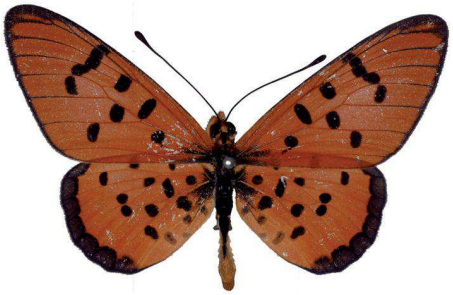
punctellata, ♂r, Kasitu Rock



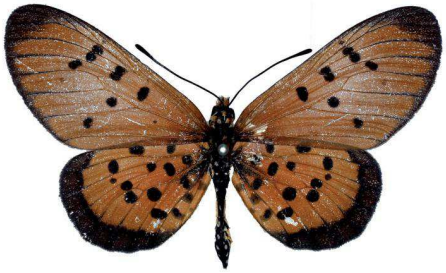
punctellata, ♂r, Fort Lister Gap



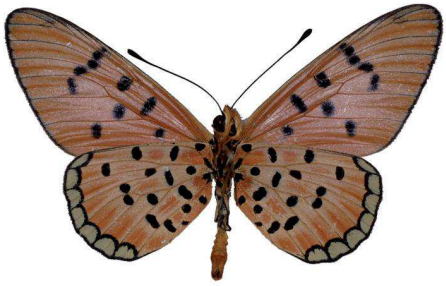
Holotype of *punctellata* ♂ r/v, Dedza mountains



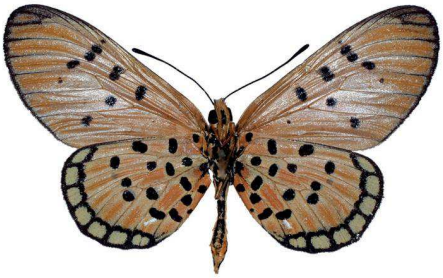
punctellata, ♂ r, Kota Kota



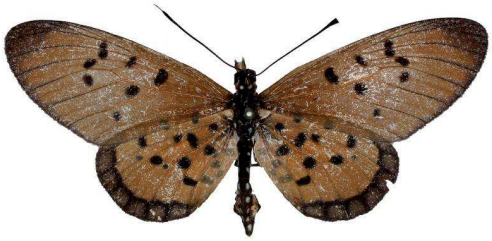
punctellata, ♀ r, Kota Kota



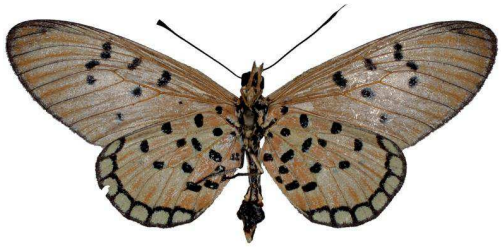
punctellata, ♂ v, Kota Kota



punctellata, ♀ v, Kota Kota



punctellata, ♀ r, Zomba

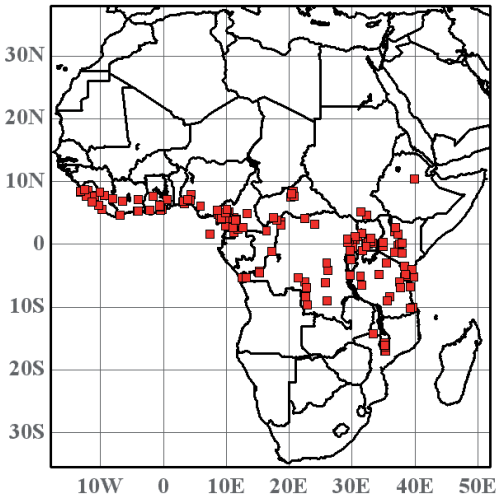


punctellata, ♀ v, Zomba

Series of *punctellata* (with holotype)
Hope entomological collections, Oxford museum

Acraea quirina

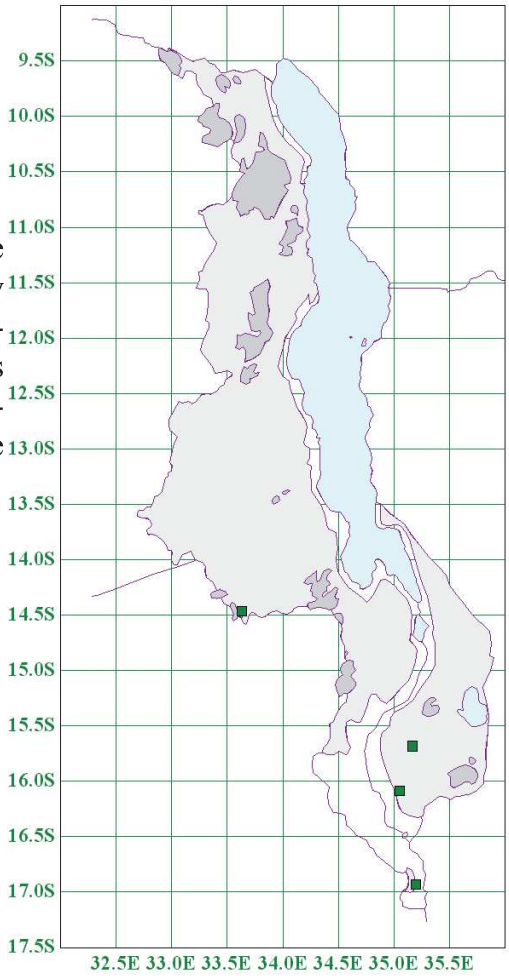
Acraea (*Acraea*) *quirina* Fabricius, 1871 [Spec. Insect. : 2 : 36, «India : Madras» (false locality)]



Acraea quirina is a very common species in all western and central Africa areas (see distribution map). Eltringham, in his monograph of the African species of the genus *Acraea* (1912) decided to distinguish the subspecies *rosa*: "Distinguished from the typical form by the greater extent of the red suffusion in the f.w., reaching to end of cell and nearly to hind angle. Eight male examples in the Hope Department, from British E. Africa (Kitui and Rabai)". Gifford said that *A. quirina rosa* was flying in Malawi. But, today, we do not agree with Eltringham's distinction, as both forms are flying together everywhere with many transitional intergradations. We found the *rosa* pattern even in Cameroon. The larva feeds on *Rinorea comvallaroides* (Violaceae) in Malawi.

Distribution in Malawi

Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East



A. quirina is locally very common in the south of Malawi. We caught one specimen in the Dzalanyama range, which is today the northernmost record in Malawi. But it could be found further north, as it flies in Tanzania. Similarly, Malawe hills records constitute the southernmost records of its distribution in the whole Africa. We found once an explosion of imagos in that place (May 2007).

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North												X
South				X	X							





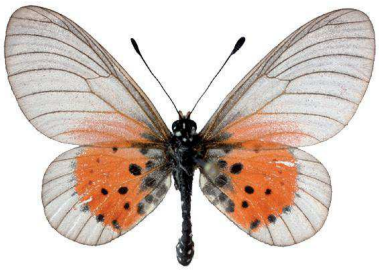




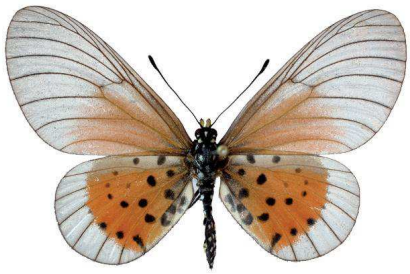




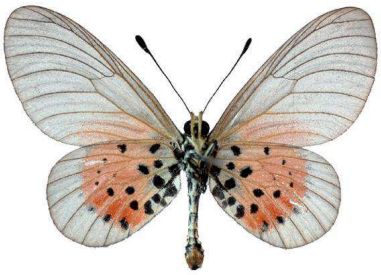


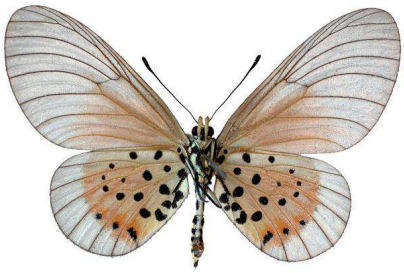
quirina, ♂r, Thyolo Fst



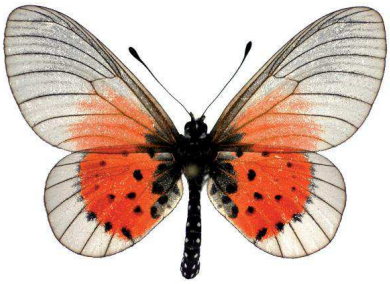
quirina, ♀r, Thyolo Fst



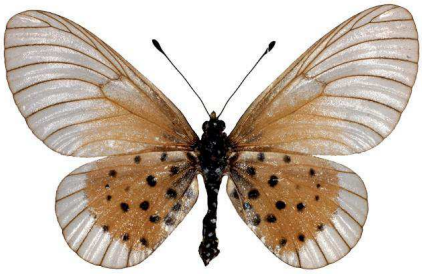
quirina, ♂v, Thyolo Fst



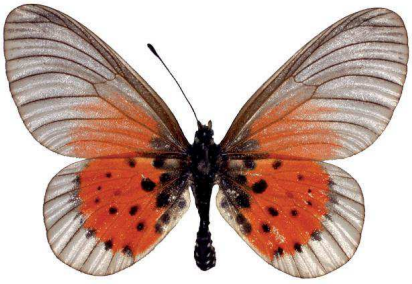
quirina, ♀v, Thyolo Fst



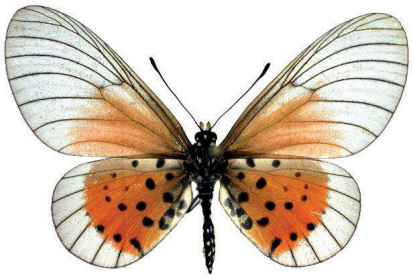
quirina, ♂r, Chiradzulu Fst



quirina, ♀r, Chiradzulu Fst



quirina, ♂r, Malawi hills



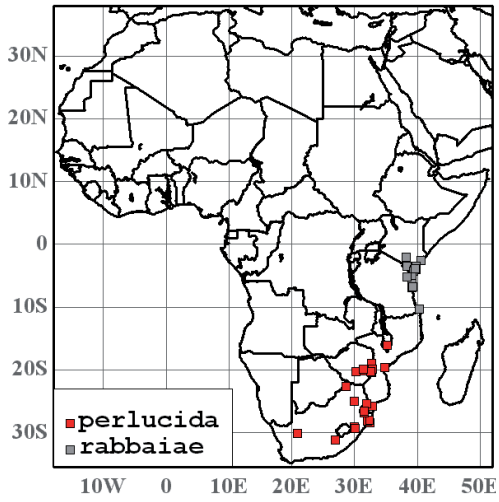
quirina, ♀r, Thyolo Fst

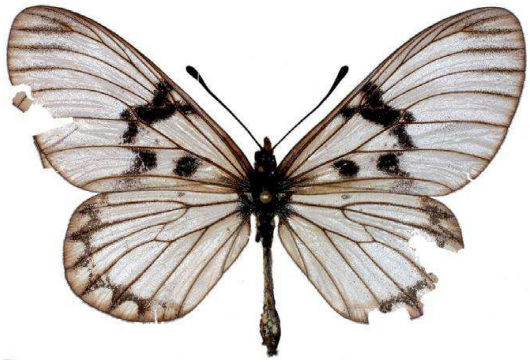
Acraea rabbaiae perlucida

Acraea (*Acraea*) *rabbaiae perlucida* Henning & Henning, 1996 [Metamorphosis 7(2): 66, «South Africa: Kwa-Zulu-Natal (Krantzkop, Bagowan, Eshowe, False Bay near Hluhluwe, Tembe, Manguzi Forest near Kosi Bay) Mpumalanga (Komatipoort) Gauteng (Pretoria) Zimbabwe»]

We caught one specimen of this rare butterfly in Malawi. It is the first record, but not a surprise, as it occurs in Mozambique.

The nominate subspecies flies in Kenya and northern Tanzania.

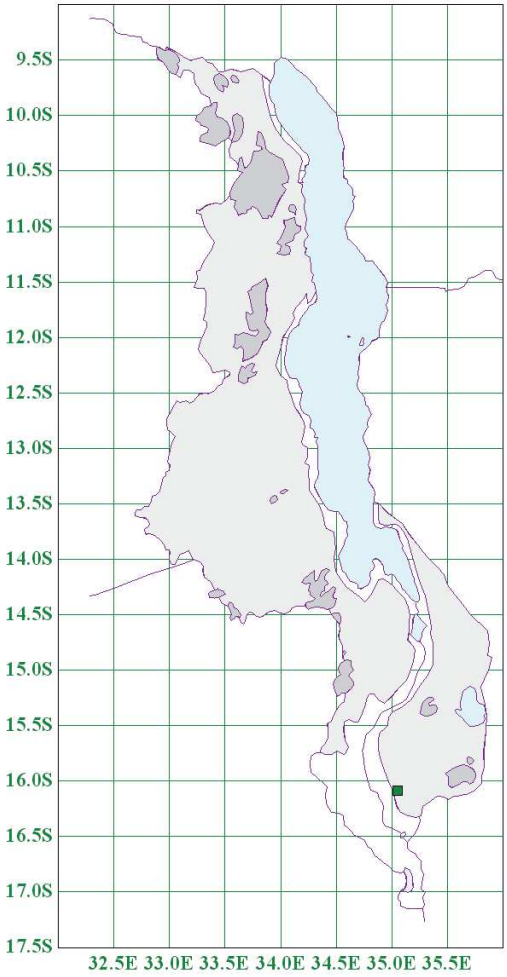




Acraea rabbaiae perlucida, Thyolo Fst

Distribution in Malawi

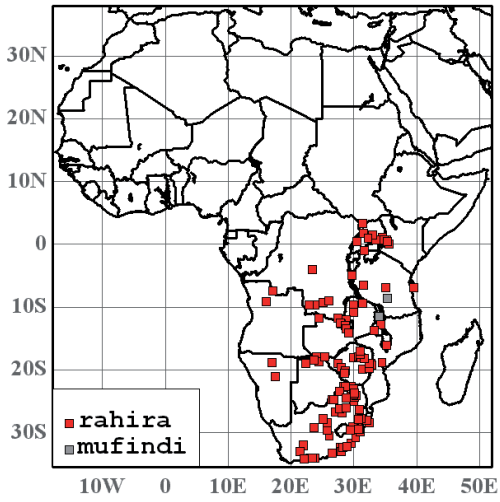
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst) 16° 05' South 35° 03' East



Acraea rahira and rahira mufindi

Acraea (*Actinote*) *rahira* Boisduval, 1833 [Faune de Mad. : 33, pl. 5, fig. 4, 5, "Cap" (RSA)]
Acraea (*Actinote*) *rahira mufindi* Kielland, 1990 [Butterflies of Tanzania: 163, "Mufindi, Ngwazi" (Tanzanie)]

Acraea rahira is only found in swampy areas. It is directly attributable to its food plant which grows only in swamps: *Polygonum tomentosum* (Polygonaceae). We found a very important population near Mzuzu in Lunyangwa swamp. This population belongs to the subspecies *mufindi* recently described by Kielland in Tanzania. We also recently caught a specimen of *rahira* in Thyolo. This specimen belongs to the nominate subspecies. So, as Gifford did not differentiate the two, we do not know if the records of central Malawi belong to the nominate subspecies or not. The subspecies *mufindi* has yellow (male and female) upper and undersides whilst the subspecies *rahira* has an orange underside.



Our specimens of the nominate subspecies from Thyolo are not particularly nice, but one can easily notice the orange areas of the verso. We found many caterpillars in Lunyangwa swamp (see below).

Distribution in Malawi

A. r. rahira :

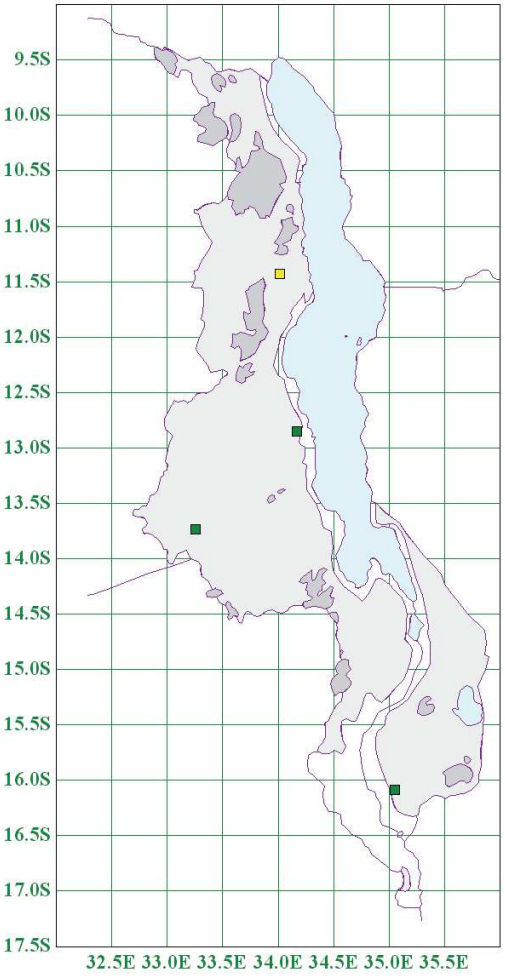
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East

A. r. mufindi :

Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	11° 26' South	34° 01' East

A. rahira subsp. :

Ludzi river	13° 44' South	33° 15' East
Nkhotakota Game Res (Bua camp)	12° 51' South	34° 10' East



We recently obtained a series of *rahira* from Mzuzu which are from the nominate subspecies. This fact could be a demonstration that *mufindi* is only a seasonal form. But it must be confirmed.

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X											
South	X		X	X					X			X





rahira, ♂r, Thyolo Fst



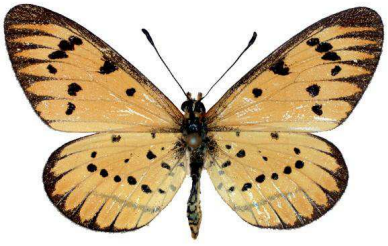
rahira, ♀r, Thyolo Fst



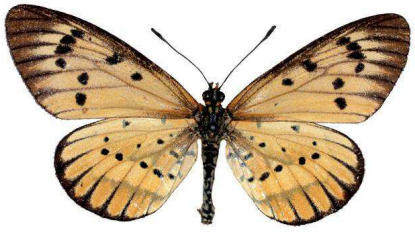
rahira, ♂v, Thyolo Fst



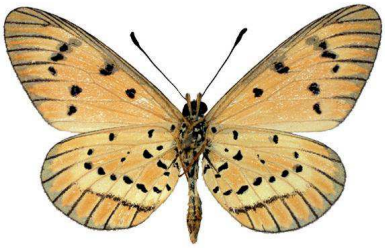
rahira, ♀v, Thyolo Fst



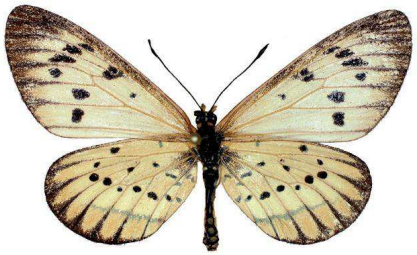
mufindi, ♂r, Mzuzu



mufindi, ♀r, Mzuzu



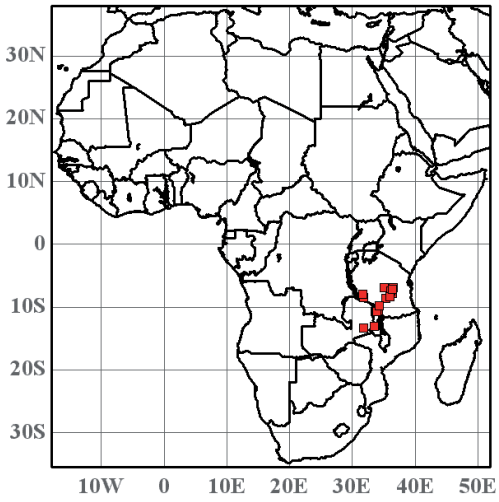
mufindi, ♂v, Mzuzu



mufindi, ♀r, Mzuzu

Acraea scalivittata

Acraea (*Acraea*) *scalivittata* Butler, 1896 [Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), 18: 159, «Mt Kazungu, 7425 ft, Nyika» (Malawi)]

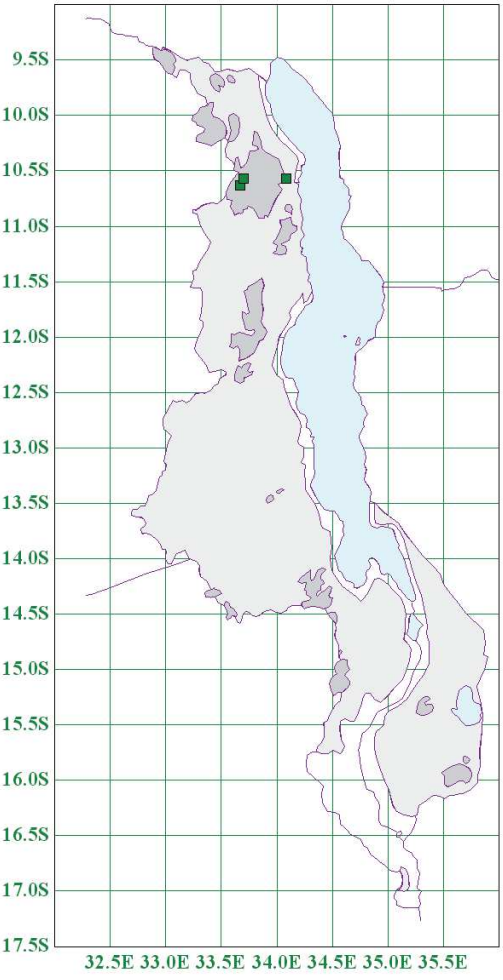


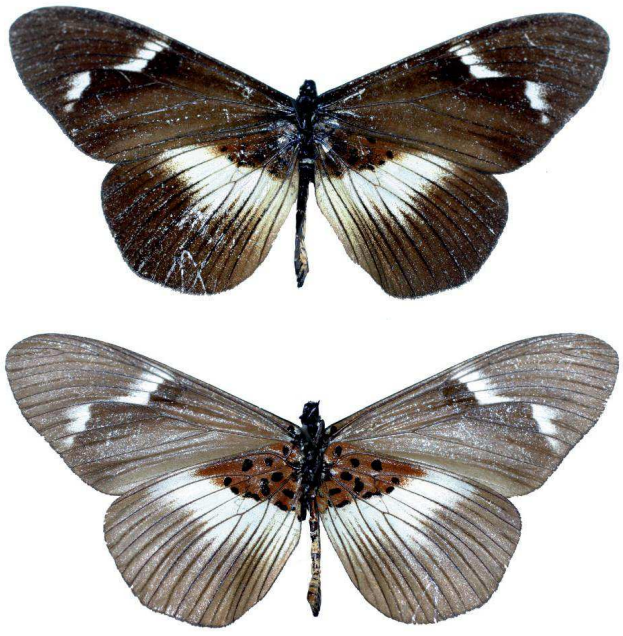
This species has been described originally from Nyika plateau by Butler (Kasungu mount). But, as we show in its complete distribution range in Africa it occurs also in Tanzania, where it is certainly more common than in Malawi.

In fact, very few specimens are known from Malawi. Dowsett recorded it on Nyika plateau and a specimen collected by him is in the FRIM collection (picture below). Despite several trips to the Nyika plateau, we have never seen it flying.

Distribution in Malawi

Kasyaula - Nyika plateau	10° 38’ South	33° 40’ East
Nyamkhowa - Nyika plateau	10° 34’ South	34° 05’ East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34’ South	33° 42’ East

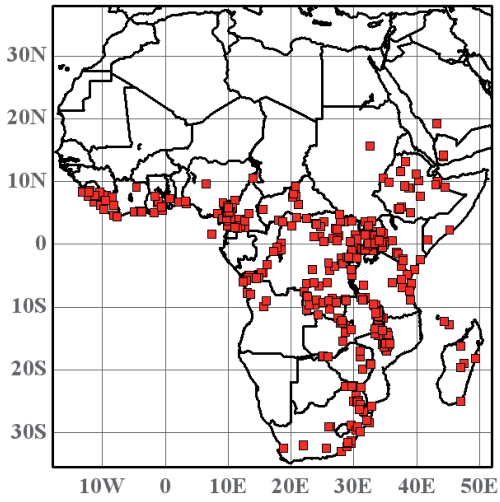




Acraea scalivittata, Nyika (Dowcet - FRIM) recto (up) and verso (down) :

Acraea serena

Acraea (*Actinote*) *serena* Fabricius, 1775 [Syst. Ent.: 461, n° 76, «India» (False locality)]
= *Papilio eponina* Cramer, 1780 [Pap. Exot. 3: 138, pl. 268, fig. C, D (1780), Papillons Exotiques Localité type : Sierra Leona]

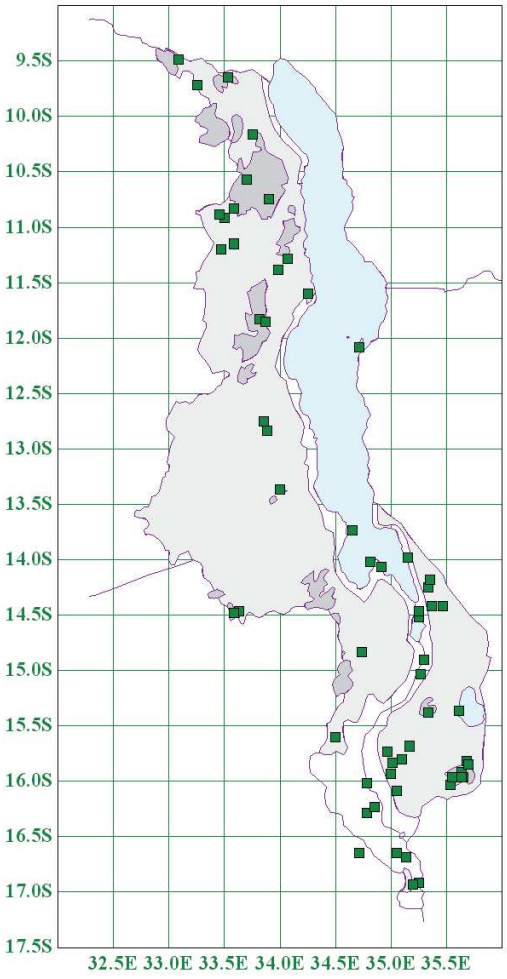


Acraea serena (which is the good name of the species commonly called *Acraea eponina* Cramer) is certainly the most common *Acraea* species in the whole of Africa. In Malawi, it occurs everywhere (but we conscientiously reported all records on our map). We actually consider that *rougeti* Guérin-Méneville is a synonym (see our plate that shows two specimens from Mulanje Mt, one with a complete subapical line and the other one without).

We bred it many times on many food plants: *Triumfetta annua* (Tiliaceae), *Triumfetta pilosa* (Tiliaceae) or *rhomboidea*, and other unidentified plants.

Distribution in Malawi

Bangwe Mt	15° 48' South	35° 06' East
Bonamali Fst - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 15' South	35° 20' East
Chamambo Hll - S. Viphya	11° 51' South	33° 52' East
Chikangawa	11° 50' South	33° 49' East
Chikwawa	16° 01' South	34° 47' East
Chilwa lake	15° 22' South	35° 37' East
Chipala camp	12° 45' South	33° 51' East
Chipala Fst Res	12° 50' South	33° 53' East
Chiradzulu Mt	15° 41' South	35° 10' East
Chitipa - Nyika (Fort Hll)	09° 43' South	33° 15' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dzalanyama Fst Res.	14° 28' South	33° 38' East
Esperanza Mulanje	16° 02' South	35° 32' East
Fort Lister Gap - Mulanje Mt	15° 51' South	35° 42' East
Ifisa Hll - Chawanga	09° 29' South	33° 05' East
Juniper Fst - Nyika plateau	10° 45' South	33° 54' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Kawiya Camp - Vwaza marsh	10° 55' South	33° 30' East
Lake Malawi Nat Park	14° 01' South	34° 49' East
Lengwe Nat Park	16° 17' South	34° 47' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Likhubula river - Mulanje	15° 56' South	35° 00' East
Likoma island	12° 05' South	34° 43' East
Lipangala Hll - Makanjila road	13° 59' South	35° 09' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Chinguni Hll	15° 02' South	35° 16' East
Liwonde Nat Park - Mvuu Camp	14° 54' South	35° 18' East
Majete Nat Park.	16° 39' South	34° 43' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Mangochi Mt	14° 25' South	35° 28' East
Mangochi swamp	14° 31' South	35° 15' East
Mangochi town - Lake Malombe	14° 28' South	35° 15' East
Michiru Hll	15° 44' South	34° 58' East
Minunu hut - Mulanje Mt	15° 55' South	35° 38' East
Monkey bay	14° 04' South	34° 55' East
Mpatamanga Fst - Shire river	14° 50' South	34° 44' East



Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Mwabvi Game Res	16° 39' South	35° 03' East
Mwame Hll - Ngapani	14° 11' South	35° 21' East
Nchalo - Nsanje road	16° 14' South	34° 51' East
Nkhorongo - Mzuzu	11° 23' South	33° 59' East
Nsanje	16° 55' South	35° 15' East
Ntchisi Fst	13° 22' South	34° 00' East
Phalombe - Fort Lister Gap	15° 49' South	35° 41' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Senga Bay Fst Res	13° 44' South	34° 39' East
Shire Valley - Mulaka Hll	16° 41' South	35° 08' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Tsenga Mt - Muanza	15° 36' South	34° 30' East
Uledi - Nyika plateau	10° 10' South	33° 45' East
Uyuzi Hll - Vwaza Marsh	11° 09' South	33° 35' East
Uzuzu Hll - Chowe - Namizimu Fst Res	14° 25' South	35° 22' East
Vwaza Marsh Game Res	10° 53' South	33° 27' East
Zaro camp - Vwaza Marsh	11° 12' South	33° 28' East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34' South	33° 42' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East

Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North			X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
South		X		X						X		

This photograph of a copulation shows very well the abdomina position of the two sexes (Mulanje Mount).



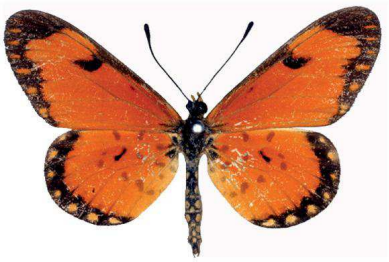


A female just hatched (Mulanje Mt)

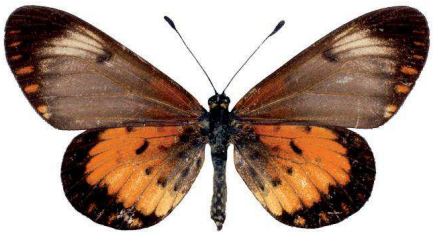


A male, completely frozed early in the morning in Zomba (2000 meters high)





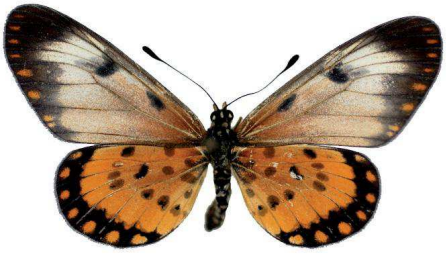
serena, ♂r, Mulanje Mt



serena, ♀r, Fort hill



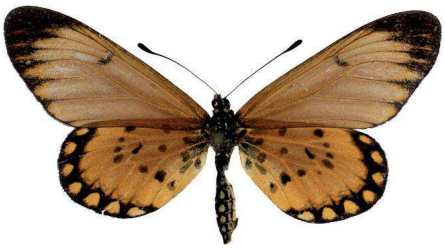
serena, ♂r, Mulanje Mt



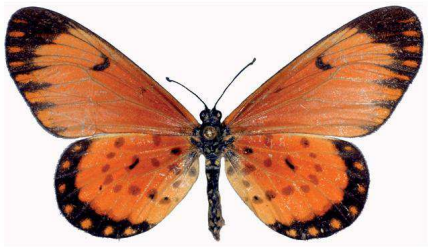
serena, ♀r, Fort Lister Gap



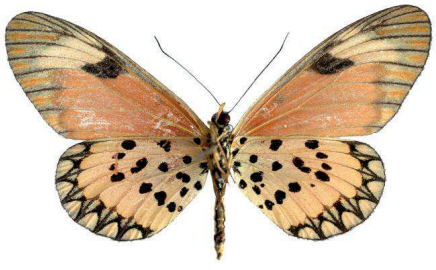
serena, ♂v, Dzalanyama Range



serena, ♀r, Zomba Plateau



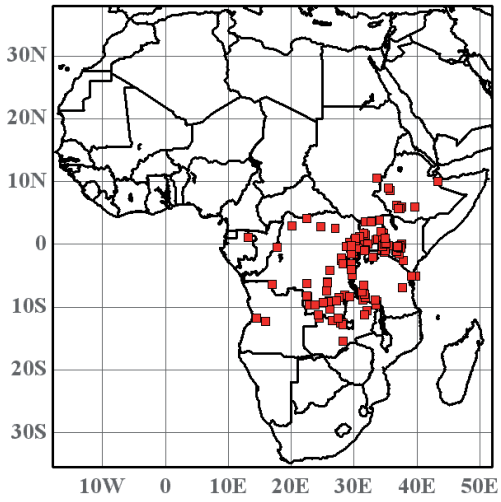
serena, ♂r, Mughese Fst



serena, ♀v, Chepolwe Fst

Acraea sotikensis

Acraea (*Actinote*) *sotikensis* Sharpe, 1891 [Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.: 634, pl. 48, fig. 1, «Sotik, Kavirondo» (Kenya)]

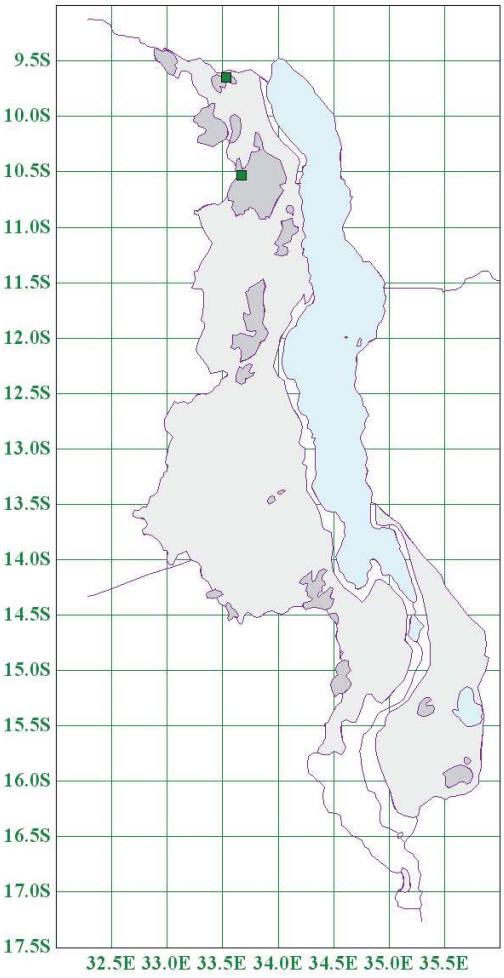


This *Acraea* is known only in the north of Malawi. It was confused with *cabira* by Gifford (see *Acraea cabira*).

It feeds on the same food plants: *Triumfetta pilosa* and *Triumfetta rhomboidea* (Tiliaceae). The larva is identical to that of *cabira* in appearance.

Distribution in Malawi

Kaperekesi gate - Nyika plateau	10° 32' South	33° 40' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East

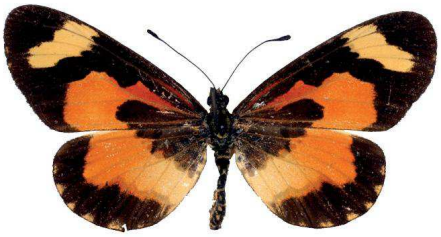


Flight period: our records by month and area

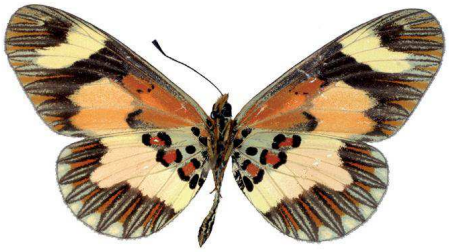
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North					X	X	X					
South												



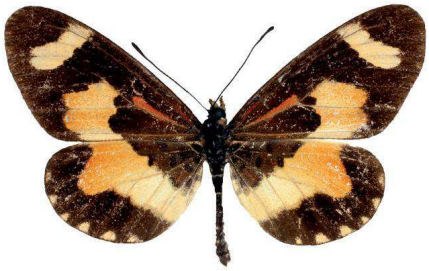
sotikensis, ♂r, Kaperekezi Gate



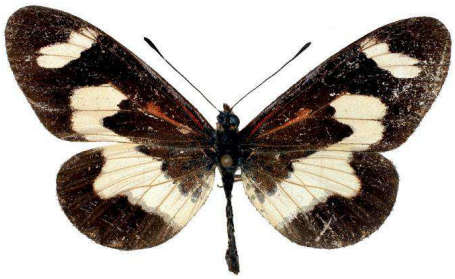
sotikensis, ♀r, Kaperegezi Gate



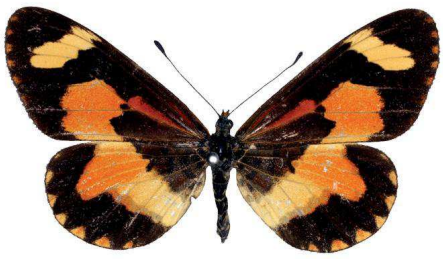
sotikensis, ♂v, Kaperezi Gate



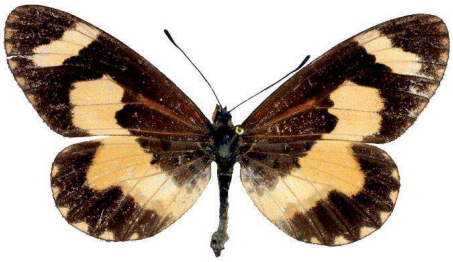
sotikensis, ♀r, Mughese Fst



sotikensis, ♂r, Mughese Fst



sotikensis, ♀r, Mughese Fst



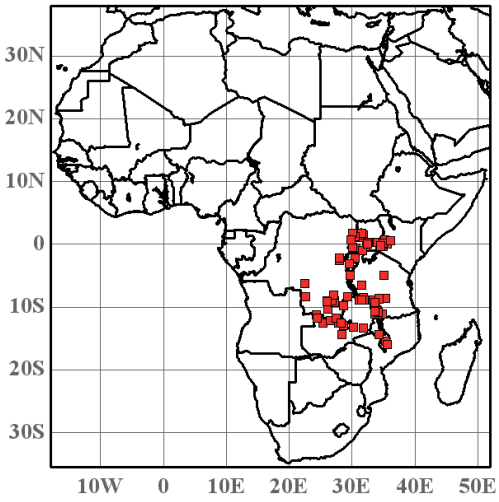
sotikensis, ♂r, Mughese Fst



sotikensis, ♂r, Kaperezi Gate

Acraea ventura

Acraea (*Actinote*) *ventura* Hewitson, 1877 [Ent. Mo. Mag. 14: 51, «Lake Nyassa» (Tanzanie ?)]



Acraea ventura is locally common (lake Nyassa being the type area), especially in the north of Malawi. Malawi seems to be the south-easternmost point of the distribution. This Acraea was originally confused with *Acraea serena*. Even Eltringham in his monograph states that it is only a form of *serena*. Van Someren (1936) considers *ventura* as a good species which has a distinct food plant and a distinct larva. This point is confirmed by Carcasson (1961). The main difference is the hindwing underside margin. We bred the larva on the same food plant as *Acraea anacreon*: *Aeschynomene abyssinica* (Fabaceae), a plant on which *serena* never feeds. The larva is greenish, like *serena*, and not yellow like *anacreon* is.

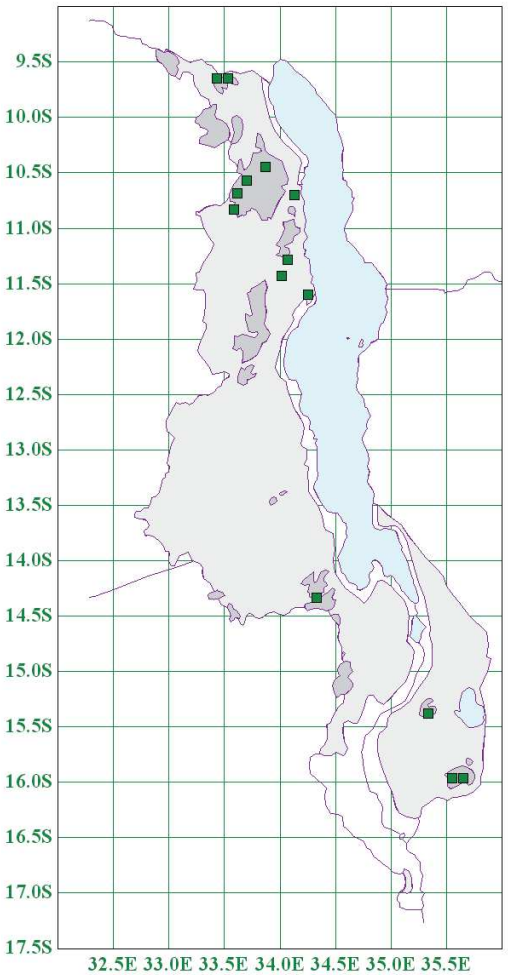
Contrary to Van Someren, we believe that the differences between *serena* and *ventura* larvae are not so obvious (see the biology plate below).

Distribution in Malawi

Choma Mt	11° 17' South	34° 04' East
Dedza Mt	14° 20' South	34° 20' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Lunyangwa swamp - Mzuzu	11° 26' South	34° 01' East
Luselo river - Nyika plateau	10° 41' South	33° 37' East
Matipa Fst - Misuku Hll	09° 39' South	33° 26' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Nganda - Nyika plateau	10° 27' South	33° 52' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Thazima gate - Nyika plateau	10° 50' South	33° 35' East
Uzumara Fst	10° 42' South	34° 08' East
Zavo Chepolwe Fst (Zovochipolo) - Nyika	10° 34' South	33° 42' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



Acraea ventura female, Mughese Fst



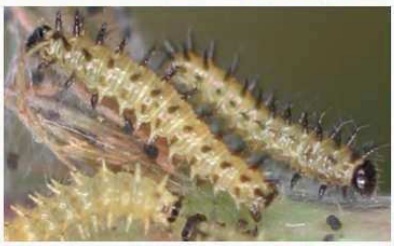
Flight period: our records by month and area

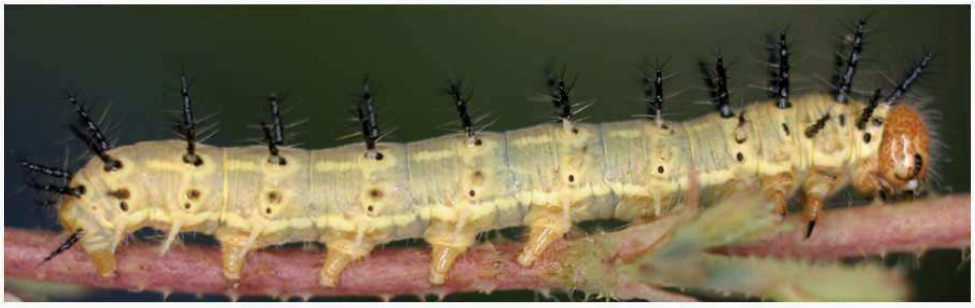
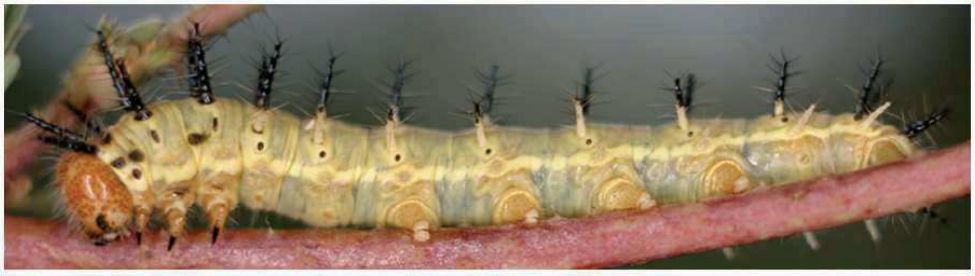
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X	X		X		X	X	X		X		X
South										X		





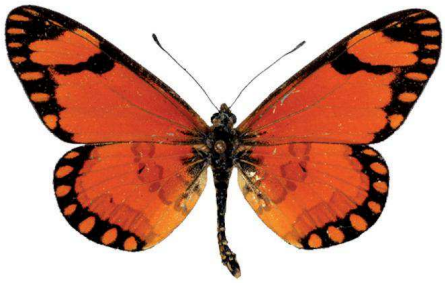






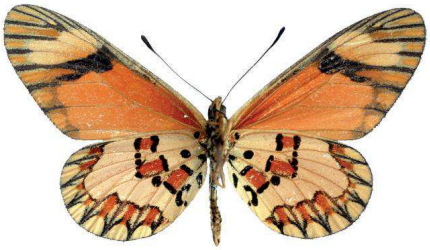




ventura, ♂r, Mughese Fst



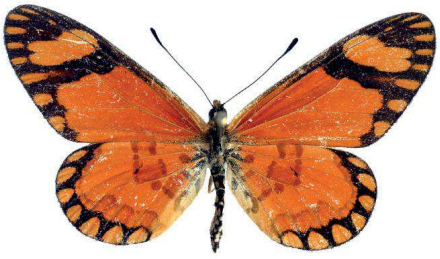
ventura, ♀r, Thazima Gate



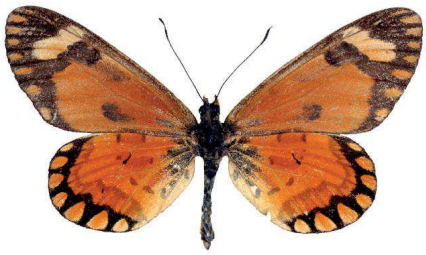
ventura, ♂v, Choma Mt



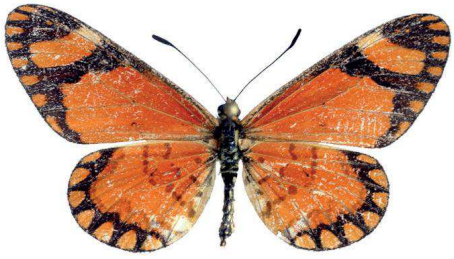
ventura, ♀v, Thazima Gate



ventura, ♂r, Choma Mt



ventura, ♀r, Nganda - Nyika



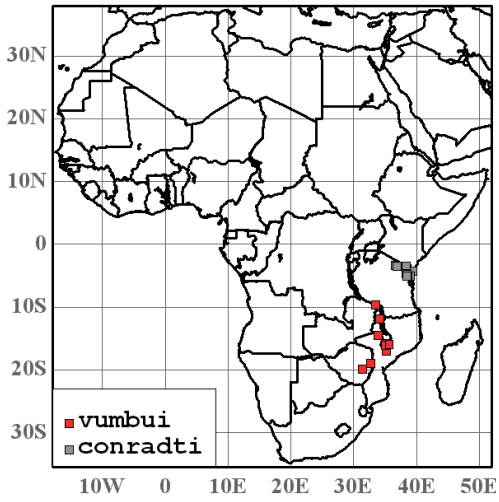
ventura, ♀r, Thazima Gate



ventura, ♀v, Thazima Gate

Acraea vumbui

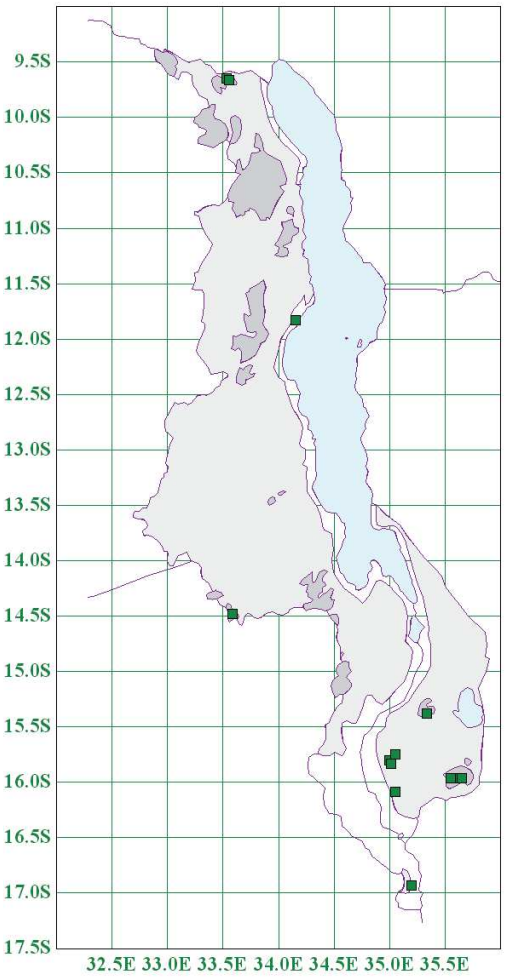
Acraea (*Actinote*) *vumbui* Stevenson, 1934 [Occ. Pap. Rhod. Mus., 3: 13, pl. 1, f. 7-8 «S. Rhodesia, Umtali district,Vumba Mountains» (Zimbabwe)]
[The name *vumbui* should be a synonym of *kuekenthali* Le Doux, 1922]



Acraea vumbui is the only species of the *conradti* group flying in Malawi (the male never has a white apical bar). In the Gifford collection we found some females labelled *Acraea conradti*; nevertheless *vumbui* females are very variable, and some forms are similar to the *conradti* ones. A surprise was to commonly find *Acraea vumbui* in Mughese forest. In fact it seems to occur in all primary forests of Malawi. The male of this butterfly likes to perch on top of a leaf, deep inside the forest, but in a sunny place, defending its territory by attacking the others which are passing near it. Many forms have been described, and all are flying in Malawi (*flavescens* Blachier, 1912 is a yellow female form, *cooksoni* van Son, 1963 is a male form with a reduction of the black basal patches of the fore wings, *barnesi* Stevenson, 1940, is a female form which is very light in colour).

Distribution in Malawi

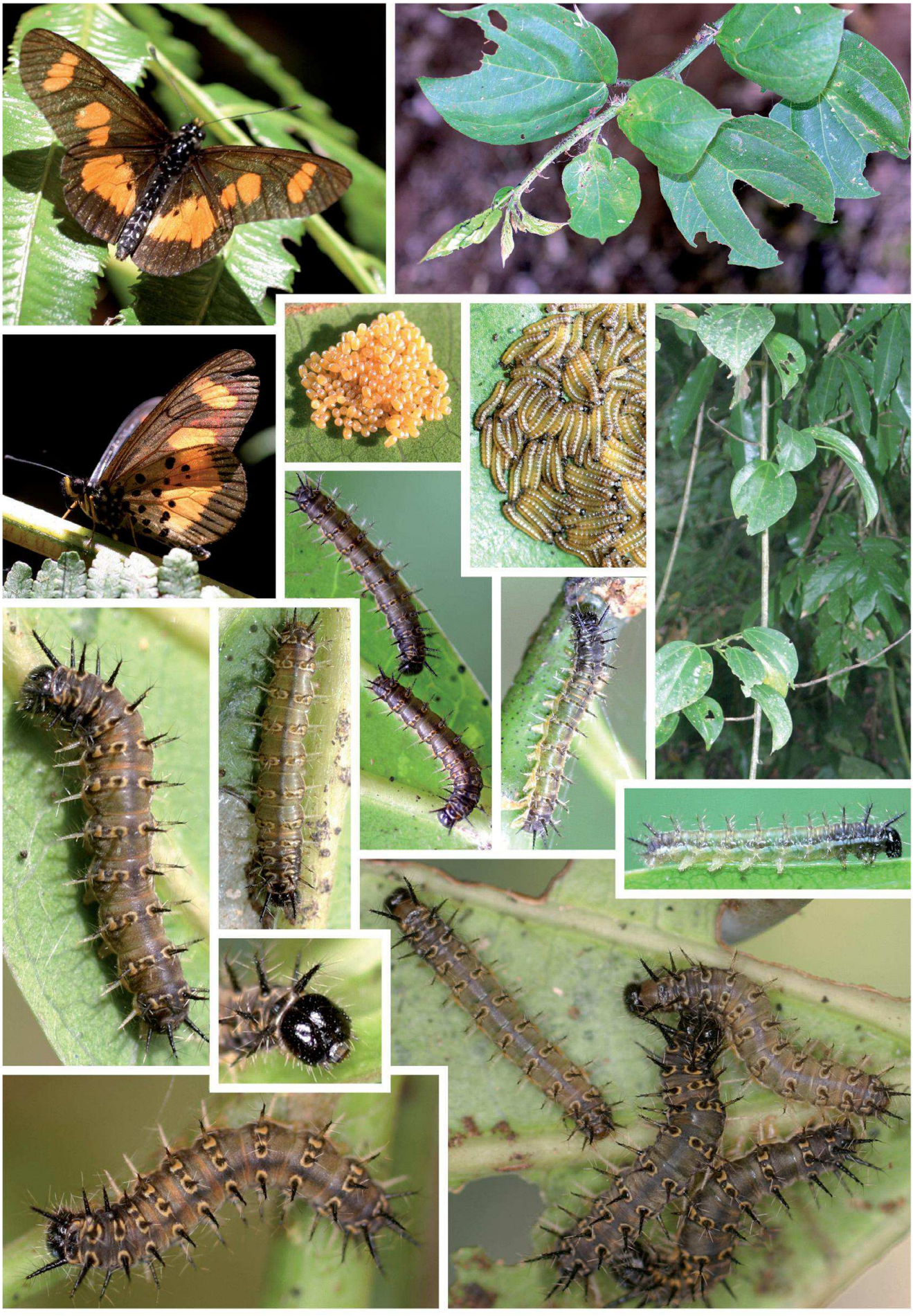
Blantyre	15° 48' South	35° 00' East
Chinteche	11° 50' South	34° 09' East
Cholo Mt (= Thyolo Mt)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Kasitu - Mushitu Fst - Dzalanyama range	14° 29' South	33° 35' East
Lichenya hut - Mulanje	15° 58' South	35° 33' East
Malawe Hll (= Malawi Hll)	16° 56' South	35° 12' East
Misuku	09° 40' South	33° 33' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East
Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 38' East
Ndirande Mt	15° 45' South	35° 03' East
Ruo river - Mulanje Mt	15° 58' South	35° 39' East
Soche Mt	15° 50' South	35° 01' East
Thyolo Fst Res (= Cholo Fst)	16° 05' South	35° 03' East
Zomba plateau	15° 23' South	35° 20' East



There is a very important population in Ruo River (Mulanje). We bred it on *Urera trinervis* (Urticaceae). This butterfly lays its eggs in a characteristic pile.

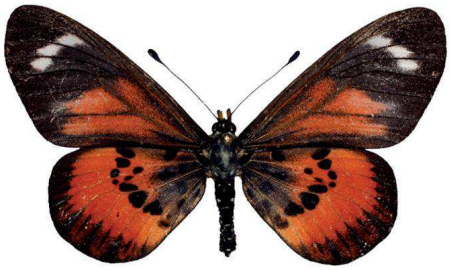
Flight period: our records by month and area

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North		X		X	X			X				X
South			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

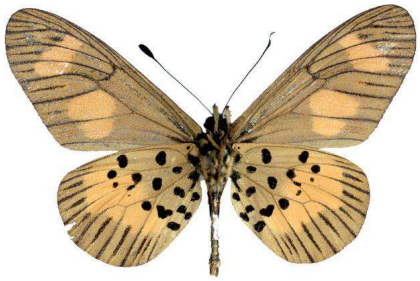




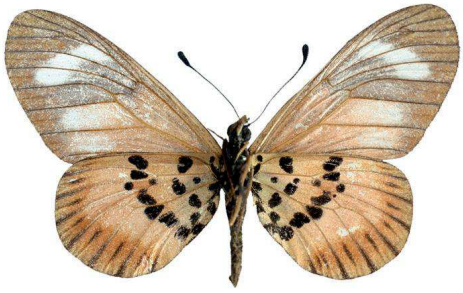
vumbui, ♂r, Mulanje Mt



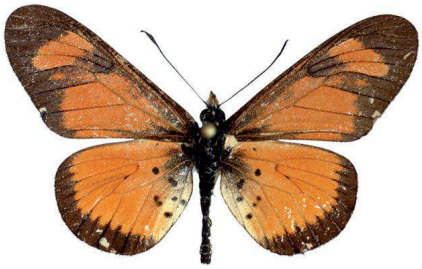
vumbui, ♀r, Ruo River



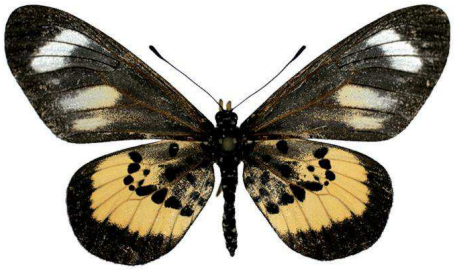
vumbui, ♂v, Mughese Fst



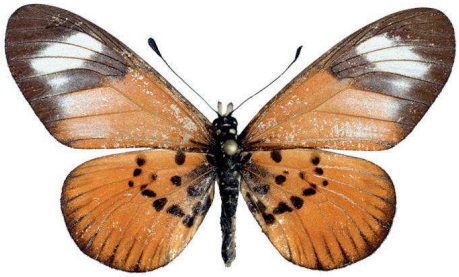
vumbui, ♀v, Mughese Fst



vumbui, ♂r, Ruo River



vumbui, ♀r, Mulanje



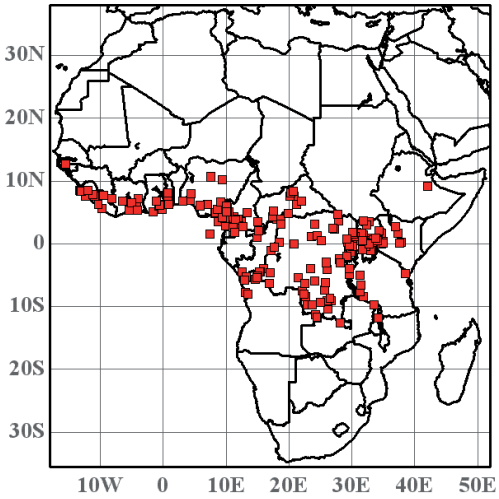
vumbui, ♂r, Ruo River



vumbui, ♀r, Ruo River

Acraea zetes

Acraea (*Acraea*) *zetes* Linné, 1758 [Syst. Nat. ed. 10: 487, «India» (False locality)]

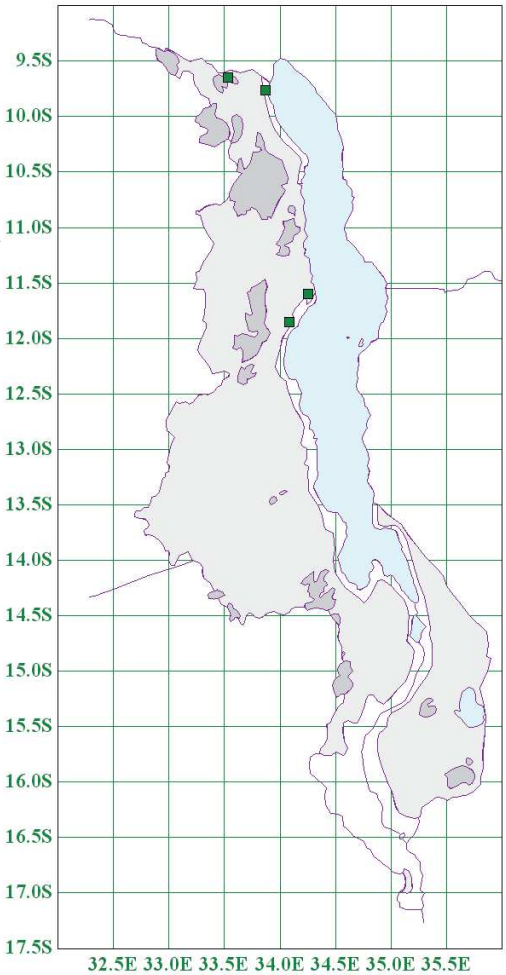


Acraea zetes is very common in western and central Africa. *Acraea acara*, considered as a subspecies before, is its east African variation. Today *acara* is classified as a distinct species and normally occurs in East Africa only. Nevertheless, some specimens collected along Lake Malawi are typical *zetes* specimens. The best way to distinguish the two species is given by the apex: *zetes* has a black smoked apical area and, even in pale variations, the light apical band is narrow, while it is wide in *acara*, with the black apical area always reduced.

So both species are flying in Malawi.

Distribution in Malawi

Chisasira Fst - Chintheche	11° 51' South	34° 05' East
Kalwe Fst - Nkhata Bay	11° 36' South	34° 15' East
Kaporo road	09° 46' South	33° 52' East
Mughese Fst (= Misuku Hll)	09° 39' South	33° 32' East



We bred many times zetes in other countries. It feeds on Passifloraceae plants (*Adenia lobata* in Cameroon). Its larva is identical to that of *acara*.



Adenia lobata, Thyolo Fst

Flight period: our records by month and area

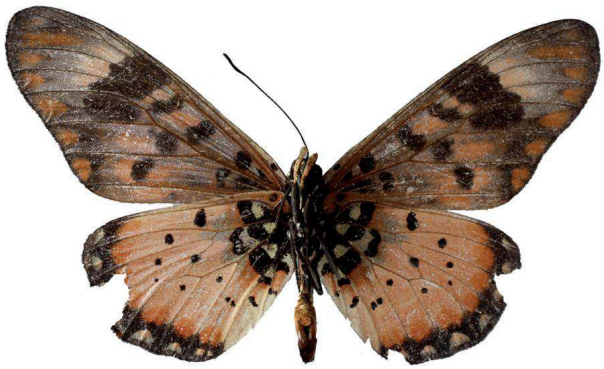
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
North	X											
South												



zetes, ♂r, Mkuwadzi Fst



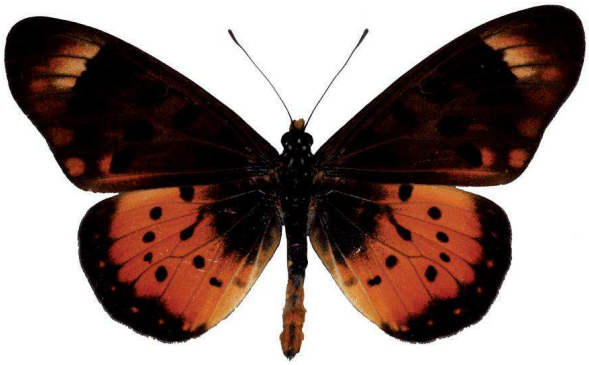
zetes, ♀r, Kalwe Fst



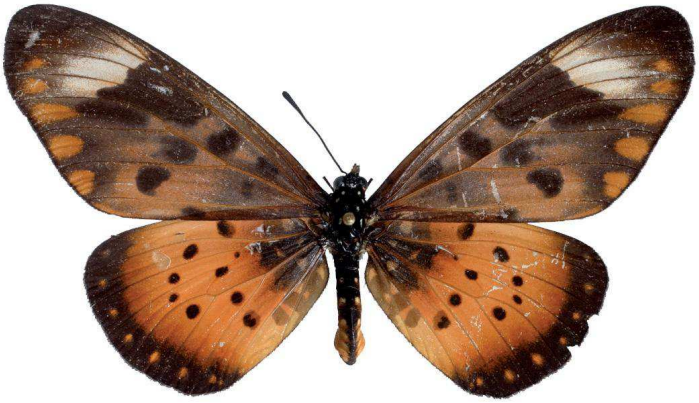
zetes, ♂v, Mkuwadzi Fst



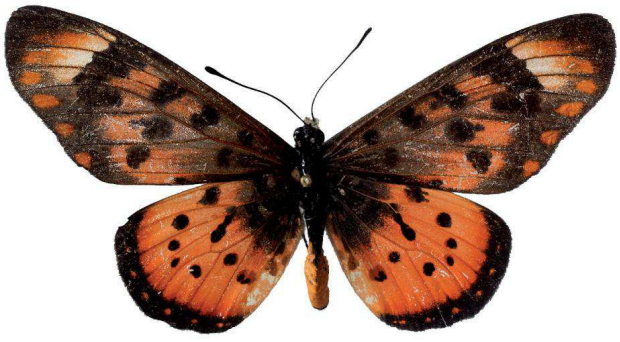
zetes, ♀v, Kalwe Fst



zetes, ♂r, Chisasira Fst



zetes, ♀r, Kaporo road



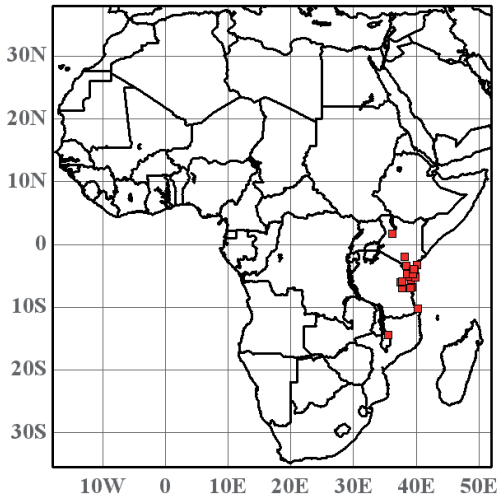
zetes, ♂r, Tazo Chepolwe Fst



zetes, ♀v, Kaporo road

Acraea zonata

Acraea (*Acraea*) *zonata* Hewitson, 1877, [Ent. Mo. Mag. 14: 154, Zanzibar]

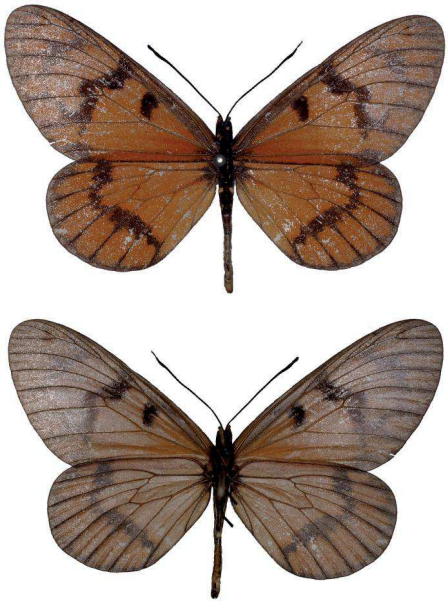


Acraea zonata is a common coastal species in Kenya and northern Tanzania.

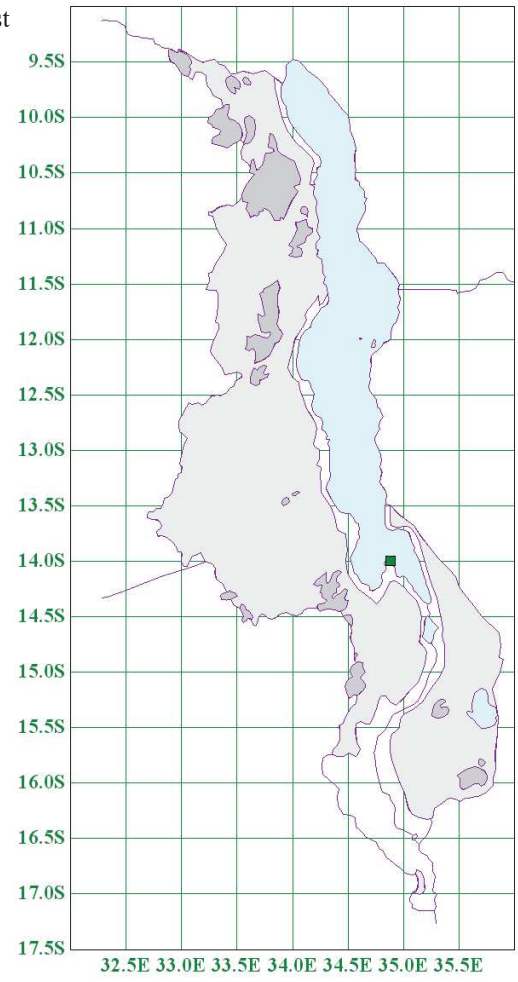
The malawian record of Mzeze (see photographs below) is extremely surprising. We do not know of any other records.

Distribution in Malawi

Mzeze	14° 00' South	34° 53' East



Acraea zonata, Mzeze
Hope entomological collections - Oxford Museum



Acraeinae species in cladistic order

This classification of the *Acraea* species is the subject of some discussions.

Firstly, the actual position of the *Acraea* group is, according to different authors, considered either as a family (Lepidoptera: Acraeidae) or a subfamily (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Acraeinae) or a tribe (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae, Heliconiinae: Acraeini). In our work we agreed to consider *Acraea* butterflies as a subfamily **Acraeinae** though one of us (R. M.) feels strongly that they are so obviously a distinct group that they should be awarded Family status. Following J. Pierre we think that there is no links between Heliconiinae and Acraeinae. On the other hand, *Acraea* butterflies are very close to some Nymphalidae.

Secondly, J. Pierre classification (published since 1987), based on a unique genus *Acraea* (except *Pardopsis*, whose position is actually disputed) in which he distinguishes two subgenus (*Acraea* and *Actinote*, including new world species), is **monophyletic** as it does not consider the old genus *Bematistes*, *Miyana*, *Pareba*, *Actinote*, *Abananote*, *Altinote* as good genus. This is actually contradicted by Graham A. Henning who decided to give genus names to each group of *Acraea*, and who created many new subgenus names.

Graham A. Henning classification (1992, 1993) was published many years after J. Pierre's work, which has identified several cladistic species groups of *Acraea* based on numerous characters. Recent publications considered that if some of Henning's subgenus are conformed to Pierre's species groups, they are nevertheless « based on a limited number of characters » (Torben B. Larsen, 2005, in Butterflies of West Africa).
In any case, Henning's classification seems not to be phylogenetic. For instance his *Telchinia* and *Alacria* subgenus do not correspond with the cladistic Pierre's groups.

Pierre & Bernaud research on *Acraea* species consists of in-depth work on each species (including studies of holotypes in Museums and specimens in very extensive collections, analysis of many structural criteria and molecular structure of DNA, missions in most African countries for breedind purposes) and their recent publications do not follow G. A. Henning classification (i.e. Butterflies of the world Part 31: *Acraea* subgenus *Actinote*, 2009, and Part 39: *Acraea* subgenus *Acraea*, 2013, in Goecke & Evers, Bernaud website *acraea.com*).

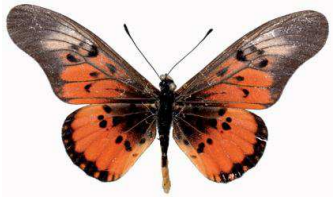
For all the above reasons, we have opted not to follow Henning's classification in this work.

Acraeinae species in cladistic order

I ***Acraea*** **(subgenus** ***Actinote*****)**

Group : *perenna*

Clade : I1 *perenna*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *perenna* Doubleday, Hewitson & Westood, 1850


perenna

Group : *parrhasia*

Clade : I2a *penelope*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *igola* Trimen, 1889
Acraea (*Actinote*) *vumbui* Stevenson, 1934
Acraea (*Actinote*) *baxteri* Sharpe, 1902

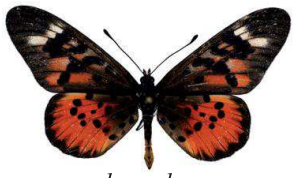

igola

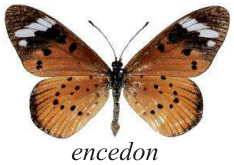

vumbui


baxteri

Group : *encedon*

Clade : I4a *pharsalus*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *pharsalus* Ward, 1871
Clade : I4b *encedon*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *encedon* Linné, 1758
Clade : I4c *lycoa*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acuta* Howarth, 1969
Acraea (*Actinote*) *esebria* Hewitson, 1861
Acraea (*Actinote*) *johnstoni* Godman, 1885


pharsalus


encedon


acuta


esebria


johnstoni

Group : *serena*

Clade : I5a *serena*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *serena* Fabricius, 1775
Acraea (*Actinote*) *ventura* Hewitson, 1877
Clade : I5b *acerata*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *acerata* Hewitson, 1874
Clade : I5c *bonasia*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *sotikensis* Sharpe, 1891
Acraea (*Actinote*) *cabira* Hopffer, 1855
Acraea (*Actinote*) *goetzei* Thurau, 1903


serena


ventura


acerata


sotikensis


cabira

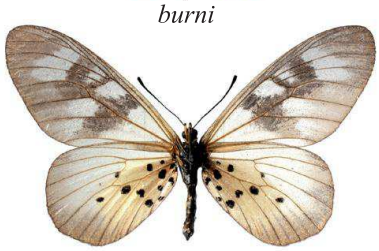

goetzei

Acraeinae species in cladistic order

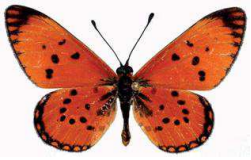
Group : *pentapolis*

Clade : I6a *pentapolis*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *burni* Butler, 1896
Acraea (*Actinote*) *pentapolis epidica* Oberthür, 1893


burni


pentapolis epidica

Clade : I6b *anacreon*
Acraea (*Actinote*) *anacreon* Trimen, 1868
Acraea (*Actinote*) *rahira* Boisduval, 1833
Acraea (*Actinote*) *rahira mufindi* Kielland, 1990


anacreon


rahira mufindi

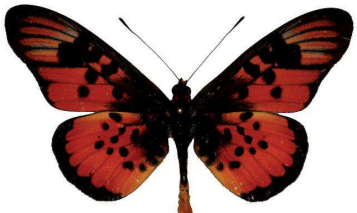
II ***Acraea*** **(subgenus** ***Acraea*****)**

Group : *cerasa*

Clade : II1 *cerasa*
Acraea (*Acraea*) *cerasa* Hewitson, 1861
Acraea (*Acraea*) *cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906


cerasa

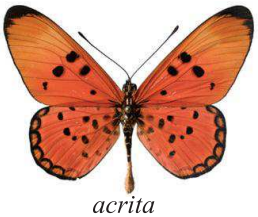

cerasa cerita


egina

Group : *egina*

Clade : II3a *egina*
Acraea (*Acraea*) *egina* Cramer, 1775
Acraea (*Acraea*) *periphanes* Oberthür, 1893
Acraea (*Acraea*) *acrita* Hewitson, 1865
Acraea (*Acraea*) *asema* Hewitson, 1877
Acraea (*Acraea*) *petraea* Boisduval, 1847
Acraea (*Acraea*) *cepheus bergeriana* Pierre, 1979
Acraea (*Acraea*) *punctellata* Eltringham, 1912

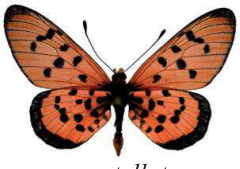

periphanes


acrita


asema


petraea


cepheus bergeriana


punctellata

Acraeinae species in cladistic order



axina



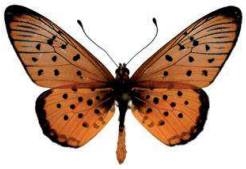
pudorella detecta

Clade : II3b *natalica*

Acraea (*Acraea*) *axina* Westwood, 1881
Acraea (*Acraea*) *pudorella detecta* Neave, 1910
Acraea (*Acraea*) *atergatis* Westwood, 1881
Acraea (*Acraea*) *oncaea* Hopffer, 1855
Acraea (*Acraea*) *lyci* Pierre, 2006
Acraea (*Acraea*) *natalica* Boisduval, 1847
Acraea (*Acraea*) *caldarena* Hewitson, 1877
Acraea (*Acraea*) *leucopyga* Aurivillius, 1904



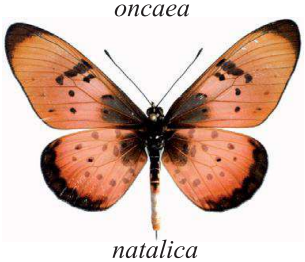
atergatis



oncaea



lyci



natalica

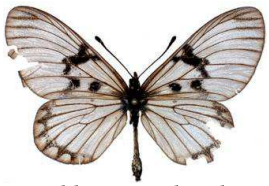


caldarena



leucopyga

Group : *zetes*



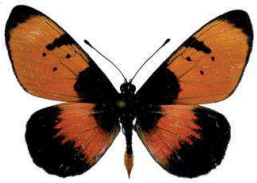
rabbaiae perlucida

Clade : II4a *zetes*

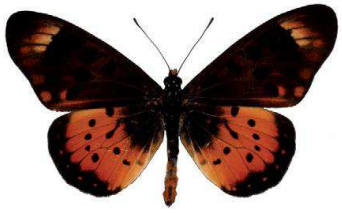
Acraea (*Acraea*) *rabbaiae perlucida* Henning & Henning, 1996
Acraea (*Acraea*) *zonata* Hewitson, 1877
Acraea (*Acraea*) *anemosa* Hewitson, 1865
Acraea (*Acraea*) *zetes* Linné, 1758
Acraea (*Acraea*) *acara* Hewitson, 1865



zonata



anemosa



zetes



acara

Acraeinae species in cladistic order

Clade : II4b *neobule*

Acraea (*Acraea*) *machequena* Grose-Smith, 1887
Acraea (*Acraea*) *boopis cholui* Pierre, 1979
Acraea (*Acraea*) *quirina* Fabricius, 1781
Acraea (*Acraea*) *cuva* Grose-Smith, 1889
Acraea (*Acraea*) *insignis* Distant, 1880
Acraea (*Acraea*) *neobule* Doubleday, Hewitson & Westood, 1850

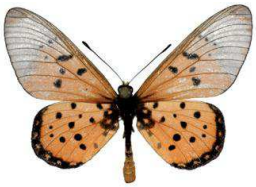

machequena


boopis choloui


quirina


cuva

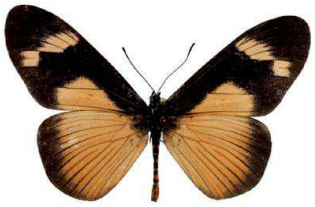

insignis


neobule

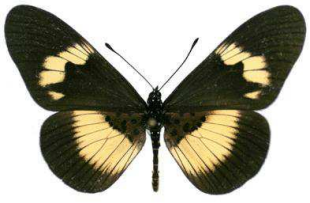
Group : *epaea*

Clade : II5 *epaea*

Acraea (*Acraea*) *epaea melina* Thurau, 1903
Acraea (*Acraea*) *scalivittata* Butler, 1896
Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice* Hewitson, 1852
Acraea (*Acraea*) *aganice montana* Butler, 1888


epaea melina


scalivittata


aganice


aganice montana

III ***Pardopsis***

Pardopsis punctatissima Boisduval, 1833


punctatissima

- **Aurivillius C., 1898**. - Rhopalocera Aethiopica, Stockholm. Die Tagfalter des aethiopischen faunengebietes. *Svenska Akademiens Handlingar* 31, n° 5: 91
- **Aurivillius C., 1904**. - Diagnosen Neuer Lepidopteren aus Afrika. *Entomologisk Tidskrift, Stockholm* 25: 92-95
- **Aurivillius C., 1910**. - *Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Schwedischen Zoologischen Expedition nach dem Kilimandjaro, dem Meru und den umgebenden Massaisteppen, Deutsch-Ostafrikas 1905-1906 unter Leitung von Prof. Dr. Yngve Sjöstedt*. Lepidoptera, Stockholm
- **Bernaud D. & Pierre J., 1996**. - Premiers stades d'*Acraea zetes* (Linne) (Lepidoptera Nymphalidae Acraeinae). *Lambillionea* 96 (2) (Tome II): 404-406
- **Bernaud D., 1998**. - Premiers stades d'*Acraea egina* (Cramer) au Cameroun (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae). *Lambillionea* 98 (3) (Tome II): 431-434.
- **Bernaud D. & Pierre J., 2000**. - Premiers états d'*Acraea pseudegina* (Westwood) et d'*Acraea natalica* (Boisduval) (Lepidoptera Nymphalidae). *Lambillionea* 100 (1) (Tome I): 2-6
- **Bernaud D., 2000**. - Premiers stades d'*Acraea encedon* Linne et d'*Acraea encedana* Pierre (Lepidoptera Nymphalidae). *Lambillionea* 100 (2) (Tome II): 305-308
- **Bernaud D., 2001**. - Premiers états d'*Acraea jodutta* au Cameroun (Lepidoptera Nymphalidae). *Lambillionea* 101 (2) (Tome I): 197-202
- **Bernaud D. & Ducarme R., 2008**. - Revue du clade II1 (groupe *Acraea cerasa*) sur la base de captures récentes (Lepidoptera, Nymphalidae, Acraeidae). *Entomologia Africana* 13 (2), 2008: 45-52
- **Bernaud D. & Lequeux J.P., 2011**. - Acraeinae research in Uganda. Mission in Western forests. *Lambillionea* CXI, 3, 2011: 253-262
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- **Butler A.G., 1888**. - Descriptions of some new Lepidoptera from Kilima-njaro. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* n°2, introd. Acraeinae: 91
- **Butler A.G., 1893**. - On two Collections of Lepidoptera sent by H.H. Johnston, Esq., C.B., from British Central Africa. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 1893: 656
- **Butler A.G., 1895**. - On a small collection of Butterflies made by Consul Alfred Sharpe at Zomba, British Central Africa. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*: 720-721
- **Butler A.G., 1895**. - On a small collection of Lepidoptera sent from Nyasa in 1895 by Mr. R. Crawshay. Description of some new Lepidoptera from Nyassaland. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History, London* (6), 18: 67-75; 159-160; 467.
- **Butler A.G., 1896**. - On two collections of Lepidoptera made by Mr. R. Crawshay in Nyasa-land. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*: 817-850, pl. 41, 42
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- **Cramer P., 1775**. - *Papillons Exotiques*,1: 64 pl. 29, 128 pl. 81
- **D'Abrera B., 1998**. - *Butterflies of the Afrotropical Région* (2ème édition): 134-180
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- **Doubleday E., 1850**. - *Genera of Diurnal Lepidoptera*, 1848, 1: 137-142, pl. 19, pl. 23

- **Dowsett R.J., 2004**. - A first survey of the butterflies of the lower Shire wildlife reserves, Malawi. *Nyala* 21: 39-46
- **Dudley C., 1998**. - Invertebrates of the Lake Chilwa Basin. *Ramsar report*
- **Dudley C., 2004**. - A checklist of the Butterflies of Liwonde National Park, Malawi. *Nyala* 16 (1): 9-16
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- **Eltringham G.A., 1912**. - A monograph of the African species of the genus *Acraea*, Fab., with a supplement on those of the Oriental region. *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London*: 99
- **Eltringham G.A. & Jordan K., 1913**. - *Lepidopterorum catalogus*, Acraeidae (Wagner), *Acraea*: 3-57
- **Fabricius J.C., 1775**. - *Systema entomologiae*: 459-466
- **Fabricius J.C., 1781**. - *Species Insectorum*, Hamburg, 2: 27-34
- **Gifford D., 1965**. - *A list of the Butterflies of Malawi*: 76-87
- **Godman F.D. & Salvin O., 1884**. - On the Lepidoptera collected by the late W. A. Forbes on the banks of the Lower Niger. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* : 219-229
- **Godman F.D., 1885**. - A list of the Lepidoptera collected by Mr. H. H. Johnston during his recent expedition to Kilima-njaro. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*: 536-541
- **Grose-Smith H., 1887**. - Descriptions of nine new Species of African Butterflies. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History,* London (5), 19
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- **Guérin-Méneville F.E., 1849**. - *Voyage en Abyssinie* (4) 6 (Zoologie) : 368-381, pl. 10
- **Heath A., Newport M.A. & Hancok D., 2002**. - *The butterflies of Zambia*. African Butterfly Research Institute and The Lepidopterists' Society of Africa. i-xvii, 1-137
- **Henning G.A., 1992**. - Phylogenetic notes on the African species of the subfamily Acraeinae. Part 1. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). *Metamorphosis* 3 (3): 100-114.
- **Henning G.A., 1993**. - Phylogenetic notes on the African species of the subfamily Acraeinae. Part 2. (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). *Metamorphosis* 4 (1): 5-18.
- **Henning G.A. & Henning S.F., 1996**. - Notes on the *Acraea* (*Acraea*) *rabbaiae* species group of the Acraeinae (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae). *Metamorphosis* 7(2): 65-67
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- **Henning G.A. & Williams M., 2010**. - Taxonomic notes on the afrotropical taxa of the tribe Acraeini Boisduval, 1882 (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae : Heliconiinae). *Metamorphosis*, Vol. 21, N° 1: 2-38
- **Hewitson W.C., 1852**. - *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* (*Acraea*) 1: 57-62, pl. 29 f. 6
- **Hewitson W.C., 1861**. - *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* (*Acraea*) 2: 39-40, pl. 29
- **Hewitson W.C., 1863**. - A list of diurnal Lepidoptera taken in Madagascar by Mr. Caldwell. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 5 : 64-65
- **Hewitson W.C., 1865**. - *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* (*Acraea*) 3: 15, pl. 8 f. 16, 17

- **Hewitson W.C., 1874**. - A list of Butterflies taken on the March to Coomassie by Lt Alvin S. Bell (...) between Mansu and the River Prah, with descriptions of new Species. *The Annals and Magazine of Natural History,* London (4), 13: 381
- **Hewitson W.C., 1877**. - Descriptions of four new Species of *Acraea* from lake Nyassa. *The Entomologist's Monthly Magazine,* London 14: 52
- **Holland W.J., 1892**. - Descriptions of some new species of African Lepidoptera. *The Entomologist,* London Supplement 25: 89-95.
- **Hopffer C.H., 1855**. - *Akademie der Wissenschften zu Berlin*: 639-640
- **Howarth T.G., 1969**. - Some African Nymphalidae. *The Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 38 (11-12): 141-156
- **Joicey J.J. & Talbot G., 1921**. - New Lepidoptera collected by Mr. T. A. Barns. *Bulletin of the Hill Muséum*, Witley, Survey, London 1: 47-50
- **Joly C., Bernaud D. & Pierre J., 2005**. - Entomological mission to Malawi. *Lambillionea*, CV, 1, 2005, suppl 1: 1-31
- **Joly C., Bernaud D., Pierre J. & Murphy R., 2008**. - Second entomological mission to Malawi. *Lambillionea*, CVIII, 4, 2008, suppl 1: 1-47
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- **Lanz H., 1896**. - Besprechung der von Dr. Bumiller 1893 aus Ostafrica mitgebrachten Schmetterlinge. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift Iris,* Dresden, 9: 113-147
- **Larsen T.B., 1991**. - *The Butterflies of Kenya*: 357-386, pl. 52-56
- **Le Doux C., 1923**. - Acraeen-Studien II (Lep. Rhop.). 1. Der Formenkreis von *Acraea caldarena* Hew. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1923: 207-226.
- **Le Doux C., 1928**. - Acraeen-Studien III (Lep. Rhop.). 1. Der Nomenklatuur und der Formenkreis von *Acraea eponina* Cr. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1928: 97-115.
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Both authors, D. Bernaud and R. Murphy, carried out in-depth studies of the Acraeinae sub-family in Malawi for over 8 years. This work was conducted with the help of J. Pierre of the NHM in Paris and C. Joly.Together with the authors, they took part in the field work in Malawi and published the results of their activities in Lambillionea, the famous Belgian entomological publication.

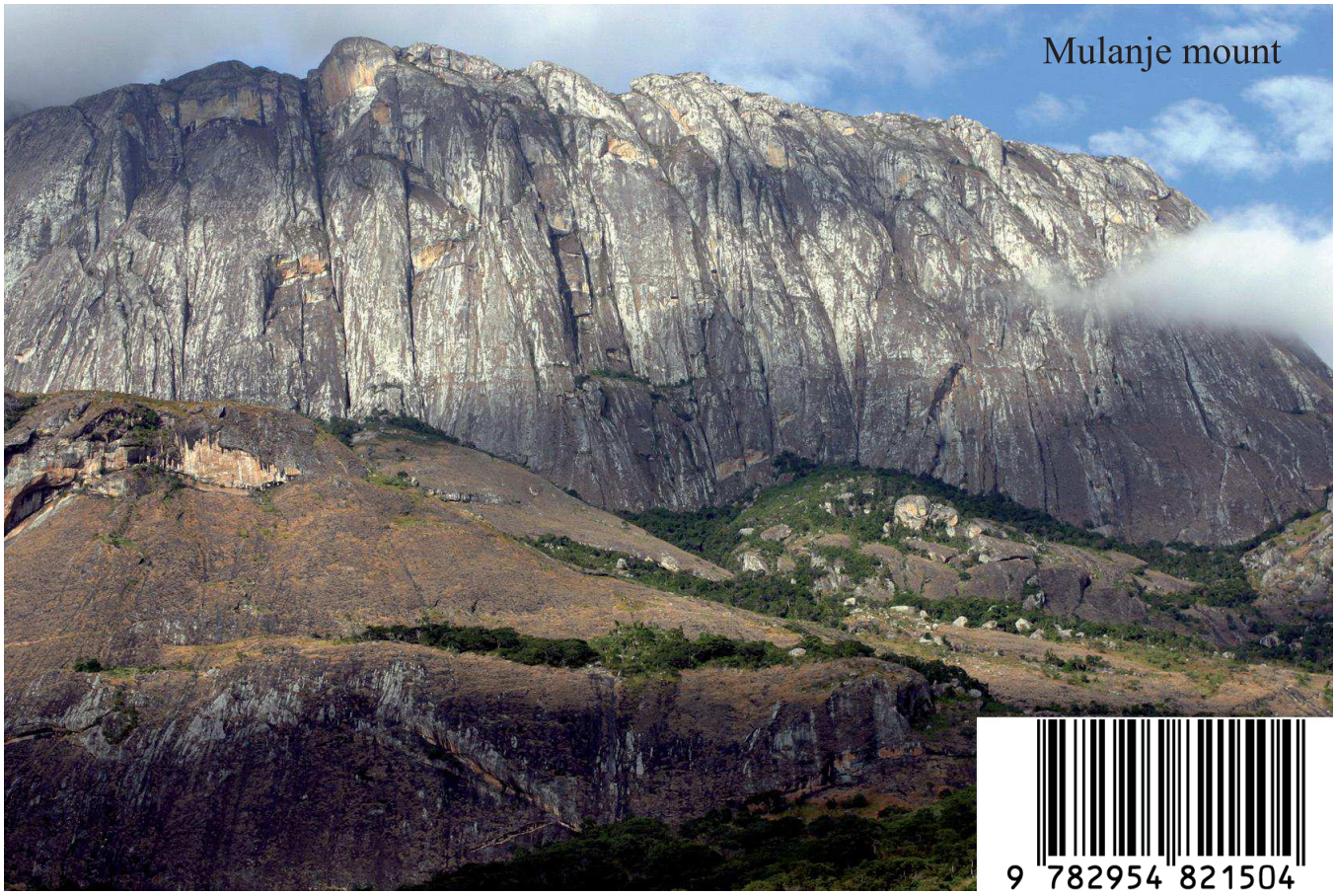
Thanks to the constant help and support from the FRIM and the MMCT, the authors were able to access and explore the most important forest reserves and mountains countrywide, from north to south. They bred many species of *Acraea* and even recorded some which had never been found before in Malawi. D. Bernaud took thousands of photos in situ to illustrate the living *Acraea* and their first stages. These photos can be viewed on his website *acraea*.com.

Their research also led them to visit museums and private collections. With the help of C. Dudley they were able to study the specimens kept in the Blantyre Museum (in particular the Gifford collection). With permission from the OMNH, D. Bernaud was able to examine the Hope entomological collections, where the old Malawi collection by Lamborn is preserved, and to reproduce some specimens.

Hopefully this work will encourage entomologists to pursue the study of the biology of the *Acraea*. A good knowledge of their host plants is paramount to understand their distribution.

This work is a testimony to the richness of the Malawi biodiversity and a plea for its enhanced protection.

Finally, we must express our gratitude to our Malawian collaborators, without their help, this work would never have been achieved.



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