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Amidst the butterflies of southwestern Angola

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Introduction

From 15-24 January 2009 I had the opportunity to join the SANBI/ISCED (Instituto Superior de Ciências de Educação)/Agostinho Neto University (ANU) Angola Biodiversity Expedition to southwestern Angola. In the absence of any lepidopterist on the expedition, my main purpose on the team was to collect and document as many butterflies as I could of this unexplored area of southwestern Angola. The expedition included 35 biologists from a range of natural history disciplines, from botanists to herpetologists, ornithologists and entomologists, most of whom had driven up to Angola via Namibia and arrived several days...
before. This was the first multi-taxa study conducted in Angola in over 40 years, and included biologists from Angola, Brazil, Germany, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Because part of the purpose of this expedition was to prepare an inventory of the biodiversity of southwestern Angola, specifically for the Huila and Namibe Provinces, it was necessary to collect specimens that could (a) be accurately identified by lepidopterists, and (b) serve as a reference collection for future research and expeditions to other parts of Angola. Prior to the expedition I had only photographed butterflies in their natural habitats in South Africa as contributions towards the Southern African Butterfly Conservation Assessment (SABCA), and had never physically caught butterflies before, so a great challenge awaited me. In preparation for the expedition I consulted with Mark Williams, the keeper of the Afrotropical butterfly database (www.atbutterflies.com), who indicated that apart from a list of Angolan endemic butterflies, a butterfly checklist for Angola did not exist, and that I should collect everything I see, because whatever I collected would almost certainly be new distribution records for Angola.

Having loaned a butterfly net and received a crash-course on butterfly collecting, I entered Angola via Lubango Airport with the CEO of SANBI, Dr Tanya Abrahamse, on 15 January 2009. The tented base camp used for the first part of the expedition had been set up by Prof. Brian Huntley of SANBI, with support and assistance from General Traguedo and his talented and very hospitable family. It was located in an old forestry reserve known as Poligono Florestal da Humpata, situated between the towns of Lubango (known as Sá da Bandeira during the Portuguese colonial period) and Humpata on the Huila Escarpment.

African Apefly (Spalgis lemolea lemolea) in Lubango, SW Angola. Photo: C.K. Willis
First collections and the Serra da Chela

My first butterfly seen in Angola, observed flying around a flowering East African Flame Tree *Spathodea campanulata* on the pavement outside the Grande Hotel de Huila in Lubango (Huila Province), was something new to me. With no Afrotropical butterfly literature at my disposal for Angola, and armed only with a copy of Steve Woodhall’s *Field Guide to Butterflies of South Africa*, the butterfly remained a mystery until my return to South Africa, when Mark identified it as the hemipterophagous Lemolea Harvester or African Apefly *Spalgis lemolea lemolea*. It could be physically picked off the tree by hand and was my first formal collection in Angola. Later that afternoon we drove to the Leba Viewpoint

![Edge of the Huila Escarpment, southwestern Angola. Photo: C.K. Willis](image)

(1,708 m above sea level) where the Huila Escarpment drops dramatically 1,000 m down to the much drier plains below. It is estimated that the ambient temperature increases by 10°C as one descends 1,000 m down the escarpment to the plains below. Two butterflies were photographed in the late afternoon on the edge of the escarpment, namely the Dusky Blue *Pseudonacaduba sichela sichela* and a Zebra Blue *Leptotes* sp.

The following morning, before setting off for the day, I walked around the more open shrubby parts of the forestry reserve and observed and photographed a male and female Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta cebrene* as well as an Acraea *Acraea* sp. Shortly after the walk we left by vehicle to a relatively high area (more than 2,200 m above sea level) on the escarpment (known as the Serra da Chela),
passing the Estação Zootecônica, an agricultural research station that had clearly fallen into disrepair during the protracted Angolan civil war, but was thankfully in the process of being renovated and restored. This area on top of the escarpment comprised mainly grasslands but was surprisingly variable in nature, from drier, rocky areas to very moist grasslands. In an area of old farm lands on the edge of the escarpment some of the familiar butterflies seen further south were collected, namely the African Monarch *Danaus chrysippus orientis*, Brown-veined White *Belenois aurota*, Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*, Common Meadow White *Pontia helice helice*, Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta cebrene*, Garden Commodore *Precis archesia archesia* and the common Broad-bordered Grass Yellow *Eurema brigitta brigitta*. A female Common Diadem *Hypolimnas misippus*, posing as an African Monarch, certainly had me fooled. A Common Meadow Blue *Cupidopsis cissus cissus*, Eyed Pansy *Junonia orithya madagascariensis* and mating pair of Angola White Lady Swordtails *Graphium angolanus angolanus* were also observed on the Huila Plateau. Other records for this area included a Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus* and Gaudy Commodore *Precis octavia sesamus*.

On the weekend, after fuelling the expedition vehicles and buying required provisions for the planned big haul to the coastal town of Namibe (formerly Moçâmedes) and further south to the Iona National Park the following week, I had the chance to walk around the base of the Cristo Rei (Christ the King), a large statue of Jesus Christ, similar to that found in the cities of Lisbon, Dili (East Timor) and Rio de Janeiro, located on top of a hill overlooking the sprawling town of Lubango. Several species found in short miombo woodland around the

![Striped Policeman (*Coeliades forestan forestan*) scent marking on the hills above Lubango, SW Angola](Photo: C.K. Willis)
base of the statue were only photographed, not collected (much to Mark’s frustration), and several butterflies were observed hilltopping. These included the Common Diadem *Hypolimnas misippus*, Striped Policeman *Coeliades forestan forestan* (observed scent marking), Cupreous Hairtail *Anthene princeps*, Gaudy Commodore *Precis octavia sesamus* and Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus demodocus*. That afternoon, while taking a brief walk around the Leba Pass Viewpoint, I collected a stunning Emperor Moth specimen, later identified by Rolf Oberprieler as *Epiphora rectifascia*, described from Stanley Falls near Kisangani in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Emperor Moth (*Epiphora rectifascia*) at Leba Pass Viewpoint, Huila Province. Photo: C.K. Willis

**Namibe**

The following morning our convoy of laden 4-wheel drive vehicles headed 150 km westwards towards the coastal port of Namibe in the Namibe Province. Descending down the escarpment onto the dry plains below is an amazing experience. The transect and transition of vegetation types in such a short distance is truly incredible – starting from grassland at the top of the escarpment, one travels through afromontane forest, miombo woodland, mopane veld, through welwitschia veld and ultimately to true desert before one reaches the coast and the cold Atlantic Ocean. Most of this area west of the Huila Plateau forms part of the Kaokoveld Centre of Endemism (KCE). The KCE occupies the far northwestern corner of Namibia and extends across the Cunene River in the southwestern part of Angola.
It is not surprising therefore, that many of the plants and animals that are known from northwestern Namibia were also found in southwestern Angola, many of them being new distribution records.

About 36 km northeast of the town of Namibe we stopped at a granite inselberg where several *Vernonia* shrubs were flowering. They attracted several butterflies including the Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus demodocus*, Desert/Doubleday’s Veined Tip *Colotis doubledayi* and Bowker’s Marbled Sapphire *Stugeta bowkeri maria*. The range of the last-mentioned butterfly extends from Angola, through Zambia, DRC to Tanzania. *Colotis doubledayi* is known to extend from the Congo River, along the coast of Angola, through Namibia to Vioolsdrift in the northwestern corner of the Northern Cape. Heading several kilometres north of Namibe along the coast, a single specimen of the Topaz Arab Tip *Colotis amata williami* was recorded. This subspecies, first described by Henning & Henning in 1994, has previously only been recorded from central and northern Namibia and this record therefore represents a valuable range extension into southwestern Angola.

**Lake Arco and the giant welwitschia**

From Namibe we headed southwards and in the evening converged on an area near Lake Arco, ca 3 km east of Shambasana Village on the floodplain of the Carvalho River where we enjoyed a fish braai expertly prepared by Dirk Bellstedt (University of Stellenbosch) and camped for the night. The following morning started off under a layer of coastal fog, which provided a cool start to the day. Amongst the shrubby vegetation and acacias on the floodplain at 55 m above sea level, several minute Tinktinkie Blues *Brephidium metophis* were recorded as well as Topaz Babul Blue *Azanus jesous jesous*, both probably new records for Angola. Travelling further south, we passed huge populations of *Welwitschia mirabilis* and recorded the African Monarch *Danaus chrysippus orientis* attracted to the Milkweed *Gomphocarpus fruticosus*, one of its recognised larval food plants. Travelling further southwards to the site of a giant *Welwitschia* (1.5 m high and 17 m circumference) in a dry river bed between Namibe and Tambor, several butterflies were recorded flying around flowering acacia trees. They included the Scarlet Tip *Colotis danae walkeri*, Desert/Doubleday’s Veined Tip *Colotis doubledayi* and Brown-veined White *Belenois aurota*. *Colotis danae walkeri* appears to be restricted in its distribution to the KCE in northwestern Namibia and southwestern Angola. In a nearby dry river valley, several other species were recorded feeding on the sweetly scented inflorescences of the Black Thorn *Acacia mellifera*, including the Silvery Bar *Cigaritis phanes*, Common Meadow White *Pontia helice helice*, Bowker’s Marbled Sapphire *Stugeta bowkeri maria*, Velvet-spotted Babul Blue *Azanus ubaldus* and Topaz Tip *Colotis amata williami*.

*Cigaritis phanes*, whose larval food plant is *Acacia mellifera*, was a new record for Angola, as was *Pontia helice helice*, *Stugeta bowkeri maria*, *Colotis amata williami* and *Azanus ubaldus*. From this point we headed further south to Omauha Lodge, a
private lodge owned by Senhor Alvaro Baptista and set amongst huge granite
inselbergs, where we camped for the night.

Iona National Park

The following morning we headed further south to the famous Iona National Park
(Parque Nacional do Iona), where we entered at its northern boundary across the

Curoca River. Numerous *Colotis amata williami* and *Belenois aurota* individuals
were observed flying around vegetation on the river banks. Iona National Park is
Angola’s largest national park situated between the Curoca and Cunene Rivers, and
covers an area of 1,592,000 ha. The park is famous for its big game, flora and
spectacular rock formations, but has unfortunately suffered through Angola’s many
years of civil war by destruction of infrastructure, illegal hunting, poaching and
degradation in parts through overgrazing by large herds of domestic livestock
(mainly cattle and goats). As in the case of the Kuiseb River in Namibia, annual flash
floods of the Curoca River serve to prevent the mobile dunes of the Namib Desert
from moving north of the river. A variety of desert and semi-desert ecosystems are
found in Iona National Park, including mobile dunes in the west, calcrete plains,
desert grasslands of perennial *Aristida* and *Stipagrostis*, arid montane shrubland as
well as open woodland and arid savanna. *Welwitschia mirabilis* is common on
gravelly substrates. As a result of the rainfall gradient, the perennial grasslands in the
park lead into *Acacia-Commiphora* semi-arid savanna and, further east, to mopane
(*Colophospermum mopane*) woodland. Small herds of springbok are still visible in
parts of the park.
Stopping at various places along the route between Tambor and Espinheira, the site of our base camp for the next few days, Buquet’s Vagrant *Nephronia buquetii buquetii* and Desert/Doubleday’s Veined Tip *Colotis doubledayi* were regularly seen around *Salvadora persica* bushes, one of *Nephronia buquetii buquetii*’s recognised larval food plants. Other species seen in dry river beds along the route included the Topaz Tip *Colotis amata williami*, African Monarch *Danaus chrysippus orientis*, Grass Jewel Blue *Chilades trochylus*, Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*, Common Orange Tip *Colotis evenina evenina*, Zebra White *Pinaeopteryx eriphia eriphia*, and Brown-veined White *Belenois aurota*. The following day I joined a group exploring Iona National Park while another group trekked up Mount Iona, one of the highest mountains in Iona National Park. Unfortunately we spent much of the day driving so there wasn’t much time for recording butterflies, although some of the same species seen the previous day were seen again, such as *Nephronia buquetii buquetii*, *Danaus chrysippus orientis*, *Colotis doubledayi* and *Colotis amata williami*. An exciting find was, however, brought down from Iona Peak by my colleagues Andrew Hankey, Ian Oliver and Werner Voigt, who generously collected and brought back specimens of what was later identified by Mark Williams as Braine’s Acraea *Acraea brainei*. Previously known only from Kaokoland in northwestern Namibia, these are, as far as we know, the first formal records collected from Angola. *Acraea brainei* was apparently abundant on the mountain, particularly around flowering specimens of *Turnera oculata* (Turneraceae), which happens to be the larval food plant for this species. *T. oculata* is endemic to the KCE and is one of only two species of *Turnera* in Africa – *T. thomasii* being the other in northern Kenya – all the other species (about 50) are from tropical South America. Other species collected by my colleagues on Iona Peak included the Brown-veined White *Belenois aurota* and Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*. 

![Braine’s Acraea (*Acraea brainei*), upper (above) and underside, collected on Iona Peak, Iona National Park](image)
Flowering *Turnera oculata*, larval food plant of Braine’s *Acraea* (*Acraea brainei*). Photo: W. Voigt

After a late start the following day we began our long return journey back to our camp at Poligono Florestal da Humpata on the Huila Escarpment. Much of what was seen on the outgoing trip was seen again on the return journey, since we travelled back on the same roads. It was interesting and disappointing, however, to find that the flowering vernonias that we recorded on the granite inselberg 36 km east of Namibe on our down trip had, on our return trip five days later, finished flowering, with a noticeable decrease in both the numbers and diversity of butterflies.

**Tchivinguiro and miombo woodland**

My last day in Angola was spent in a patch of miombo woodland in an area known as Tchivinguiro, southwest of Humpata and about 8.5 km from the Humpata-Namibe Road. A number of butterflies were recorded in this area, including the Broad-bordered Grass Yellow *Eurema brigitta brigitta*, Brown-veined White *Belenois aurota*, Citrus Swallowtail *Papilio demodocus demodocus*, Cupreous Blue *Eichochrysops messapus mahallakoaena*, Mirza Blue *Azanus mirza*, Yellow Pansy *Junonia hierta cebrene*, Rayed Blue *Actizera lucida*, Mountain Sandman *Spialia spio*, and Tailed Meadow Blue *Cupidopsis jobates jobates*. Many of these were new records for Angola. The most special collection made, however, was that of a
stunningly beautiful Checkered Gem *Zeritis* sp. This genus is purely Afrotropical, containing six species, including one species, *Z. krystyna*, that is endemic to Angola. From the information available, the species collected most closely resembles *Z. fontainei* but this species has not previously been recorded from Angola. After the final morning of collecting in Tchivinguiro, the heavens opened and the rain came down for the first time during the expedition and brought closure to my brief butterfly foray into southwestern Angola. The following morning I flew back to South Africa via Namibia after a very special and memorable expedition.

**Conclusion**

Spending 10 days in southwestern Angola recording the butterfly diversity of only a small portion of this area for the first time in my career, was a very special experience and one that I shall cherish for many years to come. Despite the short time spent collecting, the information gathered has produced many new records for Angola and highlighted just how little we actually know of the biological diversity of this vast and unique country. There is still so much to discover and document in Angola and I hope that additional opportunities will be provided to return to the country and continue documenting its butterfly diversity.

**Acknowledgements**

SANBI is acknowledged for funding my participation in the Angola Biodiversity Expedition. Prof. Brian Huntley, chief organiser and leader of the expedition, is thanked for the smooth running, organisation and logistical arrangements throughout the expedition, with unfailing support from the entire Traguedo family based in Lubango, as well as Gigi Laidler and Leanna Els of SANBI in South Africa.

Organisations that sponsored various aspects of the expedition are sincerely thanked for their generous support. My fellow expedition members made the trip a very memorable experience and it was a unique opportunity and learning experience to spend some quality time in the field with some very knowledgeable, talented and experienced biologists. Max Clark is thanked for the loan of his butterfly net. Peter Hawkes of Afribugs cc is thanked for the photographs taken of specimens pinned by Mark Williams. Edits to photographs of pinned specimens were kindly made by Elizma Fouche of SANBI’s Graphics Section in Pretoria. Mark Williams is sincerely thanked for his advice, guidance and support both before and after the expedition, as
well as access to his digital encyclopaedia on Afrotropical butterflies. Torben Larsen is thanked for his butterfly identifications. Hester Steyn (SANBI) and Bennie Coetzer (LepSoc) kindly provided the distribution maps showing the areas where collections were made. Mark Williams, Carla Willis and Emsie du Plessis are all thanked for editing earlier versions of this manuscript.

Map showing localities where butterflies were sampled in the Namibe and Huila Provinces, southwestern Angola

Further Reading

Table 1. Summary of Lepidoptera collected and observed in southwestern Angola, 15-24 January 2009. * denotes new record for Angola

<table>
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<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>Common name</th>
<th>Locality (Province)</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subfamily Danainae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Danaus chrysippus orientis</td>
<td>African Monarch</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subfamily Heliconiinae</strong></td>
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<td>Acraea brainei</td>
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<td><strong>Subfamily Nymphalinae</strong></td>
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<td>Junonia hierta cebrene</td>
<td>Yellow Pansy*</td>
<td>Poligono Florestal da Humpata (Huila); Estação Zootecnica (Huila); Tchivinguiro (Huila)</td>
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<td>Junonia orithya madagascariensis</td>
<td>Eyed Pansy*</td>
<td>Estação Zootecnica (Huila)</td>
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<td>Precis archesia archesia</td>
<td>Garden Commodore</td>
<td>Estação Zootecnica (Huila)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precis octavia sesamus</td>
<td>Gaudy Commodore</td>
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<td>Topaz Babul Blue*</td>
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<td>Mirza Blue*</td>
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<td>Bowker’s Marbled Sapphire</td>
<td>Stugeta bowkeri maria</td>
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<td>Zeritis sp.</td>
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<td>Brown-veined White</td>
<td>Belenois aurota</td>
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<td>Topaz Arab/Tip*</td>
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<td>Scarlet Tip</td>
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Table 2. Gazeteer of main localities sampled in the Huila and Namibe Provinces, southwestern Angola.

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<td>14°55'14.7&quot;S</td>
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<td>Leba Pass Viewpoint</td>
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<td>1513AA</td>
<td>15°04'42.6&quot;S</td>
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<td>Lubango</td>
<td>1,792</td>
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Two biogeographically significant new species of *Euriphene* Boisduval, 1847 from West Africa and Nigeria: *E. epe* Pyrcz & Larsen and *E. taigola* Sáfián & Warren-Gash (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Adoliadini)

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Abstract

*Euriphene epe* sp. nov. is apparently endemic to western Nigeria. It has been confused with the similar *E. tadema*. It joins a number of other species and subspecies showing that the western Nigerian rain forest has had its own independent evolutionary processes. The new, and very distinctive, *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. is endemic to the Liberian sub-region of Africa west of the Dahomey Gap between eastern Sierra Leone and western Côte d’Ivoire, not extending into Ghana sub-region, being most closely related to *E. niepelti* from the central African area. Confusion with any other species should not occur. *E. taigola* sp. nov. seems to have been missed by all collectors in the area until now and must genuinely be very rare.

Key words

West Africa; Sierra Leone; Côte d’Ivoire; Ghana; Nigeria; Lepidoptera; Nymphalidae; *Euriphene*; biogeography.

Introduction

*Euriphene* Boisduval is a large genus (70-80 species) that stretches throughout the main rain forest zones of Africa, not reaching the coastal forests of East Africa. Many of the systematic problems were solved in the generic revision by Hecq (1994) and the better illustrated recapitulation by Hecq (2002). Generally speaking the
recent studies on the genus *Euriphene* have not resulted in as many new descriptions as has been the case in the related nymphalid genera *Euphaedra* Hübner and *Bebearia* Hemming.

The *Euriphene* are forest-floor species *par excellence*. They are rarely found outside forest areas with closed canopy and seldom fly more than a half a metre above the ground. Many species seem not to be found outside forest in good condition. Only a handful are ecologically more flexible, and just a few are sufficiently adaptable to be present also in savannah woodland (i.e. *E. gambiae* Feisthamel). A wide range of *Euriphene* in a given locality is a clear indication that it is a rainforest in good condition. A few species are found throughout the forest zone; most are more geographically constrained. Some appear to be genuinely rare and local. In West Africa, the distinctive *E. lomaensis* Belcastro, 1986 was described from the Loma Mountains in Sierra Leone. Despite much collecting in West Africa since then, it was only refound by H. Warren-Gash in western Côte d’Ivoire some 15 years later, and then in the Gola Forests in Sierra Leone in 2005 (Belcastro & Larsen, 2008).

This paper concerns two new species with very different backgrounds. One of them seems to be narrowly endemic to western Nigeria, where it is local, but widespread and not rare where found. However, it had always been confused with the similar *E. tadema* (Hewitson, 1866). Two good series of both species side by side would immediately have indicated that two species were involved. The second one, on the other hand, is quite different from any known species. It is apparently rare, as none exist in any of the major collections, and geographically restricted to the Liberian subregion. It was first collected in 2001, and identified by HWG and TBL as a new species. Further specimens collected by SS in Sierra Leone in 2008 confirmed the preliminary diagnosis and enabled its description.

**Euriphene epe** Pyrcz & Larsen, sp. nov.

**References to comparative species**


This new species has been recorded from western Nigeria as *E. tadema* on numerous occasions, most recently in the monograph on the West African butterflies (Larsen,
Euriphene tadema was described from “Old Calabar” in the Cross River Loop of eastern Nigeria, where it is distinguished from other “blue Euriphene” by the colour of the underside, which is a light tan colour that wholly lacks the dark orange-brown or purplish tinges of other similar species in this area. The underside is so characteristic that the significant differences between the western population and the typical were never noticed. When Cornes et al. (1973) prepared the first catalogue of the Nigerian butterflies, a project on which TBL collaborated, material from eastern Nigeria was not available to them; Bob St. Leger kindly provided voucher specimens of most of the eastern species that were not found in the west, but had not thought it necessary to provide an eastern specimen of this common and readily identifiable species. During his collecting in Nigeria in 1967 and 1969, TBL was never able to collect in the east, and when he finally did so in 1995 and 1996 he had no set western material at his disposal for comparison.

It fell to Pyrcz, who collected in both eastern and western Nigeria between 2000 and 2002, to recognize that the two populations of “E. tadema” differed strongly, and to associate the western population with the correct female. Lorenc (unpubl.) specified this new taxon in the check-list of west Nigerian butterflies. The female of E. epe sp. nov. was previously considered to be Nigerian specimens of E. coerulae Boisduval, 1847, otherwise known only from west of the Dahomey Gap. It is very different from the females of all other Euriphene in western Nigeria, as well as from the female of E. tadema [a photograph by R. Warren shows that M. Cornes & J. Riley had considered E. epe sp. nov. males to be E. coerulae in the collection they donated to the National Museum, Lagos, but this was subsequent to their collaboration on the Agege-survey (Larsen et al., 1980); they correctly linked the sexes under what proved to be the wrong name]. The presence of genuine E. coerulae in western Nigeria had been supported by the presence of a male in the Natural History Museum, London (NHM) with a printed label giving the locality as “Nigeria, Panguma”, but as pointed out by Larsen (2005) this almost certainly refers to a small town in Sierra Leone. TBL caught two females in Okomu Forest in December, 1996 but did not link them with the males of what he thought was E. tadema: he was looking for male E. coerulae.

In the NHM, London there is a single male from “Sierra Leone, i.1908 Dudgeon”, which we consider a case of mislabelling. Though he did not publish much, G.C. Dudgeon would have made known such an unusual locality of “E. tadema”. He collected in both Nigeria and Sierra Leone during 1908.

**Holotype**

♂ Nigeria, Lagos State, 5 km before Epe (6°28'25"N 3°47'20"E), 10 m, 28.xi.1999 (T. Pyrcz leg., coll. MZUJ).
Paratypes

2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ same data as the holotype but 19.ix.1999; 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ Nigeria, Lagos State, Ijebu, i.2001 (D. Knoop leg., MZUJ); 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ Nigeria, Ondo State, Ijebu (6°43'44"N 4°21'30"E), 50 m, 12.12.1999 (T. Pyrcz leg., MZUJ); 2 ♀ Nigeria, Ondo State, Ijebu (6°43'44"N 4°21'30"E), 50 m, 2.i.2000 (T. Pyrcz leg., MZUJ); 2 ♂ Nigeria, Edo State, Okomu Forest Reserve (6°43'55"N 5°14'19"E), 50 m, vii, ix 9.i.2000 (T. Pyrcz leg, MZUJ); 1 ♂ Nigeria, Edo State, Okomu Forest Reserve, x.1984 (T. Pyrcz & J. Wojtusiak leg., MZUJ); 7 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀ Ikeja; 4 m NW of Agege; Omo Forest; Ilaro Forest, v, vii, viii, ix.1967 & 1969 (T.B. Larsen. leg., NHM); 1 ♂ "Lagos" ix.1959 (A. Jørgensen leg., ZMUC); 1 ♂, 1 ♀ Nigeria, Lagos, Ijebu, 20.ix.1981 (H. Kapala leg., coll. T.B. Larsen); 2 ♀♀ Okomu Forest Reserve, xii, 1996 (T.B. Larsen. leg., one ABRI, one T.B. Larsen); 10 ♂ 1 ♀ Warri (C[entral] P[rovince]) [western Niger Delta] (5°33'N 5°47'E), iii, iv, vii 1896-1897 (Dr. Roth leg, NHM); 1 ♂ Bobo Country, iv.1896 (Dr. Roth leg, NHM); 1 ♂ Gregiari (C[entral] P[rovince]), no date (Ansorge, NHM) [W. Ansorge collected in Nigeria at the end of the 19th century]; 1 ♂ Degama (C[entral] P[rovince]), no date (Ansorge, NHM).

Depositories

MZUJ = Muzeum Zoologiczne Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego (Krakow), Poland; NHM = Natural History Museum, London, UK; ZMUC = Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Diagnosis

Male forewing 23 mm (Plate 1): The male is similar to the very common and sympatric E. barombina (Aurivillius, 1894) on the upperside, but similar to E. tadema on the underside (Plate 2). The forewing upperside is a bright blue, tinged with light purplish/violet. There are narrow bands in lighter blue that are rather more prominent than in E. barombina. There are the same four small, but well-defined subapical spots, usually missing in E. tadema. All markings are quite similar to those of E. barombina. The hindwing upperside is mainly blue but with more extensive banding in lighter blue than in E. barombina, but there are three differences: a) the dark basal area is smaller, especially towards the abdominal fold, b) the large, rounded postdiscal spots in spaces 1b to 6 are larger than in E. barombina, and c) E. barombina has the cilia in between the forewing veins edged with white, while they are uniformly black in B. epe. On balance, E. epe sp. nov. comes across as much the brighter of the two species in ordinary light. The upperside of E. tadema is duller than in the two others, often tends to have a slight greenish tinge, and usually lacks the white subapical spots. The dark elements are more prominent and more precisely defined. Both wings of E. epe sp. nov. have a more rounded shape than in E. tadema.
In these respects *E. tadema* somewhat resembles *E. incerta* (Aurivillius, 1912), though this species never has any greenish tinge, but its underside is even darker than that of *E. barombina*. Once a number of specimens have been seen there is no problem sorting out series without even looking at the undersides.

On the underside *E. incerta* shares with *E. barombina* a brownish underside, with some violaceous shading and some dusting of lighter scales especially on the hindwing tornus. The two are rather similar, though *E. incerta* has a well-marked black spot in the hindwing cell that is missing or obsolescent in *E. barombina*. The underside colour immediately sets these two apart from *E. epe* sp. nov. and *E. tadema* with their light tan or straw-yellow undersides: there is never any overlap in tone of colour between even a light *E. barombina* and a dark *E. epe* sp. nov. or *E. tadema*. The underside differences between the last two are relatively slight and both vary in the degree of darker markings. The main markings are blackish, rather precise, and disposed as in the other species, but appear more prominent against the light background. The most prominent is the well-developed black spot in the hindwing cell, which is obsolescent in *E. barombina*. The discal lines crossing both wings are also prominent. That of the hindwing in *E. epe* sp. nov. forms an almost regular quarter-circle with equal diameter, while in *E. tadema* it is clearly extended towards the tornus. Finally, the shape of the *E. epe* sp. nov. hindwing is more rounded than in the three others, where it is somewhat drawn out towards the tornus.

**Female** forewing 28 mm (Plate 1): The female of *E. epe* sp. nov. is of the *Catuna*-pattern and differs completely from the females of *E. barombina* and *E. incerta*. The upperside is effectively identical to the female of *E. coerulea*, with which it has until now been confused (most recently by Larsen (2005)). However, the underside differs significantly in three main respects:

a) the underside of *E. epe* sp. nov. is very light, completely lacking the purplish brown of much of the forewing as well as the basal area, costa and tornus of the hindwing that is to a varying degree overlaid with dusting of very light violet scaling. There is no dusting of scales of any colour on the hindwing of *E. epe* sp. nov.;

b) *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. always has a well-defined, round black spot in the cell, which is absent or obsolescent in *E. coerulea*; and

c) as in the male the hindwing median line is well-defined, continuing almost to the edge of the abdominal fold, while in *E. coerulea* it is less regular, more quadrangular, and somewhat diffusely defined.

**Male genitalia**

The genitalia (Plate 3), shown in lateral and dorsal view are of a male paratype from
they conform to the diagnosis of the genus given by Libert & Amiet (2006) in particular a diagnostic wide, but rather shallow saccus, and an X-shaped fultura. Moreover, there are two morphological features found in *E. epe* sp. nov. and other examined species of *Euriphene* which were not discussed by Libert & Amiet (*op. cit.*): a fenestrula at the base of pedunculus; the edge of ventral fold of the valva strongly sclerotised and covered with dense, minute teeth. The gnathos is a thin plate firmly attached to the ventral surface of tegumen; the tegumen has a prominent basal hump and is extremely rigid dorsally; the aedeagus is straight with a pointed extremity and a wide trapezoidal proximal opening, without cornuti. *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. differs from the examined specimens of *E. tadema* (Nsukka, Nigeria) and *E. coerulae* (Mont Peko, Côte d’Ivoire) as follows: the two claws of uncus are parallel and run close to each other in *E. epe* sp. nov., slightly diverging from base in other two species, additionally their tips are somewhat curved upwards in *E. tadema*, aligned to tegumen in *E. epe* sp. nov. and *E. coerulae*; the lower fork of fultura is longer with very sharp extremities in *E. coerulae*, whereas in *E. tadema* it is shorter and its extremities are curved downwards: not so in *E. epe* sp. nov.; the valva is shorter and slightly wider in median part in *E. epe* sp. nov. than in other two species; the gnathos is more strongly fused, practically inseparable from the tegumen and slightly wider in *E. coerulae* than in *E. epe* sp. nov., whereas it is separated from the tegumen by a well-marked fissure in *E. tadema*, barely noticeable in *E. epe* sp. nov.; the aedeagus is thinner and quite straight in *E. coerulae* and not bent near proximal opening as in *E. epe* sp. nov. and *E. tadema*. (NOTE: The genitalia of *Euriphene* species are similar, and differ in the proportions and shapes of sclerites, rarely in the presence or absence of characters. A number of specimens have to be examined in order to confirm that the above specified characters of *E. epe* sp. nov. are indeed species-specific, allowing recognition from the most closely allied taxa.)

**Discussion**

*Euriphene epe* sp. nov. is widely distributed but local and not necessarily common in most of western Nigeria from the Lagos area to the Niger River and Delta and its range is effectively allopatric in relation to that of *E. tadema*. We found only two *E. epe* sp. nov. from the east of the Niger River Delta, from Port Harcourt in the Delta not far east of main Niger and 160 km easterly of Warri. That the new species was not recognized till now is mainly due to the relatively limited material from western Nigeria available in collections. While researching the issue we actually did find a series of 14 males and a single female from Warri in the Niger Delta with labels stating “*tadema* n. ssp.” in the Natural History Museum, London. Someone had spotted this issue and made the correct assignment of their sexes. A label later placed by G. Bernardi accepted the males as “*tadema* n. ssp.”, while relegating the female to *E. coerulae* [as *felicia* Butler, 1871, a junior synonym]. The species is not as common and widespread as *E. barombina* and is less able to survive in forests that do not have a complete canopy, though secondary forest is acceptable, and seems
more localized than its more adaptable cousin. Females probably spend their time inside darker canopy forest, which would account for their relatively low proportion of the total (just under half as many).

The new species underlines the fact that western Nigeria and the Niger Delta is biogeographically more complex than are usually given credit for. This is already reflected in the Nymphalidae. The black and white Euriphene kiki Bernardi & Larsen, 1980 is only known from the type that was collected at Ilaro, an area with little or no remaining forest (its underside is very similar to that of E. epe sp. nov.). Cymothoe [hesiodotus] nigeriensis Overlaet, 1952 is limited to western Nigeria. It is probably specifically distinct from true C. hesiodotus Staudinger, 1890, which recurs only in eastern Cameroun, a view supported by unfinished DNA studies by R. van Velzen (pers. comm.). Two subspecies, Cymothoe hypatha okomu and Bebearia flaminia leventisi have isolated populations west of the Niger River that seem disjunct from the nominate subspecies in the Oban Hills and Okwangwo (see Hecq & Larsen, 1997 for descriptions and discussion). Moreover, the western Nigerian population of Cymothoe fumana also clearly deserves a separate subspecific status (Larsen & Pyrcz, in prep.).

Etymology

The new species is given the name of a small forest to the east of Lagos where TP collected regularly. The forest was quite small and not in very good condition but it contained many interesting butterflies (including a new taxon of Euphaedra). The forest is no more; it has now been clear-felled. It only emphasizes the plea made by Larsen (2008) for the need to conserve any remaining forest, however small, especially in areas such as western Nigeria that have been nearly deforested.

Euriphene taigola Sáfián & Warren-Gash, sp. nov.

References to comparative species


In West Africa the new species described here most closely resembles the sympatric *E. aridatha* in terms of the underside markings, but clearly differs in wing shape and details in the colour pattern. It actually seems closer to the Central African species *E. niepelti* in overall habitus. It has been found in two widely separated localities in West Africa. HWG found three males in the Taï Forest in eastern Côte d’Ivoire in 2001. SS then came across it again during a butterfly survey in Gola Forest (Sierra Leone) 2008. In the absence of existing names which could be applied, it is described as a new species and compared to *E. niepelti*.

**Holotype**


**Paratypes**

♂, Sierra Leone, Kenema District, Lalehun, Gola North (7°40'10.59"N, 10°56'53"W), 18-21.xi.2008. (Sz. Sáfián, G. Csontos & R. Vorgas leg., coll. ABRI); 3 ♂♂, Côte d’Ivoire, Taï Forest (H. Warren-Gash leg. & coll.)

**Diagnosis**

Male forewing 22 mm. The male **upperside** is dark blue with no trace of an underlying black pattern. The white forewing apical spots which appear in most other species in the group are also missing. The blue colour covers most of the forewing except the costal edge and the apical area. Only the tornal half of the hindwing, below the cell, is covered by blue scales, the costal side being dark grey with rather faint traces of underside pattern elements. The forewing margin is distinctively less concave than any other species in the most closely related *E. niepelti*-subgroup. The fringes are pure white. The **underside** is chocolate-brown, with the usual quadrangle shape (frame) of the hindwing basal area, with only one straight and usually very bright whitish line from the cell to the inner margin, almost perpendicular to vein 1a. The white line is very distinctive and visible even during flight.

Compared with *E. niepelti*, the apex of the forewing of *E. taigola* sp. nov. is not pointed and the margin of the forewing is less concave. The forewing of *E. niepelti* is much less - and less brilliantly - blue. The whitish line on the hindwing underside is bright and regular in *E. taigola* sp. nov., but strongly serrate in *E. niepelti*. *E. niepelti* has a shiny blue patch in the tornal area of the hindwing (also present in *E. glaucopis* and *E. aridatha*) which is completely missing from *E. taigola* sp. nov. The underside ground-colour is overall a much duller greyish-brown. A further difference is that the basal area of the hindwing in *E. niepelti* is distinctly darker than the rest of the wing,
whereas it has the same basic tone throughout in *E. taigola* sp. nov. These differences are too pronounced to treat the present taxon as a subspecies of *E. niepelti*, the closest populations of which are in Cameroun about 2,000 km to the east. The extensive blue markings are somewhat similar to *E. amieti* from Cameroun, a much larger species with black fringes. The female is unknown.

**Discussion**

The Liberian subregion of West Africa (as defined in Larsen 2005) is the least explored area for butterflies of the region. It is not therefore surprising that a new species should have been found during butterfly surveys in Gola Forest, one of the last remaining rainforest areas in Sierra Leone, and in the Taï Forest in Ivory Coast. It is, however, interesting that a species of the *Euriphene niepelti*-subgroup is found thousands of kilometres from its closest relatives in Cameroun (apart from the widespread *E. aridatha*). The distribution of the species probably stretches from the extreme west of Côte d’Ivoire to the Gola Forests in Sierra Leone and probably occurs in good quality rainforests in Liberia and Guinea as well. It is unlikely that it could have been overlooked in the Ghana subregion (western Côte d’Ivoire and Ghana), which has been so much better explored and where forests have much lower rainfall than Taï and Gola.

The presence of yet another endemic butterfly species in the Liberian subregion emphasizes the importance of protecting of the remaining forests in western Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The preparation of a trans-boundary national park between Liberia and Sierra Leone is in progress under the supervision of the Gola Forest Programme (Gola Forest Management Plan *in prep*). Such an initiative can ensure the protection of the forest ecosystem in the Liberian subregion, with its endemic butterfly species, for the future generations.

**Etymology**

The name *taigola* is a composite, which is both euphonious and reflects the two localities (Taï Forest in Côte d’Ivoire, and Gola Forest in eastern Sierra Leone). Taï and Gola Forests are the only major wet rainforests remaining in their respective countries and are important biodiversity hotspots. We hope that the discovery of *E. taigola* sp. nov. will assist in promoting the conservation measures needed to maintain their biodiversity for the future.

**Acknowledgements**

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Robert Warren in Lagos kindly sent pictures of the Cornes-Riley Collection in the National Museum, Lagos. Michel Libert and Gaël vande Weghe, as well as Steve C. Collins of the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi checked their collections and provided general advice. Eddie John kindly screened the final version of the manuscript. TBL is, as usual, grateful to the Carlsberg Foundation in Denmark that allowed research into this and other issues, including a visit to the Natural History Museum of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Ole Karsholt at the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen kindly assisted with photography and access to their collections, including TBL’s Nigerian butterflies from the 1960s. SS is grateful to the Gola Forest Programme (especially Jessica Ganas, Abdul Swaray, Alhaji Siaka and David Zeller) for facilitating the butterfly survey in Gola. Thanks also to Richard Vorgas, Abdul Swaray, Mohamed Swaray, Sulay Mohamed, Joseph Kenneh, Gábor Csontos, Attila Mesterházy and Péter Vámosi for their assistance in the field.

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GOLA MANAGEMENT PLAN. in prep. Consultations are under way between the Sierra Leone Government, local NGOs, and Birdlife International, UK.


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Metisella orientalis  Aurivillius, 1925 is a perfectly valid name that should not be replaced by M. abdeli (Krüger, 1928) (Hesperiidae: Heteropterinae)

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Abstract

The name Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925) is perfectly valid and should continue to be used. Its replacement by Metisella abdeli (Krüger, 1928) is unwarranted: it is also a mis-spelling of the original abeli.

I recently began dimensioning and formatting my proposed book on “The Skipper butterflies of tropical Africa”. What better place to start than Mark Williams’ magnificent catalogue on www.atbutterflies.com where so much of the donkey-work has already been done. The catalogue is a continual updating and expansion of “Carcasson’s African Butterflies” (Ackery et. al. Vane-Wright 1995) and is among the best and most accurate on-line aids in entomology.

One of the first issues that raised itself during this initial process – and there will be very many more – was the name Metisella abdeli (Krüger, 1928) (type locality given as Kolumbien [Colombia]), instead of the well-known Metisella orientalis Aurivillius, 1925. Since M. orientalis is found widely all over east-central Africa, being found on most mountain complexes, this matter should not linger till the book is eventually published.

Cyclopides metis Rasse orientalis was described by Aurivillius in Seitz (1925) as a race found “all over East Africa to the Elgon Mountain”, contrasted with M. metis (Linnaeus, 1764) rightly considered to be entirely South African. The combination Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925) has been used ever since the genus Metisella was proposed by Hemming (1934).

I looked up the brief paper by Krüger, who did describe a butterfly from Colombia called Pamphila abeli [NOT abdeli]. And yes ... it might very well be Metisella orientalis. Mark Williams kindly informed me that he had changed the name on the basis of an item in the Zoological Record [2004], referring to a paper in Turkish by Seven (1997). This paper considers Aurivillius’ name to be an infrasubspecific form and Seven therefore raised Krüger’s name, mis-spelling it in the process. Even if the
type (in poor condition) is found, it will be impossible to determine from which of the numerous disjunct population it came.

However, in the German version of Seitz, which precedes the English translation, Aurivillius wrote: “In ganz Ost-Afrika bis zum Elgon-Berg kommt eine Rasse orientalis form. nov. vor”. His use of ”Rasse” [race] makes the intention quite clear and also emphasizes that the name should not be considered infrasubspecific under the current rules of zoological nomenclature.

Evans (1937) reviewed Metisella orientalis and described ten infrasubspecific forms that were mostly geographically limited but with little difference between the forms [beta and delta both have Mlanje, Malawi as type localities; f. orientalis co-exists with f. theta in central Kenya]. He deliberately restricted the type locality of M. o. orientalis to central Kenya by using the following terminology:


(a) Form orientalis Aurivillius ... BM 22 ♂ (Nairobi, Crater Lake, Kikuyi, Aberdare, Mt. Kenya). [i.e. Central Kenya].

A year later he described the population on Mt. Elgon in Kenya and Uganda, from where he did not have material in 1937, as the distinct ssp. elgona (Evans 1938). This is also how I treated the species in book on Kenyan butterflies (Larsen 1991).

Some of the ten forms, all designated by letters in the Greek alphabet, have been raised to valid names, usually by “accidental” use of trinomial nomenclature. Possibly f. beta was even raised to species rank. These will take some effort to sort out fully during further work on my book.

Fortunately the name Metisella abdeli does not yet seem to have been used to any extent. It should be used no more. This brief note should allow the complete rehabilitation of Metisella orientalis in the manner always intended by Aurivillius. It should also serve as a warning not to tamper with the nomenclature of a well-established species that has already been studied by many serious researchers. Finally, even if the original description had actually been technically invalid, a proposal should have been made to International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for its conservation, given its widespread and undisputed usage.

Postscript
Rienk de Jong kindly pointed out to me that Evans (1951) had drawn attention to the fact that *Pamphila adeli* was almost certainly a junior synonym of *Metisella orientalis* as a valid species. He is currently working on a revision of the genus.

References:


Technology wins again... *Abantis bicolor* new locality near Durban

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Readers of these scribblings may remember in a recent *Letter from KZN* that I'd been exploring the area between Lower Illovo and the coast, hoping to find Lou Schoeman's old Bicoloured Skipper *Abantis bicolor* spot as described to me by Ernest Pringle. This had become imperative as it appears to have disappeared from its Durban haunts near the University at Westville. Several visits to Lower Illovo produced some promising terrain and vegetation... but no *bicolor*. Using the laptop with its 3G card on, Google Earth up, had allowed me to look over the horizon and scope out promising spots - and use the Garmin GPS to work out where I was, and therefore how to get to where I wanted to go. Google Earth really is amazing, like having your own personal predator drone over the car. That's how I found Hwayi and Mpongolwana.

Back in March 2009, 22nd to be exact, I called up the local butterflyers and got Jenny Norman and Sandi du Preez interested in this mysterious Hwayi spot I'd been on about. It had taken on a bit of the gloss of legend and they were keen to see what it looked like. So off we went in the trusty Zaddachi, not really needing the GPS at this stage. The lovely vista of the Hwayi ridge lifted our spirits as we drove through the overpopulated wasteland of Lower Illovo. When we got to the summit, there wasn't a huge amount on the wing and Jenny was looking a bit sideways at me because I'd mentioned seeing Light Red Acraea *Acraea nohara* on the hillside. True to form there were none there and my halo started to look a little tarnished. Moved from brass to mucky iron in fact.

Moving to the top of the forest we found a lot of the common KZN coastal butterflies in profusion. There were some stunning Boisduval's False Acraea *Pseudacraea boisduvali trimeni* lazily soaring about and giving some excellent photo opportunities. We had a lot of fun chasing these and other species around with our cameras, but nothing really interesting was on the profuse *Lantana camara* blossom. I was a bit disappointed in fact. You know what I was after! The halo became a bit of a necklace. So I suggested we move on to Mpongolwana Hill, a few short kms down the dirt road. I'd found Orange-barred Playboy *Deudorix diocles* there in early summer and maybe... just maybe... there would be something else there. Using Zaddachi's low range we growled to the top of the hill. Mpongolwana has a really good, if very steep, road to the top, a bit like Linwood Forest. Lazy
Lepidopterist (or Bone Idle Butterflyer) territory indeed. But at the top, there was zip. Zero, zilch, nowt, nothing. Oh dear.

This hill has some nice patches of thick bush set in grassland, rather like Ongoye and what Durban's hills must have looked like before man ravaged them. The tallest trees stand just to the south of the summit, so we drifted over there to have a look. Straight away we found Charaxes bombing around, and two of them were lovely Silver-barred Emperors *C. druceanus druceanus*. They were flying very high and defying us to photograph them. I kept looking for the *Iolaus* sapphires and Playboys one would expect at a time and place like this... but nothing, just those *Charaxes* and the odd *Junonia* Pansy. And then... I saw something small and turbocharged whizz over our heads. That booming flight - skipping is NOT the word - just said 'Abantis' to me, and that's what I yelled out. The girls, having seen nothing, looked at me like I'd gone mad. It was heading south, so we went that way. We found a clearing in the bush - here are its coordinates: 30°05'0.37"S, 30°43'23.33"E, 327m. It just shouted *bicolor* at me, and there was Forest Raisin *Grewia lasiocarpa* everywhere - as at Port St Johns and Ongoye wherever we've seen it. I left the ladies to their searching of the treetops with binoculars, and dived into the bush looking for leaves turned into Cornish Pasties. But as at Port St Johns - no skipper larvae.

And then there was a scream.... BICOLOR BICOLOR I GOT ONE!!! I hot footed it back to the clearing to find Sandi bouncing up and down in glee and Jenny very still, scanning the canopy with her Swarovskis. Sure enough, there he was. Thumbing his little chitinous nose at us from the edge of the canopy. Too far up to photograph so into a bottle he went via the net. There was another about, he was a bit more obliging and I got a long distance shot. Colour pix are on the site, here are some B+W versions. The closeup is of the captured male who posed very nicely in the studio.
That was not the only lifer we got that day... on the way back we found Aranda Copper *Aloeides aranda* around the rocks I am sure will turn up Rocksitters in November. But I was floating on air - this is the first time I've ever found a totally new spot for a real rarity.

Mpongolwana and that whole side of Hwayi is very wild and there is lots of Forest Raisin around. I suspect that of being the foodplant, but have yet to see a female lay or find a larva. I went there a few weeks ago with Fran de Jager and we cut some plants back to the roots, hoping to stimulate coppice growth, which is known to be attractive to female skippers looking for somewhere to lay eggs. We found a large friendly African lady happily chopping trees down for firewood. This place needs preserving! Sooner or later one of us is going to go there and find the fabled hordes of *bicolor* on flowers that Lou Schoeman found years ago, not so very far away...

(Cheers, Steve)
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The following members, apart from their significant contributions to the Society as individuals, have also chosen to be sponsor members for 2009 and have through their generosity provided significant financial support which is much appreciated:

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Figure 1. The male holotype upperside of *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. from Epe Forest (Nigeria, Lagos State, 5 km before Epe (6°28′25″N 3°47′20″E), 10 m)

Figure 2. The male holotype underside of *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. from Epe Forest (Nigeria, Lagos State, 5 km before Epe (6°28′25″N 3°47′20″E), 10 m)

Figure 3. Female paratype upperside of *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. from Epe Forest (Nigeria, Lagos State, 5 km before Epe (6°28′25″N 3°47′20″E), 10 m)

Figure 4. Female paratype underside of *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. from Epe Forest (Nigeria, Lagos State, 5 km before Epe (6°28′25″N 3°47′20″E), 10 m)
Plate No. 2. The differences between *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. and *E. tadema*. The brighter pinkish upperside colour, the white subapical spots, the more rounded discal line, and the more rounded wing shape come across well.

Figure 1. *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. upperside

Figure 2. *Euriphene tadema* upperside

Figure 3. *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. upperside

Figure 4. *Euriphene tadema* underside
Plate No. 3. The male genitalia of *Euriphene epe* sp. nov. They are entirely typical of the genus and only differ from related species in very subtle features (see text).

Figure 1. Ventral view, aedeagus removed, showing the X-shaped fultura.

Figure 2. Lateral view, aedeagus detached.
Plate no. 4. *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. males. The paratype (Figs 3&4) has slightly less blue on the hindwing than the holotype (Figs 1&2). The darker shade of the holotype underside may be due to photography; we have not been able to examine the two side-by-side. However, the differences are trivial compared with the similarities.

Figure 1. *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. Holotype ♂ upperside, Gola Forests, Sierra Leone.

Figure 2. *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. Holotype ♂ underside, Gola Forests, Sierra Leone.

Figure 3. *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. Paratype ♂ upperside, Taï National Park in Côte d’Ivoire

Figure 4. *Euriphene taigola* sp. nov. Paratype ♂ underside, Taï National Park in Côte d’Ivoire