

## Genus *Platylesches* Holland, 1896 Hoppers

*Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 72 (2-107).

Type-species: *Parnara picanini* Holland, by original designation.

The genus *Platylesches* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Astictopterini Swinhoe, 1912; Subtribe Cupithina Grishin, 2023.

Note that Huang *et al.*, 2024, place *Platylesches* within subtribe Aclerosina, but make no formal taxonomic decisions.

*Platylesches* (**Hoppers**) is an Afrotropical genus of 23 species. The genus was last revised by Evans (1937).

Relevant literature:

Congdon *et al.*, 2008 [Early stages and larval shelters].

### \**Platylesches affinissima* Strand, 1921 Bashful Hopper

*Platylesches affinissima* Strand, 1921. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **86** (A.7.): 164 (113-171).

*Platylesches affinissima* Strand, 1920. Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [date of authorship erroneous]

*Platylesches affinissima* Strand, 1920. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 333. [date of authorship erroneous]



*Platylesches affinissima*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bomponi, Zimbabwe. 2 May 1998. J. Greyling.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Affinity Hopper.

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Nyassa, Britisch Ost-Afrika”.

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Mendes *et al.*, 2007), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia (north-west), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Tukuyu (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Range (McCleery, *vide* Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Mozambique – Garuso (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Vila Gouveia (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Amatongas Forest

(Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Dondo Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).  
Zimbabwe – Witchwood Valley below the Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mutare (Barnes and Sheppard); Bomponi (male illustrated above); Bazeley Bridge, near Mutare (the Cooksons).

**Habitat:** Guinea savanna in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). Forest, including riverine forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania from 900 to 1 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A scarce skipper in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). This is a very wary and fast-flighted species. They are known to feed from the flowers of trees and shrubs (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year, but seems to be most abundant from May to August (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\**Platylesches ayresii* (Trimen, 1889)#**

**Peppered Hopper**



Specimens of the Peppered Hopper (*Platylesches ayresii*)  
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall (left and right) and Peter Webb (centre)

*Pamphila ayresii* Trimén, 1889. *South-African Butterflies: a monograph of the extra-tropical species 3 Papilionidae and Hesperidae* 321 (438 pp.). London.

*Platylesches ayresii* Trimén. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches ayresii* (Trimén, 1889). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches ayresii* (Trimén and Bowker, 1889). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331.



*Platylesches ayresii*. Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Upperside (left) and underside (right).  
Utopia Resort, North West Province, South Africa. 28 August 2010. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches ayresii*. Female (Wingspan 36 mm). Upperside (left) and underside (right).  
Hillshaven, Gauteng Province, South Africa. 20 September 2008. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Transvaal”; Namibia?: “Omrorra River; Ehanda, between northern Ovampoland and Ombuella”. Holotype (female) in the South African Museum, Cape Town.

**Original description:**

“Exp. al., male 1 in; female 1 in. 1-2 lin. Nearly allied to *Moritili*, Wallengr. **Male.** Pale greyish-brown; fore-wing with small vitreous spots, hind-wing with a dull yellowish-white discal streak. Fore-wing: vitreous spots arranged as in *Moritili*, but only one (the upper) spot in discoidal cell near extremity, and the last spot in discal series (immediately above submedian nervure), wanting; some faint and sparse yellowish irroration in basal area, but no distinct inner-marginal streak. Hind-wing: discal yellowish-white streak very ill-defined, diffused externally, scarcely curved, lying between second subcostal and first median nervules. Cilia as in *Moritili*. Under side: Hind-wing (except on inner-marginal fold) and narrow costal and moderately-wide apical hind-marginal border of fore-wing hoary-grey, closely and finely hatched or striolated with blackish. Fore-wing: vitreous spots as on upper side; hind-marginal border narrowing to a point on first median nervule; ground-colour very much paler throughout inner-marginal area. Hind-wing: inner-marginal fold brownish-grey, not striolated. **Female.** Like male; but in fore-wing two disco-cellular vitreous spots, and a small yellowish-white spot at end of discal series, just above sub-median nervure, as in *Moritili*.”

**Diagnosis:** The evenly striated underside of the hindwing is characteristic (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Mozambique (south), Botswana, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal – north), Swaziland.

Recorded, in error, from Tanzania by Kielland (1990) [these populations described subsequently as *Platylesches larseni* (MCW)].

**Specific localities:**

Botswana – 30 km west of Kanye; single male (Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Buzzard Mountain Retreat [-23.012 29.765] (Williams, unpub., 2015); Soetdoring Farm [-24.561 28.233] (A. Mayer, pers comm. 2015); Bateleur Nature Reserve (Williams & Dobson, unpub., 2015).

Mpumalanga – Lydenburg (Swanepoel, 1953); White River (Swanepoel, 1953); Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelspoort Nature Reserve (Williams).

North West Province – Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Williams); Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006).

Gauteng – Krugersdorp (Swanepoel, 1953); Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953); Johannesburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Witwatersrand Botanical Gardens (J. Dobson, unpublished checklist, 2001); Westonaria (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

KwaZulu-Natal – Lake Sibayi (Swanepoel, 1953); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Swaziland – Malolotja N. R. ([www.sntc.org.sz](http://www.sntc.org.sz)).

**Habitat:** Dry savanna and grassland. The larval host plant grows in sandy, rocky areas dominated by the trees *Burkea africana* (Fabaceae) and *Ochna pulchra* (Ochnaceae) (Williams, unpub.).

**Habits:** Flies fast, close to the ground and settles frequently, on low plants or on the ground. Adults feed from flowers, mud-puddle, and occasionally visit fresh cow pats. The males are avid hilltoppers, selecting perches on stones or on the ground.

**Flight period:** July to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 60. [larva & pupa; Krugersdorp, RSA]

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Williams *vide* Woodhall, 1994; Williams, 1996: 134; Pretoria district, Gauteng].

**\**Platylesches batangae* (Holland, 1894)**  
**Cameroon Hopper**

*Parnara batangae* Holland, 1894. *Entomological News* 5: 92 (89-95).

*Platylesches batangae* (Holland, 1894). Holland, 1896.



*Platylesches batangae*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Burma Valley, Vumba, Zimbabwe. 4 January 1996.  
Images M.C.Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Platylesches batangae*, female holotype; upperside.



*Platylesches batangae* male ex Efulen, Cameroon. Upperside on left and underside on right.

**Type locality:** [Cameroon]: “Batanga, German West Africa”. Holotype (female) in the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, USA (Collins & Larsen, 2008). Male described by Collins & Larsen (2008: 101).

**Distribution:** Cameroon (south-west), Democratic Republic of Congo (Larsen, 2013).

Records from Sierra Leone (Evans, 1937; Belcastro, 1986; Larsen, 2005a), Democratic Republic of Congo (Evans, 1937), Senegal (Berger, 1968), Gambia (Gilles, 1982), Ivory Coast (Vuattoux, 1999), Zambia (Heath *et al.*, 2002), Guinea (Larsen, 2005a) and Ghana (Larsen *et al.*, 2007) are all in error due to misidentifications occasioned by Evans’ incorrect treatment of *batangae* in 1937 (Collins & Larsen, 2008). Apparently *batangae* was also recorded from Lokojo in Nigeria by Sharpe (1902) but this record was not discussed by Collins & Larsen (2008).



**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Batanga (TL); Efulen (Collins & Larsen, 2008; male illustrated above).

Democratic Republic of Congo - ?Kinshasa (Larsen, 2013).

**Habitat:** Nothing published.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Maranthes polyandra* (Benth.) Prance (Chrysobalanaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; as *Parinari polyandra* Benth.; Lamto, Ivory Coast; this record refers to *Platylesches morigambia* Larsen, 2013 (Cock *et al.*, 2017)].

*Parinari congensis* Didr. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; this record refers to *Platylesches morigambia* Larsen, 2013 (Cock *et al.*, 2017)].

**\**Platylesches chamaeleon* (Mabille, 1891)**

**Chamaeleon Hopper**

*Pamphila chamaeleon* Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 179 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).



*Platylesches chamaeleon chamaeleon*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bumbuna area, Sierra Leone. May 2006. T.B. Larsen Leg. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.



*Platylesches chamaeleon chamaeleon*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Isombo, Ikelenge, Zambia. 4 November 1979. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone.

**Diagnosis:** Not distinguishable, on external characters, from *Platylesches affinissima* (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Distribution:** Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, ?Niger, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia.

Recorded, in error, from Angola by Weymer (1901, 1903).

**Habitat:** Probably forest and gallery forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** This is quite a rare species of hopper (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*Platylesches chamaeleon chamaeleon* (Mabille, 1891)  
**Chamaeleon Hopper**

*Pamphila chamaeleon* Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 179 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).



*Platylesches chamaeleon chamaeleon*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bumbuna area, Sierra Leone. May 2006. T.B. Larsen Leg. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.



*Platylesches chamaeleon chamaeleon*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Isombo, Ikelenge, Zambia. 4 November 1979. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone.

**Distribution:** Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, ?Niger, Central African Republic, Zambia.

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008); Isombo, Ikelenge (male illustrated above).

*Platylesches chamaeleon tero* Evans, 1937  
**Central Chamaeleon Hopper**

*Platylesches chamaeleon tero* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 172 (212 pp.).

**Type locality:** [Uganda]: “Tero Forest, W. Ankole”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west), Tanzania (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Tero Forest (TL).

Tanzania – Kere Hill, in Minziro Forest (uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Note:** Subspecies *tero* may be a distinct species (Larsen, 2005a: 540).

**\**Platylesches dolomitica* Henning & Henning, 1997#**  
**Spring Hopper**



Males of the Hilltop Hopper (*Platylesches dolomitica*)  
Images courtesy Jeremy Dobson (left) and Justin Bode (right)

*Platylesches dolomitica* Henning & Henning, 1997. *Metamorphosis* 8 (2): 77 (76-81).



*Platylesches dolomitica*. Male (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
KwaMhalanga, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 9 September 2012. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches dolomitica*. Female (Wingspan 35 mm). Upperside (left) and underside (right).  
Utopia Resort, North West Province, South Africa. 5 September 2010. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Heuwel-springertjie (Afrikaans).

**Type locality:** South Africa: “South Africa: 30km south-east of Steelpoort, Lydenburg District, Mpumalanga, 8.ix.1995, A. Mayer”. Described from nine males and three females. Holotype in Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

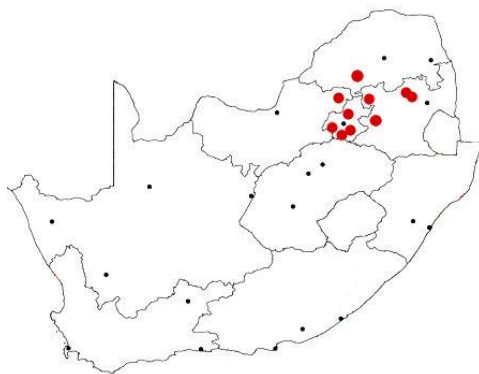
**Diagnosis:** Most similar to *Platylesches larseni* Kielland, but slightly larger and with much paler

ground colour on upper- and underside. Wing shape more rounded than in *Platylesches larseni*. Upperside markings larger and more diffuse than in *Platylesches larseni*. Underside of forewing with paler markings along costal margin. Striations spaced wider apart than in *Platylesches ayresii* and *Platylesches langa*, and much more so than in *Platylesches larseni*. Forewing striations more extensive than in *Platylesches ayresii* or *Platylesches langa* but not as extensive as in *Platylesches larseni*. Genitalia most similar to *Platylesches larseni* but with uncus more acute apically and more triangular in shape and tegumen not concave anteriorly. The valve is more elongated distally with apex more acute and extended dorsad with small spines, the dorsal projection is narrower, longer and pointed. The aedeagus is broader than in *Platylesches larseni* (Henning & Henning, 1997).

**Description:**

“Male. Forewing length: 15.2-16.5 mm, mean 16.0 (n=5); antenna-wing ratio 0.39-0.41, mean [?] (n=5). Wings, upperside. Forewing: dark brown, usually with two apical spots in R<sub>4</sub>-R<sub>5</sub>, occasionally a faint third spot in R<sub>3</sub>; two white spots in areas M<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>3</sub>; distal part of cell with a white streak; one large spot sub-basally in CuA<sub>1</sub>; faint yellowish scaling medially in CuA<sub>2</sub>; yellowish streak along inner margin from base to medial area. Hindwing: dark brown with a greyish-yellow discal band in areas M<sub>1</sub>-CuA<sub>1</sub>. Cilia white. Underside. Forewing: dark brown, becoming paler along outer and costal margins; white spotting as on upperside. Hindwing: pale greyish-brown evenly striated with darker brown and brown at anal angle. Cilia greyish becoming whiter posteriorly. Genitalia: uncus triangular narrowing distally with two small distal protuberances close together; tegumen narrowing slightly distally and convex anteriorly; valva distally acute and slightly serrated distad, dorsal process long, narrow and acute, saccus narrow and rounded at the end; aedeagus acute distally, dorsally open for half of outer portion, broad centrally without spines, inner portion with elongate narrow anterior lobe. Female. Forewing length 17.2 mm (n=1); antenna-wing ratio 0.35 (n=1). Wings larger and slightly more rounded than those of male; upper and underside markings and colour similar to that of male.”

**General remarks:** Discovered flying sympatrically with the closely-related *Platylesches ayresii* (Trimen) at the type locality by Johan Greyling and Andrew Mayer. The specific name is supposedly derived from the dolomitic rocks of the ridges that the species inhabits (Henning & Henning, 1997). However, the species actually occurs on quartzitic formations (Dobson’s and Williams, unpublished).



**Distribution:** South Africa – Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng.

**Distribution:** South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng).

**Specific localities:**

Limpopo Province – Bateleur Nature Reserve (Williams & Dobson, unpub., 2015).

Mpumalanga – 30 km south-east of Steelpoort (TL); KwaMhlanga [25°20.972'S; 28°44.682'E; 1293m] (the Dobsons and Williams, unpublished); Ezemvelo Nature Reserve [25°42.184'S; 28°56.513'E; 1373m] (the Dobsons, unpublished); Lydenburg (as *straelini*; T. Larsen, pers comm.); Verena (the Dobsons & Williams, unpublished).

North West Province – Utopia Resort [25°49.018'S; 27°28.258'E; 1325m] (the Dobsons and Williams, unpublished).

Gauteng – Carletonville (W. Henning & A. Mayer); Hillshaven, south of Westonaria [26°21.853'S; 27°38.627'E; 1744m] (M. Williams, 19 August 2007; single male); Hornsnek (Woodhall, 2005a); Thorntree Conservancy, Walkerville [26°29.578'S; 27°58.733'E; 1587m] (J. and C. Dobson, unpublished).

**Habitat:** Quartzite (not dolomite) outcrops on flat ground and ridges in bushveld and sour grassland (Dobson’s and Williams, unpublished).

**Habits:** Males have a very rapid flight and are extremely wary (Henning & Henning, 1997). Despite its common name, males of *dolomitica*, unlike those of the sympatric *P. ayresii*, do not show hilltopping



behaviour. A male captured at 14:00 by Williams at Hillshaven was noted while feeding from the flowers of a low-growing asteraceous plant on a burnt slope, below a quartzite ridge on which *Parinari capensis* was growing. Observations by the Dobsons and Williams from 2007 to 2011 (unpublished) found that both sexes are sympatric with *P. ayresii* in stands of the larval host plants. The flight is quite fast, just above the ground and rather deliberate. *P. ayresii* has a more rapid, bouncing and jinxing flight pattern. Courting individuals hover together just above ground level (unpublished observations by the Dobsons).

**Flight period:** Recorded in August, September and October. Sympatric with *Platylesches ayresii* (Trimen) at all of its known localities (Henning & Henning, 1997; the Dobsons and Williams, unpublished).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Woodhall, 2005a].

**Conservation status:** Classified as Vulnerable by Henning *et al.*, 2009: 67. Reclassified as 'Rare (Low Density)' by Mecenero *et al.*, 2013.

### **\**Platylesches fosta* Evans, 1937** **Mpanga Hopper**

*Platylesches fosta* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 170 (212 pp.).



*Platylesches fosta*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mahale, Kigoma, Tanzania. June 1993. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2650.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Uganda]: “Mpanga Forest”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west), Tanzania (eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Mpanga Forest (TL).

Tanzania – Mpanga (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Mbuzi Mountain in Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Mulundwe Hill in Mikumi National Park (Kielland, 1990d; single record).

**Habitat:** Highland forest, forest margins and clearings in forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania from 1 200 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** This is a rare and local species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### **\**Platylesches galesa* (Hewitson, 1877)#** **White-tail Hopper**

*Hesperia galesa* Hewitson, 1877. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **19**: 79 (76-85).

*Platylesches galesa* Hewitson. Swanepoel, 1953a.  
*Platylesches galesa* (Hewitson, 1877). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Platylesches galesa* (Hewitson, 1877). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331.



*Platylesches galesa*. Male (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Wingspan: 32mm.  
 Mpaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 29 April 2006. M. Williams.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches galesa*. Female (Wingspan 38 mm). Upperside (left) and underside (right).  
 Mpaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 30 April 2006. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Black Hopper.

**Type locality:** “West Africa”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Diagnosis:** The tip of the abdomen in the male, on the dorsal side, is white, as are the cilia on the lower edge of the hindwing (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, to Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia (north), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (north-east), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga).

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Gambia – Abuko, Pirang, Brufut (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Freetown (Holland, 1896).

Ghana – Cape Three Points (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Waka (Vande weghe, 2010).

Rwanda – Cyamudongo Forest (Uwizelimana *et al.*, 2021).

Tanzania – Widespread, except Northern Highlands (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Zomba (Butler, 1894); Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Solwezi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Mozambique – Dondo Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Amatongas; Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Limpopo Province – Letaba (Swanepoel, 1953); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Tzaneen (Swanepoel, 1953); Woodbush (Swanepoel, 1953); Duivelskloof

(Swanepoel, 1953); Ramatoelaskloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Entabeni Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953); Wyliespoort (Swanepoel, 1953).

Mpumalanga – Pilgrim’s Rest (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953).

**Habitat:** Moist savanna, often on the edges of forest. Larsen (2005a) gives forest, including secondary forest. Also in *Brachystegia* woodland (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania from 300 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Common in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d) but an uncommon species in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). Flies fast but settles frequently. In flight the white-tipped abdomen and white hindwing cilia are quite noticeable. Both sexes are attracted to flowers. Males select perches on the twigs or leaves of trees, about three metres above the ground, from which they defend territories. Sometimes perches are selected low down, on shrubs, grass stems, or even on rocks. On occasion several males are found defending territories in the same forest clearing (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year, but commonest from April to June (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 174.

“Third instar larva – head black; body light green with black markings; growing to 11 mm. Fourth instar similar to that of *P. picanini*; body pale green with fine darker green mottling; head brown with eight creamy white spots in a radial pattern, outlined in darker brown; spots larger than those of *P. picanini*; grows to 18 mm. Fifth instar larva also similar to that of *P. picanini*; salmon-pink body; head brown with eight creamy white patches, in a radial pattern, outlined with darker brown; grows to a length of 25 mm; girth of 7 mm and length of 20 mm just before pupation. Pupa 18 mm; colour off-white with adult features outlined with yellow-brown. Larval shelter constructed from a whole leaf, folded over and closed by fine silk threads. Fourth instar duration 10 days and final instar 12 days. Pupation occurs in a loose cocoon in the larval shelter. Pupal period about 21 days.”

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 60. [ovum, larva]

**Larval food:**

*Ehrharta erecta* (Lam.) (Poaceae) and certain other grasses [Murray, 1959] (**Note:** this is certainly erroneous, no species of *Platylesches* having been found to utilise Poaceae as larval food plants; see comments in Woodhall, 1994: 129).

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Woodhall, *vide* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331 (South Africa); M. Cock, *vide* Larsen, 2005a (Zimbabwe)].

*Parinari excelsa* Sabine (Chrysobalanaceae). [Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Parinari* species (Chrysobalanaceae) [Larsen, citing Cock and Congdon, *in* Woodhall, 1994: 127; Kenya (Cock) and Uzungwa Mountains, Tanzania (Congdon)].

*nigerrima* Butler, 1894 (as sp. of *Halpe*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 672 (643-684). [Malawi]: “Zomba”.

*nigricans* Holland, 1896 (as sp. of *Platylesches*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 73 (2-107). Sierra Leone: “Freetown”; Gabon: “Gaboan”.

*depygata* Strand, 1921 (as sp. of *Platylesches*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **86** (A.7.): 163 (113-171). “Nyasa, Britisch Ost-Afrika”.

**\**Platylesches hassani* Collins & Larsen, 2008**  
**Angulan Hopper**

*Platylesches hassani* Collins & Larsen, 2008. *Metamorphosis* **19**: 106 (42-113).



*Platylesches hassani*. Male. Holotype. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Hillwood, Ikelenge, Zambia. April 1999. CC et al. ABRI-2019-2646.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Zambia: “Zambia, Ikelenge, Hillwood (11°15'S 24°16'E), iii/iv.1999 (ABRI team leg., coll. ABRI).” Described from five males; the female is unknown.

**Etymology:** Dedicated to Martin Hassan, who has worked with ABRI for many years (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (south-east), Zambia (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (TL).

**Habitat:** Sparsely wooded grassland or on Dambos with *Parinari capensis* (Gardiner, 2010b).

**Habits:** Nothing published.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Gardiner, 2010b: 147 (by implication)].

**\**Platylesches heathi* Collins & Larsen, 2008**  
**Mudwiji Hopper**

*Platylesches heathi* Collins & Larsen, 2008. *Metamorphosis* **19**: 104 (42-113).



*Platylesches heathi*. Male. Holotype. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mudwiji Plain, 40 km east of Mwinilunga, Zambia. October 1979. A. Heath. ABRI-2019-2648.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Zambia: “Zambia, Mudwiji Plain, 40 km E of Mwinilunga (11°45'S 24°26'E), 27.x.1979 (A. Heath leg., coll. ABRI).” Described from six males and two females.

**Etymology:** Named for Alan Heath, who has contributed much to the knowledge of African butterflies.

**Distribution:** Zambia.

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Mudwiji Plain (TL; holotype male illustrated above); Hillwood, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Habitat:** Sparsely wooded grassland or on Dambos with *Parinari capensis* (Gardiner, 2010b).



**Habits:** Nothing published.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Gardiner, 2010b: 147 (by implication)].

### \**Platylesches iva* Evans, 1937

#### Western Hopper

*Platylesches iva* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 172 (212 pp.).



*Platylesches iva*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Grand Gedah County, Putu Range, Liberia. December 2010. Leg Safian, Zakar. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Ivory Coast: “Adiopoudoume”.

**Distribution:** Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Nigeria.

Recorded, apparently in error, from Uganda, Tanzania and Malawi by Kielland, 1990d (Larsen, 2005a).

**Specific localities:**

Sierra Leone – Guma Valley, Freetown (Belcastro, 1986).

Ivory Coast – Adiopoudoume (TL).

Nigeria – Awka (Larsen, 2005a); Mamu Forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habitat:** Probably forest.

**Habits:** An extremely rare hopper (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \**Platylesches lamba* Neave, 1910

#### Cream-banded Hopper

*Platylesches lamba* Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 84 (2-86).



*Platylesches lamba*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chingola, Zambia. 26 April 1998.  
Images M.C.Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “lower Chambezi valley”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west), Malawi, Zambia (north).

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Dassiako (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Mpasaso (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Zambia – Lower Chambeshi Valley (TL); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); western escarpment of the Luangwa Valley (Heath *et al.*, 2002; male illustrated above); Lake Bangweulu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mafinga Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Habitat:** Woodland. In open places in the forest zone (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\**Platylesches langa* Evans, 1937**  
**Dark Peppered Hopper**

*Platylesches ayresii langa* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 169 (212 pp.).

*Platylesches langa* Evans, 1937. Kielland, 1978 **stat. rev.**

*Platylesches langa* Evans, 1937. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331.



*Platylesches langa*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside. Wingspan: 27mm.  
Laurenceville (left) and Mazoe (right), Zimbabwe.



*Platylesches langa*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chimanimani Mountains, Zimbabwe. October 1994. I. Mullin. ABRI-2019-2657.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Irrorated Hopper.

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Nyasaland (Mlanje)”.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from *Platylesches ayresii* in the following respects: slightly larger; forewing underside with more white on the hind margin; hindwing underside with less white irroration. The genitalia are distinctive (Larsen, 1992).

**Distribution:** Ghana (Cock & Congdon, 2013), Benin (central), Nigeria (north), Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Tanzania (west), Malawi, Zambia (east), Zimbabwe.

**Specific localities:**

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Zungeru (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Angola – Bie Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Tanzania – Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Katuma, Mpanda (male illustrated above).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (TL); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Zambia – Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kanona (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Nyika (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Zimbabwe – Harare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Rusape (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mount Selinda (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Matabeleland (Pinhey, *vide* Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Habitat:** Woodland and forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania from 1 000 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A common hopper (Kielland, 1990d). Both sexes are fond of flowers (Kielland, 1990d). Males are greatly attracted to mud patches, wet sand and bird droppings (Kielland, 1990d). Similar habits to those of *Platylesches ayresii* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 61. [larva; Zambia and Tanzania]

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2013; Zambia].

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2013; Tanzania].

**Note:** The greatly disjunct population in Nigeria may be mislabeled but, if not, may constitute an undescribed taxon (Larsen, 2005a). A further male from the Volta Region in Ghana has since been obtained but the taxonomic position of these West African populations remains unresolved (Collins & Larsen, 2008: 100).

### **\**Platylesches larseni* Kielland, 1992** **Large Peppered Hopper**

*Platylesches larseni* Kielland, 1992. *Metamorphosis* 3: 148 (148-153).



*Platylesches larseni*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Hillwood, Ikelenge, Zambia. April 1999. CC et al. ABRI-2019-2647.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Tanzania: “Tanzania, Katuma River, Mpanda, 1600 metre, August 1974, J. Kielland.” Described from four males. The female is unknown. Deposition of type material not stated.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from *Platylesches ayresii* in the following respects: larger; fore- and hindwing more sharply angled at apex and outer margins straighter; forewing hyaline spot in space 2 larger and no cell spots (two in *ayresii*); underside striations closer than in *ayresii* (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba) (Collins & Larsen, 2008), Tanzania (Mpanda District), Zambia (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Katuma River, Mpanda (TL).

Zambia – Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Habitat:** Riverine forest, from 1 500 to 1 600 m (Kielland, 1990d). Sparsely wooded grassland and Dambos with *Parinari capensis* (Gardiner, 2010b).

**Habits:** Males mud-puddle and feed from bird droppings. Sympatric with *Platylesches langa* Evans in the Sandstone Ridge, from Sitebi Mountain to Ntakatta Forest, in the Mpanda District.

**Flight period:** Recorded in July and August.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Gardiner, 2010b: 147 (by implication)].

**\**Platylesches morigambia* Larsen, 2013**  
**Sand-dune Hopper**

*Platylesches morigambia* Larsen, 2013. *Tropical Lepidoptera Research* **23** (2): 95 (92-98).



*Platylesches morigambia*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gola National Forest, Liberia. November 2011. Safian. ABRI-2019-2651.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Platylesches morigambia*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Putu Range, Liberia. December 2010. Safian, Zakar. ABRI-2019-2652.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Gambia: “Tintinto (J. Baker leg. coll. ABRI)”.



**Distribution:** Gambia, Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso.

**Specific localities:**

Gambia – Tintinto (TL); Abuko Forest (Larsen, 2013); Fajara (Larsen, 2013); Bijilo Forest (Larsen, 2013); Sanyang, Tanji, Tujering (Jon, Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Senegal – Kedongu (Larsen, 2013); Chobo (Larsen, 2013).

Guinea – Labe (Popodra) (Larsen, 2013); Fouta Djallon (Larsen, 2013).

Sierra Leone – Bumbuna (Larsen, 2013).

Ivory Coast – Lamto (Larsen, 2013).

Burkina Faso – Kou Forest (Larsen, 2013).

**Habitat:** Coastal sand-dunes at the type locality (Larsen, 2013).

**Habits:** A relatively common but localized species (Larsen, 2013).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Maranthes polyandra* (Benth.) Prance (Chrysobalanaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; as *Parinari polyandra* Benth.; Lamto, Ivory Coast; as *P. batangae* – but see Cock *et al.*, 2017].

*Parinari congensis* Didr. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; as *P. batangae* – but see Cock *et al.*, 2017].

**\**Platylesches moritili* (Wallengren, 1857)#  
Honey Hopper**

*Hesperia moritili* Wallengren, 1857. *Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar. Stockholm* annis 1838-1845. Collecta (n.s.) 2 (4): 49 (55 pp.).

*Pamphila moritili* Wallengren. Trimen, 1866a.

*Pamphila moritili* (Wallengren, 1857). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

*Platylesches moritili* Wallengren. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches moritili* (Wallengren, 1857). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches moritili* (Wallengren, 1857). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches moritili*. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse N.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa. 20 October 2012. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches moritili*. Female (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Malelane, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 7 February 2009. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Common Hopper.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Caffraria” [False locality]. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/m](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/m)).

**Diagnosis:** Similar to *Platylesches neba* but characterized by the lack of pale scaling on the apex of the underside of the forewing (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). See, also, remarks under *Platylesches neba*.

**Distribution:** Ghana, Togo, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya (south-west), Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal – north), Swaziland.

According to Larsen (2013) records of *P. moritili* from Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast are in error for *P. morigambia* Larsen, 2013.

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Gabon – Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Angola – Bie Province; Cunene Province; Kuando-Kubango Province; Lunda Sul Province; Malanje Province; Moxico Province; Uige Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Kenya – South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Tukuyu (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Masagati Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Rondo Forest (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Solwezi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luanshya (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kapiri Mposhi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Sefula River (130 km south of Mpika) (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kawambwa (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Makutu Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Mozambique – Beira (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013); Maputo Special Reserve (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).

Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Bomponi.

Limpopo Province – Acornhoek (Swanepoel, 1953); Letaba (Swanepoel, 1953); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Tzaneen (Swanepoel, 1953); Woodbush (Swanepoel, 1953); Mokeetsi (Swanepoel, 1953); Elim (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953); Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Tshatshingo Potholes (Woodhall, 1994); Warmbaths; Gundani.

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Lydenburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelspoort Nature Reserve (Williams).

Gauteng – Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953); Krugersdorp (Swanepoel, 1953).

KwaZulu-Natal – Durban (Swanepoel, 1953); Stanger (Swanepoel, 1953); Hluhluwe (Swanepoel, 1953); St Lucia Bay (Swanepoel, 1953); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Ndumo Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Swaziland – Malolotja N. R. ([www.sntc.org.sz](http://www.sntc.org.sz)).

**Habitat:** Savanna and riverine forest. In Tanzania from 400 to 1 900 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** This is a common and widespread hopper (Larsen, 1991c). The flight is fast and erratic (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Rests on ground, grass stems, and leaves of shrubs and trees. Both flowers and muddy patches are visited. In the Zululand forests large numbers are sometimes seen feeding on the flowers of soap berry (*Deinbollia oblongifolia*) (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Larsen (2005a) noted large numbers on the flowers of *Tagetes* in Boabeng-Fiema, Ghana one afternoon. Males do not hilltop but select perches on shrubs among trees, from which they defend their territories (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Larsen (2005a), on the other hand, states that they do hilltop. They are often most active in the afternoon (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year; commonest from September to April in southern Africa (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Woodhall, 1994: 128 [as *Platylesches moritili*; Tshatshingo Potholes, Limpopo Province] (*Metamorphosis* 5 (3): 127-131).

“Larva. Putative 3<sup>rd</sup> instar: length 15mm when found feeding on young foliage on coppice growth; body leaf-green; headshield black with 6 white, teardrop-shaped dots in a radial pattern (fig. 1). These larvae had spun leaf shelters held in place by strands of white silk approximately 3mm long so that the larva was visible inside (fig. 7). The larvae grew to 18mm in length and moulted over a 48hr period within 4 days of being collected. Penultimate (putative 4<sup>th</sup>) instar: length 18 mm when collected, growing to 22mm in about 10 days; body leaf-green; headshield brown, marked with creamy white outlined by darker brown as shown on the final instar larva (fig. 2). Larval leaf shelter as for previous instar larva. Final instar: length 22mm growing to 38mm in about 5 days, before ceasing to feed and shrinking in length to 30mm, but growing in girth from 6mm to 8mm. Prepupal stage lasting about 48hrs; otherwise similar to but larger than the previous instar (fig. 2). Pupa. Length 17.5 – 20mm; creamy white with the adult appendages thinly outlined in pale brown; cremaster prominent, but pupa not attached to any solid substrate. Pupation in a thin white cocoon inside the larval leaf shelter similar to that of *P. picanini* shown in fig. 5. Pupal period was about 14 days.”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 181 (photograph of early instar larva, final instar larva and pupa).

Coetzer, 2006. [Mphapuli Cycad Reserve near Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province, South Africa; in error for *Platylesches robusta*]

A final instar larva found on 30 June 2006 pupated three days later. “The ground-colour of the body of the final instar larva is salmon-pink, with small creamy white spots on the lateral aspect of each segment. A dark line is visible on the dorsal ridge. The head is golden brown with darker brown stripes, forming a radial pattern. It was 28mm in length on 30/VI/2006 and pupated on the 2/VII/2006. The larva built a shelter in the *P. curatellifolia* leaf in which it stayed. It was observed to be in the prepupal stage on the 1/VII/2006 but no exact temporal observations were made. Pupa. The pupa is about 25mm in length and is creamy white in colour. It was attached by means of numerous silk threads to the leaf in which the larva had built its shelter. The pupa became darker brown on the 21/VII/2006 and turned pitch black the day after, giving the impression that it had become rotten. The adult emerged on the 27/VII/2006, making the total pupal period 25 days.”

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 66. [ovum, larva & pupa; Tanzania]

#### **Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Dollman (unpublished) *vide* Cock & Congdon, 2013 (Zambia); Woodhall, 1994: 127 (Tshatshingo Potholes, Limpopo Province)].

**Note:** Larsen (2005a: 539) dissected material of *moritili* from Gambia and found that there were differences in the male genitalia between these and specimens from Ghana. More than one species may therefore at present be subsumed under *moritili*. This was indeed the case – see *Platylesches morigambia* Larsen, 2013.

*zephora* Plötz, 1884 (as sp. of *Apaustus*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **45**: 156 (151-166). Angola.

*heterophyla* Mabille, 1891 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 178 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187). [South Africa]: “Natal”.

*amadhu* Mabille, 1891 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 178 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187). [South Africa]: “Transvaal”.

*costalis* Aurivillius, 1925 *in* Seitz, 1908-25 (as f. of *Platylesches moritili*). *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13 Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter**: 523 (614 pp.). “Congo District”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/m](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/m)).

**\**Platylesches neba* (Hewitson, 1877)#**  
**Flower-girl Hopper**



Flower-girl Hopper (*Platylesches neba*).  
Image courtesy Peter Webb.

*Hesperia neba* Hewitson, 1877. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **19**: 84 (76-85).  
*Platylesches neba* Hewitson. Swanepoel, 1953a.  
*Platylesches neba* (Hewitson, 1877). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Platylesches neba* (Hewitson, 1877). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331.



*Platylesches neba*. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Buffelsdrif Conservancy, Gauteng, South Africa. 27 April 2006. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches neba*. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Utopia Resort, North West Province, South Africa. 15 September 2007. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Natal”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Diagnosis:** Similar to *Platylesches moritili* but always has some pale scaling on the underside of the forewing apex (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Zambia (north-west), Mozambique (south), Zimbabwe (eastern border), Namibia (north), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal – north), Swaziland.

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Mundwiji Plain (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kabompo (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Maputo Special Reserve (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).

Zimbabwe – Harare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Namibia – Rundu, on the Kavango River (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Woodbush (Swanepoel, 1953); Duiwelskloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Entabeni



Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953); Waterberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Highlands Wilderness (Bode & Bode, unpublished checklist); Soetdoring Farm [-24.561 28.233] (A. Mayer, pers comm. 2015); Bateleur Nature Reserve (Williams & Dobson, unpub., 2015).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953); Lydenburg district (Swanepoel, 1953).

North West Province – Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006); Hartbeespoort Dam (male illustrated above); Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Williams; female illustrated above); Breednek (25 52S; 27 27E) (Williams 30 Nov. 2008).

Gauteng – Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelsdrif Conservancy (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – False Bay (Swanepoel, 1953); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

**Habitat:** Moist and dry savanna.

**Habits:** Adults are attracted to flowers and also mud-puddle. Males establish territories near the larval host plant, mostly using the lower branches of trees as perches.

**Flight period:** All year.

**Early stages:**

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 177.

“First instar larva 5 mm long when found and grew to 7 mm; body yellowish leaf-green; head black. Second instar pale leaf green with faint paler yellow-green mottling; head black; growing to 10 mm in length. Third instar similar to second; growing to 15 mm. Fourth instar with leaf green body and clearer pale yellow-green mottling; head pale tan with creamy white spots on frons, outlined in brown; growing to 23 mm long. Final instar identical to fourth; growing to 31 mm then shrinking to 25 mm before pupation; girth increasing from 3 to 6 mm before pupation. Pupa 22 mm; similar to that of *P. moritili* but with more pronounced dark lines along the wing cases and a blackish brown head and thorax.”

“Young larvae live in folded-over edges of young leaves of the foodplant, attaching the edges of the leaf to the midrib with fine silken threads. In the first instar the second instar head capsule becomes visible under the skin two days before the moult. Duration of second instar 14 days. Third instar larva constructs a shelter by joining two young leaves with short silk threads, as done by *P. tina*. Duration of third instar 12 days. Fourth instar similar to that of *P. moritili* but with ground colour paler; duration 15 days. Final instar shelter constructed from three mature but fresh leaves and is 70-80 mm long. Shelter held together with short, fine silk threads; duration 17 days, including five days as a prepupa. Larva spins a loose cocoon in the shelter before pupating; pupal duration 25 days.”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 178 (photograph of second and final instar larva and of pupa).

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 71.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari capensis* Harv. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 178].

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331].

**\**Platylesches panga* Evans, 1937**  
**Toro Hopper**

*Platylesches panga* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum:* 173 (212 pp.).



*Platylesches panga*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Malakisi, western Kenya. Emerged February 2013. ABRI. ABRI-2019-2649.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Uganda]: “Mpanga Forest, Toro, 4,500 ft”.

**Distribution:** Uganda (west), Democratic Republic of Congo (Kivu), Tanzania (east), Zambia (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

Uganda – Mpanga Forest, Toro (TL).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Tanzania – Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mwanihana Forest (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Habitat:** Forest and forest margins (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania from 1 400 to 1 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:**

Cock *et al.*, 2017 [head of final instar larva].

**Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Congdon *vide* Cock *et al.*, 2017; Mutinondo Wilderness, Zambia].

**\**Platylesches picanini* (Holland, 1894)#**  
**Banded Hopper**



Male Banded Hopper (*Platylesches picanini*). Katanga, DRC.  
Image courtesy Bertie Brink.

*Parnara picanini* Holland, 1894. *Entomological News* **5**: 91 (89-95).

*Platylesches picanini* Holland. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches picanini* (Holland, 1894). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches picanini* (Holland, 1894). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches picanini*. Male (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mphaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 30 April 2006. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Platylesches picanini*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Burma Valley, Vumba, Zimbabwe. 26 April 1995.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** Liberia.

**Diagnosis:** The broad, white or cream band on the underside of the hindwing is diagnostic (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (south-west), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia (north), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga).

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Gambia – Fajara, Pirang, Abuko, Kitty Forest, Dimbayi (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Guinea – Zياما (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ghana – Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mpala (Oberthür, 1909); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Tanzania – Masewe-Riwira Rviers (Grünberg, 1907); Amani (Grünberg, 1907); Bomole (Grünberg, 1907); Mkulumusi (Grünberg, 1907); West (Kielland, 1990d); Tukyuy (Kielland, 1990d); Kitesa Forest near Lake Malawi (Kielland, 1990d); Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Rubeho Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Ukaguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Zomba Mountain (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe Falls (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Misamfu (Kasama) (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Mafinga Mountains (Heath, *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008); Mutundu South, Mufulira (male illustrated above).

Mozambique – Maputo (Oberthür, 1909); Amatongas (Pinhey).

Zimbabwe – Bomponi, below the Vumba (Cooksons); Mazowe (Pinhey); Pungwe (D. and R. Plowes);

Mutare (D. and R. Plowes).

Limpopo Province – Duiwelskloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Palmaryville (Swanepoel, 1953); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Entabeni Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Tshatshingo Potholes (Woodhall, 1994); Thohoyandou.

Mpumalanga – Marieps Kop (Jeremy and Chris Dobson).

**Habitat:** Forest and riparian vegetation along river courses; woodland. In West Africa it is in dry forest and Guinea savanna (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania from 300 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A generally uncommon butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens tend to keep to the forest canopy. Specimens are occasionally seen feeding from flowers lower down in the early morning or late afternoon. Males are sometimes attracted to bird droppings (Kielland, 1990d). Males defend territories from perches on the leaves or twigs of trees some five to seven metres above the ground. The flight is fast and darting. They are most active in hot weather, between 10:00 and 14:00 (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Larsen (2005a) saw numbers on the flowers of *Eupatorium* and teak in Ghana.

**Flight period:** June to August and January to May (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Darlow, 1949b.

Woodhall, 1994: 128 [as *Platylesches picanini*; Tshatshingo Potholes, Limpopo Province] (*Metamorphosis* 5 (3): 127-131).

“Larva. Putative 4<sup>th</sup> instar: length 20-22mm when found feeding on young foliage on coppice growth, growing to 25mm over the next 8-10 days; body leaf-green; headshield brown with 8 small white teardrop-shaped dots in a radial pattern (fig. 3). The larvae inhabited leaf shelters in which the leaf was cut at either end of the shelter and with the edge of the leaf pulled across to touch the leaf surface. The joint was closed by means of many very fine, short, brown silk threads, concealing the larva (fig. 8). Inside the shelter, the larva had spun a bed of strong struts of white silk, on which it rested (fig. 4). Final (putative 5<sup>th</sup>) instar: length 25mm, growing to 35mm in about twelve days then shrinking back in two days to a prepupa 30 mm long with an increase in girth from 6mm to 8mm; body bright salmon-pink; headshield dark brown with a radial pattern of cream-white patches (fig. 4). The larval leaf shelter was as for the previous instar. Pupa. Length 15mm; colour dull creamy white, with the adult appendages picked out in dark brown. Pupation inside a thin cocoon in the larval shelter (fig. 5). Pupal period about 12 days.”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 184 (photograph of early instar larva, final instar larva and pupa).

Bampton, vide Larsen, 2005a.

The larva is green but turns salmon pink just before pupation.

**Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Woodhall, 1994: 127; Tshatshingo Potholes, Limpopo Province, South Africa].

*Parinari excelsa* Sabine (Chrysobalanaceae) [Congdon *vide* Cock *et al.*, 2017; Mulanje, Malawi; oviposition only].

*grandiplaga* Mabille, 1891 (as sp. of *Pamphila*. *Nomen nudem*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* 35: 179 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).

*goetzei* Grünberg, 1907 (as sp. of *Platylesches*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1907: 578 (577-578). [Tanzania]: “N. Nyassa-See (Massewe-Riwira-FI); Amani, Bomole und Mkulumusi”.

*junodi* Oberthür, 1909 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* 3: 93 (93-98). [Mozambique]: “Lourenço-Marquez”; [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “M’pala, près du lac Tanganika”.

**\**Platylesches rasta* Evans, 1937**  
**Nyasa Hopper**

*Platylesches rasta* Evans, 1937. A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature



adopted in the British Museum: 171 (212 pp.).



*Platylesches rasta rasta*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mufindi, southern Tanzania. March 2003. PW, MH. ABRI-2019-2655.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Mlanje, Nyasaland”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007).

Recorded, in error, from Ivory Coast by Kielland (1990d) (MCW).

**Habitat:** Forest, forest margins and riverine forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania the nominate subspecies occurs from 400 to 2 300 m and subspecies *anka* from 1 600 to 2 100 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A rather common species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:**

Cock *et al.*, 2017 [head of final instar larva].

**Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2017; Mulanje Pond, Malawi].

*Platylesches rasta rasta* Evans, 1937  
**Nyasa Hopper**

*Platylesches rasta* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 171 (212 pp.).*



*Platylesches rasta rasta*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mufindi, southern Tanzania. March 2003. PW, MH. ABRI-2019-2655.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Mlanje, Nyasaland”.

**Distribution:** Tanzania (north-east), Malawi, Mozambique (north) (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mikumi National Park (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Mufindi (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (TL); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Mozambique – Mount Chipero (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

*Platylesches rasta anka* Evans, 1937  
Northern Nyasa Hopper

*Platylesches rasta anka* Evans, 1937. A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 172 (212 pp.).



*Platylesches rasta anka*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kasuo, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. November 2012. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2656.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Uganda]: “W. Ankole, Mpanga Forest”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (west).

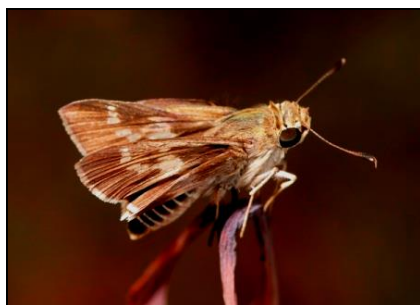
**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Mpanga Forest (TL).

Tanzania – Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

*\*Platylesches robustus* Neave, 1910#  
Robust Hopper



Male Robust Hopper (*Platylesches robustus*). Chambeshi, Zambia.  
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

*Platylesches robustus* Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 83 (2-86).  
*Platylesches robustus* Neave. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches robustus* Neave, 1910. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Platylesches robustus* Neave, 1910. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches robustus robustus*. Male (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 6 September 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches robustus robustus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mpaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 23 August 1997. J. Greyling.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Large Hopper.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “Chambezi valley”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Diagnosis:** The largest species in the genus; hindwing underside with purple or violet scaling; pale scales on the underside of the forewing apex (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Guinea, Cameroon, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland.

**Habitat:** Moist, frost-free savanna (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). In West Africa subspecies *fofi* occurs in habitat transitional between forest and Guinea savanna. In Tanzania in forest, riverine vegetation and woodland, from 1 000 to 1 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A locally common hopper (Kielland, 1990d). Can be found feeding from the flowers of trees. Specimens are sometimes found at rest on the leaves of shrubs and on the ground. Muddy patches are also visited. Males hilltop from early morning to late afternoon. They select perches on rocks or low bushes from which they defend territories. On the flats males may establish territories in patches of tamboekie grass, using the thick grass stems as perches. Males were seen in numbers feeding from bird droppings in a river bed in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

**Flight period:** All year; commonest from August to October and again in March and April; scarce from November to February (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Coetzer, 2006. [Mphaphuli Cycad Reserve near Thohoyandou, Limpopo Province, South Africa; in error – this refers to *Platylesches moritili*]

Congdon *et al.*, 2008.

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 71. [larva & pupa; Zambia]

**Larval food:**

*Parinari* species (Chrysobalanaceae) [Congdon & Bampton, unpublished 2003; Usondo Plateau, Tanzania].

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth (Chrysobalanaceae) [Woodhall, 2005a; Cock & Congdon, 2013 (Zambia)].

**Note:** Larsen (2005a: 537) is of the opinion that the three taxa subsumed under the name *robustus* may prove to be three distinct allopatric species, rather than being subspecies of a single species.

**Relevant literature:**

Coetzer, 2006c [Life history – actually refers to *P. moritili*].

*Platylesches robustus robustus* Neave, 1910#  
**Robust Hopper**

*Platylesches robustus* Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 83 (2-86).

*Platylesches robustus* Neave. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches robustus robustus* Neave, 1910. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches robustus robustus* Neave, 1910. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches robustus robustus*. Male (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 6 September 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Platylesches robustus robustus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mpaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 23 August 1997. J. Greyling.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “Chambezi valley”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Distribution:** Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Rwanda, Tanzania (south-west), Malawi, Zambia (north), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal – north), Swaziland.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Bie Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Tanzania – Kigonsera (Gaede, 1917); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Lugarawa, Njombe (McCleery, *vide*



Kielland, 1990d); Rudewa, Njombe (Haldane, *vide* Kielland, 1990d); Kigonsera, west of Songea (Kielland, 1990d); Usondo Plateau (Congdon & Bampton 2003, unpub.).  
Malawi – Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).  
Zambia – Chambeshi Valley (TL); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).  
Mozambique – Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).  
Zimbabwe – Hope Fountain, near Bulawayo (N. Jones); Save Valley (Pinhey); Mutare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994; male illustrated above); Runde River (D. and R. Plowes); foothills of the Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).  
Limpopo Province – Acornhoek (Swanepoel, 1953); Letaba (Swanepoel, 1953); Ofcolaco (Swanepoel, 1953); Duiwelskloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Mokeetsi (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Williams, September, 2002); Mphapuli Cycad Reserve (Coetzer, 2006); Gundani.  
Mpumalanga – White River (Swanepoel, 1953),

*ertli* Gaede, 1917 (as sp. of *Platylesches*). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **11**: 30 (29-31). [Tanzania]: “Kigonsera, Deutsch-O.-Afrika”.

***Platylesches robustus fofi* Larsen & Mei, 1998**  
**Western Robust Hopper**

*Platylesches robustus fofi* Larsen & Mei, 1998. *Bollettino della Societa Entomologica Italiana* **130** (3): 262 (255-272).

**Type locality:** Guinea: “Republic of Guinea, Parc National du Haut Niger, site PNHN7, 10° 14'52" N, 10°26'14" W, Faranah, Sidakoro, bas-fond 3,5 km E of the village crossed by the road to Oussouya, 5.ii.1996, leg. M.Mei.” Holotype in Museum of Zoology of the University of Rome “La Sapienza” (MZUR). Known only from three or four specimens (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Distribution:** Guinea.

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Parc National du Haut Niger (TL); Labe (Gachet, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Dabala (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

**Note:** This subspecies should probably be raised to species level (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

***Platylesches robustus villa* Evans, 1937**  
**Cameroon Robust Hopper**

*Platylesches villa* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidæ indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 169 (212 pp.).

*Platylesches robustus villa* Evans, 1937. Evans, 1956.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Cameroons (Bitje)”. Known from only two males (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Distribution:** Cameroon (south), Central African Republic (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Bitje (TL).

**Note:** This subspecies should probably be raised to species level (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**\**Platylesches rossii* Belcastro, 1986**  
**Loma Hopper**

*Platylesches rossii* Belcastro, 1986. *Problemi Attuali di Scienza e di Cultura* Quaderno **260**: 184 (165-194).  
*Platylesches rossi* Belcastro, 1986. Larsen, 2005a. [Misspelling of species name]



*Platylesches rossii*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mamou, Guinea. October 2001. M. Mane. ABRI-2019-2645.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone: “Limpopo Province, Loma Mountains, Dankale River (above waterfalls), m 800”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast (Warren-Gash, pers. comm., 2002), Ghana.

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Mamou (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Loma Mountains (TL).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Mount Sangbe (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Likpe (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

**Habitat:** Nothing published. Forest/savanna transition?

**Habits:** A very rare species (Larsen, 2013). Males are known to mud-puddle (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \**Platylesches shona* Evans, 1937 Shona Hopper

*Platylesches shona* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 169 (212 pp.).

*Platylesches shona* Evans, 1937. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches shona* Evans, 1937. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches shona*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Zambezi Bridge, north-western Zambia. June 1999. CC *et al.* ABRI-2019-2653.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Platylesches shona*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Usondo Plateau, Tanzania. June 2009. CC, MH. ABRI-2019-2654.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “Abercorn [now Mbala], N.E. Rhodesia”.

**Diagnosis:** Characterized on the hindwing underside by the violet-brown ground-colour and white spotting (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Tanzania (west), Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east), Namibia (Caprivi).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Katuma, near Mount Sitebi, 1 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Abercorn (TL); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Amatongas (male illustrated above).

Zimbabwe – eastern border (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Namibia – Kavango River (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Habits:** In the late afternoon, males are often found on the fringes of the bush, where they settle on low shrubs and trees. Here they defend territories from a favoured perch (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Males have been recorded mud-puddling (Kielland, 1990d).

**Flight period:** There appear to be two broods – July to October and March to May (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 73. [larva & pupa; Zambia]

**Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2013; Zambia].

**\**Platylesches tina* Evans, 1937#**  
**Small Hopper**

*Platylesches tina* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 170 (212 pp.).

*Platylesches tina* Evans. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Platylesches tina* Evans, 1937. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Platylesches tina* Evans, 1937. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 332.



*Platylesches tina*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Witchwood Valley, Vumba, Zimbabwe. 5 January 1995.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Platylesches tina*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Hillwood, Ikelenge, Zambia. April 1999. CC et al. ABRI-2019-2644.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Mlanje, Nyasaland”.

**Distribution:** Uganda, Kenya (south-west), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe (east), Namibia (Caprivi), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga).

**Specific localities:**

Kenya – Suna in the South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Kampisa River, Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Katuma River, Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); above Mhonda Mission in the Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (TL).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mafinga Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Hillwood Farm, Ikelenge (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Zimbabwe – Cross Kopje, Mutare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Butler South in the Chitoras (Pennington); near Harare (A. Duke).

Namibia – Katima Mulilo (Ficq).

Limpopo Province – Palmaryville near Sibasa (Swanepoel); Segwewa, Zoutpansberg (male illustrated above); near Thoyohando Hospital (Woodhall, 1994).

Mpumalanga – near Hazyview (I. Coetzer).

**Habitat:** Well-wooded savanna and riverine vegetation (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Forest at 1 000 to 1 600 m in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** This is a rare little skipper (Kielland, 1978; Larsen, 1991c). Specimens are often found in rocky stream-beds in forests, where they mud-puddle (Kielland, 1990d). They are also known to feed from bird droppings (Kielland, 1990d). Often found flying around trees near the crowns of well-wooded hillsides (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Here individuals may be seen feeding from the flowers on trees, often at considerable heights. Males establish territories in clearings in the bush, using the leaf of a bush or tree as a perch (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year, but appears to be commonest in September-October and again from January to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Woodhall, 1994: 129 [as *Platylesches tina*; near Thoyohandou Hospital; Limpopo Province] (*Met.* 5 (3): 127-131). Note that Cock & Congdon, 2013 doubt that this record refers to *Platylesches tina*.

“Larva. Final instar (fig. 6): length 10mm, girth 5mm when found on young foliage on coppice growth, not growing any further and pupating within two days; body leaf-green; headshield brown with white-cream patches outlined with darker brown in a radial pattern as in *P. moritili*. The larvae were inhabiting leaf-shelters constructed by taking a whole leaf and folding it in two up the mid-rib, fixing the edges together with closely spaced short silk strands (fig. 9). Pupa. Length 10mm; dull cream coloured; adult appendages picked out in dark brown. Pupation inside thin silk cocoons within the leaf shelter. Pupal period about three months [in winter].”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 183 (photograph of final instar larva). Note that Cock



& Congdon, 2013 doubt that this record refers to *Platylesches tina*.

Congdon et al., 2008.

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 75. [larva & pupa]

**Larval food:**

*Parinari curatellifolia* Planch. ex Benth. (Chrysobalanaceae) [Woodhall, 1994: 127 (near Thoyohando Hospital, Limpopo Province); Cock & Congdon, 2013 (Tanzania)].