

Genus *Eronia* Hübner, [1823] Vine-leaf Vagrants

In: Hübner, [1819-27]. *Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge* 2: pl. 130 (225 pls.). Augsburg.
Type-species: *Eronia cleodora* Hübner, by original designation.

The genus *Eronia* belongs to the Family Pieridae Swainson, 1820; Subfamily Pierinae Swainson, 1820; Tribe Teracolini Reuter, 1896. The other genera in the Tribe Teracolini in the Afrotropical Region are *Colotis*, *Teracolus*, *Calopieris*, *Pinacopteryx*, *Gideona* and *Afrodryas*.

Eronia (**Vine-leaf Vagrants**) is an Afrotropical genus comprising two species.

**Eronia cleodora* Hübner, [1823]# Vine-leaf Vagrant



Left: Male Vine-leaf Vagrant (*Eronia cleodora*) at rest. Ndumo, KwaZulu-Natal (image courtesy Steve Woodhall).
Right: Female Vine-leaf Vagrant feeding from Plumbago. Burman Bush, Durban (image courtesy Steve Woodhall).

Eronia cleodora Hübner, [1823] *in* Hübner, [1819-27]. *Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge* 2: pl. 130 (225 pls.). Augsburg.
Eronia cleodora Hübner. Trimen, 1862c.
Eronia cleodora (Hübner, 1806). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Eronia cleodora Hübner. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Eronia cleodora Hübner, [1823]. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Eronia cleodora Hübner, 1823. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 283.



Eronia cleodora. Male (wet season form) (Wingspan 55 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nibela Peninsula, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 25 November, 2010. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Male (dry season form) (Wingspan 50 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman's River Mouth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 10 December 2003. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Male (extreme dry season form) (Wingspan 50 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Munnik, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 14 August 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Female (wet season form) (Wingspan 57 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Port Edward, KwZulu-Natal, South Africa. 2 January 2008. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Female (dry season form) (Wingspan 53 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Eshowe, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 27 April 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Female (yellow form) (Wingspan 55 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman's River Mouth, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 10 December 2003. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Eronia cleodora. Female (dry season form). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mara, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 9 September, 1969. G. Henning.
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

Type locality: No locality given.

Distribution: Nigeria (north-east), Sudan (south), Ethiopia (south), Democratic Republic of Congo (Lualaba, Haut-Lomani, Kivu, Ituri), Uganda, Kenya (west and central), Tanzania (west), Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana (Pinhey), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Maiduguri (Larsen, 2005a); Gombe (Larsen, 2005a); Adamawa (Larsen, 2005a).

Ethiopia – Harrar (Dufrane, 1947).

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

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Nkungwe (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda township (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalulushi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Pemba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lake Bangweulu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lake Tanganyika (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lake Mweru (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Molimo’s location (Swanepoel, 1953); Elim (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Bandolierkop (Swanepoel, 1953); Wyliespoort (Swanepoel, 1953); Saltpan (Swanepoel, 1953); Blouberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Buzzard Mountain Retreat [-23.012 29.765] (Williams, unpub., 2015).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Komatipoort (Swanepoel, 1953); Acornhoek (Swanepoel, 1953); Lydenburg district (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – Port Shepstone (Swanepoel, 1953); Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Durban (Swanepoel, 1953; female illustrated above); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Estcourt (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (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).

Eastern Cape Province – Port Alfred (Le Doux, 1923); Port Elizabeth (Swanepoel, 1953); Grahamstown (Swanepoel, 1953); Bathurst (Swanepoel, 1953); King William’s Town (Swanepoel, 1953); East London (Swanepoel, 1953); Butterworth (Swanepoel, 1953); Bashee River (Swanepoel, 1953); Port St. Johns (Swanepoel, 1953); Van Staden’s Pass, near Port Elizabeth (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Cintsa East (male illustrated above).

Swaziland – Mlawula N. R. (www.sntc.org.sz); Malolotja N. R. (www.sntc.org.sz).

Habitat: Forest, coastal forest and bush, and moist frost-free savanna. In Tanzania *cleodora* occurs from 1 000 to 1 200 m.

Habits: The flight is fast, wandering, random, and from two to four metres above the ground. Both sexes are strongly attracted to flowers but males do not mudpuddle. Specimens may settle on the ground (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). In Kenya Larsen (1991) notes their fondness for the flowers of *Maerua* bushes and trees and in Nigeria for those of *Capparis* (Larsen, 2005a).

Flight period: All year but commoner during the summer months (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Mansel Weale, in Trimen & Bowker, 1889: 173 [as *Eronia Cleodora* Hübner; E. Cape].

“Mr. Weale added that the larva much resembled that of *Teracolus Auxo* (Lucas); it was difficult to find, its reddish-yellow lateral stripe matching in tint the edge of the leaves.”

Clark, in Van Son, 1949: 85.

Egg elongate-conical; deeply fluted; 1,5 mm high and 0,6 mm in diameter; 9 or 10 longitudinal ribs; about 24 transverse ridges; laid singly on the leaves of the foodplant; egg stage 3-10 days, depending on temperature. Five larval stages, lasting from 13 to 20 days; pale yellow deepening later to green; white lateral line, edged with red in final instar; shape rather flat, tapering to posterior end; 2,5 mm in length at eclosion, growing to 36 mm in final instar. Pupa green or light greenish brown; strongly keeled; pupal period about 12 days.

Carcasson, 1981 [larva and pupa].

Clark, in Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 358; plate 10.

“Eggs are laid singly on the leaves of the foodplant. They are deeply fluted and 1,5 mm high by 0,6 mm in diameter. There are nine or 10 longitudinal ribs and about 24 transverse ribs. The length of the egg stage varies according to temperature and can last from three to 10 days. There are five larval stages lasting from 13 to 20 days in total. The larva, about 2,5 mm on hatching, grows to about 36 mm. The pupal stage lasts about 12 days. The pupa is attached by the cremaster and a silken girdle.”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 271 (photograph of final instar larva and pupa).



Eronia cleodora eggs.
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Larval food:

Azima tetracantha Lam. (Salvadoraceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 29].

Capparis fascicularis DC. var. *zeyheri* (Turcz.) Toelken (Capparaceae) [Mansel Weale, *in* Trimen & Bowker, 1889: 173; as *Capparis Zeyheri*; Eastern Cape].

Capparis species (Capparaceae) [Barber, *in* Trimen & Bowker, 1889: 173].

Capparis tomentosa Lam. (Capparaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 271].

Salvadora persica L. (Salvadoraceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 55].

erxia Hewitson, 1867 *in* Hewitson, 1867-71 (as sp. of *Eronia*). *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 4: 8 (118 pp.). “S. Africa”.

semipunctata Le Doux, 1923 (as f. of *Eronia cleodora*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1923: 583 (582-584). South Africa: “Port Alfred (Kapkolonie)”.

punctata Le Doux, 1923 (as f. of *Eronia cleodora*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1923: 584 (582-584). South Africa: “Port Alfred (Kapkolonie)”.

unipuncta Dufrane, 1947 (as ab. of *Eronia cleodora* f. *erxia*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* 83: 60 (46-73). Ethiopia: “Harrar, Ethiopie”.

****Eronia dilatata* Butler, 1888**
East Coast Vine-leaf Vagrant



Nectaring East Coast Vine-leaf Vagrant, *Eronia dilatata*. Image courtesy Sudheer Kommana.

Eronia dilatata Butler, 1888. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1888: 96 (91-98).

Eronia cleodora dilatata Butler, 1888. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Eronia dilatata Butler, 1888. Nazari *et al.*, 2011. **stat. rev.**



Eronia dilatata. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sekoke-Arabuko Forest, Kenya. December 2007. SCC. ABRI-2019-2733.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Eronia dilatata. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Paje, Zanzibar, Tanzania. September 1990. SCC. ABRI-2019-2734.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Taveta; Forests of Taveta; Kilima-njaro”.

Distribution: Kenya (east), Tanzania (east).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Mambui (Stoneham, 1957); coast (Larsen, 1991c); Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Taveta (TL); Pangani (Weymer, 1892); coastal areas, inland to Kimboza Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); lower parts of the Rubeho Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Rondo Plateau (Kielland, 1990d); below Moshi and Arusha (Kielland, 1990d); Pemba Island (Rydon, *vide* Kielland, 1990d).

Taxonomic notes: Larsen (1991) does not accept *dilatata* as a valid subspecies but does not formally synonymize it with *cleodora*. Narazi *et al*, 2011 found that the DNA barcode divergence between *E. cleodora cleodora* and *E. cleodora dilatata* is about 4.6%, leading them to raise the latter to species status.

Habitat: In Tanzania *dilatata* occurs from sea-level to 1 200 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits:

Flight period:

Early stages:

Larval food:

latimarginata Weymer, 1892 (as var. of *Eronia cleodora*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **53**: 96 (79-125). Tanzania: “Pangani (Ostafrika)”.

dorothaea Stoneham, 1957 (as female f. of *Eronia cleodora*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (70): [1] ([3 pp.]). Kenya: “Mambui, Kenya Coast”.