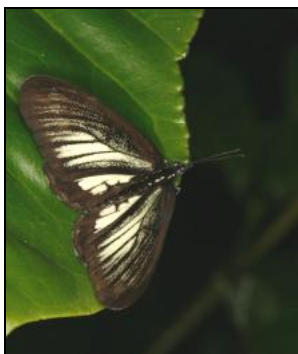


Genus *Mesoxantha* Aurivillius, [1899] Drury's Delight

In: Aurivillius, [1898-9]. *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapakademiens Handlingar* **31** (5): 153, 157 (1-561).

Type-species: *Papilio ethosea* Drury, by monotypy.



Drury's Delight (*Mesoxantha ethosea reducta*). Uganda
Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

The genus *Mesoxantha* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Biblidinae Boisduval, 1833; Tribe Biblidini Boisduval, 1833. The other genera in the Tribe Biblidini in the Afrotropical Region are *Byblia*, *Ariadne*, *Neptidopsis* and *Eurytela*.

Mesoxantha (**Drury's Delight**) is an Afrotropical genus containing a single species.

**Mesoxantha ethosea* (Drury, 1782) Drury's Delight

Papilio ethosea Drury, 1782. *Illustrations of Natural History* **3**: index et 51 (76 pp.). London.



Mesoxantha ethosea reducta. Male (Wingspan 46 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Mesoxantha ethosea reducta. Female (Wingspan 46 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania.

Misattributed to the Mozambique fauna by Ackery *et al.*, 1995 (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Habitat: Lowland forest, including secondary forest (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania it is found at altitudes from 800 to 1 200 m, occasionally up to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: This is a somewhat scarce butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). The flight is weak and hovering, usually about a metre above the ground (Larsen, 2005a), but sometimes high up in trees (Kielland, 1990d). Contesting males can fly much faster (Larsen, 2005a). It tends to keep to the denser parts of the forest (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Pouteria alnifolia (Baker) Roberty var. *alnifolia* (Sapotaceae) [Vuattoux, pers. com. Larsen, 2005a; as *Malacantha alnifolia*].

Tragia brevipes Pax (Euphorbiaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 133].

Mesoxantha ethosea ethosea (Drury, 1782) Drury's Delight

Papilio ethosea Drury, 1782. *Illustrations of Natural History* 3: index et 51 (76 pp.). London.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo.

Specific localities:

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

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

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Mesoxantha ethosea ethoseoides Rebel, 1914 Central Drury's Delight

Mesoxantha ethoseoides Rebel, 1914. *Annalen des (K.K.) Naturhistorischen Museums. Wien* 28: 240 (219-294).



Mesoxantha ethosea ethoseoides. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mbau Territory, North Kivu, DRC. 1 April 2017. R. Ducarme.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.



Mesoxantha ethosea ethoseoides. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Near Nebobongo, Haut-Uele. 25 July 2016. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Kamerun”; Sierra Leone. Larsen (2005a: 344) designated the Cameroon type specimen as the **lectotype**.

Distribution: Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (east and south).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Bitje, Ja River (Rothschild, 1918); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea – Caldera de Luba, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

Gabon – Lake Azingo (Rothschild, 1918); Pongara (Vande weghe, 2010); Bitam (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Bokouaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Okondja (Vande weghe, 2010); Franceville (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Democratic Republic of Congo – 10 and 15 days from Fort Beni (Rothschild, 1918); Luebo (Rothschild, 1918); Kassai River (Rothschild, 1918); Gallery Forest, Rutchuru River (Rothschild, 1918); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018).

albeola Rothschild, 1918 (as ssp. of *Mesoxantha ethosea*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **25**: 343 (338-345). Cameroon: “Bitje, Ja River, Cameroons”; Gabon: “Lake Azingo, Gaboon, Ogowé River”; [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “10 and 15 days from Fort Beni, Congo, Luebo, Kassai River, Gallery Forest, Rutchuru River”.

Mesoxantha ethosea reducta Rothschild, 1918
Reduced Drury’s Delight

Mesoxantha ethosea reducta Rothschild, 1918. *Novitates Zoologicae* 25: 343 (338-345).



Mesoxantha ethosea reducta. Male (Wingspan 46 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Mesoxantha ethosea reducta. Female (Wingspan 46 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Port Alice, Kampala, Entebbe, Monyoro, Unyoro”. Mozambique: “Delagoa Bay”. [False locality.]

Diagnosis: Compared to the other subspecies the forewing pale markings are reduced but in Tanzania some specimens similar to subspecies *ethoseoides* occur (Kielland, 1990d).

Distribution: Sudan (south), Uganda, Tanzania (west).

Specific localities:

Uganda – Port Alice (Rothschild, 1918); Kampala (Rothschild, 1918); Entebbe (Rothschild, 1918); Monyoro (Rothschild, 1918); Unyoro (Rothschild, 1918); Katera (Stoneham, 1935); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Tanzania – Kigoma District (Kielland, 1990d).

katera Stoneham, 1935 (as sp. of *Mesoxantha*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (25): [2] ([2 pp.]).
Uganda: “Katera, Uganda Protectorate”.