

Genus *Ypthimomorpha* van Son, 1955 Oval-eyed Five-ring

Transvaal Museum Memoirs No. 8: 158 (1-166).

Type-species: *Ypthima itonia* Hewitson, by original designation.

The genus *Ypthimomorpha* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Satyrinae Boisduval, 1833; Tribe Satyrini Boisduval, 1833; Subtribe Ypthimina, Reuter, 1896. The other genera in the Subtribe Ypthimina in the Afrotropical Region are *Ypthima*, *Mashuna*, *Mashunoides*, *Strabena*, *Neocoenyra*, *Coenyropsis*, *Coenyra*, *Neita*, *Melampias*, *Cassionympha*, *Pseudonympha*, *Paternympha* and *Stygionympha*.

Ypthimomorpha (**Oval-eyed Five-ring**) is an Afrotropical genus containing a single species. Closely related to the genus *Ypthima*. Several of the species of *Ypthima* from Asia have genitalia like those of *Ypthimomorpha* and more properly belong in this genus (Kielland, 1990d: 86). Emmel & Sourakov propose that *Ypthimomorpha* should be treated as a subgenus of *Ypthima*, a view with which Larsen (2005a) does not concur.

**Ypthimomorpha itonia* (Hewitson, 1865) Oval-eyed Five-ring



Perched female Marsh Ringlet (*Ypthimomorpha itonia*).
Katanga, DRC. Image courtesy Bertie Brink.

Ypthima itonia Hewitson, 1865. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) 2: 287 (281-294).

Ypthimomorpha itonia (Hewitson, 1865). Van Son, 1955.

Ypthimomorpha itonia (Hewitson, 1865). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Ypthimomorpha itonia (Hewitson, 1865). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 72.



Ypthimomorpha itonia. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. 17 June 2006. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Ypthimomorpha itonia. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Pungwe, Zimbabwe. 16 April 1995.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



Ypthimomorpha itonia. Male (very wet season form). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Dzangha-Ndoki, Congo Republic. J. O'Dell.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

Alternative common name: Swamp Ringlet.

Type locality: Sudan: “White Nile”.

Diagnosis: Distinguished by the oval shape of the forewing ocellate spot and the large number (about seven) of ocelli on the underside of the hindwing. In the dry-season form the ocelli are decreased in both size and number (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Aurivillius, 1910), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola (Mendes *et al.*, 2018), Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (north, east), Botswana.

Specific localities:

Gambia – Bijilo, Pirang, Abuko, Brufut, Madiana, Tendaba, Farasutu, Wassu, Basse (Jon Baker, pers.

comm, May 2020).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – Noyau Central, Lama Forest (Fermon *et al.*, 2001); Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Assoko (Strand, 1913).

Gabon – Lope (Vande weghe, 2010); Franceville (Vande weghe, 2010); Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Sudan – White Nile (TL).

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (S. Forbes, pers. comm., 2017).

Tanzania – Widespread but local (Kielland, 1990d); Ukerewe (Strand, 1909); Majita (Strand, 1909); Songea (Strand, 1909); Ungoni (Strand, 1909).

Malawi – Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kabompo River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); the Copperbelt (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Victoria Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chilanga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Misamfu, Kasama (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalombo Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabuike (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls (Pennington); Harare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Lundi (male illustrated above).

Botswana – Okavango Delta (Pinhey); Kazungula (Larsen, 1991); between Kazungula and Kasane (Larsen, 1991).

Habitat: As the common names suggest, this species is associated with open, moist places and marshes, on forest margins. These habitats occur in savanna biomes. In West Africa it is absent from dense Guinea savanna and open areas in the forest belt (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania it occurs at altitudes up to 1 800 m (Kielland, 1990d),

Habits: Colonies may be small in extent, being limited to marshy, grassy patches (Larsen, 1991c). The habits are similar to those of species of the genus *Ypthima* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Individuals are usually seen flying low down, weaving their way between tall grass stems (Larsen, 2005a).

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

Early stages:

Sourakov & Emmel, 1997 [larva and pupa].

Larval food:

Poaceae [Sourakov & Emmel, 1997].

hoehneli Holland, 1896 (as sp. of *Ypthima* [sic]). *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* **18**: 744 (741-767). “East Africa”.

microocellata Strand, 1909 (as ab. of *Ypthima itonia*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a. M.* **23**: 113 (112-114). Tanzania: “D.-O.-Africa, Neuwied-Ukerewe”.

quadriocellata Strand, 1909 (as var. of *Ypthima itonia*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a. M.* **23**: 113 (112-114). Tanzania: “Majita in Ost-Afrika”.

pluripupillata Strand, 1909 (as ab. of *Ypthima itonia*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a. M.* **23**: 114 (112-114). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Aus Central-Africa, 6° südl. Br., 22-26° östl. L. v. Gr.”.

subocellata Strand, 1909 (as ab. of *Ypthima itonia*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a. M.* **23**: 112 (112-114). Tanzania: “D.-O.-Afrika, Songea, Ungoni”.

pluriocellata Strand, 1913 (as ab. of *Ypthima itonia*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **79** (A.7.): 150 (138-151).
Cameroon: "Kamerun: Assoko, Jaundestation-Simekoa".