

Genus *Pseudoneptis* Snellen, 1882

False Sailer

Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 25: 221 (215-234).

Type-species: *Papilio coenobita* Fabricius, by monotypy.

The genus *Pseudoneptis* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Limenitidinae Behr, 1864; Tribe Pseudoneptini Dhungel & Wahlberg, 2018. There is only one genus in this tribe.

Pseudoneptis (**False Sailer**) is an Afrotropical genus containing a single species. Although *Pseudoneptis* is not closely related to *Neptis* the flight pattern is similar to that of the latter (Larsen, 2005a). The early stages indicate that the genus probably belongs between *Cymothoe* and *Pseudacraea* (Amiet, 2002).

**Pseudoneptis bugandensis* Stoneham, 1935

Blue Sailer

Pseudoneptis coenobita bugandensis Stoneham, 1935. *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (25): [2] ([2 pp.]).
Pseudoneptis bugandensis Stoneham, 1935. Larsen, 1991c: 318.



Pseudoneptis bugandensis bugandensis. Male (Wingspan 54 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 13 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Blue Sergeant.

Type locality: Uganda: “Iganga Forest”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2008), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia.

Habitat: Forest, including dry and disturbed forest, so long as canopy is present (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A common butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). Keeps to damp shady places in the forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998), flying from two to three metres above the ground (Larsen, 2005a). The flight pattern is very much like that of species of *Neptis* (Larsen, 1991c). Very occasionally specimens enter bait traps (Fermon, *vide* Larsen, 2005a). Specimens can sometimes be seen resting on a leaf in a sunny spot, with the

wings held two-thirds open (Larsen, 2005a). Generally a common butterfly in both primary and secondary forest throughout its range. Though Snellen could hardly have known this when he described the genus, the flight is actually very like that of the *Neptis* (Larsen, pers. comm. 2007).

Early stages:

Amiet, 2002 [Cameroon].

Larval food:

Antiaris toxicaria Lesch. (Moraceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 321].

Antiaris toxicaria Lesch. var. *africana* Scott-Elliot ex A.Chev. (Moraceae) [Vuattoux & Blandin, 1979; Ivory Coast; as *Antiaris africana*].

Ficus asperifolia Miq. (Moraceae) [Congdon & Collins, 1998: 47; Tanzania].

Ficus species (Moraceae) [Vuattoux & Blandin, 1979; Ivory Coast].

Ritchiea capparoides (Andrews) Britten (Capparaceae) [Vuattoux & Blandin, 1979; Ivory Coast].

Pseudoneptis bugandensis bugandensis Stoneham, 1935

Pseudoneptis coenobita bugandensis Stoneham, 1935. *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (25): [2] ([2 pp.]).

Pseudoneptis bugandensis bugandensis Stoneham, 1935. Larsen, 1991c: 318.



Pseudoneptis bugandensis bugandensis. Male (Wingspan 54 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 13 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Iganga Forest”.

Distribution: Sudan (south), Uganda (east), Kenya (west), Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Uganda – Iganga Forest (TL).

Tanzania – Minziro Forest (common) (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Kikuru Forest (uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Pseudoneptis bugandensis ianthe Hemming, 1964

Papilio coenobita Fabricius, 1793. Invalid name.

Pseudoneptis ianthe Hemming, 1964. *Annotationes lepidopterologicae* (Part 4): 144 (144). Replacement name. [Hemming overlooked the fact that Stoneham had already described a subspecies as *bugandensis* in 1935, which becomes the valid specific name].

Pseudoneptis bugandensis ianthe Hemming, 1964. Larsen, 1991c: 318.



Pseudoneptis bugandensis ianthe. Male (Wingspan 50 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bobiri Forest, Ghana. 22 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Pseudoneptis bugandensis ianthe. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Libreville, Gabon. 17 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Africa]: “in Indiis”. [False locality.]

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west), Zambia.

Specific localities:

Guinea – Nzerekore (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); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – Lokoli (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2008); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Probably throughout (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998); Bangui.

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

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

Zambia – Kalene Hill, Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

coenobita Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* **3** (1): 247 (488 pp.). [Africa]: “in Indiis”. [False locality.] [Invalid; junior primary homonym of *Papilio coenobita* Cramer, [1780] [Nymphalidae].]