

Genus *Tarucus* Moore, [1881]

Pierrots

In: Moore, [1880-2]. *The lepidoptera of Ceylon* 1: 81 (190 pp.). London.

Type-species: *Hesperia theophrastus* Fabricius, by original designation.

The genus *Tarucus* belongs to the Family Lycaenidae Leach, 1815; Subfamily Polyommatainae Swainson, 1827; Tribe Polyommataini Swainson, 1827; Subtribe *Incertae sedis*. The other genera in the Subtribe *Incertae sedis* in the Afrotropical Region are *Harpencyreus*, *Tuxentius*, *Zintha*, *Zizina*, *Eicochrysops* and *Cyclus*.

Tarucus (**Pierrots**) is a genus of 23 species, which is well represented in the Afrotropical, Oriental and Palearctic Regions. There are 12 Afrotropical species, three of which extend extraliminally.

Tarucus balkanica (Freyer, 1843)

Balkan Pierrot

Lycaena balkanica Freyer, 1843. *Neuere Beiträge zur Schmetterlingstunde mit Abbildungen nach der Natur* 5 (71): 63 (63-74).

Tarucus balkanicus Freyer, 1844. d'Abreu, 2009: 814. [date of authorship erroneous?]

Type locality: Turkey.

Distribution: Mauritania, Niger (Air region), Sudan (Khartoum), Uganda, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman.

Extraliminally in Algeria, Europe (south-east), Arabia (east and central), Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East, Syria, Iran, North Africa. Subspecies *nigra* (Bethune-Baker, 1918) is in India (north-west), Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Habitat: Very arid savanna.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus species (Rhamnaceae) [Larsen, 1999].

Tarucus balkanica balkanica (Freyer, 1843)

Balkan Pierrot

Lycaena balkanica Freyer, 1843. *Neuere Beiträge zur Schmetterlingstunde mit Abbildungen nach der Natur* 5 (71): 63 (63-74).

Tarucus balkanicus balkanicus Freyer, 1844. d'Abreu, 2009: 814. [date of authorship erroneous?]

Type locality: Turkey.

Distribution: Mauritania, Niger (Air region), Sudan, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman.

Extraliminally in Algeria, Europe (south-east), Asia Minor, Middle East, Syria, Iran, North Africa.

Specific localities:

Sudan – Khartoum (Larsen, 2005a).

Tarucus balkanica nigra Bethune-Baker, 1918

Ref. ?

Type locality: ?

Distribution: Extralimital: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

Tarucus bowkeri (Trimen, 1883)#
Chequered Pierrot

Lycaena bowkeri Trimen, 1883. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1883**: 351 (347-363).

Lycaena bowkeri Trimen, 1883. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.

Tarucus bowkeri Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Tarucus bowkeri (Trimen, 1883). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus bowkeri (Trimen, 1883). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus bowkeri Trimen, 1883. d'Abrera, 2009: 815.



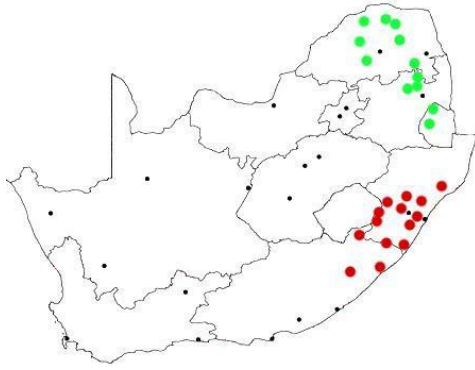
Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman's Nek, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 30 January 2007. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri. Female (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman's Nek, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 2 January 2008. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Bowker's Blue.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “summit of a high hill overlooking the Inchanga Valley in Natal”.



Distribution of *Tarucus bowkeri*

KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province.

South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga), Swaziland.

Distribution: South Africa, Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

Habitat: High-rainfall montane grassland, often on the edges of temperate forest.

Habits: The flight is weak. Individuals flutter around ironstone outcrops and settle on low bushes or on the ground (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Flight period: The summer months. At lower altitudes (Inchanga) a few specimens are out in the winter months (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Subspecies *transvaalensis* flies from October to March, with a peak in October (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 80 [as *Tarucus bowkeri*; above Inchanga Valley, KwaZulu-Natal; nominate subspecies].

“**Egg.** 0.6 mm diam. x 0.4 mm high. Laid singly on a leaf or stalk. Eggs are white, with white ribbing arranged in two sets, 24 in each, radiating, in opposite directions, from the micropyle in involute curves and continuing diagonally down the sides. The intersections are punctuated by mediumly extended moles. Eggs hatch after 8-11 days. The discarded shell is not eaten. **Larva.** 1st instar 0.8-0.9 mm, growing to 1.6 mm in 6 days; 2nd instar growing to 2.5 mm in 6-7 days; 3rd instar growing to 4.25 mm in 6-8 days; 4th instar growing to 6.25-7 mm in 5-6 days; 5th instar growing to 12-13 mm in 9-10 days. The honey-gland is present in the 2nd to 5th instars, and the tubercles from the 3rd to 5th instars. Larvae appear to be furry owing to long setae which they bear. The colour varies from whitish, matching the underside of the leaves, to very pale blue-green with white and green stripes to match the upperside of the leaves. Some larvae have a purple-green dorsal stripe which can be mistaken for the midrib of a leaf. Larvae are not easy to detect owing to this effective means of camouflage. Half-way through the final instar larvae commence at the point of a leaf and eat downwards, consuming the whole leaf. There is a succession of broods. **Pupa.** 8.25-9 mm. Secured to a leaf or twig by the cremastral hooks and a girdle. The ground-colour is green but intensified grey mottling will give it a dark green to almost black appearance. The imago emerges after 14-16 days.”

Larval food:

Phyllica paniculata Willd. (Rhamnaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 80].

Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri (Trimen, 1883)#

Chequered Pierrot

Lycaena bowkeri Trimen, 1883. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1883**: 351 (347-363).

Lycaena bowkeri Trimen, 1883. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.

Tarucus bowkeri Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Tarucus bowkeri (Trimen, 1883). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri (Trimen, 1883). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri Trimen, 1883. d'Abrera, 2009: 815.



Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman’s Nek, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 30 January 2007. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus bowkeri bowkeri. Female (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bushman’s Nek, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 2 January 2008. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “summit of a high hill overlooking the Inchanga Valley in Natal”.

Distribution: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province).

In South Africa its distribution covers 23 quarter degree squares (261 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as moderately widespread.

Specific localities:

KwaZulu-Natal – Inchanga (TL; Bowker); Harding (Swanepoel, 1953); Impetyeni Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg – Swartkop (Swanepoel, 1953); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Kranskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Balcomb’s Hill (Swanepoel, 1953); upper Mooi River (Pennington); Bushman’s Nek (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Eshowe (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).
Eastern Cape Province – the mountain above Port St. Johns (Quickelberge).

Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis Quickelberge, 1972#

Northern Chequered Pierrot

Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis Quickelberge, 1972. *Entomologist’s Record and Journal of Variation* **84**: 234 (233-238).

Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis Quickelberge, 1972. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis Quickelberge, 1972. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis Quickelberge, 1972. d’Abreera, 2009: 815.



Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis. Male (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.

Graskop, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 19 October 1991. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus bowkeri transvaalensis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Panorama Gorge, Graskop, Mpumalanga, South Africa. September 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: “Kawyn’s Pass, Graskop, Transvaal”.

Diagnosis: This subspecies differs from the nominate one in the following respects: upperside blue ground-colour of the male less violaceous and more extensive and there are no dark markings in the blue ground-colour. The female has reduced white markings on the upperside. In both sexes the underside creamy ground-colour is lighter and the underside spots are greyer (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

In South Africa its distribution covers 15 quarter degree squares (155 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as localized.

Specific localities:

Limpopo Province – Blouberg (Wykeham); Louis Trichardt (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

Mpumalanga – Kowyn’s Pass, near Graskop (TL; Pennington); Mount Sheba Nature Reserve, at 1 800 m (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); The Bonnet, near Pilgrim’s Rest (Williams); Sterkspruit Nature Reserve (Williams).

Swaziland – Mbabane (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

Tarucus grammicus (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1893])

Dark Pierrot

Lycaenesthes grammicus Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1893]. *In*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1892-7]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 2: 102 (261 pp.). London.

Tarucus grammicus Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1893. d’Abreu, 2009: 815.



Tarucus grammicus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ghibe-Tolley, Ethiopia. 13 September 1997. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C.Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Tarucus grammicus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ghibe-Tolley, Ethiopia. 14 September 1997. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C.Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Alternative common name: Black Pierrot.

Type locality: [Kenya]: “Mombasa”.

Distribution: Yemen, Ethiopia (south), Somalia, Uganda, Kenya (east, north), Tanzania (north).

Specific localities:

Somalia – Wagga Mountain (Sharpe, 1898); Dobar (Sharpe, 1898).

Kenya – Mombasa (TL); coast (Larsen, 1991c); Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c); Tsavo (Larsen, 1991c); West Pokot (Larsen, 1991c); upper Tana River (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Northern Highlands (Kielland, 1990d); Kimboza Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Ukaguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Pugu Hills (Kielland, 1990d).

Habitat: Savanna and forest margins. In Tanzania at altitudes from near sea-level to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Flies weakly, just above ground level. Larsen (1991c) once found vast numbers in May, feeding from every small flower available, in the Tsavo area.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus abyssinnica A.Rich. (Rhamnaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330].

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (Rhamnaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 217; as *Ziziphus jujuba* L.].

louisae Sharpe, 1898 (as sp. of *Tarucus*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1898**: 370, 371 (369-372). Somalia: “Wagga Mountain, 6000 ft; Dobar”.

Tarucus kiki Larsen, 1976 Grey Pierrot

Tarucus kiki Larsen, 1976. *Bulletin de l'Institut Fondamental de l'Afrique Noire* (A) **37**: 685 (684-686).

Tarucus kiki Larsen, 1976. d'Abrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Kaduna”.

Distribution: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast (extreme north), Nigeria.

Specific localities:

Burkina Faso – Ouagadougou (Larsen, 2005a); Koupela (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – central Kaduna (TL); Kano (Larsen, 2005a).

Habitat: Savanna.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus species (Rhamnaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].

Tarucus kulala Evans, 1955

Turkana Pierrot

Tarucus kulala Evans, 1955. *Entomologist* **88**: 185 (179-187).
Tarucus kulala Evans, 1955. d'Abrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: Kenya: "Kulal, N. Kenya".

Distribution: Somalia (Ogaden), Kenya (north).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Mount Kulal district (TL); Upper Tana River (Larsen, 1991c).

Habits: S.C. Collins found many specimens feeding from the flowers of *Loewia tanaensis* (Turneraceae) on the upper Tana River (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus species (Rhamnaceae) (probably) [Larsen, 1991c: 237].

Tarucus legrasi Stempffer, 1948 Sahel Pierrot

Tarucus legrasi Stempffer, 1948. *Revue Française d'Entomologie* **15**: 194 (185-196).
Tarucus legrasi Stempffer, 1948. d'Abrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: [Senegal] (Larsen, 2005a): "Sénégal-Niger (sans localité précise)".

Distribution: Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast (north), Nigeria (north of Kano), Niger (Aïr), Cameroon (north), Chad, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda (north), Kenya (north-west).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Kacheliba/Suk (Larsen, 1991c).

Habitat: Arid (Sahelian) savanna.

Habits: Often sympatric with one or more of its congeners (Larsen, 1991c). Seems to fly low down and females oviposit on low-growing *Ziziphus* plants (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus species (Rhamnaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 237; Burkina Faso].

Tarucus quadratus Ogilvie-Grant, 1899 Socotra Pierrot

Tarucus quadratus Ogilvie-Grant, 1899. *Bulletin of the Liverpool Museums* **2**: 10 (10-11).
Tarucus quadratus Ogilvie-Grant, 1899. d'Abrera, 2009: 815.

Type locality: Yemen: "Sokotra".

Distribution: Yemen (Socotra Island), Somalia.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Tarucus rosacea (Austaut, 1885) Mediterranean Pierrot

Lycaena theophrastus var. *rosacea* Austaut, 1885. *Le Naturaliste* **7** (18): 141 (141-142).
Tarucus rosacea Austaut, 1885. d'Abrera, 2009: 814.



Tarucus rosacea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ougadoudou, Burkina Faso. 12 July 1996. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Tarucus rosacea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ougadoudou, Burkina Faso. 12 July 1996. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Algeria: “entre El-Arricha et le Maroc”.

Distribution: Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast (north), Ghana (north), Nigeria (north), Niger, Cameroon (north), Chad, Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda (north), Kenya (north-west), Somalia, Djibouti, Arabia (including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman).

Extraliminally in North Africa, the Middle East, and north-western India.

Specific localities:

Gambia – Kotu, Brufut, Abuko, Pirang, Brusubi, Bijilo, Keneba, Tendaba, Janjanbureh, Walikunda, Basse (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Ghana – Mole National Park (J. Ciha, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – Kano (Larsen, 2005a); Sokoto (Larsen, 2005a).

Kenya – Kacheliba/Suk (Larsen, 1991c); Mount Kulal district (Larsen, 1991c).

Habitat: Sudan savanna and the Sahel in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Similar to those of *Tarucus legrasi* (Larsen, 1991c). It may sometimes be common on flowering *Ziziphus*, often roosting on straws of grass or on twigs beneath the tree (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (Rhamnaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330; as *Ziziphus jujuba* L.].

Associated ants:

Plagiolepis species (Formicidae) [Ackery *et al.*, 1995].

Camponotus species (Formicidae) [Ackery *et al.*, 1995].

Monomorium species (Formicidae) [Ackery *et al.*, 1995].

mediterraneae Bethune-Baker, 1918 (as sp. of *Tarucus*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1917**: 281 (269-296). Egypt: “Alexandria”.

***Tarucus sybaris* (Hopffer, 1855)#**
Dotted Pierrot



Dotted Blue (*Tarucus sybaris sybaris*). Left – male upperside. Right – male underside.
Images courtesy Allison Sharp (left) and Steve Woodhall (right).



Dotted Blue (*Tarucus sybaris linearis*). Left – female upperside. Right – female underside.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer, 1855. *Berichte über die zur Bekanntmachung geeigneten Verhandlungen der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin* **1855**: 642 (639-643).

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer. Trimen, 1866a.

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer, 1855. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.

Tarucus sybaris Hopffer. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Tarucus sybaris (Hopffer, 1855). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus sybaris (Hopffer, 1855). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus sybaris Hopffer, 1855. d’Abrera, 2009: 815.



Tarucus sybaris sybaris. Male (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rustenburg N.R., North West Province, South Africa. 10 January 1998. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus sybaris sybaris. Female (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Malelane, Kruger National Park, South Africa. 11 November, 1998. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: [Mozambique].

Distribution: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland.

Habitat: Savanna, including *Brachystegia* woodland, and grassland. In Tanzania at altitudes from 800 to 1 800 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Uncommon in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d). The flight is slow and close to the ground (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

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

Early stages:

Clark, 1942: 115 [as *Cupido sybaris*; locality not noted].

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 76 [as *Tarucus sybaris sybaris*; Eastern Cape].

“**Egg.** 0.55 mm diam. x 0.4 mm high. Laid singly on a young shoot, twig or leaf. Eggs are white with two sets of ribs, 16 in each set, radiating in opposite directions in involute curves, from the micropyle and extending down the sides diagonally, where they are intersected by horizontal ribs. The intersections are punctuated by elongated moles. Eggs hatch after 6-8 days. The discarded shell is not eaten. **Larva.** 1st instar 1 mm, growing to 2 mm in 5 days; 2nd instar growing to 3.5 mm in 3 days; 3rd instar growing to 6 mm in 3 days; 4th instar growing to 8-8.5 mm in 3 days; 5th instar growing to 13-14 mm in 8 days. The honey-gland and tubercles are present in the 2nd to 5th instars. The final-instar tubercles have 24 finely barbed spines each. Larvae feed on the surface of a leaf in troughs which disclose their presence. Later they strip the whole surface, leaving a shrivelled parchment-like relic. In the earlier instars larvae are very pale whitish green with reddish markings but in the later instars they are pale green with a light dorsum, split on the leading segments by a fine red line. Pupation takes place among dead leaves. There are two or three broods and the last brood hibernates in the larval state, but hibernation may not occur in warm localities. Ants ‘milk’ the larvae in the 3rd to 5th instars when they meet the latter. **Pupa.** 8-9 mm. Secured to dead leaves by the cremastral hooks and a girdle. The [duration of the] pupal state varies. In summer it is from 8 to 10 days but in the case of larvae which have overwintered it is from 19-27 days. The colour is either pale green or pale brown, spotted with black. The pupa is covered with small setae on diminutive moles. **Parasites.** Egg attacked by very small chalcids (*Trichogramma* sp.), which leave a neat hole of exit on the side of the egg. Larva attacked by *Apanteles* sp. in the 3rd and 4th instars; also by other small braconids and ichneumonids. Diptera such as *Zenillia uniseta* and *Z. versicolor* have so far been identified as other parasites. These emerge from the side of the now yellow larva and pupate after 24-36 hours, the flies themselves emerging after 12 days. Parasites that have attacked the larva, such as *Pimpla* spp. and Diptera, may only emerge from the pupa; the *Pimpla* do so by breaking away the head-piece.”



Final instar larva and pupa of *Tarucus sybaris*. Images courtesy Allison Sharp.

Larval food:

Ziziphus mucronata Willd. (Rhamnaceae) [Clark, 1942: 118].

Ziziphus zeyheriana Sond. (Rhamnaceae) [Joannou, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239].

Tarucus sybaris sybaris (Hopffer, 1855)#

Dotted Pierrot

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer, 1855. *Berichte über die zur Bekanntmachung geeigneten Verhandlungen der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin* **1855**: 642 (639-643).

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer. Trimen, 1866a.

Lycaena sybaris Hopffer, 1855. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.

Tarucus sybaris Hopffer. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Tarucus sybaris (Hopffer, 1855). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus sybaris sybaris (Hopffer, 1855). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus sybaris sybaris Hopffer, 1855. d'Abreu, 2009: 815.



Tarucus sybaris sybaris. Male (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Rustenburg N.R., North West Province, South Africa. 10 January 1998. M. Williams. Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus sybaris sybaris. Female (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Malelane, Kruger National Park, South Africa. 11 November, 1998. M. Williams. Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: [Mozambique].

Distribution: Tanzania (west), Malawi, Zambia (widespread), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland.

In South Africa its distribution covers 217 quarter degree squares (884 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as very widespread.

Specific localities:

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

Zambia – Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Itawa Dambo, Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luangwa Bridge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Sumbu (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Limpopo Province – Throughout (Swanepoel, 1953); Doordraai Dam Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990);

Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); 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 – Throughout (Swanepoel, 1953); Malelane (female illustrated above).

North West Province – Throughout (Swanepoel, 1953); Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Williams); Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006); Borakalalo Nature Reserve (J. Dobson, unpublished, 2010).

Gauteng – Throughout (Swanepoel, 1953); Witwatersrand Botanical Gardens (J. Dobson, unpublished checklist, 2001); Buffelsdrif Conservancy (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Hluhluwe (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953); Estcourt (Swanepoel, 1953); Biggarsberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Muden (male illustrated above).

Eastern Cape Province – Tsomo River (Swanepoel, 1953); Bashee River (Swanepoel, 1953); Cookhouse (Swanepoel, 1953).

Swaziland – Throughout (Swanepoel, 1953); Mlawula Nature Reserve (www.sntc.org.sz).

Tarucus sybaris linearis (Aurivillius, [1924])#
Desert Dotted Pierrot

Cupido sybaris var. *linearis* Aurivillius, [1924]. *In*: Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) 13 *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 465 (614 pp.).

Tarucus sybaris linearis (Aurivillius, 1924). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus sybaris linearis Aurivillius, 1924. d’Abrera, 2009: 815.



Tarucus sybaris linearis. Male (Wingspan 23 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kenhardt, Northern Cape Province, South Africa. 24 March 2009. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Tarucus sybaris linearis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Van Zyls Rus, North West, South Africa. February 2021. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Namibia]: “Damara”; South Africa: “Transvaal” [False locality].

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate subspecies in the reduced dark marginal bands on the upperside of the wings (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Lualaba, Shaba), Botswana, Namibia, South

Africa (Free State Province, Northern Cape Province).

In South Africa its distribution covers 41 quarter degree squares (96 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as moderately widespread.

Specific localities:

Botswana – Widespread (Larsen, 1991); Middelspits (Larsen, 1991); Mabuasehube (Larsen, 1991).

Free State Province – Bloemfontein (Irving).

Northern Cape Province – Barkly West (Swanepoel, 1953); Kimberley (Swanepoel, 1953).

vreuricki Dufrane, 1954 (as f. of *Tarucus sybaris*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* **90**: 286 (282-286). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “sans localité précise”.

Tarucus theophrastus (Fabricius, 1793)

African Pierrot



Male African Pierrot (*Tarucus theophrastus*). Nechiser N.P., Ethiopia.
Image courtesy Pamela Sai.

Hesperia theophrastus Fabricius, 1793. *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* **3** (1): 281 (488 pp.).

Tarucus theophrastus Fabricius, 1793. d’Abrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: Morocco: “Habitat in Morocco”.

Distribution: Senegal, Gambia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Nigeria (north), Niger, Cameroon (north), Sudan (south), Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda (north), Kenya (north-west), Saudi Arabia (south-west), Yemen, Oman.

Extralimittally it occurs in southern Spain, and North Africa (TL Morocco).

Misattributed to the Madagascar fauna (Stempffer, 1954). Erroneously recorded from South Africa by Trimen, 1866a (as *Lycaena theophrastus* Fabricius) (MCW). Records from India are erroneous (Larsen, 1991c: 235).

Specific localities:

Gambia – Fajara, Tanji, Kotu, Tujering, Keneba, Tendaba, Pirang, Bijilo, Janjanbureh Island, Basse (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Nigeria – Zaria (Larsen, 2005a); Bauchi (Larsen, 2005a).

Niger – Zinder (Larsen, 2005a).

Kenya – Kacheliba district (Larsen, 1991c).

Habits: This species is sometimes abundant around individual trees of its foodplant (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens are always found in close association with the larval foodplants (shrubs and trees of the genus *Ziziphus*). Roosting takes place on the tree itself or on grass stems in the vicinity of the foodplant. Both sexes visit flowers and males mud-puddle (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus species (Rhamnaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 235].

Tarucus thespis (Linnaeus, 1764)#



Fynbos Blue (*Tarucus thespis*) male
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Papilio thespis Linnaeus, 1764. *Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Reginae* 318 (720 pp.). Holmiae.

Lycaena thespis Linnaeus. Trimen, 1866a.

Lycaena thespis (Linnaeus, 1764). Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.

Tarucus thespis Linnaeus. Swanepoel, 1953a.

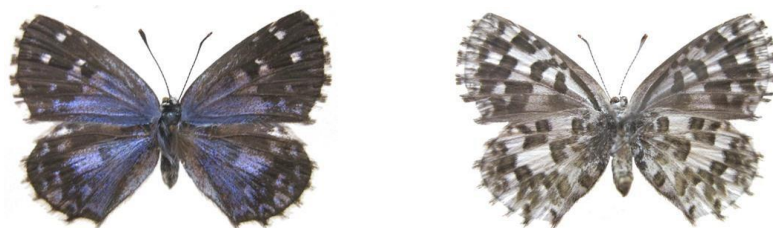
Tarucus thespis (Linnaeus, 1764). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Tarucus thespis (Linnaeus, 1764). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 239.

Tarucus thespis Linnaeus, 1764. d'Abrera, 2009: 815.



Tarucus thespis. Male (Wingspan 22 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Matsikamma Mountain, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 10 October 2008. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

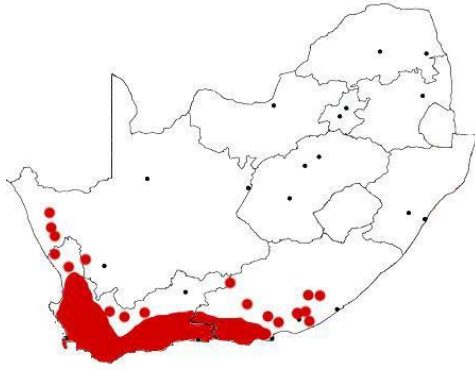


Tarucus thespis. Female (Wingspan 24 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Yzerfontein, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 15 September 1995. J. Greyling.
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

Alternative common names: Fynbos Blue; Vivid Blue.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Cap. b. Spei”.

Lectotype designated by Honey & Scoble, 2001: 386.



Distribution of *Tarucus thespis*

Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province).

In South Africa its distribution covers 131 quarter degree squares (926 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

Specific localities:

Eastern Cape Province – Addo (Swanepoel, 1953); Uitenhage (Swanepoel, 1953); Grahamstown district (Swanepoel, 1953); Gaika’s Kop (Swanepoel, 1953); Stutterheim (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

Western Cape Province – Camps Bay (Dickson, 1944); Muizenberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Strandfontein (Swanepoel, 1953); Tygerberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Malmesbury (Swanepoel, 1953); Piketberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Clanwilliam (Swanepoel, 1953); Vanrhynsdorp (Swanepoel, 1953); Paarl (Swanepoel, 1953); Ceres (Swanepoel, 1953); Worcester (Swanepoel, 1953); Swellendam (Swanepoel, 1953); Touws River (Swanepoel, 1953); Ladismith (Swanepoel, 1953); George (Swanepoel, 1953); Knysna (Swanepoel, 1953); Uniondale (Swanepoel, 1953); summit of the Cedarberg (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Northern Cape Province – Garies (Swanepoel, 1953); Springbok (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

Habitat: Fynbos.

Habits: The flight is low down, among shrubs and grass, specimens frequently settling on low vegetation (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

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

Early stages:

Dickson, 1944: 20 [as *Cupido thespis*; Camps Bay, Cape Peninsula, Western Cape Province].

Clark & Dickson, 1952: 32.

Larval food:

Phylica imberbis P.J.Bergius (Rhamnaceae) [Dickson, 1944: 20].

Saxifraga species (Saxifragaceae) (exotic) [Dickson, 1944: 20; oviposition only].

pitho Linnaeus, 1764 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Reginae* 337 (720 pp.). Holmiae. [South Africa]: “Cap. b. Spei”. Lectotype designated by Honey & Scoble, 2001: 367.

***Tarucus ungemachi* Stempffer, 1942**

Savanna Pierrot

Tarucus ungemachi Stempffer, 1942. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* **111**: 121 (117-134).

Tarucus ungemachi Stempffer, 1942. d’Abrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: [Ethiopia]: “Rivière Baro Abyssinie occidentale”.

Distribution: Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana (north), Benin (central, north), Nigeria (north), Cameroon (north), Chad, Sudan (south), Ethiopia, Uganda (north), Kenya (north-west).

Specific localities:

Gambia – Fajara, Kotu, Tujering, Brusubi, Bijilo, Bintang Bolong, Keneba, Janjanbureh Island, Basse,

Kundam (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Ghana – Mole National Park (Larsen, 2005a); Bole (Larsen, 2005a); Nakpanduri (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – see Coache *et al.* (2017).

Ethiopia – Baro River (TL).

Kenya – Kacheliba (Larsen, 1991c); Ortum (Larsen, 1991c).

Habitat: Savanna. In West Africa in Sudan savanna and, to a lesser extent, Guinea savanna (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Occurs in small colonies around isolated specimens of the larval foodplant, which also serves as a nectar source for the adults. The habits are similar to those of *Tarucus theophrastus* (Larsen, 1991c; Larsen, 2005a). Both sexes are often found feeding on the flowers of *Tridax* and other species (Larsen, 2005a). Males are avid mud-puddlers (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Ziziphus abyssinica A.Rich. (Rhamnaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330].