

Genus *Zintha* Eliot, 1973 Blue Pied Pierrot

Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) (Entomology) **28**: 453 (371-505).
Type-species: *Lycaena hintza* Trimen, by original designation.

The genus *Zintha* 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*, *Tarucus*, *Zizina*, *Eicochrysops* and *Cyclus*.

Zintha (Blue Pied Pierrot) is a monobasic Afrotropical genus.

Zintha hintza (Trimen, 1864)# Blue Pied Pierrot



Left: A pair of feeding Hintza Pierrots (*Zintha hintza*). Right: Female underside.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall (left) and Raimund Schutte (right).

- Lycaena hintza* Trimen, 1864. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) **2**: 177 (175-180).
Lycaena hintza Trimen, 1864. Trimen, 1866a.
Lycaena hintza Trimen, 1864. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.
Castalius hintza Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Zintha hintza (Trimen, 1864). Eliot, 1973.
Castalius hintza (Trimen, 1864). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Zintha hintza (Trimen, 1864). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 236.
Zintha hintza Trimen, 1864. d'Abreu, 2009: 814.



Zintha hintza hintza. Male (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rustenburg Kloof, North West Province, South Africa. 1 January 1976. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Zintha hintza hintza. Female (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Lekgalameetse N.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa. 8 April 2006. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Alternative common names: Hintza Blue; Blue Pied Pierrot.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “British Kaffraria and Kaffraria”.

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

Recorded, in error, from Angola by Butler (1872).

Habitat: Savanna. In Tanzania at altitudes from 1 000 to 1 800 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Population densities are always low, only one to a few being found in a particular locality (Larsen, 1991c). Usually found fluttering around, and settling on, low vegetation. Males establish territories which they defend from a prominent perch on an isolated tree, usually near thick bush.

When defending their territory they can fly quite high and fast (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Males mudpuddle and both sexes come to flowers (Kielland, 1990d).

Flight period: September to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Jackson, 1937: 231 [as *Castalius hintza*; Mount Elgon, Kenya; nominate subspecies].

“The larva feeds on the upperside of the leaves of the food-plant, attacking the outer cortex; it is coloured suitably for this mode of life. **Egg.** The egg is white, circular, very much flattened, with a minute black central spot. Diameter 0.5 mm. It is laid preferentially on the undersides of the young leaves. **Larva.** Bright yellow-green, with fine yellow striation and a very fine double dorsal line reaching the anal extremity, but not quite to the head. The dorsum is evenly rounded, centrally broad, and tapering slightly to the extremities without any irregularities. It is somewhat similar to that of *Anthene lunulata* but broader. The anal segments are not perceptibly flattened, but carry both tubercles and gland. The former are short, fine, whitish structures placed half-way between the central dorsal line and the edges, and are exerted laterally at an acute angle to the vertical, disclosing small spiny rosettes at their extremities. The gland appears as a dirty whitish transverse line, and is placed centrally above the tubercles. Length 16 mm; breadth 6 mm. **Pupa.** The pupa is, unlike the larva, quite different to that of *A. lunulata*, being of the normal blunt-ended type. It is dark brown, mottled heavily with black. The thorax is ridged, with a small depression between it and the abdominal segments both laterally and dorsally. It is slightly hairy, the hair, however, being visible only through a lens. Length 10 mm.”

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 69 [as *Castalus hintza hintza*; Eastern Cape; nominate subspecies].

“**Egg.** 0.65 mm diam. x 0.35 mm high. Laid singly on young shoots and leaves. White, with a beautiful rib-tracery on the flat top. Eggs hatch after 8 days. **Larva.** 1st instar 1 mm, growing to 2 mm in 12 days; 2nd

instar growing to 5 mm in 10 days; 3rd instar growing to 8 mm in 10 days; 4th instar growing to 13 mm in 28 days. The honey-gland and tubercles are present in the 3rd and 4th instars. Larvae at first feed in troughs, eaten in the surface of a leaf but later strip the whole leaf surface. They moult where they are feeding. There is a succession of broods during summer. In the 1st instar the larva is pale yellow with similarly coloured neck- and anal-shields, and light setae. As it advances through the instars it becomes increasingly green and develops some clear marking. The retractile tubercles are of the general form which occurs in the allied species and groups, as indicated in the accompanying plate. The small spines which are extruded when the tubercles are extended are short in this species. The small setae which are present in large numbers on the body of the larva have remarkable flower-shaped bases which vary in colour, from white to brown. **Pupa.** 8 mm. Secured to a twig or sometimes to dry leaves, by the cremastral hooks and a girdle. The colour is greyish to brown but varies, through the intensity of the spotting. Emergence takes place after some 13 days.”



Early stages of *Zintha hintza hintza*. Left – early instar larva. Centre – final instar. Right – Pupa. Images courtesy Andre Coetzer.

Larval food:

Ziziphus mauritiana Lam. (Rhamnaceae) [Jackson, 1937: 231; as *Zizyphus jujube*; Kenya].

Ziziphus mucronata Willd. (Rhamnaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 236].

Ziziphus zeyheriana Sond. (Rhamnaceae) [Platt (1921)? *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 236].

Associated ants:

Crematogaster (Orthocrema) jeanneli Sants. (Formicidae) [Jackson, 1937: 231; Kenya].

Technomymex detorquens Walker (Formicidae) [Jackson, 1937: 231; Kenya].

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Type locality: [South Africa]: “British Kaffraria and Kaffraria”.

Distribution: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Malawi, Zambia (widespread), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

In South Africa its distribution covers 213 quarter degree squares (778 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as very widespread.

Specific localities:

Kenya – Mount Elgon (Jackson, 1937); Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c); Lukenia Hills (Larsen, 1991c); South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c); Malakisi (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Northern Highlands (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Choma (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chisamba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

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

Limpopo Province – Waterberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953; male illustrated above); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Zoutpansberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Letaba (Swanepoel, 1953); Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Williams); 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 – Lydenburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Pilgrim’s Rest (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

North West Province – Zeerust (Swanepoel, 1953); Marico (Swanepoel, 1953); Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Williams); Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006); Borakalalo Nature Reserve (J. Dobson, unpublished, 2009).

Gauteng – Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelsdrif Conservancy (Williams).

Free State Province – Bloemfontein (Swanepoel, 1953); Ladybrand (Swanepoel, 1953).

KwaZulu-Natal – Port Shepstone (Swanepoel, 1953); Durban (Swanepoel, 1953); St. Lucia (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Estcourt (Swanepoel, 1953); Greytown (Swanepoel, 1953); Ladysmith (Swanepoel, 1953).

Eastern Cape Province – King William’s Town (D’Urban); Bashee River (Bowker); Somerset East (Swanepoel, 1953); Queenstown (Swanepoel, 1953); Umtata (Swanepoel, 1953); Kokstad (Swanepoel, 1953).

Western Cape Province – Cape Town (Swanepoel, 1953); Swellendam (Swanepoel, 1953); Knysna (Swanepoel, 1953).

Swaziland – Balegane (Swanepoel, 1953).

Zintha hintza krooni (Dickson, 1973)

Namibia Blue Pied Pierrot

Castalius hintza krooni Dickson, 1973. *Entomologist’s Record and Journal of Variation* **85**: 137 (137-139).

Castalius hintza krooni Dickson, 1973. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Zintha hintza krooni (Dickson, 1973). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 236.
Zintha hintza krooni Dickson, 1973. d'Abbrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: [Namibia]: “Otavi”.

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate subspecies in that it usually has more pronounced white markings on the upperside of the wings (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Namibia.

Specific localities:

Namibia – Otavi (TL).

Zintha hintza resplendens (Butler, 1876)

Abyssinian Blue Pied Pierrot

Castalius resplendens Butler, 1876. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **18**: 484 (480-490).
Zintha hintza resplendens Butler, 1876. d'Abbrera, 2009: 814.

Type locality: Ethiopia: “Atbara”.

Distribution: Ethiopia.

Specific localities:

Ethiopia – Atbara (TL).