

SPRING  
EDITION:  
SEPTEMBER /  
OCTOBER  
2016 - 5

# AFRICAN BUTTERFLY NEWS



## LATEST NEWS

### Welcome to our newsletter!

African Butterfly News will be circulated every two-months, with the following editions:

1. Late Summer (Jan / Feb)
2. Autumn (Mar / Apr)
3. Early Winter (May / Jun)
4. Late Winter (Jul / Aug)
5. Spring (Sep / Oct)
6. Early Summer (Nov / Dec)

The magazine relies on material from you, the members of LepSoc. Please forward Jeremy Dobson ([jchdobson@gmail.com](mailto:jchdobson@gmail.com)) any news, or photographs that might be of interest. If anyone has ideas regarding future format or content, please feel free to make suggestions.



### LepSoc Conference and AGM

The LepSoc Conference and AGM was held at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August. The event was well attended (over 40 LepSoc members on the Saturday). Presentations ranged from Moth Taxonomy (Martin Kruger) to Poetry (Etienne Terblanche), with a full spectrum of butterfly and moth talks in between!

### Photographic Competition

After an absence of a few years, the Photographic Competition was reinstated at this year's Conference. There was a strong caterpillar theme and the ladies swept the main prizes: Silvia Kirkman won Best Photograph with her striking image of a Common Hairtail (*Anthene definita definita*) larva, whilst Nina Parry won the Scientific Trophy for her picture of a Yellow-banded Sapphire (*Iolus aphnaeoides*) larva.

Etienne Terblanche won in the "Fun" category, for his photo of Reinier, on crutches, walking over rocks like a mechanical human tripod.





**Picture of the Year**  
(Silvia Kirkman)

Common Hairtail (*Anthene definita*) larva



**Scientific Trophy**  
(Nina Parry)

Yellow-banded Sapphire (*Iolus aphnaeoides*) larva

### **A new President for LepSoc**

Jeremy Dobson was elected as the new President of LepSoc at the AGM; he takes over the reins from Steve Woodhall, who has thrown his, not inconsiderable, weight into running the Society for the previous 8-years.

---

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Buttermoth evening**

The next Buttermoth evening will be held at Ruimsig Country Club on Thursday 15 September; 18h30 for 19h00. The cost is R100 per person (R175 for non-LepSoc members), which includes dinner. Note that Buttermoth evenings, arranged by Hermann Staude, are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month – please diarize!

### **Highveld Buttermoth Club meeting**

The HBC has a meeting on Thu 13 Oct; the venue is Jeremy Dobson's house: 5 Elgin Road, Bryanston Ext 5 (19h00 for 19h30). Jan Praet is the new HBC chairman and is taking over from Jeremy.

### **Eskom Surveys**

LepSoc have been approached by the Endangered Wildlife Trust to assist Eskom in undertaking butterfly and moth surveys of their sites.

An initial, pilot project is the Lethabo station, near Sasolburg. Anyone wishing to assist can contact Jeremy Dobson ([ichdobson@gmail.com](mailto:ichdobson@gmail.com)).

---

## **CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH**

### **LepiMAP (Megan Loftie-Eaton)**

The University of Cape Town's Animal Demography Unit (ADU) manages the Virtual Museum, a database of animal distribution record submitted by members of the public. LepiMAP (coordinated by Megan) is the section containing photographic records of butterflies and moths, together with the dates and places of occurrence.

LepiMAP's ultimate goal is the conservation of wild populations of butterflies and moths, and their habitats, in Africa. This entails educating and encouraging people to observe, appreciate, and understand the needs of living insects.

Between May and July this year, LepiMAP received a total of 5650 records: 3965 butterflies and 1685 moths. In the past three months, 22 new observers have registered and are contributing to LepiMAP – there are now a total of 535 LepiMAP contributors.

Several researchers are using LepiMAP data, including Marianne Espeland and Reinier Terblanche.

### **COREL** (Dave Edge)

Reinier Terblanche has taken over custodianship of the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonina edgei*) from Jeremy Dobson and Owen Garvie; similarly, Fanie Rautenbach has inherited the Scarce Mountain Copper (*Trimenia malagrida malagrida*) and Paarl Scarce Mountain Copper (*Trimenia malagrida paarlensis*) from John White and Andrew Morton respectively.



The habitat at the Bateleur locality of *Erikssonina edgei* was subjected to a controlled veld-fire in early August; this will improve the suitability of the habitat and will enable Reinier to undertake comparison studies between the Bateleur colony and the adjacent population beyond the fence, where the habitat was not burnt.

Highlights from last season include Andrew Morton's discovery of a new locality for the Greyton Dark Ranger (*Kedestes niveostriga schloszi*), at Bain's Kloof.

Andre Coetzer described the history of the Wolkberg Zulu (*Alaena margaritacea*); the article was published in *Metamorphosis* (<http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/>).

A new colony of Dickson's Strandveld Copper (*Chrysoritis dicksoni*) was found, closer to the village of Witsand. CapeNature and Stellenbosch University have agreed to create a contract nature reserve for the Westfield habitat, which will hopefully contain additional colonies.



### **SALCA** (Silvia Kirkman)

The Southern African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA) project will be re-evaluating the Red List status of our threatened and rare butterflies, and for the first time will start to examine the status of the moths. The field season has started and will target these butterflies of special conservation concern, with provincial leaders coordinating the work. Please contact Silvia ([silviakirkman@gmail.com](mailto:silviakirkman@gmail.com)) if you would like to participate in the field work.

### **Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity (BED)** (Jonathan Colville)

The aim of the BED project is to identify patterns of evolutionary diversity of SA butterflies - in addition the research should identify areas of high species richness and conservation concern and also locate areas of evolutionary significance.

Everyone can assist with this project: for further information, go to <http://www.lepsoc.org.za/projects/butterfly-evolutionary-diversity/>

### **Caterpillar Rearing Group (CRG)** (Hermann Staude)

The spectacularly successful CRG project has entered its 5th season. The study of caterpillar - adult associations recently passed a significant milestone with 1000 species of African Lepidoptera being recorded; the figure currently stands at 1013.

1934 rearing-records were submitted by 76 participants and these have been captured on a master-list. 1496 host-associations were obtained, of which 943 are new to science. New submissions are received weekly and will increase as we get into the new season. It has been gratifying to see the number of people participating; not only is the project rapidly expanding our knowledge of the early stages and ecological relationships of Buttermoths, it provides fun and personal reward for the participants.

An article covering the CRG project up to December 2015 will be published in *Metamorphosis* shortly.

Anybody wishing to join, please refer to the LepSoc website for details (<http://www.lepsoc.org.za/>) or visit the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caterpillarrg/>).

Hermann would love to welcome you on-board!

### **Karoo BioGaps** (Dave Edge)

This is a new 3 year project, in association with SANBI. The focus is on assessing biodiversity in areas threatened by potential Fracking developments and approximately 50 critical sites have been identified, that require surveys.

---

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Metamorphosis*** (Mark Williams and Dave Edge)

The latest edition of *Metamorphosis* is Volume 27 (<http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/>).

Mark Williams has taken over the role of Editor from Dave Edge. Mark's appointment is as a caretaker Editor however, as he cannot commit to the full 5-year term stipulated in LepSoc's Constitution. LepSoc Council are looking at potential future editors and investigating ways of making this vital aspect of LepSoc's business manageable and to secure the future of the Journal.

The 2015 DHET application for accreditation was unsuccessful - DHET advised us of areas we needed to improve on. The 2016 application, submitted in June, addressed all these issues, and we are hopeful of a successful outcome. The benefit of securing accreditation would be that universities would be able to receive NRF (National Research Foundation) subsidies for articles published by their students and research staff in *Metamorphosis*.

The *Metamorphosis* website is fully open-access and anyone can register. The printed version of the *Metamorphosis* journal is now costing over 80% of the annual membership fees for ordinary members of R250 (this fee has been unchanged for 8 years). LepSoc is therefore faced with the dilemma of either of raising the membership fees substantially for all members, or to keep the basic membership fee low, and offer the printed version of *Metamorphosis* as an optional extra. The cost is R200 for local LepSoc members or R325 (international members).

The Editorial Panel had been ungraded to an Editorial Board – several highly regarded international and local academics have agreed to join. There is a possibility that in future, some editorial staff will have to be paid, if standards are to be maintained and preferably be improved.

### **Babbel Blues** (Andre Coetzer)

Visit the LepSoc website to access the latest version of Babbel Blues (Summer 2016).

A new edition should be available before the end of October.



## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### Gauteng (Jeremy Dobson)

Local trips this season include visits to Suikerbosrand, Kliprivier and Hennops River. A few early spring butterflies such as the Common Sandman (*Spialia diomus ferax*) and Peppered Hopper (*Platylesches ayresii*) are on the wing, but not much to report. The first part of last season was a disaster due to the drought and early indications this spring are not promising! It is hoped that Gauteng will get some early summer rain this year.



### North West (Martin Lunderstedt)

Jeremy Dobson visited Utopia Nature Resort (north-west Magaliesberg) on the 27 August; very little of interest, apart from a couple of Forest Elfin (*Sarangesa motozi*).

### Free State (Reinier Terblanche)

An environmental consultant, Francois Barnard, has found a new locality for Mijburgh's Blue (*Orachrysops mijburghi*) south of Heilbron. The identification is to be confirmed and the locality will be visited this season. Lappies Labuschagne is arranging a visit to a farm within the Vredefort Dome area – details to follow shortly.

### Limpopo (Johann Greyling)

Johann and Andrew Mayer visited Lekgalameetse in August and found several Banded Hoppers (*Platylesches picanini*).

The habitat of the Bateleur locality of the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonina edgei*) was subjected to a controlled veld-burn in early August this year.



Planning meeting for the veld-burn at Bateleur Nature Reserve on 11 March 2016 (rear)

Arnaud le Roux, Willem Crouse, Reinier Terblanche, Jeremy Dobson, Wouter Schreuders (front)

Chelsea Goby, Kobus Pienaar, Mark Williams

### Mpumalanga (Andre Coetzer)

The KwaMhlanga area has been visited a couple of times this season; the Spring Hopper (*Platylesches dolomitica*) has not yet been recorded yet.

Andre Coetzer found the Drakensberg Brown (*Pseudonympha poetula*) on Long Tom Pass towards the end of August.

Chris Dobson found Pennington's Buff (*Cnodontes penningtoni*) near Barberton on 20 August; a very early record for this butterfly. Some common Charaxes and Boisduval's False Acraea (*Pseudacraea boisduvalii trimenii*) were seen on a hilltop near Nelspruit.



**KwaZulu Natal** (Kevin Cockburn)

Kevin has been busy preparing detailed plans for this season's SALCA surveys of KZN. The field work starts next week!

**Eastern Cape** (Ernest Pringle)

It is still too early for the central areas of the E Cape; Ernest says that things are starting to green-up and the situation should look a lot different in a few weeks' time.

**Southern Cape** (Dave Edge)

Dave Edge had a very successful survey of the Witsand area last week and discovered three new localities for Dickson's Strandveld Copper (*Chrysoritis dicksoni*).

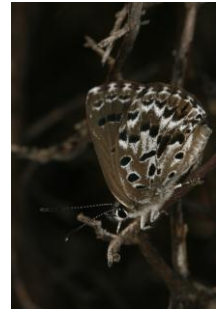
This significantly improves the prospect of saving this critically endangered butterfly.

**Western Cape** (Andrew Morton)

Last weekend, Andrew, Harald Selb and Len McLeod visited the Kieskie area, south of Calvinia.

They found McGregor's Blue (*Lepidochrysops mcgregori*) and Badham's Blue (*Lepidochrysops badhami*); two "Blues" which rather perversely, are brown butterflies.

On Kieskie Mountain, they found Van Son's Copper (*Aloeides vansoni*), Lysander Opal (*Chrysoritis pan lysander*) and Charles' Opal (*Chrysoritis beaufortius charlesi*).



*Lepidochrysops badhami*

On the way, they stopped near Nieuwoudtville and found Coetzer's Donkey Daisy Copper (*Chrysoritis zonarius coetzeri*).

**Northern Cape** (Etienne Terblanche)

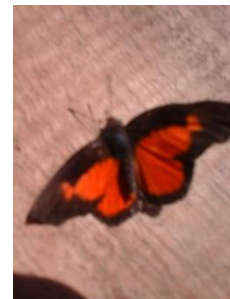
Reinier Terblanche visited Witsand Nature Reserve recently and recorded Linda's Hairtail (*Anthene lindae*) on 27<sup>th</sup> August – the earliest documented emergence for this species. He also found several Dune Coppers (*Aloeides simplex*).

## AFRICA DESK

### Uganda (Central) (Muhwezi Rogers)

Muhwezi Rogers is a regular visitor to Mpanga forest, west of Kampala. He has seen several wonderful butterflies recently, including the magnificent *Euxanthe tiberius*. I've attached what I believe to be the first ever photograph of the Eastern Isabella (*Teratoneura isabellae congoensis*) taken in the wild! Andre Coetzer visited Mpanga and Mabira in July / August and recorded some interesting *Epitolas* from Mpanga. Szabolics Sáfian "Safi" is currently there – news to follow shortly.

Perpetra Akite reports that levels of logging at Mpanga have escalated recently; she is to meet with NFA officials to discuss this.



*Teratoneura isabellae congoensis* (Muhwezi Rogers)



*Euphaedra zaddachii* (Muhwezi Rogers)



*Euxanthe tiberius* (Muhwezi Rogers)



*Euphaedra rattrayi* (Muhwezi Rogers)

### Uganda (West) (Perpetra Akite)

Perpetra Akite is a part-time lecturer at Makerere University, Kampala; she works in the department of Zoology, Entomology and Fisheries Science. She is finalizing her PHD (joint Bergen / Makerere degree), which she hopes to complete in January.

She holds a Master of Science degree in Zoology / Chemistry and has been involved in research for 13-years, focusing on biodiversity, ecology, natural resource management and conservation.



*Kallimoides rumia*

Her main interest is forests and forest landscapes, particularly focusing on how changes in forest land-use affects forest dependent biodiversity, especially the insects. She is interested in how insect-land use interactions can be used to explain past, present and future trends, and how the outcomes can be used to inform appropriate policy for conservation management. Perpetra lives in Kampala, but visits Kibale at least once a year and is in contact with Semuliki Park on the DRC border. Perpetra recorded the Giant Africa Swallowtail (*Papilio antimachus parva*) from Kibale in June.

Safi and Thomas Baron are currently completing the report of the 2nd Afrotropical Lepidoptera Workshop, held in Kibale in 2014.



## Gabon (Rene Poligui)

Rene Noel Poligui is an entomologist based in Gabon. He will keep us informed regarding developments in this country.

Peter Ward, Mike Barnet, Raimund Schutte and Jeremy Dobson joined up with an Italian Entomological expedition in June (the expedition was organized by Antonio Durante of the Calimera Natural History Museum).

The group visited Ipassa in the eastern part of Gabon as well as some forests near Libreville. A spectacular range of *Euphaedra*, *Euriphene*, *Bebearia* and *Cymothoe* species were found during their stay.



*Sevenia amulia* (Raimund Schutte)



*Cymothoe lucasii* (Raimund Schutte)

*Euphaedra justicia* (Raimund Schutte)

*Euphaedra eleus eleus*

## Kenya (Steve Collins)

Steve accompanied Andre and Bennie Coetzer to areas in the Mount Kenya region in June. They found several interesting species, including *Chilades naidina* and *Colotis celemene*.

Peter Sharland is currently at Kakamega Forest - details to be included in our next edition.

## Africa Anonymous (Sáfián Szabolcs – Safi)

Safi has recently described new species of *Lepidochrysops* and *Ceratruchia* from Cameroon. He is presently in Uganda and plans to visit Liberia shortly for follow-up studies on the ecology of *Papilio antimachus*.

---

## MOTHS

Most of the articles contained in this newsletter lean toward the butterfly-end of the Buttermoth spectrum. In an attempt to correct this, Hermann Staude will provide regular updates regarding interesting records or developments within the wonderful world of moths.



---

## LEPSOC COUNCIL

The new Council of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa has been constituted as follows:

Elected Executive Councillors:

- Jeremy Dobson (President)
- Justin Bode (Secretary)
- Dave Edge (Treasurer)
  
- Mark Williams is the co-opted Editor of *Metamorphosis* in a caretaker capacity; he is not available for the full 5-year term

Co-opted Councillors

- Reinier Terblanche (Conservation and Research)
- Peter Webb (Marketing)
- Andre Coetzer (IT / Website advisor)

The new Council will hold its first meeting on 7 September: minutes will be posted on the LepSoc website as soon as they are available.

Click [here](#) for minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa.

---

## FOCUS ON....

This will feature a member of LepSoc in each edition.  
I'll get the ball rolling...

**Jeremy Dobson** is a consulting structural engineer by profession. He lives in Johannesburg and is married with two children, the eldest of whom, Christopher, is a member of LepSoc.

Aside from catching a couple of butterflies in his teenage years, Jeremy showed little interest to Lepidoptera until he turned 40. At around that time, his wife – to her eternal regret – bought him a copy of Mark Williams' "Butterflies of Southern Africa" field-guide: to say this was a turning point in his life wouldn't be much of an exaggeration. Jeremy's first "butterfly" field-trip – a family holiday to Cintsa Bay in 2010 – yielded, amongst other things, a specimen of the Southern Purple (*Aslauga australis*), one of SA's rarest butterflies, yet specimen number 9 in Jeremy's collection.

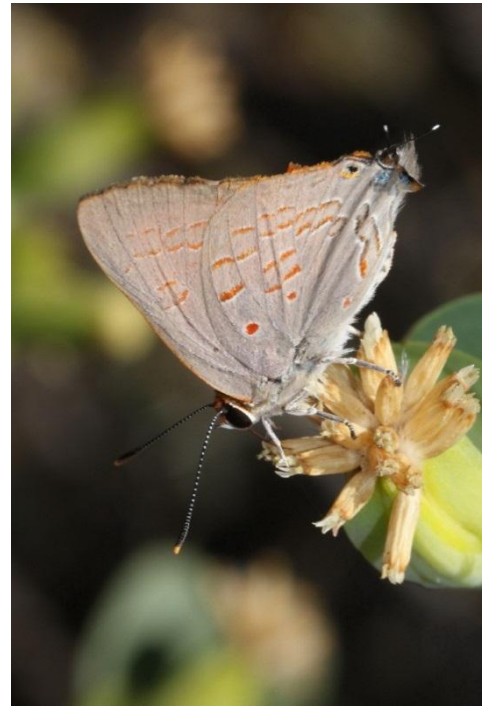


Following that auspicious, but late start, it's fair to say Jeremy has been trying to make up for lost time. He was made Chairman of the Gauteng branch of LepSoc over 10-years ago and at this year's AGM was elected President of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa.

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

This will feature recent photographs from members of LepSoc, ideally focussing on species that are characteristic of the current season.

Please forward any photographs that you would like to display in this magazine and they will be given due consideration. As this is a South African newsletter, bribery is not only permitted, but is actively encouraged; any photographs accompanied with proof-of-payment to LepSoc to the amount of R50 per picture, will automatically be included.



There will be a Photograph of the Month (two in each episode); the decision, by the editor, will final and will be based on photographic merit, but may be swayed by donations to the Society. At the end of the year, the 12 Photographs of the Month will be presented and an overall winner chosen.



### AUGUST

Our inaugural Photo of the Month, and a deserving winner, is Reinier Terblanche, for this picture of Linda's Hairtail (*Anthene lindae*).

The photo was taken at Witsand, Northern Cape, on 28 August 2016

---

## LIVES BEHIND THE LABELS...

The final regular feature in this magazine is inspired by Peter Webb, who, while processing data labels, was evocatively drawn to images of the people and the stories behind them...

We will take a selection of names from Pennington's Butterflies and briefly feature the life and times of the people involved.

Let's start with the man in the book's title:

**Ken Pennington.** Kenneth Misson "Ken" Pennington "KMP" was born in September 1897 in Greytown, Natal; he died in January 1974.

His education began at St David's School in Greytown and progressed through to Michaelhouse, where he was highly successful both academically and on the sports field. He served as a pilot during World War 1, was decorated and mentioned in despatches during his service in Mesopotamia. After the War he went to Oxford as the Natal Rhodes Scholar, gained his MA and returned to Natal in 1923.

He married Ruth Frampton that same year (*Lepidochrysops ruthica* was named after her); they had grown up together in Greytown as children and remained happily married for over 50-years.

In 1925 he abandoned his promising career as a barrister at the Natal Bar to become a schoolmaster at Michaelhouse, where he served for 34 years. This gave him opportunities to travel far and wide throughout southern Africa in pursuit of butterflies. He took part in numerous expeditions, including pioneering trips to Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

In his retirement years, at 'Yellowwoods' near Curry's Post, he began to compile the manuscript for his book; unfortunately, he died before this was completed.

At the request of his son, Rex Pennington, several prominent lepidopterists helped finish the book. Pennington's Butterflies of Southern Africa was published in 1978. An updated 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition was completed in 1994.

Those responsible included current members of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa, such as Ernest Pringle, Jonathan Ball, Graham Henning and Douglas Kroon.

More than 30-species of butterfly were described by Ken Pennington and 10 bear his name.