

EARLY
SUMMER
EDITION:
NOVEMBER /
DECEMBER
2016-6

AFRICAN BUTTERFLY NEWS



LATEST NEWS

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our newsletter!

Spring has sprung and the season is well underway. Several notable discoveries have been made already, including the finding of a new colony of the Cloud Copper (*Aloeides nubilus*) and a significant extension to the range of the Stoffberg Widow (*Dingana fraterna*) locality at Dindela; refer to Mpumalanga under “Regional Roundup”.

In KwaZulu Natal, new locality records have been obtained for the Estcourt Blue (*Lepidochrysops pephredo*) and Dingaan’s Widow (*Dingana dingana*).

Please note that the next issue (Late Summer – Jan / Feb 2017) will only be circulated in mid-January, as I will be away, without email for a few weeks in mid-December / early January. I hope that there are no significant errors in this edition; one thing I’m learning – from my brief tenure as editor of African Butterfly News - is that MS Word documents, with loads of photographs, are more unstable and unpredictable than sub-atomic particles in the world of quantum physics...

This magazine relies on material from you, the members of LepSoc. Please forward Jeremy Dobson (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.

Buttermoth Evening – 15 September

September’s Buttermoth Evening at Ruimsig Country Club discussed reasons for the distribution-patterns of butterflies and moths and was hosted by Hermann Staude.

The overall conclusion was that there is a lot we still don’t know or understand!



HBC Meeting – 13 October



The Highveld Buttermoth Club held a meeting on Thursday 13 October. Peter Sharland presented a slide-show from his visit to Kenya in September. He visited ABRI and Kakamega Forest – refer to Kenya under “Africa Desk”.

Western Cape Branch Meeting – 13 October

The Western Cape branch of LepSoc also held a meeting on Thursday 13 October.

KZN Moth Evening – 21 October (Kevin Cockburn)

A highly successful moth evening was held at Krantzklouf NR in Kloof on 21st October. Hermann Staude came down for what turned out to be a very well attended evening. It started with an interesting talk presented by Hermann followed by a fun Quiz won by Fran de Jager. Earlier, light traps were deployed, and after the quiz the gathering split into groups to examine and admire the beautiful moths. Highlights included a Death's Head Hawk and an unusual beautiful big green moth (that Hermann still needs to identify), which caused a stir!

Survey of Eskom's Lethabo Station

Unfortunately, the survey at the Lethabo site, planned for 24 September, was cancelled by EWT, pending further discussions with Eskom. A new date will be announced shortly.

Annual Oppenheimer-De Beers Conference (Lulu Dlamini)

The 7th Annual Oppenheimer-De Beers Group Research Conference was held on the 18th and 19th of October 2016. People from different walks of life gathered to share their findings in the complex, yet fascinating world of science.

The audience had the privilege of listening to the guest of honour, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, share his story of how his childhood and life experiences shaped him into the conservation enthusiast that he is now. He has managed to use his position as a leader to encourage conservation amongst the citizens of South Africa and all over the world. He established South Africa's first Department of Nature Conservation – the Kwa-Zulu Bureau of Natural Resources, founded the Tembe Elephant Park, is a trustee of the Wilderness Leadership School and the patron of the Magqubu Ntombela Foundation. This goes to show that despite all his other commitments and achievements, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi still prioritises the sustainability of nature.



The oral presentations gave some visual insight and widened the audience's perception with regards to the facts and statistics of the actual state that the world is in and why conservation is more important now than ever. The presenters discussed all animals, from small mammals to big mammals, regarding their distribution, taxonomy and preferred habitats. Some of the recurring issues that seemed to cause concern among all members of the audience are the issues surrounding climate change and the availability – or lack thereof – of usable water. Climate change is drastically affecting animal and plant

conservation and it is advised that people begin to somehow supplement for the damage caused by climate.

Matthew Child of the Endangered Wildlife Trust tried to give the audience good news, sharing that the percentage of mammals threatened with extinction has decreased from a record of 19% in 2004 to 17% in 2016. This is indicative of the fact that although progress is slow, the battle that conservationists are fighting is not going unnoticed. Being the last presenter, Stephen Woodborne emphasized that although it is all good and well that people took time off their busy schedules to discuss conservation and its impact on the world, he advised that as conservation enthusiast, we should keep on combatting the deteriorating state of the world so that we are proactive to the problem as opposed to being reactive.

A variety of diverse posters were pinned up sharing some insightful information regarding many topics varying from "Estimation of grizzly bear and wolverine populations in the arctic using DNA analysis of hair" to "Habitat preferences of two small mammals". Remarkable efforts from both students and professional conservationists alike.

The De Beers Group together with E Oppenheimer and Sons are truly playing a big role in conservation by doing their part in informing society of the current problems as well as future problems and their implications.

LepSoc members who attended the conference included Hermann Staude, Nina Parry and Reinier Terblanche (who presented papers); Peter Webb, Andre and Bennie Coetzer.

Acknowledgements:

Thank you to Duncan MacFadyen, Mr and Mrs Oppenheimer, The De Beers Group as well as the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa for this great opportunity to learn and grow in the world of conservation.

African Moths Inventory

LepSoc has been invited to participate in a moth-collation project, in collaboration with the Natural History Museum of Zimbabwe, the Sam Houston State Natural History Collections (based in Texas) and Discover Life, a kind of North American version of our Virtual Museum.

Opinion is divided as to whether the Society should get involved, however I'd like to hear your views and whether you are available to help?

Poetry

Lepidoptera and poetry ... Author of two original and interesting academic books about the poetry of Cummings and Elliot, Etienne Terblanche has his own debut poetry collection "By die nag se wit kant in" published in Afrikaans. It includes a cover with a, very appropriate, owl moth eye spot motive and poem about the African Wood White butterfly (*Leptosia alcesta*). Please Google the Aardklop Festival for more information about the book.

André Claassens

André J Claassens (Honorary Life Member of LepSoc and author of "Butterflies of the Table Mountain Range") turned 90 on 26 Oct. A good innings by anyone's standards and one that supports Mark Williams' theory that Hollanders are virtually indestructible. André has been a regular contributor to our knowledge of Lepidoptera over the years and has produced some ground-breaking observations regarding *Thestor* and *Lepidochrysops*.

Herbert Otto

22 September 1966 - 19 October 2016

For those of you who may have not have heard the sad news, Herbert Otto passed away recently – he had been suffering from spine-cancer.



I'm sure many of you would have met Herbert and will remember him as I will: a kind and friendly person, with a passion for butterflies.

Herbert was born in Zimbabwe, before relocating to South Africa in 1972. Among his contributions to Afrotropical Lepidoptera, Herbert produced "Butterflies of the Kruger Park", in his own words, an 11-year labour of love; in addition he co-authored an article in *Metamorphosis* in 2013, identifying 61 new larval host plant records.

He was a teacher at Barberton Primary School for several years, before recently moving to Oman, where he worked at the Sohar International School.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Buttermoth evening

The next Buttermoth evening will be held at Ruimsig Country Club on Thursday 10 November; 18h30 for 19h00. Reinier Terblanche will lead a discussion on hill-topping behaviour. 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 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month – please diarize!

Highveld Buttermoth Club meeting

No further meetings are planned for this year, but 2017's Year-starting braai at Hermann Staude's farm near Magaliesburg will be held in January / February next year. Details will be forwarded nearer to the time.

KZN Midlands talk

Kevin Cockburn and Steve Woodhall are holding a butterfly information evening in the Mooi River area on Friday 5th November. They hope to inform local landowners about their responsibility for conserving the two threatened species in this area, the Estcourt Blue (*Lepidochrysops pephredo*) and Dingaan's Widow (*Dingana dingana*).

LEPSOC TROPHIES

We feature two of the trophies that the society awards at its annual conference:

Torben Larsen Memorial

The Torben Larsen Tankard (a tribute to the late, great Torben Larsen). These are engraved glass tankards, awarded annually to the person responsible for the most outstanding written account of Afrotropical butterflies and moths.

This year's winner was Dave Edge for his work on *Metamorphosis*. The trophies were donated to the Society by Steve Collins in 2015.



Ivan Bampton Perpetual Teapot



The Ivan Bampton Memorial was donated to LepSoc by Steve Collins, as a tribute to the late Ivan Bampton who passed away in 2010.

It is awarded annually to the person responsible for the most noteworthy recorded life history.

This year's winner was Andre Coetzer for his work in the Wolberg Zulu (*Alaena margaritacea*); Andre is the third recipient, following Colin Congdon in 2012 and Hermann Staude (2013 and 2014).

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

LepiMAP (Megan Loftie-Eaton)

The 2016 Spring LepiBASH ran from 15 to 23 October. 84 Observers participated and a total of 1694 records were received.

Of these 1694 records, 1070 have been identified already - well done to the super LepiMAP ID Panel! The identified records consist of 258 taxa of Lepidoptera.

- 712 butterfly records
- 753 moth records
- 229 yet to be categorized

A big thank you to Fanie Rautenbach, Quartus Grobler, Steve Woodhall and Sonja Maartens - they have done the bulk of the identifications in LepiMAP for October thus far. It is hoped that this will encourage other members of the expert panel to do some records identifications in their spare time too.

Records were received from 13 African countries (the best yet!): Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The country for which we received the most records, outside of South Africa, was Tanzania (68 records).

Of the butterfly records, most were relatively common and widespread species, although a few rare and localised butterflies were encountered, such as Trimen's Opal (*Chrysothrix trimeni*), Estcourt Blue (*Lepidochrysops pephredo*), Western Sorrel Copper (*Lycaena orus*), Suffused Acraea (*Acraea stenobea*) and Dingaan's Widow (*Dingana dingana*).

The two most commonly encountered species were the Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) and Meadow White (*Pontia helice helice*).



Lepidochrysops pephredo

COREL (Dave Edge)



The habitat at the Bateleur locality of the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonia edgei*) was subjected to a controlled veld-fire in early August. To give an idea of the magnitude of this

operation, have a look at the size of the Working on Fire (WoF) truck and the fire-fighting team that was on site!

It appears that the burn was very successful and the site was full of *Gnidia* flowers when visited on the 17th September.

A solitary Waterberg Copper – the earliest known emergence record – was found during this visit.





Aloeides rossouwi

Mark Williams, Jan Praet and Raimund Schutte visited Dindela, north of Stoffburg, on 1st October to look for the Stoffberg Widow (*Dingana fraterna*). None were found (it was presumably too early) however several Rossouw's Copper (*Aloeides rossouwi*) were on the wing.

Graham Henning and James Lawrence (and Dietmar Ley on a separate trip) recorded *Dingana fraterna* flying in reasonable numbers at Dindela towards the end of October. James found a new locality about 2km south of the known site, which is an important find and may change the conservation status of this species.

James and I had a look at the Stoffberg site on 29 Oct; *Dingana fraterna* appears to have disappeared from this locality, regrettably.

This butterfly has thus relocated from Mpumalanga (Stoffberg) to Limpopo (Dindela); fortunately, Andre Coetzer is looking after LepSoc's interests in both provinces...

Dave Edge has completed a draft progress report regarding Dickson's Strandveld Copper (*Chrysoritis dicksoni*).

SALCA (Silvia Kirkman)

The Southern African Lepidoptera Conservation Assessment (SALCA) project is re-evaluating the Red List status of our threatened and rare butterflies, and for the first time will examine the status of 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) if you are available to participate in the field work.

The KZN branch – led by Kevin Cockburn – has been active recruiting (lepsoc-ing) volunteers and informing them about the project. In collaboration with Steve Woodhall and Adrian Armstrong, Kevin put together a concise document outlining the 19 KZN taxa, as well as some guidelines on how to tackle the fieldwork. Volunteers have been allocated to the various threatened species nearest to them and with the season now in full swing they are ready to give it their all! It is certainly hoped that all the cajoling pays dividends.

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)

Spring is here – this period, leading up to midsummer is generally the best time to look for caterpillars.

Hopefully, this will be a better season, with more rain: last year was severely compromised by the drought.

Refer to http://www.lepsoc.org.za/images/CRG_Newsletter_October_2016.pdf for October's CRG Newsletter.

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.

Peter Ward visited a couple of localities south of Colesberg at the end of September.

Butterflies were few and far between, the Karoo Brown (*Stygionympha irrorata*) and Meadow White (*Pontia helice*) being the most common species.

Probably the best record was Southey's Widow (*Tarsocera southeyae*), found near Colesberg.



Peter and Alison Ward

A revised list of survey sites / contact details of landowners has been circulated recently.

PUBLICATIONS

Metamorphosis (Mark Williams and Dave Edge)

Recent progress has been slow with regard to new publications. The 2nd article on the Caterpillar Rearing Group (CRG), with a schedule of results to date, will be published within a few weeks. Dave Edge has prepared an article on Dickson's Strandveld Copper (*Chrysores dicksoni*), which has been submitted for peer review.

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

The *Metamorphosis* website is fully open-access and anyone can register. The Editorial Panel had been upgraded to an Editorial Board – several highly regarded international and local academics have agreed to join.

Babbel Blues (Andre Coetzer)

Visit the LepSoc website to access the latest version of Babbel Blues (Summer 2016). A new edition will be available soon.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Gauteng (Jeremy Dobson)

In mid-September the Highveld Blue (*Lepidochrysops praeterita*) was recorded in reasonable numbers in the Glenharvie / Hillshaven area. The Province is still very dry however, and butterflies are few and far between.



Lepidochrysops praeterita



Harpencyreus notoba

Peter Ward found a single specimen of the Salvia Blue (*Harpencyreus notoba*) at Hillshaven; the first confirmed Gauteng-record I can find for this butterfly.

North West (Martin Lunderstedt)

Martin reports that not much is flying in the Magaliesberg although he found a few Coppers, such as the Dusky Copper (*Aloeides taikosama*), Aranda Copper (*Aloeides aranda*) and Henning's Copper (*Aloeides henningi*).

This has also been my experience in Gauteng – the *Aloeides* species appear to be fairly drought-resistant.

To change the subject completely, Martin met a former game ranger, who has come to the conclusion that there is a link between migrations of the Brown Veined White (*Belenois aurota*) and the emergence of shoals of squid along the coast. Apparently, he has recorded this phenomenon on several occasions....

Free State (Reinier Terblanche)

Rugby in the Free State is good at present; butterflies, not so much... There has been some rain, so hopefully, things will improve.

Dawie de Swardt and Riettee Griesel (of Garingboom Guesthouse fame), have been keeping the Free State flag flying high, with their efforts regarding LepiBASH. Riettee found Barber's Ranger (*Kedestes barberae*) at Garingboom, which is a very interesting record.

Limpopo (Johann Greyling)

Mark Williams, Peter Ward and Jeremy Dobson visited Bateleur on the 17 September, primarily to assess the influence of August's controlled veld-burn.

We were delighted to see an abundance of *Gnidia krausiana* flowers and Peter found a single specimen of the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonina edgei*), believed to be the earliest ever recorded emergence for this butterfly.

Several other butterflies were on the wing, including Hutchinson's Highflier (*Aphnaeus hutchinsonii*) and the Saffron Sapphire (*Iolaus pallene*).



Gnidia krausiana flourishing at Bateleur within the burnt area

Reinier Terblanche returned to Bateleur a few weeks later and recorded *E. edgei*, although they were very scarce.

The above group, minus Reinier but with the inclusion of Justin Bode, visited the Buffelsberg (Munnik) area over the weekend of 8 – 9 October. Our focus was to look for the Zimbabwe Yellow-banded Sapphire (*Iolaus nasisii*) which was rediscovered in this area by Bernadine Altenroxel in November 2015.



There was a single, unconfirmed sighting of the butterfly, but no eggs or larvae were found. The area was desperately dry, with very few butterflies on the wing.

Martin Lunderstedt, James Lawrence and Graham Henning visited Haenertsburg to look for Stevenson's Copper (*Aloeides stevensoni*) and the Wolkberg Widow (*Dingana clara*) and found ...nothing!

They popped in at The Downs (above Lekgalameetse) and recorded a few Lotana Blues (*Lepidochrysops lotana*). There is a lot of *Becium* flowering however, so perhaps next year might be better.

Mpumalanga (Andre Coetzer)

Chris Dobson found a new locality for the Cloud Copper (*Aloeides nubilus*) in the Schoeman's Kloof area in September. This is an important find, as this species was previously only reliably found at its type locality on Robber's Pass. The butterfly was flying with the Dryas Copper (*Aloeides dryas*), with an occasional Coetzer's Hillside Brown (*Stygionympha scotina coetzeri*) in the same general area. Chris has also found an *Orachrysops* species near Malelane, which requires identification.



Aloeides nubilus



Iolaus pallene
(KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga) Oct 2016

Steve Woodhall, Peter Ward, James Lawrence, Chris and Jeremy visited Vlaklaagte (east of KwaMhlanga) in early September, to look for the Spring Hopper (*Platylesches dolomitica*). Needless to add – with Steve present – we failed, although we did find some other butterflies closer to KwaMhlanga, such as the Apricot Playboy (*Virachola dinochares*), Bowker's Sapphire (*Stugeta bowkeri tearei*), Saffron Sapphire (*Iolaus pallene*), Barber's Acraea (*Acraea barberi*) and Bush Scarlet (*Axiocerses amanga amanga*).

To be fair to Steve, *Platylesches dolomitica* appears to have been very scarce this season, although Andrew Mayer found it in fair numbers at the Vlaklaagte locality a few days later. Dietmar Ley visited Mountainlands, above Barberton in early October. He found several *Aloeides barbarae* and a few *Lepidochrysops jeffreyi* and *L. swanepoeli*.

KwaZulu Natal (Kevin Cockburn)

Simon Joubert climbed Bulwer Mountain in early October and saw the Drakensberg Daisy Copper (*Chrysoritis oreas*) in fair numbers. In addition, he recorded the Oreas Copper (*Aloeides oreas*) and the Mooi River Opal (*Chrysoritis lycegenes*).



Chrysoritis oreas - Simon Joubert
(Bulwer, KZN) Oct 2016

Kevin and Stella Cockburn, Ian Gracie and Steve Woodhall made three trips to the Geluksburg area to look for likely Morant's Blue (*Lepidochrysops hypopolia*) spots, but the region was extremely dry, with very little spring growth. They did however breed, from pupae, the Russet Protea-butterfly (*Capys disjunctus*) and in doing so found a new locality at Middledale Pass.



Dingana dingana – Steve Woodhall
(Harris Hill, KZN) Oct 2016

Adrian Armstrong has been busy working on Pennington's Protea-butterfly (*Capys penningtoni*) and he is very worried about this butterfly, particularly the presence of swarming invasive Harlequin Aphids which could be feeding on eggs!

Kevin has spent the last six weeks working with farmers in the Mooi River and Estcourt areas, with some success. He produced a flyer to circulate in the area, which has sparked considerable interest in the plight of their two threatened species. Steve joined him on two recent trips and together they found new localities for both *Dingana dingana* and *Lepidochrysops pephredo*.

After some delays, the KZN permit has been issued and circulated to nominees, which should help with access to protected areas.

The Coetzers are planning a trip to Northern KZN to work on the SALCA taxa occurring in that area.

The Cockburns are hosting a buttermoth weekend in the Muden Valley on the first weekend in December. Muden was a favourite haunt of many of the early collectors. Anybody wishing to join this event, please contact Kevin (pidelta@gom.co.za)

Eastern Cape (Ernest Pringle)

No news from the Eastern Cape unfortunately.

Southern Cape (Dave Edge)

Dave Edge has been busy with the Karroo BioGaps project and, as a result, there is not much news from this part of the world.

To summarize Dave's draft *Chrysoritis dicksoni* progress report:

CapeNature and Coast Care are engaged in clearing alien vegetation from the Westfield site; the extent of the area was revised, following Dave's discovery of new localities in August this year. Cape Nature, the Brenton Blue Trust and Stellenbosch University have agreed to re-introduce endemic antelope to the site, as a veld-management initiative.

Vegetation studies have been completed and results will be published in *Metamorphosis* shortly.



Westfield site, Witsand, W Cape
(Reinier Terblanche)



Chrysoritis dicksoni
(Reinier Terblanche)

Western Cape (Andrew Morton)

Harald Selb and Jeremy Dobson visited the Cederberg in early October and found a few Sarah's Rangers (*Kedestes sarahae*), Trimen's Brown (*Pseudonympha trimenii*) and a solitary Cederberg Copper (*Aloeides monticola*).

We stopped by the road on the way back and found a small colony of Boland Rocksitters (*Durbaniopsis saga*).



Kedestes sarahae
(Cederberg, W Cape) Oct 2016



Durbaniella clarki phaea
(Boemanskloof, W Cape) Oct 2016

The same weekend, Jeremy and his wife Colleen hiked up Boesman's Pass above Greyton and found a good locality for the Dark Rocksitter (*Durbaniella clarki phaea*) near the top. Little else was seen, apart from numerous Aranda Coppers (*Aloeides aranda*).

Northern Cape (Etienne Terblanche)

Some photos (below) from September's visit to the Calvinia area, with Harald Selb, Andrew Morton, Felicity Grundlingh and Len McLeod.



Harald Selb



Len McLeod and Felicity
Grundlingh



Len McLeod

AFRICA DESK

Uganda (Central) (Muhwezi Rogers)

Szabolics Sáfaián “Safi” visited Mpanga in September and recorded 179 species of butterfly in just one week.

Muhweze Rogers has submitted several photographs regularly – I’ve attached a selection below.



Apaturopsis cleochares
(Muhwezi Rogers)



Acraea semivitrea
(Muhwezi Rogers)



Mylothris poppia
(Muhwezi Rogers)

Uganda (West) (Perpetra Akite)



Salamis cacta

No news from Perpetra this month; Safi and Thomas Baron are currently completing the report of the 2nd Afrotropical Lepidoptera Workshop, held in Kibale in 2014.

Gabon (Rene Poligui)

Let’s introduce Rene Poligui:

Rene is a Teacher at the Université des sciences et techniques de Masuku, located in Franceville, Haut-Ogooué Province, southeast Gabon. He specializes in crop protection (plant-controller), but his expertise extends to insects and biodiversity.

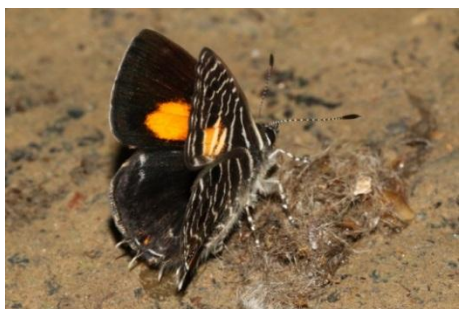
He lives in Franceville, and his other interests include travelling and discovering the world (nature, people and their customs).

He is President of the IOBC (International organisation for Biological Control) AfroTropical Regional Section (IOBC ATRS) currently being developed and based in South Africa.

According to Rene, the political situation in Gabon is returning to normal, following August’s elections.



Rene Noel Poligui



Neurellipes lusones



Euphaedra luteofasciata
(Raimund Schutte)



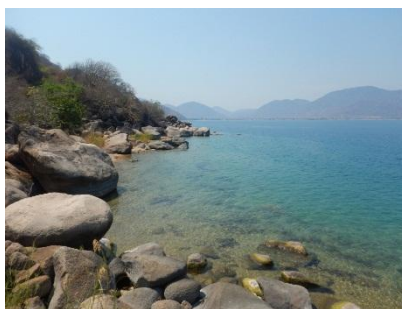
Euphaedra margaritifera
(Raimund Schutte)

Kenya (Steve Collins)

Peter Sharland was in Kenya in September and visited Kakamega Forest. He also spent time with Steve Collins in Nairobi going through the ABRI collection.

Malawi (Chris Dobson)

Chris visited Malawi for a brief holiday in October. The country is enduring a crippling drought; there has been no significant rain since November 2015 and the level of the lake has dropped by 2m apparently.



As a result, butterflies were scarce: a few *Colotis* species were observed, as well as some of the common and widespread *Graphium*. Plenty of Cichlid fish were seen while snorkelling around some islands in the Monkey Bay area!

Zanzibar (Andre Coetzer)

Andre visited Zanzibar in October. Butterflies were scarce however he saw some nice species, including the Peculiar Blue (*Lepidochrysops peculiaris*) and One-pip Policeman (*Pyrrhiades anchises anchises*)



Lepidochrysops peculiaris peculiaris

Africa Anonymous (Sáfián Szabolcs – Safi)

Safi – not unusually – is somewhere in darkest Africa and out of contact at present.

MOTHS

Rene Poligui is studying Spingidae moths in the Franceville area of Gabon. He wants to know whether there are any references that might assist him with identification of various species that he has found.

If anyone can assist, or is willing to try and identify photographs of specimens, please let me know (jchdobson@gmail.com).

LEPSOC COUNCIL

Elected Executive Councillors:

- Jeremy Dobson (President)
- Justin Bode (Secretary)
- Dave Edge (Treasurer)

Co-opted Councillors

- Mark Williams (Editor of *Metamorphosis* in a caretaker capacity)
- Reinier Terblanche (Conservation and Research)
- Peter Webb (Marketing)
- Andre Coetzer (IT / Website advisor)

The new Council held its first meeting on 7 September: minutes are available on the LepSoc website. A second meeting will be held on 9 November.

One of the issues being resolved at the moment is the new expanded website, combining the LepSoc and *Metamorphosis* sites and (hopefully) improving functionality, reliability, ease-of-use and membership subscription services.

We intend to have the site up and running by the end of the year. Passwords will not be required, except for access to subscriber-limited sections; the system of payment, registering, and reregistering will be streamlined.

Credit card payments will still be permitted, although direct EFT payments will be the preferred payment method for South African members.

FOCUS ON....

This features a member of LepSoc in each edition.

Justin Bode (Secretary of LepSoc)

Justin Bode is a project manager in the petrochemical industry. He lives in Krugersdorp and is married to Yolande, who is also a keen lepidopterist.

Justin and Yolande became interested in butterflies through the SABCA virtual museum, but their mild interest became a passion one fateful day in May 2009, where in Shiyalongubo Forest near Barberton with the late Herbert Otto, they photographed a mud-puddling female *Chrysoritis phosphor*, the Scarce Scarlet, much to the chagrin of many members of the society.



They have since planned most of their holidays around localities in South Africa, where they can photograph butterflies. They have also been active members of The Caterpillar Rearing Group, although this has taken a bit of a back seat now that they are rearing their first child, Yara. Justin is a firm believer that no trip in search of butterflies is complete without good food. Justin has served as Secretary of the Society since 2012

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH



Please forward any photographs that you would like to display in this magazine and they will be given due consideration; 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.

AUGUST

Reiner Terblanche
(*Anthene lindae*) -
Witsand

Entries for September



Charaxes zingha - Muhweze Rogers
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Erikssonia edgei – Jeremy Dobson
(Bateleur, Limpopo)



Acraea quirina – Peter Sharland
(Kakamega, Kenya)



Cartuna crithea – Peter Sharland
(Kakamega, Kenya)



Hypolimnas monteironis – Peter Sharland
(Kakamega, Kenya)



Stugeta bowkeri – Jeremy Dobson
(KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga)



SEPTEMBER

The winner for September is Muhwezi Rogers for this picture of a female Olive Forester (*Euphaedra olivacea*), photographed in Mpanga Forest, Uganda. I'm relying on Safi (Sáfián Szabolcs) for this identification – female *E. olivacea* come in a bewildering assortment of colour forms.

Entries for October



Aloeides aranda – Steve Woodhall
(Harris Hill, KZN)



Charaxes lucretius – Muhweze Rogers
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Kedestes sarahae - Jeremy Dobson
(Cederberg, W Cape)



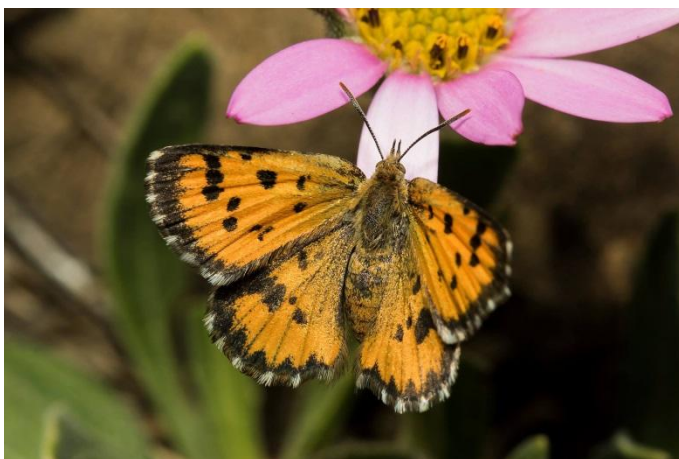
Lepidochrysops variabilis
Steve Woodhall (Harris Hill, KZN)



Pseudonympha trimeni trimeni
Jeremy Dobson (Cederberg, W Cape)



Eriksonnia edgei - Reinier Terblanche
(Bateleur, Limpopo)



OCTOBER

October's winner is Simon Joubert for this picture of the Drakensberg Daisy Copper (*Chrysoritis oreas*).

The photo was taken at Bulwer, KZN, on 8 Oct 2016

LIVES BEHIND THE LABELS...

David Swanepoel. David Abraham Swanepoel (“Swannie”) was born on 12th July 1912 at Ladybrand in the Orange Free State. He died on the 23rd December 1990 at Duiwelskloof in the Transvaal.

Swanepoel, a colourful and somewhat controversial character, was arguably South Africa’s greatest ever butterfly collector. He was not a trained scientist, nor was he particularly well educated in a formal sense, yet his publications influenced numerous butterfly collectors. His intimate knowledge of the behaviour and habits of numerous South African species will probably never be surpassed.



David Swanepoel and Philip Zwart
1977

He first became interested in butterflies through the encouragement of Paul Loewenstein, and started collecting in 1925. Another prominent collector of those times, Henry Irving, was also a major inspiration. He never forgot these early associates and two *Lepidochrysops* species are named in their memory.

The time and effort he spent observing and studying butterflies of South Africa during his many years of collecting is unlikely to be matched. He had the gift of stimulating others about his hobby - his evocative style of writing captured the imagination of many butterfly enthusiasts.

He published several descriptions of new taxa and, in 1953 published “Butterflies of South Africa – how, where and when they fly”; the first comprehensive field-guide regarding South African Butterflies. The content and infectious enthusiasm of this book inspired a generation of lepidopterists.

He was a regular contributor to *Metamorphosis*, and his last contribution was received in December 1990 shortly before his death. His large and immaculate collection is housed in the Transvaal Museum.

A difficult character at times, Swanepoel had several disagreements with individuals and with the Lepidopterists’ Society itself; sadly he died before the Society bestowed on him its first Honorary Life Member title, which was to have been awarded at the 1991 Conference and AGM. Many of Swanepoel’s locality-records and observations were not recorded and died with him – a lesson to us all.

The common-names of numerous South African butterflies were first used by David Swanepoel: He discovered several new species and subspecies; six species of butterfly are named after him.