

LATE SUMMER
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2017-1

THE
LEPIDOPTERISTS'
SOCIETY OF AFRICA

AFRICAN BUTTERFLY NEWS



LATEST NEWS

Welcome to the 1st newsletter of 2017

Hopefully you all had a good break over the December holidays, filled with memorable butterfly and moth related experiences. I don't think many South African lepidopterists will look back at 2016 with a great deal of fondness – I'm sure 2017 will be better!

As agreed at last year's AGM, Council are looking at options for a new, revamped logo for the Society. I'd hoped to have this ready for this edition of ABN, but we're not quite ready yet. Several alternative designs for the new logo have been drawn by Hans Bloemmen, a Belgian artist-friend of Jan Praet, the Highveld Buttermoth Club chairman.

We are attempting to retain the character of the original motif, while giving it a new, fresh look. The new logo will (hopefully) be approved at the next Council meeting on 3 February.

We are also some way away from agreeing on a new "shortened-name" for the Society; as many of you are aware, the attempt by our marketing intern, Lulu Dlamini, to achieve consensus from our members had mixed results! Council have adopted "LepSoc Africa" as an interim measure: this is a direct abbreviation of our formal name and sets us apart from the North American Lepidopterists' Society, which also refers to itself as "LepSoc".

This magazine relies on material from you, the members of LepSoc Africa. 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 – 10 November 2016

November's Buttermoth Evening at Ruimsig Country Club discussed hill-topping behaviour and was led by Reinier Terblanche.

It was a very interesting presentation and debate: several observations and opinions were shared - this field has plenty of opportunity for further study and research.

In the bottom left picture, you can see Hermann preparing to award the Wooden Spoon – a traditional part of the Buttermoth evenings.



Buttermoth Evening – 12 January

Jan Praet hosted January's Buttermoth Evening "Gardening for Butterflies".

The discussion covered butterfly-species frequently found in urban areas within Gauteng and the plants and trees that are associated with them. Jan presented the draft of his new book on the subject and bought several plants to the workshop.

Aconcagua

My daughter, Michelle, and I climbed Mount Aconcagua in Argentina during the holidays.

Aconcagua is the 2nd of the 7-peaks and at 6 962m, the highest mountain in the world, outside of the Himalayas.

We got to the highest camp (Camp 3), but unfortunately we were unable to summit due to the weather (wind speeds in excess of 120km/h were forecast). Nonetheless, we had a great adventure and had several memorable experiences.

Due to our expedition being curtailed, I was able to spend a few days looking for butterflies near Mendoza. The region is very hot and dry, but I found several interesting species.



Riojana thargelia
(Mendoza)

1000m to go...

Books

Brian Webb (bpwg@netactive.co.za) inherited some books on butterflies from his grandfather and would like to know a bit more about them; can anyone help?

The books are Butterflies of Kenya and Uganda, Volumes 1 and 2, St Aubyn, Rogers & van Somerton

Collections

Brian Plowes is emigrating and wishes to sell his father's collection. He has also got some equipment for sale, including traps. Please contact Brian for more information (078 751 1069 or brianplowes@mweb.co.za).

Jan Knock (jrknock@vodamail.co.za) has a collection of *Ornithoptera*, *Troides* and *Trogonoptera* that he wishes to sell.

These are housed in two cabinets of solid American Cherrywood, with a total of 15 large drawers. Please contact Jan if you are interested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Buttermoth evening

The next Buttermoth evening will be held at Ruimsig Country Club on Thursday 9 March; 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 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month – please diarize!

Afrotropical Lepidoptera Workshop – Madagascar 2018

Plans are well underway for the 3rd Afrotropical Workshop (ALW 3), to be held in Madagascar in March / April 2018.

LepSoc Africa are hosting this event, which follows the successful ALW 1 (Ghana 2011), organized by Szabolcs Sáfián and Torben Larsen on behalf of Butterfly Conservation Ghana and ALW 2 (Uganda 2014), which was arranged by David Agassiz and Petra Akite.



The late Torben Larsen and Szabolcs Sáfián (Ghana, 2011)

Sáfi and Raimund Schutte (Entebbe, 2014)

A preliminary program for ALW 3 is as follows:

1st Leg:

Sat 24 March 2018: Flight from Johannesburg to Antananarivo; stay overnight in hotels /guesthouses

Sun 25 March: Bus trip to ValBio, Ranomafana. Accommodation for 25 delegates for 6-nights (Sun 25 March to Fri 23 March)

Mon 26 – Fri 30 Mar: Book conference facilities at ValBio / access to Ranomafana park (5-days)

Sat 31 Mar: Bus back to Antananarivo; dependant on flight times, overnight stay.

Sun 1 Apr: 15 delegates fly back to Johannesburg

2nd Leg:

Sun 1 Apr 2018: Fly from Antana to Tolanaro.

Sun 1 – Mon 2 Apr: Accommodation in Tolanaro; access and transport to local park (2-nights; 1.5 days)

Tue 3 Apr: Fly to Toliara

Tue 3 – Thu 5: Accommodation in Toliara; transport to local parks / localities (3-nights; 3-days)

Fri 6 April: Fly back to Antananarivo; dependant on flight times, overnight stay

Sat 7 April: Fly back to Johannesburg



Jeremy presenting a talk at Kibale

An initial notification will be sent out shortly, as soon as I've received budget-prices from a local travel agent.

Highveld Buttermoth Club braai

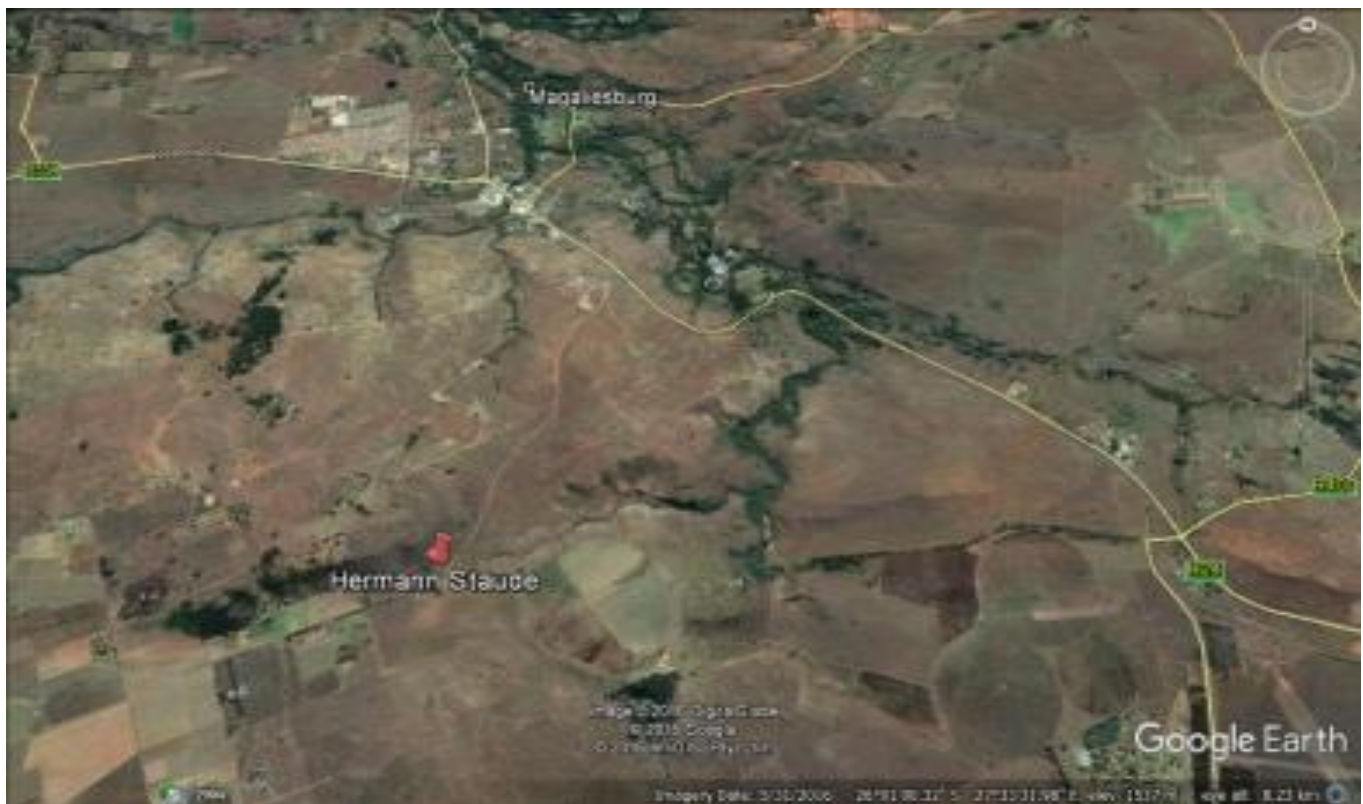
2017's year-starting braai at Hermann Staude's farm near Magaliesburg will be on Sunday 5 February.

This is a longstanding and popular event in the local butterfly and moth calendar and gives LepSoc Africa members a chance to catch up on news and to share stories from the December break.

This year's event will be a traditional bring-and-braai; please bring your own meat and drinks – the Highveld Buttermoth Club will provide the fire and lay on a few bread rolls, salads etc.

Don't forget to bring camping chairs, sunblock, butterfly nets and cameras – you can pitch up any time after 9h30.

A Google image of Hermann's farm is attached below (26° 1'37.59"S 27°32'37.06"E)



Afrotropical Butterfly Encyclopaedia (Mark Williams)

In this edition of ABN we feature the Afrotropical Butterfly Encyclopaedia, edited by Mark Williams.

Afrotropical Butterflies (ATB) is a web-based, open access, digital encyclopaedia that deals with all the butterflies of the Afrotropical Region (Africa south of the Sahara and the offshore islands, including Madagascar). There are files for each genus as well as four extensive bibliographies. Images for more than 1500 species have been loaded so far. The text of ATB is over 6000 pages (and growing). Every January the new edition for that year is downloaded to the website.

ATB can be accessed by Googling the website at metamorphosis.org.za. Click 'Login' on the right side of the task bar menu. Click on the 'Register' button and register. Enter your username and password and click the 'Login' button. Select 'Publications' from task bar. Select 'Afrotropical Butterflies'. Click on the underlined sentence beginning 'Click here....'. Drill down to the genera or bibliographies by clicking on the [+] icons. Click on the genus/bibliography. Select the red PDF button to download the file. Scroll down the file and enjoy! Should you have problems accessing ATB just send Mark an email (lepidochrysops@gmail.com) and he will try to help you.

The Encyclopaedia includes the magnificent specimens below, courtesy of Alan Gardiner's collection:



CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

LepiMAP (Megan Loftie-Eaton)

On 1 December, the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) celebrated 25 years of fieldwork, which started with the first Southern African Bird Atlas Project. This project ran for five years, ending in 1992 and produced the first comprehensive atlas of bird distributions for southern Africa. Since then, the Animal Demography Unit (ADU) has co-ordinated a long series of projects, generating data about frogs, butterflies and reptiles, almost all of them involving our amazing groups of citizen scientists.

To commemorate this, 25 Citizen Scientist Days have held around South Africa. The total number of records that have been assembled is currently 23 million! These records are used for conservation assessment, environmental impact studies, biodiversity management and priority setting, as well as for academic research.

COREL (Dave Edge)

Reinier Terblanche visited Bateleur in late-November, to check up on the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonina edgei*).

Rather worryingly, no adults were seen – Reinier did not want to disturb the host-ants, which were restoring the entrances to their nests following some wet weather.

It is believed the absence of butterflies is a result of the drought, rather than a consequence of August's veld-burn; no Waterberg Coppers were observed at the adjacent locality either, which was not burned. The veld condition has improved markedly and it is hoped that the butterflies will have a strong emergence later in the season.

Dave Edge reports that a small number Brenton Blues (*Orachrysops niobe*) were on the wing in October; there has been some rain in December, so things may improve.

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 those 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.

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 CRG is hosting a workshop at Hermann's place on Saturday 4th February, the day before the Highveld Buttermoth Club braai. This will be combined with a review of the SALCA project,

Attendance is by invitation only.

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.

Dave Edge has undertaken surveys of 16-site so far; no SALCA species have been found to date.

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

PUBLICATIONS

Metamorphosis (Mark Williams and Dave Edge)

The latest edition of *Metamorphosis* is Volume 27 (<http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/>); there are several new articles, including:

- Publications on Afrotropical Lepidoptera during 2015–2016 (Mark Williams)
- New host plant records for three *Acraea* species at Tswalu Kalahari Reserve (Reinier Terblanche)
- Notes on *Coeliades libeon* (Ernest Pringle)
- Life history of *Argyraspodes argyraspis* (Alan Heath)
- *Iolaus malaikae* (Alan Gardiner)
- Vegetation associated with *Chrysoritis dicksoni* (Dave Edge)
- CRG: An illustrated report of the larvae and adults of 962 African Lepidoptera species

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)

Despite relatively good rains that commenced in November, the province has still not recovered from the effects of nearly 3-years of drought.

Very few butterflies of note have been recorded – Jeremy Dobson found a few Roodepoort Coppers (*Aloeides dentatis*), during a hike at Suikerbosrand on 20 November; not much else to report!



Aloeides dentatis

Some interesting, hill-topping Ketsi Blues (*Lepidochrysops ketsi ketsi*) were observed near Balfour.

North West (Martin Lunderstedt)

Free State (Reinier Terblanche)

Andre Coetzer visited a locality west of Memel in November last year and found a few Mooi River Opals (*Chrysoritis lycegenes*). Very little else was flying.

Jeremy Dobson found Tite's Copper (*Aloeides titei*) at Witsieshoek in early December; he popped in briefly at Golden Gate on his way back: no Golden Gate Blues or Browns (*Orachrysops montanus* and *Pseudonympha paragaika* respectively) were seen, although Bowker's Widows (*Serradinga bowkeri*) were flying in their hundreds.



Serradinga bowkeri

Limpopo (Johann Greyling)

Despite not finding *Erikssonia edgei* during his November visit to Bateleur, Reinier Terblanche recorded several other species, including the Macomo Ranger (*Kedestes macomo*).

Mark Williams and Johann visited Lekgalameetse in early January; lots of butterflies, but nothing too special apart from a solitary Small Hopper (*Platylesches tina*).

Mpumalanga (Andre Coetzer)

In early November last year, Raimund Schutte and I spent an enjoyable weekend with Dietmar and Claudia Ley, at their magnificent home in Nelspruit.

We visited Mountainlands on the Saturday. Most of the Barberton specials were flying, although in small numbers, Swanepoel's Blue (*Lepidochrysops swanepoeli*) being a notable absentee. The highlight was Dietmar finding a One-pip Policeman (*Pyrrhiades anchises anchises*).



Aloeides barbarae

On the Sunday, we went to some hills above Malelane where Chris Dobson had caught a specimen of an *Orachrysops* species the previous weekend and had seen, but was unable to catch, a couple of *Dinganas*. Unfortunately, despite good weather we found nothing. Next year...

Dietmar has constructed a large and unique multiple-sheet light-trap at his house, which was attracting an extraordinary number and variety of moths.

Mark Williams and I visited Loding and KwaMhlanga in November; a few Ashen Smoky Blues (*Euchrysops subpallida*) and Silvery Blue (*Lepidochrysops glauca*) were found at the respective localities.



Steve Collins and I returned to Loding in mid-December; several butterflies were flying, although the only really noteworthy observation was an *Acacia* tree containing approximately 50 Pennington's Buffs (*Cnodontes penningtoni*).



Pseudonympha paludis

Dietmar accompanied Raimund and I to Verloren Valei in early December. Numerous Paludis Browns (*Pseudonympha paludis*) and Lost Widows (*Serradinga clarki amissivallis*) were flying: the latter species was late this season, possibly a result of the drought. A few Warren's Blue (*Orachrysops warreni*) and Long-winged Orange Acraea (*Telchinia alalonga*) were observed.

We met up with Chris Dobson, who earlier in the day had found a good spot for *T. alalonga* and Tite's Copper (*Aloeides titei*) between Machadodorp and Dullstroom.



Aloeides titei
Chris Dobson



Telchinia alalonga
Chris Dobson



Elands Waterfall at Waterval Boven in full spate
Chris Dobson

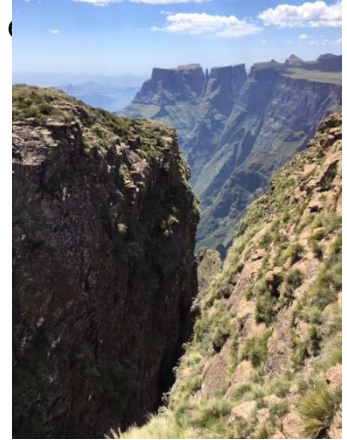
KwaZulu Natal (Kevin Cockburn)

Andre Coetzer visited Zululand in early October, but had a very disappointing trip. Despite recent rains, it appears the legacy of the protracted drought has had a catastrophic influence on butterflies in the region: no noteworthy species were recorded whatsoever.

Jeremy Dobson visited the northern Drakensberg (Witsieshoek area) in October. Butterflies were fairly scarce, although an *Orachrysops* species that he first observed in the Mahai valley 5-years ago was flying in fair numbers.

Above the Sentinel, numerous Browns (Satyrinae) were on the wing, including Pennington's Brown (*Pseudonympha penningtoni*) and the Gaika Brown (*Pseudonympha gaika*).

As a crow flies, the *Pseudonympha gaika* locality is less than 40km from Golden Gate, the home of the closely related *Pseudonympha paragaika*.



Eastern Cape (Ernest Pringle)

Being a farmer in the Eastern Cape isn't much fun at the moment. Ernest and Anne Pringle report that the area has been desperately dry with record, or near record temperatures. They at least had a bit of rain in December, which has greened things up a bit. Not much butterfly news unsurprisingly.

Southern Cape (Dave Edge)



Aloeides pallida jonathani
Chris Dobson

Chris Dobson visited Kammanassie and Swartberg in December. The lower-lying areas were very dry, however the mountains have had some rain and most of the butterflies endemic to these ranges were found.

He discovered a small colony of the Dark Opal (*Chrysoritis nigricans*) at Kammanassie.

Western Cape (Andrew Morton)

Following his 2015 success in finding a new locality for the Greyton Dark Ranger (*Kedestes niveostriga schloszi*) at Bain's Kloof, Andrew Morton has done it again. The new locality was discovered on 26 November 2016 in Du Toit's Kloof, a relatively well-surveyed locality.

Andre and Bennie Coetzer visited the Cape in December; a highlight was finding the Eastern Adonis Opal (*Chrysoritis adonis aridimontis*) at Elandsberg.

Northern Cape (Etienne Terblanche)

The Coetzer's visited the Calvinia area in December and found the Calvinia Skolly (*Thestor calviniae*) and Frederike's Blue (*Lepidochrysops frederikeae*).

AFRICA DESK

Uganda (Central) (Muhwezi Rogers)

I've attached a selection of Muhweze Rogers' recent photographs from Mpanga, below:



Acraea lycoa
(Muhwezi Rogers)



Leptosia alcesta
(Muhwezi Rogers)



Cacyreus lingeus
(Muhwezi Rogers)

"Rogers" is coming up with some amazing pictures - in November, he managed to photograph male and female specimens of an *Epitola* that I've provisionally identified as *Stempfferia marginata*; I'd be surprised if this species has ever been photographed in the wild before.



Uganda (West) (Perpetra Akite)

As you may have heard, there has been considerable political unrest and violence in western Uganda recently.

As a result, Perpetra has been unable to provide any butterfly-news from this region.



Cyrestis camillus camillus

Gabon (Rene Poligui)

Rene reports that the situation in Gabon has returned to normal, following the elections in September; the country is accessible to anyone wishing to visit!

He asks whether anyone can identify the moths shown in the photograph on the right?



I've attached a few set specimens (below) from the visit to Ipassa in June last year, courtesy of Mark Williams' *Afrotropical Butterflies*



Bebearia vandeweghei



Cymothoe beckeri beckeri
(uns)



Euphaedra adonina prasina



Euphaedra ravola



Euphaedra hewitsoni hewitsoni
(uns)



Euriphene karschi

MOTHS

In October's edition, I noted that Rene Poligui is studying Sphingidae moths in the Franceville area of Gabon and requested assistance in this regard.

Anthony Kingston suggested several sites, including the Sphingidae Museum Database (<http://www.sphingidae-museum.com/>), which looks like a brilliant reference!

Jacques Pierre of the Natural History museum in Paris, submitted a paper that he had written, titled "The Hawkmoths of the Gabon (Lepidoptera, Sphingidae)", that was published in Bulletin de la Societe entomologique de France in 2001.

Thanks to both of you!

If anyone else is willing to try and identify photographs of specimens, please let me know (ichdobson@gmail.com)

To prove that this newsletter is not exclusively focussed on "butterflies" here are some photos from the darker end of the "buttermoth" spectrum, courtesy of Dietmar Ley's light-trap at his home in Nelspruit ...



LEPSOC AFRICA COUNCIL

Elected Executive Councilors:

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

Co-opted Councilors

- Mark Williams (Editor of *Metamorphosis* in a caretaker capacity)
- Reinier Terblanche (Conservation and Research)
- Jan Praet (Marketing)

Despite the new Council only being operative for a few months, you will notice that there have already been a few changes!

Peter Webb reluctantly resigned from the Marketing position as he has numerous pressing matters to attend to at present. Jan Praet, the Highveld Buttermoth Chairman, has very kindly picked up the reins and is actively managing LepSoc Africa's Facebook page with our Marketing Intern, Lulu Dlamini.

Council held a meeting on 9 November.

It was agreed, by a majority decision, to use a new host for the website – the new site is nearly ready; a draft version can be viewed at <http://www.lepsocafrika.org/index.php>

Any suggestions regarding content or format of the site are welcomed.

The membership categories and new subscription-rates were approved and members should have received a general notification and a personalized reminder regarding this year's subscriptions and payment methods.

Category	Annual subscription fee (current year i.e. 2017)		<i>Metamorphosis</i> printed copy (preceding year i.e. 2016)		Annual subscriptions, <u>plus</u> printed copy of <i>Metamorphosis</i>	
	South African	Inter- national	South African	Inter- national	South African	Inter- national
Sponsor	R 800	R 1 400	Included	Included	R 800	R 1 400
Ordinary	R 250	R 400	R 200	R 350	R 450	R 750
Pensioner (over 60 yrs)	R 175	R 280	R 200	R 350	R 375	R 630
Student (under 23 yrs)	R 175	R 280	R 200	R 350	R 375	R 630

It was subsequently agreed to use LepSoc Africa as a general abbreviation for the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa. This is an interim measure, until a new name can be agreed upon.

A new Logo for the Society is being developed; as agreed at last year's AGM, we intend to retain the character of the previous emblem, but give it a new fresh look, which hopefully is readily identifiable as a Sapphire (*Iolais*) butterfly (rather than a hand-drawn snail, which is what the previous logo was sometimes rather unkindly referred to).

It was further agreed that the 2018 LepSoc Africa Conference and AGM would be held at Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens; provisionally over the weekend of 21- 22 October. Council considered the merits of the Hoedspruit area (as motivated by Megan Loftie-Eaton), but retained WSBG this year, with the proviso that we may consider an alternative venue in 2018.

Minutes of the Council meeting are available for perusal on the website.

The Council are compiling a "Handbook", which is a compilation of documents outlining procedures, regulations and specifications relevant to the management of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa.

The Handbook is intended to be a useful reference manual, as well as being a comprehensive source of information and documents required for the day-to-day running of the Society. In addition to assisting current Councilors, the Handbook is intended to improve the consistency of LepSoc Africa administration and to help future Councilors with their responsibilities. The Handbook is a "live" document; it may be modified or expanded at any stage, subject to the approval of LepSoc Africa Council.

FOCUS ON....

This features a member of LepSoc Africa in each edition.

Dave Edge (Treasurer of LepSoc Africa) is this month's victim...



David Alan Edge was born in 1943 near Liverpool in Lancashire, UK, and began collecting butterflies when he was 9. He trained as a Mechanical Engineer and, soon after graduating from Cambridge University, joined Anglo American, working on the Copperbelt in Kitwe, Zambia.

He spent 8-years in Zambia (catching butterflies in his spare time) before relocating to South Africa in 1973. He continued his butterfly-hobby; his most significant discovery of these years was finding the Waterberg Copper (*Erikssonia edgei*) in 1981.

He became a founder member of LepSoc Africa in 1983 and was a council member between 1984 and 1986.

He moved to Knysna in 1993, where he has been actively involved with the conservation of the Brenton Blue (*Orachrysops niobe*). In 2006 he gained a PhD for research on the ecology of this butterfly.

Dave has produced several articles for scientific journals and has been involved in numerous conservation and environmental programs.

He has been a LepSoc Africa council member since 2008, holding positions of treasurer, *Metamorphosis* editor, and leader of the COREL programme.

He was made an honorary life member of the Society in 2015.

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 Africa, 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.

I've had very few entries for this edition; would any photographers out there PLEASE send me any recent pictures that you would like to include, with identification and the month that the photograph was taken (jchdobson@gmail.com).



AUGUST 2016
Reiner Terblanche
Anthea lindae
(Witsand, N Cape)



SEPTEMBER 2016
Muhwezi Rogers
Euphaedra olivacea
(Mpanga, Uganda)



OCTOBER 2016
Simon Joubert
Chrysoritis oreas
(Bulwer, KZN)

Entries for November



Hypolimnas dinarcha
Muhwezi Rogers
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Aloeides dentatis dentatis
Jeremy Dobson
(Suikerbosrand, Gauteng)



Lepidochrysops patricia
Jeremy Dobson
(Suikerbosrand, Gauteng)



Oboronia guessfeldti
Muhwezi Rogers
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Cynandra opis
Muhwezi Rogers
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Aloeides aranda
Raimund Schutte (Barberton,
Mpumalanga)



NOVEMBER

OK, it's time for a moth.

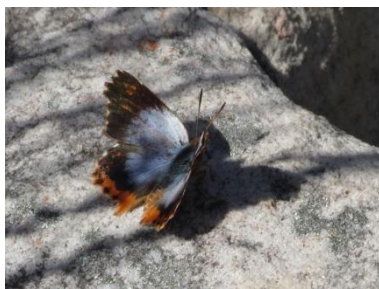
November's winner is Raimund Schutte, for this photograph of the Oleander Hawk (*Daphnis nerii*).

The photo was taken at Dietmar Ley's moth trap, at his house in Nelspruit on 4 November 2016.

Entries for December



Precis octavia sesamus
Jeremy Dobson
(Gudu Falls, KZN)



Chrysoritis nigricans
Chris Dobson
(Kammanassie, S Cape)



Lepidochrysops ketsi ketsi
Jeremy Dobson
(Balfour, Mpumalanga)



Cnodontes penningtoni
Jeremy Dobson
(Loding, Mpumalanga)



Aeropetes tulbaghia
Chris Dobson
(Kammanassie, S Cape)



Stygionympha scotina scotina
Jeremy Dobson
(Gudu Falls, KZN)



DECEMBER

As my son, Chris, and I provided the only entries for December, nepotism is inevitable...

Chris Dobson is December's winner, for this picture of a Northern Rocksitter (*Durbania amakosa ayresi*), with its wings partially open.

The photo was taken at Verlorenkloof, Lydenburg district on 4 December 2016.

LIVES BEHIND THE LABELS...

Roland Trimen

Roland Trimen was born on 29 October 1840 in London; he passed away on 25 July 1916, also in London

He was a British-South African entomologist, best known for South African Butterflies (1887–1889), a collaborative work with Colonel James Henry Bowker.



Trimen arrived in the Cape in 1859, taking up a post at the Auditor-General's office in Cape Town and then transferred to the office of the Colonial Secretary. In 1872 he became curator of the South African Museum in Cape Town, succeeding Edgar Leopold Layard. He attended the international congress on Phylloxera in Bordeaux in 1880. Failing health caused him to resign his position at the South African Museum in 1893.

Trimen was a Fellow of the Royal Society, an award granted by the Royal Society of London to individuals the society judges to have made a substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science and medical science. This exclusive group includes the likes of Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein. He won the Darwin Medal of the

Royal Society in 1910 and was the director of the South African Museum of Cape Town. Trimen was born the son of Richard and Mary Ann Esther Trimen and was the elder brother of Henry Trimen, botanist and director of the botanical gardens at Peradeniya, Ceylon.

Trimen's name features prominently in South African butterfly taxonomy; Trimen's Sapphire (*Iolus trimeni*); Trimens Copper (*Aloeides trimeni*) and Trimen's Blue (*Lepidochrysops trimeni*) being a few examples.

He produced a large number of papers and was a pioneer in South African butterfly research and publication.