

NOTE

Seven new records of butterfly taxa (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea) from Benin

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OBSERVATIONS

In order to improve data on biodiversity in the Republic of Benin in West Africa, a team of seven entomologists, including one Beninese, spent twenty one days, from 22 October to 14 November 2017, exploring some natural areas in southern Benin. All told, 207 species were collected, seven of which were recorded for the first time in Benin. Six areas were visited: Pahou Forest (6.3826 2.2289); Kpetou Sacred Forest (6.4363 1.8895); Niaouli Forest (6.7453 2.1272) (Fig. 1); Ko (= Lama) Forest (6.9476 2.1322); Lokoli Forest (7.0757 2.3175); Ouidah coastal area (6.3426 2.0705). Identifications were made using Larsen (2005). Specimens were also compared with those in a number of collections in Europe. The seven taxa new to Benin are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Taxa newly recorded from Benin (*see Fig. 3)

TAXON	SUBFAMILY	LOCATIONS
<i>Acraea macaria</i> Fabricius, 1793	Nymphalidae: Heliconiinae	Niaouli Forest
<i>Ariadne albifascia</i> Joicey & Talbot, 1921	Nymphalidae: Biblidinae	Ko (=Lama) Forest
<i>Aslauga vininga</i> (Hewitson, 1875)*	Lycaenidae: Miletinae	Pahou Forest
<i>Bicyclus hyperanthus</i> Bethune--Baker, 1908	Nymphalidae: Satyrinae	Ko (=Lama) Forest
<i>Caenides soritia</i> (Hewitson, 1876)	Hesperiidae: Hesperiinae	Niaouli Forest
<i>Deudorix galathea</i> (Swainson, 1821)	Lycaenidae: Theclinae	Ko (= Lama) Forest; Ouidah coastal area
<i>Euchrysops nilotica</i> (Aurivillius, 1904)	Lycaenidae: Polyommatainae	Lokoli Forest

DISCUSSION/ ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Coache *et al.* (2017) recorded 470 species from Benin. The seven new species bring the total to 477.

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Figure 1 – Niaouli Forest, Benin



Figure 2 - Dutch volunteers



Figure 3 – *Aslauga vininga* M C Williams

It is hoped that this report will stimulate further research into the butterfly biodiversity of Benin. We thank our Dutch volunteers (Fig. 2) for their support in collecting field data for the Centre de Recherche pour la Gestion de la Biodiversité (CRGB), www.crgbbj.org.

LITERATURE CITED

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