

## Genus *Rubraea* Henning, 1992

### Acraeas

Henning, 1992. *Metamorphosis* **3** (3): 106 (100-114). Type species: *Papilio egina* Cramer, by original designation.

The genus *Rubraea* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Heliconiinae Swainson, 1822; Tribe Acraeini Boisduval, 1833.

*Rubraea* (**Acraeas**) is a purely Afrotropical genus of 39 medium- to large-sized species. Formally recognized as a full genus by Williams & Henning, 2023. The lineage arose ~ 18 Mya.

#### Relevant literature:

- Williams & Henning, 2023 [Taxonomy of Acraeini].  
Pierre & Bernaud, 2014 [Synonomic checklist].  
Williams & Henning, 2020 [Taxonomy of the cerasa group].  
Henning, G. & Williams, 2010 [Classification].  
Silva-Brandao *et al.*, 2008 [Phylogeny of Acraeini].  
Pierre, 2004c [Cladistics and systematics].  
Pierre *et al.*, 2003 [Checklist for Ghana].  
De Vries, 2002 [Differential wing toughness].  
Jiggins *et al.*, 2002 [Infection with *Wolbachia*].

#### Species groups of *Rubraea* (based on male genitalia)

- R. acrita*** species-group: the 8th tergite is modified; aedeagus short, distally thin and acute, anteriorly broad and truncate, bifid; uncus short; valve large obtuse with distal processes.
- R. egina*** species-group: aedeagus moderately long; uncus short, basally broad; valve large, elongate, not narrowing distally.
- R. nohara*** species-group: valves elongate, basally obtuse narrowing centrally, apically truncate with distal process in some species.
- R. violarum*** species-group: valves short and broad, uncus bifid.
- R. cepheus*** species-group: uncus straight and acute; vinculum broad.

#### ***R. acrita*** species-group

**\**Rubraea acrita*** (Hewitson, [1865])#  
Fiery Acraea



Left: Male Fiery Acraea (*Rubraea acrita*) feeding on flowers of *Deinbollia oblongifolia* in Manguzi Forest.

Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Right: Male Fiery Acraea, Manguzi Forest, Zululand. Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.

*Acraea acrita* Hewitson, [1865] *in* Hewitson, [1862-6]. *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 3: 16 (124 pp.). London.

*Acraea acrita* Hewitson. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

*Acraea acrita* Hewitson. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea acrita* Hewitson, 1865. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) acrita* Hewitson, 1865. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 79.

*Acraea (Rubraea) acrita* Hewitson, 1865. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea acrita* (Hewitson, 1865). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea acrita*. Male (Wingspan 49 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.

Kosi Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 17 May 2009. M. Williams.

Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea acrita*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Chakankulu, 20 km n.e. of Lusaka, Zambia. 7 March 1999.

Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea acrita*. Female (Wingspan 52 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 12 May 2009. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea acrita*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kosi Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 5 November 1985.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea acrita*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
20 km north of Kabwe, Zambia. 7 March 1999.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** “Zambesi”.

**Distribution:** Kenya (south), Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zambia, Angola (south), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (north), South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal – north).

Recorded, in error, from Uganda by Van Son, 1963 and Davenport (1996) (MCW).

**Specific localities:**

Kenya – Taveta (Van Son, 1963); southern Masai (Larsen, 1991c); Diani (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – South-eastern, eastern and north-eastern parts, inland to the Rubeho Mountains and central parts (Kielland, 1990d); Unyika-Mbose (Thurau, 1903); Mandera (Strand, 1911); Msamwia (Strand, 1911); Lindi (Strand, 1911); Usaramo (Strand, 1911); Dar-es-Salaam (Strand, 1911); Angabe (Le Doux, 1931); Mahenge (Le Doux, 1932).

Malawi – Throughout (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). Lower Shire Valley (Le Doux, 1932); Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); 26 localities given in Bernaud & Murphy (2014).

Zambia – Mid Luangwa Valley (Le Doux, 1932); Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Katambora Rapids (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Choma (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chipata (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Angola – Hartebeest Pans, Kunene (Weymer, 1901); Kuito (Weymer, 1901).

Mozambique – Maputo (Eltringham, 1912); Rikatla (Le Doux, 1932); Bopira (Busi River) (Van Son, 1963); Macequece (Van Son, 1963); Inhaca Island (Van Son, 1963); Amatongas (male illustrated above); Mount Chiperone (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Maputo Special Reserve (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).

Zimbabwe – Mutare (Le Doux, 1932); Shamva (Van Son, 1963); Lomagundi District (Van Son, 1963); Vumba (Van Son, 1963); Mount Selinda (Van Son, 1963); Darwin (Van Son, 1963); Harare (Van Son, 1963).

Botswana – Confluence of the Chobe and Zambezi Rivers (F. Selous *vide* Trimen, 1891).

Namibia – Ehanda, Okavango River (TL of *ambigua*); Ovamboland (Van Son, 1963).

Mpumalanga – Komatipoort (Swanepoel, 1953).

KwaZulu-Natal – Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pennington); Hluhluwe (Swanepoel, 1953); Emanguzi Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Lake Sibayi (Swanepoel, 1953); Ndumo Nature Reserve (Van Son, 1963); Maputa (Van Son, 1963); Makane's Drift (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Black Rock, 10 km NW of Manguzi (male and female illustrated above).

**Habitat:** Savanna and heavy woodland. Mainly in *Brachystegia* woodland in Malawi (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). In Tanzania it is found from near sea-level to altitudes of up to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Specimens fly over open ground on the edges of bush, with a fairly rapid fluttering flight (Van Son, 1963). They settle frequently, on grass or other low vegetation, particularly the upper branches of shrubs (Van Son, 1963). Both sexes are attracted to flowers (Van Son, 1963). It is very alert and wary (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year, with distinct seasonal forms (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Adenia* species (Passifloraceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 323].

*ambigua* Trimen, 1891 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1891**: 70 (59-107). **Type locality:** [Namibia]: “Ehanda, Okavango River”. Given as a synonym of *Acraea acrita ambigua* Trimen, 1891 by Van Son, 1963: 70. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*bella* Weymer, 1901 (as var. of *Acraea acrita*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a.M* **15**: 61 (61-64, 65-67, 69-70). Angola: “Kunene bei Hartebeestpfanne und am Onshingue unweit des Kuito”. Given as a synonym of *Acraea acrita ambigua* Trimen, 1891 by Van Son, 1963: 70. Treated as a form of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*pauperata* Thureau, 1903 (as ab. of *Acraea acrita*). *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **48**: 129 (117-143). No locality given. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*aquila* Thureau, 1903 (as ab. of *Acraea acrita*). *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **48**: 129 (117-143). Tanzania: “Unyika-Mbose”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*chaeribulula* Strand, 1911 (as f. of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 281 (275-304). “Ost-Afrika”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*aquilina* Strand, 1911 (as ab. of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 281 (275-304). Tanzania: “Mandera, Ost-Afrika”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*msamwiae* Strand, 1911 (as f. of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 282 (275-304). Tanzania: “S. Tanganyika, Msamwia”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*lindica* Strand, 1911 (as [form] of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 282 (275-304). Tanzania: “Lindi in Deutsch-Ostafrika”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*usaramensis* Strand, 1911 (as ab. of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 282 (275-304). Tanzania: “Usaramo (Deutsch-Ostafrika); Dar-es-Salam”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*nyassicola* Strand, 1911 (as [form] of *Acraea acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **5**: 282 (275-304). “N. Nyassa-See”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*littoralis* Eltringham, 1912 (as ssp. of *Acraea acrita*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1912**: 149 (1-374). “East Coast as far as Delagoa Bay”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea acrita* by Van Son, 1963: 68. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea acrita acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*megaspila* Le Cerf, 1927 (as f. of *Acraea acrita*). *Encyclopédie Entomologique* (B. 3. Lepidoptera) **2**: 52 (44-58). Mozambique: “Lourenco-Marques”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*albomaculosa* Le Doux, 1931 (as female f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1931**: 53 (49-59). Tanzania: “D.-O.-Afrika (ohne nähere Angabe)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea utengulensis* AND *Acraea eltringhamiana* AND as a female ab. of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*fusca* Le Doux, 1932 (as female f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **18**: 199 (172-225). Malawi: “Deutsch-O-Afrika, Nyassaland, Lower Shire Valley”; Zambia: “NO-Rhodesia, Mid Luangwa Vally”; Zimbabwe: “Süd O-Rhodesia, Umtali”. Treated as a female aberration of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*nigromarginata* Le Doux, 1932 (as f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **18**: 199 (172-225). Tanzania: “Deutsch O.-Afrika, Mahenge”; Mozambique: “Portug. O.-Afrika, Rikatla”; South Africa: “Transvaal”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* AND *Acraea pudorina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea annonae* (Pierre, 1987)

#### *Annona Acraea*

*Acraea annonae* Pierre, 1987. *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie* (N.S.) **4**: 15 (5-27).

*Acraea (Rubraea) annonae* Pierre, 1987. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea annonae* (Pierre, 1987). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Democratic Republic of Congo: “Katanga (Biano)”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba).

Recorded, apparently in error, from Zambia by Ackery *et al.*, 1995 (Heath *et al.*, 2002). The error may have arisen because the map in Pierre’s original paper mistakenly shows the type locality of Kapiri (D.R.C.) as Kapiri Mposhi (Zambia) (Heath *et al.*, 2002: 121).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Biano, Katanga (TL); Kapiri (Schouteden, 1927).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*kapiriensis* Schouteden, 1927 (as f. of *Acraea lualabae*). *Revue de Zoologie Africaine* **14**: 307 (283-309). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kapiri”. Treated as a form of *Acraea annonae* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea bailundensis* (Wichgraf, 1918)

### Bailundo *Acraea*

*Acraea bailundensis* Wichgraf, 1918. *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **12**: 28 (26-30).

*Acraea (Rubraea) bailundensis* Wichgraf, 1918. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea bailundensis* (Wichgraf, 1918). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Angola: “Bailundu”. [Bailundo, Huambo Province].

**Distribution:** Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Lualaba).

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Bailundu (TL).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kapanga, Katanga (Overlaet, 1954).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*schoutedeni* Overlaet, 1954 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Annales du Musée Royal du Congo Belge* (N.S.) **1**: 492 (490-493). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kapanga, Katanga”. Invalid; junior secondary homonym of *Planema poggei schoutedeni* Le Doux, 1937 [Acraeinae]. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea bailundensis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea bellona* (Weymer, 1908)

#### Large-spotted Fiery *Acraea*

*Acraea acrita bellona* Weymer, 1908. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1908**: 728 (728-735).

*Acraea (Rubraea) bellona* Weymer, 1908. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea bellona* (Weymer, 1908). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Angola: “Benguella”. [Benguela, Benguela Province].

**Distribution:** Angola.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Benguella (TL).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \* *Rubraea chaeribula* (Oberthür, 1893)

#### Black-tipped Fiery *Acraea*

*Acraea chaeribula* Oberthür, 1893. *Études d'Entomologie* **17**: 19 (17-36).

*Acraea (Rubraea) chaeribula* Oberthür, 1893. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea chaeribula* (Oberthür, 1893). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea chaeribula*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chingola, Zambia. 24 April 1998.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea chaeribula*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chingola, Zambia. 26 April 1998.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** “Lac Tanganika”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Haut-Lomami, Lualaba, Haut-Shaba), Tanzania (south), Zambia.

Records for Malawi are erroneous (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Sibwesa, Mpanda District (Kielland, 1990d); Wanzizi, Mpanda District (Kielland, 1990d); southern parts (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Solwezi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kabwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Habitat:** *Brachystegia* woodland (Heath *et al.*, 2002) and savanna (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at altitudes between 1 100 to 1 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** An uncommon and local species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\* *Rubraea diogenes* (Suffert, 1904)**  
**Cynic Acraea**

*Acraea diogenes* Suffert, 1904. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 17: 14 (12-107).

*Acraea (Rubraea) diogenes* Suffert, 1904. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea diogenes* (Suffert, 1904). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea diogenes*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mundwiji Plain, Zambia. 28 October 2006. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea diogenes*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Luakere bridge, Mwinilunga District, Zambia. 29 October 2006. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** “Guinea infer.”

**Distribution:** Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (south – Haut-Lomani, Lualaba), Zambia (north-west and north-east).

**Specific localities:**

**Zambia** – Near Lulua, upper Lufupa river (Neave, 1910); Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); 40 km east of Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Solwezi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*acutipennis* Lathy, 1906 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1906**: 2 (1-10). Zambia: “North-eastern Rhodesia”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea diogenes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*lactea* Neave, 1910 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 20 (2-86). Zambia: “Near Lulua, upper Lufupa river”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea diogenes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea eltringhamiana* (Le Doux, 1932)**  
**Orange Fiery Acraea**

*Acraea acrita eltringhamiana* Le Doux, 1932. *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **18**: 197 (172-225).

*Acraea (Rubraea) eltringhamiana* Le Doux, 1932. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea eltringhamiana* (Le Doux, 1932). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**





*Rubraea eltringhamiana*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
93 km east of Mwinilunga, Zambia. 25 April 2001. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea eltringhamiana*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Western Province, Zambia. 29 January 2005. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea eltringhamiana*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Zambezi Rapids, Zambia. 8 April 2012. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea eltringhamiana*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mundwiji Plains, Zambia. 5 October 2006. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “NO-Rhodesia; Bangweolo-See, Luwingu; Mweru-See”; Democratic Republic of Congo: “Belg. Congo; Lualaba Fluss”.

**Distribution:** Zambia (north – near Lake Bangweolo), Democratic Republic of Congo (south-east).

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Lake Bangweulu, Luwingu (TL); Lake Mweru (Le Doux, 1932); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kasumbalesa (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chililabombwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalamgu [Kalambo] Falls (male illustrated above).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Lualaba River (Le Doux, 1932).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*albomaculosa* Le Doux, 1931 (as female f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* 1931: 53 (49-59). Tanzania: “D.-O.-Afrika (ohne nähere Angabe)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea utengulensis* AND *Acraea eltringhamiana* AND as a female ab. of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea guillemei* (Oberthür, 1893)**  
**Orange Spotted Acraea**

*Acraea guillemei* Oberthür, 1893. *Études d'Entomologie* 17: 19 (17-36).

*Acraea (Rubraea) guillemei* Oberthür, 1893. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea guillemei* (Oberthür, 1893). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea guillemei*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Jimbe, Ikelenge, Zambia. 15 September 2003. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** “Lac Tanganika”.

**Distribution:** Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Haut-Lomani, Tanganika), Tanzania (west – Mpanda District), Zambia (north-west).

Records for Malawi are erroneous (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Simbo (Kielland, 1990d; male illustrated above); Kaliankulukulu (Kielland, 1990d); Kabungu (Kielland, 1990d); Kapanga (Kielland, 1990d); Sibweza (Kielland, 1990d); Nkungwe (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Jimbe (Ikelenge) (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Habitat:** Deciduous forest (Heath *et al.*, 2002). In Tanzania at altitudes from 1 000 to 1 200 m (Kielland, 1990d). Also found in areas flooded during the rains (Kielland, 1990d)

**Habits:** A rare and local species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\* *Rubraea guluensis* (Le Doux, 1932)**  
**Gulu Acraea**

*Acraea manca guluensis* Le Doux, 1932. *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **18**: 199 (172-225).  
*Acraea guluensis* Le Doux, 1932. Pierre, 1987.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) guluensis* Le Doux, 1932. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea guluensis* (Le Doux, 1932). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Uganda: “Gulu Fatiko [Patiko]”. The holotype (male) is in the Berlin Museum (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019). Allotype (female) in the Oxford Museum, Oxford.

**Distribution:** Sudan (south), Uganda (north).

**Specific localities:**

Sudan – Attiak (Oxford Museum, *vide* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Uganda – Patiko (TL);; Mount Rom (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

**Habitat:** Nothing published.

**Habits:** This is a rarely encountered species (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*ruber* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019 (as female f. of *Acraea guluensis*). *Acraeinae of Uganda*: 462. Mount Rom, Uganda. A red form of the female – the allotype female is whitish.

### \* *Rubraea loranae* (Pierre, 1987)

#### Large Fiery Acraea

*Acraea loranae* Pierre, 1987. *Nouvelle Revue d'Entomologie* (N.S.) **4**: 15 (5-27).  
*Acraea (Rubraea) loranae* Pierre, 1987. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea loranae* (Pierre, 1987). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Democratic Republic of Congo: “E. Luvua valley, Escarpment 5 days N.E. of L. Mweru, 4000-5000ft”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – East Luvua valley (TL).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \* *Rubraea lualabae* (Neave, 1910)

#### Lualaba Acraea

*Acraea lualabae* Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 18 (2-86).  
*Acraea (Rubraea) lualabae* Neave, 1910. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea lualabae* (Neave, 1910). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Lualaba River”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Lualaba River (TL); Kanonga (Overlaet, 1955).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*kanonga* Overlaet, 1955 (as f. of *Acraea lualabae*). *Exploration du Parc National de l'Upemba* **27**: 77 (1-106). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Kanonga”. Treated as a form of *Acraea lualabae* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea manca* (Thurau, 1904)**  
**Manca Fiery Acraea**

*Acraea guillemei* var. *manca* Thurau, 1904. *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **48**: 305 (301-314).

*Acraea manca* Thurau, 1904. Kielland, 1990d.

*Acraea (Rubraea) manca* Thurau, 1904. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea manca* (Thurau, 1904). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea manca*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Uluguru Mountains, Tanzania. May 2013.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Irangi, Mowa, Meri, Iraku”.

**Distribution:** Tanzania (central and north-east).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Irangi (TL); Mowa (Thurau, 1904); Meri (Thurau, 1904); Iraku (Thurau, 1904); Mbulu Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Kwaraha Mountain (Kielland, 1990d); Kiboriani Mountains at Mpwapwa and Kondoa (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habitat:** Montane grassland, from 1 600 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\* *Rubraea periphanes* (Oberthür, 1893)**  
**Woodland Acraea**

*Acraea periphanes* Oberthür, 1893. *Études d'Entomologie* **17**: 20 (17-36).

*Acraea (Rubraea) periphanes* Oberthür, 1893. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea periphanes* (Oberthür, 1893). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea periphanes*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chiwoma, Zambia. 24 March 1977. S. Fisher.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea periphanes*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
95 km east of Solwezi, Zambia. 14 October 2000. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea periphanes*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mundwiji Plain, Zambia. 25 December 2002. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea periphanes*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

10 km east of Solwezi, Zambia. 23 December 2002. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea periphanes*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
10 km east of Solwezi, Zambia. 23 December 2002. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** “Lac Tanganika”.

**Distribution:** Tanzania (south and west), Malawi, Democratic Republic of Congo (Haut-Lomani, Lualaba, Haut-Shaba), Zambia (north), Angola, Mozambique (Congdon & Baylis, 2013).

**Specific localities:**

**Tanzania** – Ufipa, Mpanda and Kigoma in the west (Kielland, 1990d); Madaba in Songea Region (Kielland, 1990d); Kigonsera (Wichgraf, 1918).

**Malawi** – Throughout but mainly in the north (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014); 14 localities given by Bernaud & Murphy, 2014.

**Zambia** – Lower Chambeshi River, near Lake Bangweulu (Eltringham, 1911); Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luanshya (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kanona (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Isoka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (males and female illustrated above).

**Angola** – Bihe (Le Doux, 1923).

**Mozambique** – Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

**Habitat:** Woodland savanna (Kielland, 1990d). Marshy grassland (Heath *et al.*, 2002). In Tanzania at altitudes between 800 and 1 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A locally common species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**beni** Bethune-Baker, 1908 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1908**: 110 (110-126). Angola. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**umida** Wichgraf, 1909 (as female f. of *Acraea onerata*). *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **53**: 246 (240-247). [Zambia]: “Rhodesia”. Treated as a female form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**melaina** Eltringham, 1911 (as f. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **18**: 152 (149-153). Zambia: “Lower Chambesi, L. Bangweolo”. Treated as a form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**acritoides** Eltringham, 1911 (as f. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **18**: 152 (149-153). Zambia: “Chinsali District, Lower Chambesi, L. Bangweolo”. Treated as a form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**marginata** Eltringham, 1911 (as f. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **18**: 153 (149-153). Zambia: “Lower Chambesi, L. Bangweolo”. Treated as a form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**interposita** Wichgraf, 1918 (as ssp. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **12**: 29 (26-30). Tanzania: “Kigonsera, D. O. Afrika”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre &

Bernaud, 2014.

*seitzi* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 312 (297-316). Tanzania: “Deutsch-Ostafrika (Kigonsera)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*bihensis* Le Doux, 1923 (as f. of *Acraea periphanes*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1923**: 220 (207-226). Angola: “Bihé”. Treated as a form of *Acraea periphanes* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea pudorina* (Staudinger, [1885])**  
**Kenyan Fiery Acraea**

*Acraea pudorina* Staudinger, [1885] *in* Staudinger & Schatz, [1884-8]. *Exotischer Schmetterlinge* **1**: 84 (333 pp.). Bayern.  
*Acraea acrita pudorina* Staudinger, 1885. D’Abrera, 1980.  
*Acraea pudorina* Staudinger, 1885. Pierre, 1987.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) pudorina* Staudinger, 1885. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea pudorina* (Staudinger, [1885]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea pudorina*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Simba Hill, Tanzania. 9 April 1996. K. Fergusson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Insel Zanzibar”. Kielland (1990) maintains that Zanzibar is probably not the type locality but rather was the place from which the type specimens were posted.

**Distribution:** ?Uganda (north-east), Kenya (central and south), Tanzania (north and north-east).

**Specific localities:**

Uganda – ?Timu Forest (Davenport, *vide* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Kenya – Embu (Gaede, 1915); Kibwezi (Le Doux, 1923); north slope of Mt. Kenya (Le Doux, 1932); Embu-Meru Road (Le Doux, 1932); Bondoni (Le Doux, 1932); Ukambani (Larsen, 1991c); South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c); Marabere (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019); Nairobi (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Tanzania – Zanzibar (TL; false – see above); in the vicinity of Mount Kilimanjaro and the Pare Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mkomazi Game Reserve (Van Noort & Stone, 2000: 77); lower slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Liseki & Vane-Wright, 2018).

**Habitat:** Savanna (Larsen, 1991c).

**Habits:** Occurs in relatively numerically small colonies (Larsen, 1991c). Males have a swooping flight when patrolling their territories, which they do by describing wide circles (Larsen, 1991c).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*emboensis* Gaede, 1915 (as var. of *Acraea acrita*). *Entomologische Rundschau* **32**: 51 (50-52). Kenya: “S. Embo”. Treated as an aberration *Acraea pudorina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*rubida* Le Doux, 1923 (as f. of *Acraea acrita pudorina*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1923**: 216 (207-226). Kenya: “Kibwezi (Britisch-Ostafrika)”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea pudorina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*mancamorpha* Le Doux, 1932 (as f. of *Acraea acrita pudorina*). *Mitteilungen der Deutschen Entomologischen Gesellschaft* **3**: 4 (4-7). Kenya: “Brit.-O.-Afrika, North slope of Kenya, on Embu-Meru Road; Bondoni”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea pudorina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*nigromarginata* Le Doux, 1932 (as f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Mitteilungen aus dem Zoologischen Museum in Berlin* **18**: 199 (172-225). Tanzania: “Deutsch O.-Afrika, Mahenge”; Mozambique: “Portug. O.-Afrika, Rikatla”; South Africa: “Transvaal”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea acrita* AND *Acraea pudorina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea utengulensis* (Thurau, 1903)**  
**Utengule Fiery Acraea**

*Acraea acrita* var. *utengulensis* Thurau, 1903. *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **48**: 130 (117-143).  
*Acraea (Rubraea) utengulensis* Thurau, 1903. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea utengulensis* (Thurau, 1903). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea utengulensis*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mbuyuni, Tanzania. 1 April 1995. A. and M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea utengulensis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mbuyuni, Tanzania. 1 April 1995. A. and M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Utengule”.  
**Distribution:** Kenya, Tanzania (north and central), Zambia.  
**Specific localities:**



Kenya – Taveta area (Larsen, 1991c; single male); Teita Lodge (D.A. Trembath, *vide* Larsen, 1991c; single female); South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c; single female).

Tanzania – Utengule (TL); Tabora (Le Doux, 1931); Ruaha Game Reserve (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda District (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma District (Kielland, 1990d); Mwanza (Kielland, 1990d); Iringa District (Kielland, 1990d); Morogoro (Kielland, 1990d); Usambaras (Kielland, 1990d); Pangani, Tanga (Cordeiro, *vide* Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

Zambia – Mbala (male illustrated above); Lunzua Falls (female illustrated above).

**Habitat:** *Brachystegia* woodland and savanna, from 600 to 2 000 m in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A common species (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*taborensis* Le Doux, 1931 (as f. of *Acraea (acrita) manca*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1931**: 51 (49-59). Tanzania: “Tabora, D.-O.-Afrika”. Treated as a form of *Acraea utengulensis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*albomaculosa* Le Doux, 1931 (as female f. of *Acraea acrita acrita*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1931**: 53 (49-59). Tanzania: “D.-O.-Afrika (ohne nähere Angabe)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea utengulensis* AND *Acraea eltringhamiana* AND as a female ab. of *Acraea acrita* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

## *R. egina* species-group

### \* *Rubraea egina* (Cramer, [1775])

#### Elegant *Acraea*



Left: Elegant *Acraea (Rubraea egina)* upperside. Yangambi, DRC. Image courtesy Bart Wursten.  
Right: Elegant *Acraea (Rubraea egina)* under side. Ebogo, Cameroon. Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

*Papilio egina* Cramer, [1775] *in* Cramer, [1775-6]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa en America* **1**: 64 (16 + 155 pp.). Amsteldam & Utrecht.

*Acraea (Rubraea) egina* (Cramer, 1775). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 81.

*Acraea (Rubraea) egina* (Cramer, [1775]). Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea egina* (Cramer, [1775]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea eгина eгина*. Male (Wingspan 68 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea eгина eгина*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bomponi, Burma Valley, Zimbabwe. 9 May 1999.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea eгина eгина*. Male (Wingspan 63 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Jozani Forest, Zanzibar, Tanzania. 3 January 2011. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Libreville, Gabon. 30 November, 2017. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Pungwe, Zimbabwe. 9 April 1995.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** [West Africa].

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Aurivillius, 1910), Guinea, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Principe Island (Mendes & Bivar de Sousa, 2022), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa.

**Habitat:** Forest of all types, as well as Guinea savanna in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). *Brachystegia* woodland, wooded hills, forest margins and savanna from 800 to 2 000 m in Tanzania (ssp. *egina*) and from near sea-level to 1 800 m (ssp. *areca*) (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A reasonably common species that flies in the forest canopy but descends to feed from flowers. It is especially fond of yellow asteraceous flowers (Larsen, 1991c). In the early morning they may also be seen flying low down along forest tracks (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). It is the prime model for *Pseudacraea boisduvalii* (Larsen, 2005a). Kielland (1990) says that it is also a model for *Graphium ridleyanus*. The flight is quite strong for an Acraea. Sometimes the wings are held horizontal while being vibrated; this may be a display flight pattern (Larsen, 2005a). Males are also known to hilltop (Larsen, 2005a).

**Flight period:** October to June (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Aurivillius, 1906: 2.

“The larva is light-coloured (probably red or yellowish), with black spines, a broad black lateral line and a blackish brown longitudinal line above the legs. Head deep black. The pupa is light, with five longitudinal rows of fine black markings and with black veins on the wing-covers.”

Eltringham, 1912: 111.

Final instar larva: “Length about 34 mm. Dorsal area pale yellow, the junctions of the segments marked by fine black lines, in front of which the yellow is deepened to an orange tint. The rows of spines arise from rather broad black transverse lines. The yellow area is bordered by a rather broad dark brown line beneath which is a lateral line of pale yellow broken up into spots followed by a brown sublateral line. Head black with a bifurcated pale line. True legs black. Prolegs dark brown segmented with yellowish. Spines rather stout, black, with fine black bristles. The bases of the spines slaty blue.”

Van Someren & Rogers, 1925: 135.

“The eggs are creamy white and are laid in batches on the leaves of a plant called “Magungwa”. Young larvae are sepia, while the fully fed larva is as follows: dorsum yellowish with transverse black and orange lines; sides blackish or brownish with a body line of broken linear spots; undersurface of body, yellowish. Forelegs blackish, hind

yellowish, black-tipped. Spines long and black. Pupa elongate with the usual black markings, but central spots white, not orange.”

Bernaud, 1998 [(Cameroon)].

Bernaud & Murphy, 2014: 105. (host-plant, larva, pupa).

Bernaud, et al., 2019: 455. (host-plant, egg, larva, pupa).

**Larval food:**

"Magungwa" [Van Someren & Rogers, 1925].

*Adenia lobata* (Jacq.) Engl. (Passifloraceae) [Owen, 1971 (Sierra Leone); Pierre & Vuattoux, 1978 (Ivory Coast); Bernaud, 1998 (Cameroon)].

*Rawsonia* species (Flacourtiaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 372].

*Rubraea egina egina* (Cramer, [1775])  
Elegant Acraea

*Papilio egina* Cramer, [1775] *in* Cramer, [1775-6]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerrelddeelen Asia, Africa en America* 1: 64 (16 + 155 pp.). Amsteldam & Utrecht.

*Acraea (Rubraea) egina egina* (Cramer, [1775]). Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea egina egina* (Cramer, [1775]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea egina egina*. Male (Wingspan 68 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 14 June 2009. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bomponi, Burma Valley, Zimbabwe. 9 May 1999.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Male (Wingspan 63 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Jozani Forest, Zanzibar, Tanzania. 3 January 2011. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Libreville, Gabon. 30 November, 2017. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea egina egina*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Pungwe, Zimbabwe. 9 April 1995.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** [West Africa].

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Aurivillius, 1910), Guinea, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Sao Tome and Principe Islands (Mendes & Bivar de Sousa, 2022), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south), Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya (west, central), Tanzania (west), Malawi, Zambia (north), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (eastern border), South Africa (Limpopo Province).

**Specific localities:**

Gambia – Fajara, Bijilo, Abuko, Pirang, Brufut, Farasutu, Tanji (Jon Baker, pers. comm., May 2020).

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).  
Sierra Leone – Freetown (Larsen, 2005a).  
Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020); Wonegizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).  
Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).  
Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.  
Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).  
Gabon – Pongara (Vande weghe, 2010); Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Langoue (Vande weghe, 2010); Lambarene (Vande weghe, 2010).  
Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998); Bangui.  
Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).  
Uganda – Sesse Islands (Eltringham, 1913); Semuliki N.P. (S. Forbes, pers. comm., 2015); 45 localities are listed in Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019.  
Rwanda – Cyamudongo Forest (Uwizelimana *et al.*, 2021).  
Ethiopia – Ghrotole (Carcasson, 1961); Giarso Road (Carcasson, 1961).  
Kenya – East Surrey Estates (Stoneham, 1937); Nyangori (TL of *harrisoni*); near Mombasa (Grose-Smith, 1889).  
Kakamega (male illustrated above).  
Tanzania – Tukuyu to the Ugandan border (Kielland, 1990d); lower slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Liseki & Vane-Wright, 2018); Bagamayo (TL of *areca*); from Rondo in south to Usambaras and Northern Highlands in north (Kielland, 1990d); Ngezi Forest, Pemba Island (TL of *pembanus*).  
Malawi – Throughout (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014); Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); 22 localities given by Bernaud & Murphy (2014).  
Zambia – Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lake Bangweulu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalungwishi River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lufubu River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002).  
Mozambique – Maronga Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Amatongas (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Dondo Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mount Chiperone (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).  
Zimbabwe – Mount Selinda (Jones and Kroon); Bulawayo (M. Gardiner; single female).  
Limpopo Province – Vivo (Swanepoel; single female).

***rudolphina*** Herbst, 1792 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Natursystem aller bekannten in- und ausländischen Insekten. Der Schmetterlinge* 5: 7 (231 pp.). Berlin. [West Africa]: “America”. [False locality.] Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***persephone*** Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* 3 (1): 174 (488 pp.). [West Africa.] Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014 and spelt as *persiphone*.

***zidora*** Godart, 1819 *in* Latreille & Godart, [1819], [1824] (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Encyclopédie Méthodique. Histoire Naturelle [Zoologie]* 9 Entomologie: 237 (1-328 [1819], 329-828 [1824]). Paris. Sierra Leone. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***areca*** Mabilie, 1889 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) 8: 169 (169-170). **Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Bagamayo (Zanzibar)”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre, 1988.

***khara*** Grose-Smith, 1889 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) 3: 128 (121-137). Kenya: “In the neighbourhood of Mombasa”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***harrisoni*** Sharpe, 1904 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Entomologist* 37: 132 (131-134). **Type locality:** Kenya: “Nyangori”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*contraria* Grünberg, 1910 (as ab. of *Acraea egina*). *Societas Entomologica* **24**: 145 (145-148). Tanzania: “Kissenje am Kiwu-See”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*kiwuensis* Grünberg, 1910 (as ab. of *Acraea egina*). *Societas Entomologica* **24**: ? (145-148). *Nomen nudum* according to Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*alba* Eltringham, 1913 (as female f. of *Acraea egina*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1913**: 412 (407-413). Uganda: “Sesse I”. Treated as a female form of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*intensa* Stoneham, 1937 (as ssp. of *Acraea egina*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (32): [2] ([3 pp.]). Kenya: “East Surrey Estates, Kenya Colony”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*tenuimarginatus* Stoneham, 1937 (as f. of *Acraea egina*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (32): [2] ([3 pp.]). Kenya: “East Surrey Estates, Kenya Colony”. Treated as a form of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*rubristriatus* Stoneham, 1937 (as f. of *Acraea egina*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (32): [3] ([3 pp.]). Kenya: “East Surrey Estates, Kenya Colony”. Treated as a form of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*pembanus* Kielland, 1990 (as ssp. of *Acraea egina*). *Butterflies of Tanzania* 155 (363 pp.). Melbourne. **Type locality**: Tanzania: “N. Pemba I., Ngezi Forest, 3-XII-1983, J. Kielland”. Holotype and allotype in the Natural History Museum, London. **Description**: “Male. Closest to ssp. *harrisoni* with a greatly extended greyish-black area of the f.w.; differs in the more irregular placed black spots proximad of the subapical pale band; the spots are often merging with, or in others almost touching the spot situated at the end of cell (this feature is similar to that of ssp. *areca*). Black spots of both wings large; h.w. black spots larger than in *areca*, and marginal black band wider, also wider than in *harrisoni*. Underside much more heavily marked than in the other two races; f.w. apical half black-dusted as on the upperside; h.w. marginal black border with pale spots greatly reduced; there is no indication of a submarginal ochre band as in other races. Length of f.w. 34.5-38 mm. Female. Upperside of both wings grey; a subapical whitish band in the f.w.; h.w. discal area pale brownish, slightly yellowish in some specimens, but without the ochre colour as in the other races; marginal band very wide, with indications of pale internervular spots; underside slightly less heavily marked than in the male, but more heavily than in other races; without an ochre submarginal band; black dusting extending along the veins, and with a black streak in between them. Length of f.w. 36.2-40 mm.” Treated as a synonym of *Acraea egina egina* by Pierre, 1988.

### *Rubraea egina bellehui* (Carcasson, 1961)

*Acraea egina bellehui* Carcasson, 1961. *Occasional Papers. Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi* **7**: 11 (1-23).

*Acraea egina bellehui* Carcasson, 1961. Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019: 455.

*Rubraea egina bellehui* (Carcasson, 1961). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality**: Ethiopia: “Ghrotole, Giarso Road, south-west Ethiopia”.

**Distribution**: Ethiopia.

**Specific localities**:

Ethiopia – Ghrotole, Giarso Road (TL).

### \* *Rubraea medea* (Cramer, [1775])

**Medea Acraea**

*Papilio medea* Cramer, [1775] *in* Cramer, [1775-6]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa*

*en America* 1: 128 (16 + 155 pp.). Amsteldam & Utrecht.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) medea* (Cramer, [1775]). Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea medea* (Cramer, [1775]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** [Sao Tome and Principe]: “Côte de Guinea”.

**Distribution:** Sao Tome and Principe (island of Principe).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*pasiphæ* Fabricius, 1781 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Species Insectorum* 2: 33 (499 pp.). Hamburgi & Kilonii. [Sao Tome and Principe]: “Guinea”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea medea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*saronis* Hübner, 1819 *in* Hübner, [1816-[1826]] (as sp. of *Telchinia*). *Verzeichniss bekannter Schmettlinge* 27 (432 + 72 pp.). Augsburg. [Sao Tome and Principe]: “Côte de Guinea”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea medea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea niobe* (Sharpe, 1893)

#### Sao Tome Acraea

*Acraea niobe* Sharpe, 1893. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1893: 554 (553-558).

*Acraea (Rubraea) niobe* Sharpe, 1893. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea niobe* (Sharpe, 1893). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Sao Tome and Principe: “St Thomas”.

**Distribution:** Sao Tome and Principe (island of Sao Tome).

**Specific localities:**

Sao Tome – St Thomas (TL).

**Early stages:**

Pierre, Bernaud & Oremans, 2002.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

## *R. nohara* species-group

### \* *Rubraea atolmis* (Westwood, 1881)

#### Scarlet Acraea

*Acraea atolmis* Westwood, 1881. *In*: Oates, F., *Matabeleland and the Victoria Falls*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition: 343 (331-365). London.

*Acraea atolmis* Westwood, 1881. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) atolmis* Westwood, 1881. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 81.

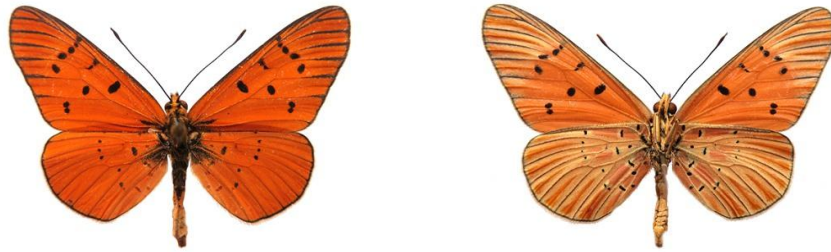
*Acraea (Rubraea) atolmis* Westwood, 1881. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea atolmis* (Westwood, 1881). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

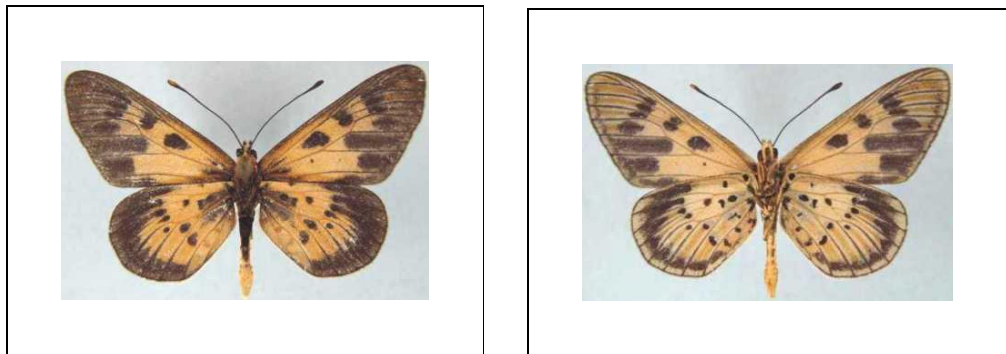




*Rubraea atolmis*. Male. Wet-season form (Wingspan 43 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Western Zambia. 7 January 2003. N. Owen-Johnston.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea atolmis*. Male. Dry-season form. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lupane, Zimbabwe. 4 March 1970. A. and M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea atolmis*. Male WSF Aberration. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Wingspan: 48mm. Zambia, N.W. Province, Kamapanda, 12°00'S; 24°03'E, 1500 m.  
19.XII.1999. F.M. Kayombo (Newport Collection).



*Rubraea atolmis*. Female. Wet-season form. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chingola, Zambia. 4 March 1999.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea atolmis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. 5 August 1971. M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea atolmis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. 18 August 1967. M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea atolmis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. 18 August 1967. M. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** “Victoria Falls”.

**Distribution:** Angola, Zambia (mainly west); Democratic Republic of Congo (south and west), Zimbabwe (west), Botswana, Namibia (north).

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Loanda (Rogenhofer, 1890); Kuebe (Weymer, 1901); Kulei (Weymer, 1901).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kapiri Mposhi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Livingstone (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Victoria Falls (TL); lower Chambeshi Valley (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kamapanda (male aberration illustrated above).

Zimbabwe – Victoria Falls (TL); Harare (Pringle *et al.* 1994; probably strays); Bulawayo (Pringle *et al.* 1994; probably strays); Shangani (R. Terblanche, pers. comm, 2016); Kwe Kwe (M. Lunderstedt, pers. comm., 2016).

Botswana – Kabulabula, Chobe River (van Son, 1963); Kasane (van Son, 1963; male illustrated above);

Kazungula (Larsen, 1991); 150 km north of Nata (Larsen, 1991); Mabele (Larsen, 1991).  
Namibia – Rundu (Pennington).

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodland (savanna).

**Habits:** Flies low and relatively fast (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

**Flight period:** All year, with slightly different seasonal forms (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Triumfetta* species (Malvaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 37].

**acontias** Westwood, 1881 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *In:* Oates, F., *Matabeleland and the Victoria Falls*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition: 345 (331-365). London. “Victoria Falls”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea atolmis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**luxi** Rogenhofer, 1890 (as sp. of *Acraea* (*Telchinia*)). *Annalen des (K.K.) Naturhistorischen Museums. Wien.* 4: 550 (547-554). Angola: “Loanda”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea atolmis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014 and spelt as *luxii*.

**decora** Weymer, 1901 (as ab. of *Acraea acontias*). *Entomologische Zeitschrift. Frankfurt a.M* 15: 62 (61-64, 65-67, 69-70). Angola: “Kuebe und Kulei”. Treated as an aberration of *Acraea atolmis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**nigra** Neustetter, 1916 (as ab. of *Acraea atolmis*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 30: 98 (95-108). “Natal”. [False locality.] Treated as a female aberration of *Acraea atolmis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**westwoodi** van Son, 1963 [Given in Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 232 as “1936b”] (as f. of *Acraea atolmis*). *Transvaal Museum Memoires* No. 14: 124 (130 pp.). Botswana: “Kabulabula, Chobe River; Kasana”; “Victoria Falls”. Treated as a form of *Acraea atolmis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea cerasa* (Hewitson, [1861])#**  
**Tree-top Wizard**

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, [1861] *in* Hewitson, [1857-61]. *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 2: 40 ([124] pp.). London.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Hyalites* (*Hyalites*) *cerasa* (Hewitson, 1861). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 76.

*Telchinia* (*Telchinia*) *cerasa* (Hewitson, 1861). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Williams & Henning, 2020. **comb. n.**

*Rubraea cerasa* (Hewitson, [1861]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Port St Johns, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 27 March, 1960. W. Teare.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Male aberration (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Umndoni Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 10 August 2007. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Female (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Umndoni Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 30 December 2008. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** None given.

**Distribution:** Uganda, Rwanda (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014); Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Malawi (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014), Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

**Habitat:** Forest. Not in temperate forest in southern Africa (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Subspecies *kiellandi* flies in forest at elevations of between 1 200 and 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A common species that tends to fly high up in the forest canopy (Van Son, 1963), as its vernacular name suggests, but it does occasionally come down to lower levels. Individuals have been seen on cow-pats and also mudpuddle, especially early in the morning (Larsen, 1991c). It is known to have periodic population explosions (Larsen, 1991c; Larsen, 2005a).

**Flight period:** All year (Van Son, 1963). September to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Trimen & Bowker, 1887, Vol. 1: 139 [as *Acraea cerasa* Hewitson; Pinetown, KwaZulu-Natal].

“**Larva.** Above livid-purplish; a central dorsal dull-greenish streak, edged on both sides by a linear series of small white marks, which on the anterior segments (two to five) are developed into thin transverse striae; a similar series of minute white spots bounds lower edge of livid-purple on each side; below this, each side is olive-greenish; under side and pro-legs light green; head black, shining, striped frontally, superiorly and laterally with white; legs pale greenish, yellowish terminally. Dorsal spines on third to sixth segments considerably longer than the rest, erect, nearly straight, rather thick, with only a terminal bristle, dull greyish; other spines throughout yellowish or greenish white, set with a few whitish bristles; the dorsal ones inclining backward from the ninth to the anal segment. Length 1,25 inches. The very young larvae, according to Colonel Bowker, advance in a regular row, side by side, from the base of a leaf, eating away the parenchyma as they proceed. **Pupa.** Pale orange-yellow. Two dorsal rows of bright orange black-ringed acute tuberculate spots, and on each side a row of similar (but not tuberculated) spots, mark the abdominal segments, some of the incisions of which are dorsally thinly defined with black. Neuration of wings, and a median stripe along back of thorax, and head black. Rather more curved than usual in *Rubraea* pupae; back of thorax very prominent; cephalic tubercles rather acutely pointed. Length 0,5 inches.”

Eltringham, 1912.

Van Someren & Rogers, 1925: 120.

“The **eggs** of this species are laid in a bunch in most irregular fashion, very often one on top of another, three to four deep, on the underside of a single leaf of *Rawsonia usambarensis* (Bixaceae). When the female has selected a suitable leaf, she will take up her position on the underside and deposit ten to fifteen eggs in succession and then rest for a while, completing the deposition in the space of an hour or so. She does not leave the leaf until the full complement has been laid. In shape these eggs are barrel-like with indications of longitudinal and transverse grooves. Their surface is highly glazed. The colour is at first creamy, rapidly becoming orange, then greyish. The young larva is brownish, changing at the second moult to a parti-colour dull brownish and black. The first four-and-a-half segments are purply brown, the remainder with the exception of the last two, ochre. The hind segments are coloured as the anterior. A white interrupted line runs the length of the body from the second to the anal segments, just above the level of the legs. The undersurface of the body is yellowish to olive. A mid-dorsal white line extends from the first to the tenth segment. The anterior legs are yellowish with black tips, the hind legs olive. The branched spines on the sixth to anal segments are brownish and short, those anterior to these are very long and black. When disturbed, the larva has the curious habit of arching the front segments and throwing forward the long spines into a bunch over the head. The head is jet black with an inverted white ‘V’ just above the mouth parts. Fine white hairs cover the lateral lobes. The **pupa** is rather peculiar, being rather squat and somewhat curved. It is ochreous-brown in colour, and is decorated with fine black lines on the wing-cases. Each abdominal segment is ornamented with raised yellowish spots, two dorsally, one ventrolaterally. The base of each spine is finely encircled in black. The newly emerged butterfly has the tips of the wings opaque greyish.”

#### **Larval food:**

*Drypetes gerrardii* Hutch. (Euphorbiaceae) [S.C. Collins, *vide* Larsen, 1991c: 371].

*Rawsonia lucida* Harv. & Sond. (Achariaceae) [Green, *vide* Platt, 1921; KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa].

*Rawsonia lucida* Harv. & Sond. (Achariaceae) [Van Someren & Rogers, 1925: 120; as *Rawsonia usambarensis*].

*Rinorea convallarioides* (Baker f.) Eyles ssp. *occidentalis* Grey-Wilson (Violaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 323; as *Rinorea convallarifolia* Brandt].

### *Rubraea cerasa cerasa* (Hewitson, [1861])# Tree-top Wizard

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, [1861] *in* Hewitson, [1857-61]. *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 2: 40 ([124] pp.). London.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Hyalites (Hyalites) cerasa* (Hewitson, 1861). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 76.

*Telchinia (Telchinia) cerasa* (Hewitson, 1861). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25.

*Acraea cerasa cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*Acraea cerasa cerasa* Hewitson, 1861. Williams & Henning, 2020. **comb. n.**

*Rubraea cerasa cerasa* (Hewitson, [1861]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Port St Johns, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 27 March, 1960. W. Teare.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Male aberration (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Umdoni Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 10 August 2007. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea cerasa cerasa*. Female (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Umdoni Park, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 30 December 2008. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** None given.

**Distribution:** Kenya (east of the Rift Valley), Tanzania (south), Malawi (south) (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (eastern border), South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

In South Africa its distribution covers 22 quarter degree squares (387 records) [see <http://ymus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as moderately widespread.

**Specific localities:**

Kenya – Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c); Meru (Larsen, 1991c); Kijabe (Larsen, 1991c); Nyambeni (Larsen, 1991c); Marsabit (Larsen, 1991c).

Malawi – Zomba Plateau (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014); Dzalanyama Forest Reserve (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

Tanzania – Mkomazi Game Reserve (Van Noort & Stone, 2000: 77).

Mozambique – Maronga Forest (Kroon and Pennington); Musapa River Forest (Pinhey); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

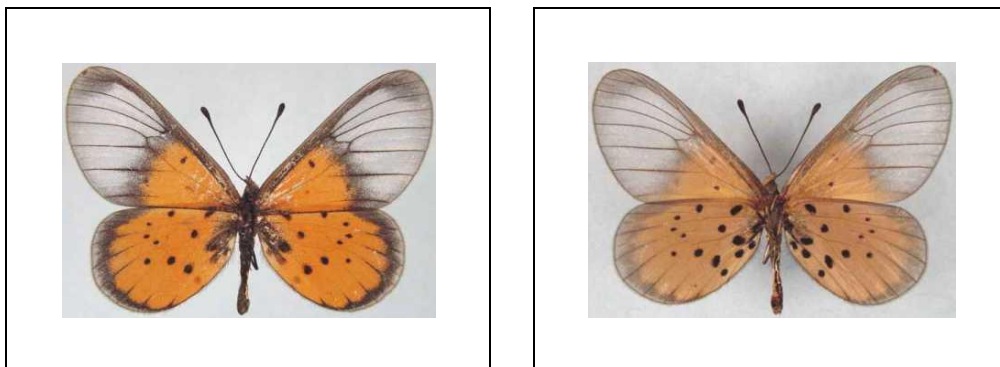
Zimbabwe – Honde Valley (D. Plowes, *vide* Van Son, 1963); Burma Valley (Paré); Chirinda Forest (Pinhey).

KwaZulu-Natal – Pinetown (Trimen & Bowker, 1887); Oribi Gorge (Swanepoel, 1953); Durban (Swanepoel, 1953); forest below the Karkloof Falls (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953); Umzinto (Van Son, 1963); Dukuduku Forest (Van Son, 1963); Nkandla Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Ngoye Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mtunzini district (Engelbrecht).

Eastern Cape Province – Port St Johns (Swanepoel, 1953); Ngqeleni (Van Son, 1963).

*Rubraea cerasa cerita* (Sharpe, 1906)  
 Cherry Tree-top Wizard

*Acraea cerita* Sharpe, 1906. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) **18**: 75 (75-76).  
*Acraea cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906. Bernaud & Ducarme, 2008: 46.  
*Telchinia cerasa cerita* (Sharpe, 1906). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25.  
*Telchinia (Telchinia) cerasa cerita* (Sharpe, 1906). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25. **comb. n.**  
*Acraea cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.  
*Acraea cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906. Williams & Henning, 2020. **comb. n.**  
 Synonym of *Acraea cerasa* Hewitson, [1861]. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.  
*Acraea cerasa cerita* Sharpe, 1906. Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019: 438.  
*Rubraea cerasa cerita* (Sharpe, 1906). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cerasa cerita*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Wingspan: 47mm. Kalinzu For. 16-18 Jun 93. S.C. Collins. (Henning collection – H118).

**Type locality:** [Uganda]: “Entebbe”.

**Distribution:** Uganda, Rwanda (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014); Democratic Republic of Congo? (east), Tanzania, Malawi (north) (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014), Zambia.

**Specific localities:**

Uganda – Entebbe (TL); Jinja (Van Someren & Rogers, 1925); Kayonza, Kigezi (Howarth, 1960); Kalinzu Forest (Howarth, 1960); Fort Portal (Carcasson, 1961); Bugoma (Davenport *teste* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019); Kagombe (Davenport *teste* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019); Kashoya-Kitomi (Davenport *teste* Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Rwanda – Cyamudongo Forest (Uwizelimana *et al.*, 2021).

Tanzania – Wanzizi (TL of *kiellandi*); Lubalizi Valley (Kielland, 1990d); Ntakatta (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mughese Forest (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

Zambia – Riverine vegetation on the banks of Mufulira Stream and North Mutundu Stream, both near Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

*kigezia* Howarth, 1959 (as ssp. of *Acraea cerasa*). *Entomologist* **92**: 134 (133-136). Uganda: “Kayonza, Kigezi”. Treated, incorrectly, as a synonym of *Acraea cerasa cerasa* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*kiellandi* Carcasson, 1964 (as ssp. of *Acraea cerasa*). *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society & Coryndon Museum* **24** (4): 70 (67-72). **Type locality:** Tanzania: “Wanzizi, Mpanda District”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea cerasa cerasa* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea chambezi* (Neave, 1910)**  
**Chambezi *Acraea***

*Acraea nohara chambezi* Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 21 (2-86).  
*Acraea chambezi* Neave, 1910. Kielland, 1990d: 154.

*Acraea (Rubraea) chambezi* Neave, 1910. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea chambezi* (Neave, 1910). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea chambezi*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
33 km north of Mpika, Zambia. 28 September 2013. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** Zambia: “Chambezi [Chambeshi] Valley”.

**Diagnosis:** Close to *Rubraea mansya*. In *mansya* the spot in area 3 of the hindwing is in the middle of the space between the end of the cell and the inner edge of the marginal black, but in *chambezi* this spot is close to the end of the cell (Eltringham, 1911). The genitalia of each species are distinctive (Eltringham, 1911).

**Distribution:** Tanzania (Mpanda District), Zambia (east).

Records for Malawi (Gifford, 1965) are probably erroneous (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – near Mount Ipumba (Kielland, 1990d); near Mount Sitebi (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Chambeshi Valley (TL); Shiwa Ngandu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpika district (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chinsali (male illustrated above).

**Habitat:** *Brachystegia* woodland (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \* *Rubraea kraka* (Aurivillius, 1893) Kraka Glassy Wizard

*Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893. *Entomologisk Tidskrift* **14**: 272 (257-292).  
*Telchinia (Telchinia) kraka* (Aurivillius, 1893). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25. **comb. n.**  
*Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.  
*Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893. Williams & Henning, 2020. **comb. n.**  
*Rubraea kraka* (Aurivillius, 1893). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea kraka*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Rumpi Hills, Cameroon. April 1993.



Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.



*Rubraea kraka*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bunia, Irumu Terr., Ituri, DRC. 5 March 2021. T. Desloges.  
Images T. Desloges ex Desloges Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Bibundi, Bonge”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/k](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/k)).

**Distribution:** Ghana, Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea(Bioko), Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo (Uele, Ituri, Kivu), Uganda (west).

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Kibi (Usher, 1986); Tana Ofin (ABRI).

Nigeria – Obudu Plateau (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Bibundi, Bonge (TL); Rumpi Hills (Bernaud, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Mount Belinga (Vande weghe, 2010).

Uganda – Bwamba Pass (Carpenter, 1932); Kayonza (Carcasson, 1961); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996); Itwara (Bernard & Ducarme, 2008).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

**Habitat:** Upland forest in Ghana (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** Localized and uncommon at most times but it is known to have periodic population explosions (Larsen, 2005a). Adults tend to keep to the forest canopy and fly mainly in the rainy season (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

**Early stages:**

Bernaud, 1993a.

Bernaud, et al., 2019. (host-plant, egg, larva, pupa).

**Larval food:**

*Caloncoba* species (Flacoutiaceae) [Bernaud, 1993].

*pallida* Carpenter, 1932 (as var. of *Acraea kraka*). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of London* **6**: 76 (76-77). Type locality: Uganda: “Bwamba Pass, Mt. Ruwenzori”. Synonymized with *Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893 by Bernaud & Ducarme, 2008. Treated as a form of *Acraea kraka* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*kibi* Usher, 1986 (as ssp. of *Acraea kraka*). *Systematic Entomology* **11**: 111 (111-115). Type locality: Ghana: “Atewa Range Forest Reserve, Kibi”. Synonymized with *Acraea kraka* Aurivillius, 1893 by Bernaud & Ducarme, 2008. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea kraka* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

\* *Rubraea lapidorum* (Pierre, 1988)

Angola *Acraea*

*Acraea lapidorum* Pierre, 1988. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (N.S.) **24**: 282 (263-287).

*Acraea* (*Rubraea*) *lapidorum* Pierre, 1988. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea lapidorum* (Pierre, 1988). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Angola: “Upper Lungwe-Bungo River, S.E. Angola”.

**Distribution:** Angola (south-east). Known only from the holotype.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Upper Lungwe-Bungo River (TL).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

\* *Rubraea lofua* (Eltringham, 1911)

Lufo River *Acraea*

*Acraea lofua* Eltringham, 1911. *Novitates Zoologicae* **18**: 150 (149-153).

*Acraea* (*Rubraea*) *lofua* Eltringham, 1911. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea lofua* (Eltringham, 1911). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea lofua*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Musonda Hill, Zambia. 6 April 2005. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea lofua*. Male (dry season form). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lumangwe Falls, Mporokoso, Zambia. 27 July 1969. Frank Schofield  
Images courtesy Mike Newport.



*Rubraea lofua*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Liuwa Plains, Katoyana, Zambia. 19 December 2016. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “Lofu River, N.E. Rhodesia”. Images of the male and female syntypes can be viewed on the Oxford Museum of Natural History website.

**Diagnosis:** *A. lofua* is similar to *A. omrora* in the arrangement of spots but has a number of distinct features that set it apart from *A. omrora*, the more striking as follows: 1. Hindwing black border upperside much broader in area Cu1. (The border of *A. omrora* is of equal width throughout.). 2. Hindwing black border underside dentate with triangular submarginal spots. (The border in *A. omrora* is smooth edged.). 3. Forewing underside black apical area extremely small, almost non-existent. (In *A. omrora* this apical area is similar in size to the upperside and has three small, pale spots in it.) (M. Newport, pers. comm., June 2020).

**Distribution:** Zambia (north-east).

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Lofu [now Lufubu] River (TL); Lake Bangweulu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodland (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\* *Rubraea mansya* (Eltringham, 1911)**  
Small Orange Acraea



*Rubraea mansya*. Angola.  
Image courtesy David Goyder.

*Acraea mansya* Eltringham, 1911. *Novitates Zoologicae* **18**: 153 (149-153).

*Acraea (Rubraea) mansya* Eltringham, 1911. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea mansya* (Eltringham, 1911). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea mansya*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Liuwa Plains, Katoyana, Zambia. 13 November 2017. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea mansya*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ikkelenge Vlei, Zambia. 14 September 2002. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia]: “L. Young [now Lake Ishiba Ng’andu], N.E. Rhodesia”.

**Diagnosis:** Close to *Rubraea chambezi*. In *mansya* the spot in area 3 of the hindwing is in the middle of the space between the end of the cell and the inner edge of the marginal black, but in *chambezi* this spot is close to the end of the cell (Eltringham, 1911). The genitalia of each species are distinctive (Eltringham, 1911).

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Haut-Lomani), Zambia, Angola.

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upemba National Park, Lusinga (Overlaet, 1955).

Zambia – Lake Young (TL) [now Lake Ishiba Ng’andu at Shiwa Ngandu]; Ikkelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002; male illustrated above).

?Angola – Confluence of Cuanavale River with its first tributary c. 3.5 km S of source lake, c. 115 km SSE of Munhango [13 07 27S 18 54E; 1349 m] (David Goyder, in Huntley *et al.*, 2019: 87; image of live specimen).

**Habitat:** Open sandy grassland above a marsh (Goyder, pers. comm., April 22, 2019).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*janssensi* Overlaet, 1955 (as ssp. of *Acraea mansya*). *Exploration du Parc National de l’Upemba* **27**: 72 (1-106). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Nationaal Upemba Parc, Lusinga”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea mansya* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

\* *Rubraea nohara* (Boisduval, 1847)#  
Light-red Acraea

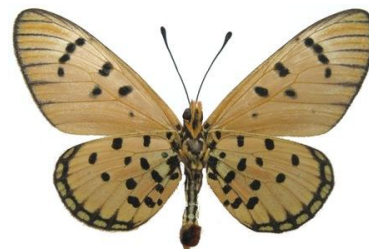


Males of the Light Red Acraea (*Rubraea nohara*). Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

*Acraea nohara* Boisduval, 1847. In: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l'Afrique australe* 2: 590 (585-602).  
*Acraea nohara* Boisduval. Trimen, 1862c.  
*Acraea nohara* Boisduval, 1847. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.  
*Acraea nohara* Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.  
*Acraea nohara* Boisduval, 1847. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara* De Boisduval, 1847. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 83.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara* Boisduval, 1847. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea nohara* (Boisduval, 1847). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea nohara nohara*. Male (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 23 September 2006. M. Williams.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea nohara nohara*. Female (Wingspan 47 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Mountainlands, Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 25 November 2001. M. Williams.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Port-Natal”.

**Distribution:** Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

**Habitat:** Grassland.

**Habits:** Flutters weakly, just above the level of the grass. It settles frequently, on low vegetation or grass stems (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

**Flight period:** October to March for the nominate subspecies and all year for ssp. *halali* (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

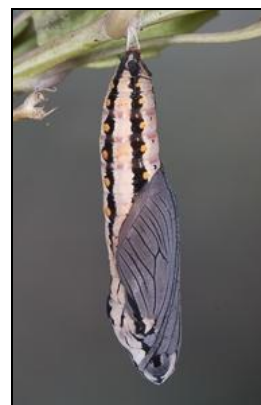
**Early stages:**

Fontaine, 1911: 60 [nominate subspecies; Macequece, Mozambique].

“This larva feeds, like several others of this same genus, on *Wormskioldia longepedunculata*, a small wayside flower, salmon-pink in colour, which grew abundantly in and about Macequece, a village in Portuguese E. Africa. The larva is most difficult to describe, longitudinally streaked with pale and dark ochreous-yellow, finely outlined with thin black lines, the spines are also black; they feed by preference on the flower itself of their food-plant, the salmon-pink colour of which is almost identical in tone with the salmon-pink colour of the freshly emerged butterflies. The pupa which is suspended, is very long and thin in shape, wing cases pale slate-grey, veined with black, and the abdomen cream colour with rows of ochreous-yellow dots, encircled with black.”

Clark, in Van Son, 1963: 108 [nominate subspecies].

“**Egg.** The eggs are laid singly, they are pale yellow at first, darkening to almost black before hatching. They are 0.65 mm in diameter by 0.8 mm high, and have 15 longitudinal ribs braced by 15-16 cross-ribs. The larvae hatch in about 8 days. **Larva.** The young larva eats its way out near the top and devours the discarded shell. It is a very pale greenish yellow with black spines on brown patches. The centre of the middle segments is touched with brown. The head is black. The larva at first feeds on the surface of the leaf. It is 1.75 to 2 mm long on hatching and grows to 3.5 – 4 mm in some 7 days. Like all species of *Rubraea*, after the first instar, the larva develops three rows of spined protuberances. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> instar these are black at the top but shade down to brown at the base. The body is pale yellow with a faint brown subdorsal line and a white lateral ridge. The head is black. The instar lasts some 4 days, the larva growing to 7.5 – 9 mm. The colour deepens as the larva grows through the remaining instars and becomes a more pale salmon, the subdorsal line and the ventral portion darken to chocolate. There are either 6 or 7 instars. The further instars of the 6-instar group are 16, 21 and 32 mm long respectively, taking 4 to 5 days each except the final which takes nearly double that period, while in the 7-instar group the respective sizes are 12, 18, 24 and 32 mm and take 5 days each except the last which takes nearly 10. When disturbed by handling with a forceps, some protuberances exude a sticky yellow liquid, especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> instars. **Pupa.** The pupa is suspended by cremastral hooks only, and is 19 mm long. The imago emerges after about two weeks.”



Final instar larva and pupa of *Rubraea nohara*. Haenertsburg, Limpopo Province.  
Images courtesy Andre Coetzer.

**Larval food:**

*Basananthe sandersonii* (Harv.) W.J.de Wilde (Passifloraceae) [Platt, 1921; as *Tryphostemma sandersonii*?; nominate subspecies].

*Tricliceras longipedunculatum* (Mast.) R.Fern. (Turneraceae) [Fontaine, 1911: 60; as *Wormskioldia longipedunculata*; nominate subspecies; Macequece, Mozambique].

*Rubraea nohara nohara* (Boisduval, 1847)#  
Light-red *Acraea*

*Acraea nohara* Boisduval, 1847. In: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l'Afrique australe* 2: 590 (585-602).

*Acraea nohara nohara* Boisduval, 1847. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara nohara* De Boisduval, 1847. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 83.

*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara nohara* Boisduval, 1847. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea nohara nohara* (Boisduval, 1847). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea nohara nohara*. Male (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 23 September 2006. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea nohara nohara*. Female (Wingspan 47 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mountainlands, Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 25 November 2001. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Port-Natal”.

**Distribution:** Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (north), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

Records for Malawi (Congdon *et al.*, 2010) are erroneous (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). In South Africa its distribution covers 77 quarter degree squares (553 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Specific localities:**

Mozambique – Macequece (Fontaine, 1911); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Botswana – Gaborone (Pinhey, 1968-74; requires confirmation according to Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Haenertsburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Houtbosdorp (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Zoekmekaar (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953; male and female illustrated above); White River (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – Port Natal [now Durban] (TL); Verulam (Swanepoel, 1953); Tongaat River (Swanepoel, 1953); Tugela River (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953); Hermansburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Little Noodsberg (Swanepoel, 1953).

Eastern Cape Province – Port St Johns (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Swaziland – Malolotja N. R. ([www.sntc.org.sz](http://www.sntc.org.sz)).

*actiaca* Hewitson, 1852 *in* Hewitson, 1851-6 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 1: 57 ([124] pp.). London. South Africa: “Natal”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea nohara nohara* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### *Rubraea nohara halali* (Marshall, 1896)

#### Halali Light-red *Acraea*

*Acraea halali* Marshall, 1896. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1896**: 555 (551-565).

*Acraea nohara halali* Marshall, 1896. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara halali* Marshall, 1896. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 83.

*Acraea (Rubraea) nohara halali* Marshall, 1896. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea nohara halali* (Marshall, 1896). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea nohara halali*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Rusito Forest, Zimbabwe. 6 May 1996.

Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea nohara halali*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Rusito Forest, Zimbabwe. 6 May 1996.



**Type locality:** [Zimbabwe]: “On the Manini and Vanduzi rivers, between Umtali and Chimiro; about Salisbury”.

**Distribution:** Mozambique (north), Zimbabwe (highlands).

**Specific localities:**

Mozambique – Ndzou Camp, Moribane Forest [19°44’01.4”S, 33°20’15.1”E] (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).

Zimbabwe – Manini River (TL); Vanduzi River (Marshall, 1896).

*Rubraea nohara dondoensis* (Stevenson, 1934)

*Acraea nohara dondoensis* Stevenson, 1934. *Occasional Papers of the Rhodesia Museum* 1 (3): 12 (10-17).

*Acraea dondoensis* Stevenson, 1934. Henning, G. 1993: 13.

*Acraea (Rubraea) dondoensis* Stevenson, 1934. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) dondoensis* Stevenson, 1934. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Acraea nohara dondoensis* Stevenson, 1934. Pierre & Bernaus, 2014.

*Rubraea nohara dondoensis* (Stevenson, 1934). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea nohara dondoensis*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Savanne Forest, Mozambique. 14 August 1998. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Rubraea nohara dondoensis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Savanne Forest, Mozambique. 14 August 1998. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** [Mozambique]: “Dondo, P. E. Africa”.

**Distribution:** Mozambique (inland from Beira).

**Specific localities:**

Mozambique – Dondo Forest (TL); near Beira (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

*junodi* Oberthür, 1911 (as ab. of *Acraea actiaca*). *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* 5: 324 (324). South Africa: “Nord du Transvaal”. [False locality?] Treated as an aberration of *Acraea nohara dondoensis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*junodi* d’Abrera, 1980 (as ssp. of *Acraea nohara*). *Butterflies of the Afrotropical region* 146 (593 pp.). Melbourne. “Beira in central Mozambique and into Kenya”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea nohara dondoensis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea onerata* (Trimen, 1891)

#### Onerous *Acraea*

*Acraea onerata* Trimen, 1891. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1891: 67 (59-107).

*Acraea onerata* Trimen, 1891. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) onerata* Trimen, 1891. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) onerata* Trimen, 1891. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea onerata* (Trimen, 1891). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** [Angola]: “Okavango River”.

**Diagnosis:** Similar to *A. nohara* but the hindwing upperside marginal band in *onerata* is clearly spotted with the ground-colour of the wings (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Angola.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Okavango River (TL); Bihe (Eltringham, 1911).

**Flight period:** December appears to be the only recorded month (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*aureola* Eltringham, 1911 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Novitates Zoologicae* 18: 149 (149-153). Angola: “Bihé”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea onerata* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea peetersi* (Pierre, 1992)

#### Rounded *Acraea*

*Acraea peetersi* Pierre, 1992. *Lambillionea* 94 (2): 309 (308-310).

*Acraea (Rubraea) peetersi* Pierre, 1992. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea peetersi* (Pierre, 1992). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea peetersi*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bamingui, Central African Republic. December 2004.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.



*Rubraea peetersi*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bamingui, Central African Republic. December 2004.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

**Type locality:** Central African Republic: “Nord RCA (République Centrafricaine), réserve de la Sangba, III.1992 (J. Peeters).” Holotype (female) in M.N.H.N., Paris. [First description of male by Pierre, 2000 (*Lambillionea* **100** (4) (Supplement): 22).]

**Distribution:** Central African Republic.

**Specific localities:**

Central African Republic – Sangba Reserve (TL).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \* *Rubraea pseudatolmis* (Eltringham, 1912)

False Scarlet *Acraea*

*Acraea nohara pseudatolmis* Eltringham, 1912. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1912**: 130 (1-374).

*Acraea pseudatolmis* Eltringham, 1912. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) pseudatolmis* Eltringham, 1912. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) pseudatolmis* Eltringham, 1912. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea pseudatolmis* (Eltringham, 1912). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea pseudatolmis*. Male (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chimanimani Mountains, Zimbabwe. 6 October 2012. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea pseudatolmis*. Female (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chimanimani Mountains, Zimbabwe. 6 October 2012. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea pseudatolmis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mount Nyangani, Zimbabwe. 10 October 1998.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



*Rubraea pseudatolmis*. Female aberration (Wingspan 37 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Chimanimani Mountains, Zimbabwe. 6 October 2012. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zimbabwe]: “S.E. Rhodesia; Mahakata R.”.

**Distribution:** Zimbabwe (eastern border).

**Specific localities:**

Zimbabwe – Mahakata River (TL); Nyanga massif (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Chimanimani Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Odzi River (Pringle *et al.*, 1994; probably strays); Lower Pungwe River [Gorge] (Pringle *et al.*, 1994; probably strays); Musapa Gap (Pinhey; probably strays); Rundu River (Van Son; single specimen); Chipinge (Paré).

**Habitat:** Montane grassland.

**Habits:** The same as those of *A. nohara* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Basananthe sandersonii* (Harv.) W.J.de Wilde (Passifloraceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978].

*Tricliceras longipedunculatum* (Mast.) R.Fern. (Turneraceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978].

**Relevant literature:**

Pinhey, E.C.G. 1975. *Arnoldia, Rhodesia* 7 (30): 1-3.

**\* *Rubraea punctellata* (Eltringham, 1912)**  
**Spotted Acraea**

*Acraea nohara punctellata* Eltringham, 1912. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1912**: 131 (1-374).

*Acraea punctellata* Eltringham, 1912. Kielland, 1990d.

*Acraea (Rubraea) punctellata* Eltringham, 1912. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea punctellata* (Eltringham, 1912). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** [Malawi]: “Dedza Mt., Central Angoniland”.

**Distribution:** Tanzania (south), Malawi.

Recorded, apparently in error, from Zambia by Kielland (1990d) and Ackery *et al.* (1995) (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Kigonsera, west of Songea (Le Doux, 1923).

Malawi – Central and south (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). Dedza Mountain (TL); 12 localities given by Bernaud & Murphy, 2014.

**Habitat:** *Brachystegia* woodland? (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Tricliceras longipedunculatum* (Mast.) R. Fern. (Turneraceae) [Bernaud & Murphy, 2014; needs confirmation].

*noharoides* Le Doux, 1923 (as f. of *Acraea nohara*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1923**: 218 (207-226). Tanzania: “Kigonsera (Deutsch-Ostafrika)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea punctellata* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea unimaculata* (Grose-Smith, 1898)**  
**One-mark Tree-top Wizard**

*Acraea unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898. *Novitates Zoologicae* **5**: 350 (350-358).

*Acraea cerasa unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

*Acraea unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898. Bernaud & Ducarme, 2008: 47.

*Telchinia (Telchinia) unimaculata* (Grose-Smith, 1898). Henning & Williams, 2010: 25. **comb. n.**

*Acraea unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*Acraea unimaculata* Grose-Smith, 1898. Williams & Henning, 2020. **comb. n.**

*Rubraea unimaculata* (Grose-Smith, 1898). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea unimaculata*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Kasugho, Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. April 2008.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

**Type locality:** [Kenya]: “Kabras, Uganda Protectorate”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (highlands west of the Rift Valley).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Kasugho (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Uganda – Agoro-Agu (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019); Fort Portal (Bernaud, *et al.*, 2019).

Kenya – Kabras (TL); Rau (Eltringham, 1912); Yala River, North Kavirondo (Eltringham, 1912).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**Note 1:** Kielland (1990: 154) notes that the populations in Magombera Forest, Turiani, and East Usambara are intermediate between *cerasa* and *unimaculata*. He describes them as follows: “F.w. clear area heavily bordered on all sides with blackish dusting; without black spots; h.w. with a wide black-dusted border; black spots almost lacking, or a few spots close to base (in the Magombera specimen there is a faint indication of median dots); dots are indicated on the underside.”

**Note 2:** Treated as a subspecies of *Acraea cerasa* by Bernaud, 2009 (even though he and Ducarme had raised it to species level in 2008! – MCW).

## *R. violarum* species-group

### \* *Rubraea asema* (Hewitson, 1877) Speckled Orange *Acraea*

*Acraea asema* Hewitson, 1877. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **14**: 52 (51-52).

*Acraea asema* Hewitson, 1877. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) asema* Hewitson, 1877. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 85.

*Acraea (Rubraea) asema* Hewitson, 1877. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea asema* (Hewitson, 1877). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea asema*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kundalila Falls, Zambia. July 1975.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.



*Rubraea asema*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mount Selinda, Zimbabwe. April 1968.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

**Type locality:** “Lake Nyassa”.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from *A. violarum* in the greatly reduced hindwing basal suffusion and clearer spots of the hindwing marginal band (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Angola, Tanzania (south), Malawi, Zambia (central and south-east), Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Ubena-Langenburg (Le Doux, 1922); Lake Rukwa (Le Doux, 1922); Masagati Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Mikumi National Park (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Throughout (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). Zomba Mountain (Butler, 1894); 20 localities given by Bernaud & Murphy (2014).

Zambia – Broken Hill (Le Doux, 1922); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chisamba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chirundu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); the Luangwa Valley corridor (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mafinga Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Amatongas (male illustrated above); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – Harare (Le Doux, 1922); Bamboo Creek (Le Doux, 1922).

**Habitat:** Dry deciduous woodland (Heath *et al.*, 2002). In Tanzania it occurs at altitudes from 300 to 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Flies rather feebly, close to the ground (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Bernaud & Murphy, 2014: 78 – host-plant and larva.

**Larval food:**

*Tricliceras* species (Turneraceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 37].

*Tricliceras longipedunculatum* (Mast.) R. Fern. (Turneraceae) [Bernaud & Murphy, 2014; Malawi].

*empusa* Butler, 1894 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 656 (643-684). Malawi: “Zomba”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea asema* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*despecta* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea asema*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 306 (297-316). Tanzania: “Deutsch-Ostafrika (Ubena-Langenburg und Rukwa-See)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea asema* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*angustifasciata* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea asema*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 307 (297-316). Zimbabwe: “Salisbury”. Treated as a form of *Acraea asema* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*aspectasemoides* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea asema*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 308 (297-316). Zimbabwe: “Bamboo Creek”. Treated as a form of *Acraea asema* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*dissimiloides* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea asema*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 308 (297-316). Zambia: “N.W. Rhodesia (Broken Hill)”. Treated as a form of *Acraea asema* by Pierre & Bernaud,

**\* *Rubraea omrora* (Trimen, 1894)**  
**Omrora Acraea**

*Acraea omrora* Trimen, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1894**: 24 (14-82).  
*Acraea omrora* Trimen, 1894. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) omrora* Trimen, 1894. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 85.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) omrora* Trimen, 1894. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea omrora* (Trimen, 1894). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea omrora umbraetae*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Mutinondo, Zambia. 19 October 2019. J. Dobson.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [Angola]: “Omrora, Ehanda, Humbe, Otiembora”.

**Diagnosis:** Can be differentiated from *A. violarum* and *A. asema* by the wide (2,5 mm), unspotted, not sharply defined marginal band on the upperside of the hindwing and the strong, black basal suffusion on the upperside of both wings; the submarginal spot in area 5 of the forewing is always absent (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Angola, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Erroneously recorded from Namibia by Dickson & Kroon, 1978 (MCW).

**Flight period:** Recorded from August to December (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Congdon *et al.*, 2017 [final instar larva].

**Larval food:**

*Adenia goetzei* Harms (Passifloraceae) [Congdon *et al.*, 2017; Mutinondo, Zambia].

*Basananthe reticulata* (Baker f.) W.J.de Wilde (Passifloraceae) [Congdon & Bampton, unpublished 2003; ssp. *umbraetae*; Mutinondo, Zambia].

***Rubraea omrora omrora* (Trimen, 1894)**  
**Omrora Acraea**

*Acraea omrora* Trimen, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1894**: 24 (14-82).  
*Acraea (Rubraea) omrora omrora* Trimen, 1894. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea omrora omrora* (Trimen, 1894). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



**Type locality:** [Angola]: “Omrora, Ehanda, Humbe, Otiembora”.

**Distribution:** Angola (south).

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Omrora (TL); Ehanda (Trimen, 1894); Humbe (Trimen, 1894); Otiembora (Trimen, 1894).

### *Rubraea omrora umbraetae* (Pierre, 1988)

Brown Omrora *Acraea*

*Acraea omrora umbraetae* Pierre, 1988. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (N.S.) **24**: 272 (263-287).

*Acraea* (*Rubraea*) *omrora umbraetae* Pierre, 1988. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea omrora umbraetae* (Pierre, 1988). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea omrora umbraetae*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mutinondo, Zambia. 19 October 2019. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [Zambia?]: “Rhodesia”.

**Distribution:** Zambia (north), Democratic Republic of Congo (south – Lualaba, Haut-Lomani).

**Specific localities:**

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Miengwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luanshya (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kasama (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kambole (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Shiwa Ngandu (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Isoka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mutinondo (Congdon & Bampton, unpublished 2003); Abercorn [Mbala] (male illustrated above).

*umbrata* Wichgraf, 1909 (as ssp. of *Acraea violarum*). *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **53**: 242 (240-247). [Zambia?]: “Rhodesia”. Invalid; junior primary homonym of *Acraea natalica umbrata* Suffert, 1904 [Acraeinae]. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea omrora umbraetae* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea overlaeti* (Pierre, 1988)

Speckled *Acraea*

*Acraea overlaeti* Pierre, 1988. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (N.S.) **24**: 272 (263-287).

*Acraea* (*Rubraea*) *overlaeti* Pierre, 1988. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea overlaeti* (Pierre, 1988). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Democratic Republic of Congo: “Lulua, Tshibalaka”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba).

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Tshibalaka, Lulua (TL).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\* *Rubraea violarum* (Boisduval, 1847)#**  
**Speckled Red Acraea**



Male upper- and underside of the Speckled Red Acraea (*Rubraea violarum*), Cliffvale, KwaZulu-Natal.  
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. *litt.*: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l'Afrique australe* 2: 591 (585-602).

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval. Trimen, 1862c.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) violarum* De Boisduval, 1847. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea violarum* (Boisduval, 1847). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Male (Wingspan 45 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse, Limpopo Province, South Africa; 7 January, 2012. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams collection.



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Female (Wingspan 50 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Mountainlands, Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 25 November 2001. M. Williams. Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Female (Wingspan 52 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Above Shiylangubo Forest, near Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 31 October 2015. M. Williams. Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Port-Natal”.

**Distribution:** Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

In South Africa its distribution covers 76 quarter degree squares (466 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Habitat:** Grassland and savanna.

**Habits:** Flies weakly, just above ground level, in grassy meadows. Settles frequently, on vegetation or on flowers (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year in the warmer parts of its distribution (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Clark *in* Van Son, 1963: 119. [nominat subspecies]

The larvae and foodplant of this species were discovered by Mr Trevor Schofield of Pietermaritzburg.

**“Egg.** The eggs are laid in small clusters on the surface of a leaf. They are 0.7 mm in diameter by 0.9 mm high, with 15 to 17 longitudinal ribs which all reach the edge of the dome where they break into a netting pattern round the micropyle; there are some 16 cross-braces; the colour is pale purple-brown when laid, changing to pale dull salmon, then nearly black before hatching which takes place after 8 days. **Larva.** The young larvae eat their way out near the top and after a short rest devour the discarded shells. They are pale olive at first, with black spines on brown patches and a black head, but gradually change to pale dull salmon. As the larvae pass from one instar to the next, the colour becomes more salmon, and a subdorsal line develops which is faint at first, but later darkens to purplish brown. The upper portions of the body are covered with small fur-like setae. As in many other Acraeas, there are several instar groups, the present species having 5, 6 or 7 instars. The development is shown in the following table.

Instar	5 instars		6 instars		7 instars	
	size in mm	days	size in mm	days	size in mm	days
1	2-4	7	1.75-3.5	7	1.75-3.25	7
2	-8	5	-7	5	-5	5

3	-14	5	-11	6-11	-8	5
4	-22	4	-18	6-11	-12	5
5	-36	12-20	-24	6-11	-17	6
6			-36	20	-24	9
7					-36	20
Total		33-41		50-65		57

**Pupa.** 18 mm long; pupal period 18 days.”

**Larval food:**

*Basananthe sandersonii* (Harv.) W.J.de Wilde (Passifloraceae) [Schofield, *in* Van Son, 1963: 119; as *Tryphostemma sandersoni* Harv.].

*Rubraea violarum violarum* (Boisduval, 1847)  
Speckled Red Acraea

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. *In*: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l’Afrique australe* 2: 591 (585-602).

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval. Trimen, 1862c.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) violarum* De Boisduval, 1847. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) violarum* Boisduval, 1847. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea violarum violarum* (Boisduval, 1847). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Male (Wingspan 45 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Lekgalameetse, Limpopo Province, South Africa; 7 January, 2012. M. Williams. Images M.C. Williams ex Williams collection.



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Female (Wingspan 50 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside. Mountainlands, Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 25 November 2001. M. Williams. Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Rubraea violarum violarum*. Female (Wingspan 52 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Above Shiylangubo Forest, near Barberton, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 31 October 2015. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Port-Natal”.

**Distribution:** Mozambique (south), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

In South Africa its distribution covers 76 quarter degree squares (466 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Specific localities:**

Mozambique – Delagoa Bay (Le Doux, 1922).

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Haenertsburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Houtbosdorp (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Zoekmekaar (Swanepoel, 1953); Elim (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953); Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953; male and female illustrated above); Nelspruit (Swanepoel, 1953); Sabie (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – Port Natal [Durban] (TL); Umhlanga (Swanepoel, 1953); Verulam (Swanepoel, 1953); Tugela River (Swanepoel, 1953); St Lucia Bay (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953); Biggarsberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Hermansburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Great Noodsberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Eastern Cape Province – North Pondoland – Tojo’s country (Swanepoel, 1953).

Swaziland – Malolotja N. R. ([www.sntc.org.sz](http://www.sntc.org.sz)).

### *Rubraea violarum gracilis* (Wichgraf, 1909)

*Acraea violarum gracilis* Wichgraf, 1909. *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **53**: 243 (240-247).

*Rubraea violarum gracilis* (Wichgraf, 1909). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea violarum gracilis*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Juliasdale, Zimbabwe. 20 May 1970. A. Gardiner.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** Zimbabwe: “Mashunaland”.

**Distribution:** Zimbabwe.

**Specific localities:**

Zimbabwe – Que Que River (Le Doux, 1922); Umgemi River (Le Doux, 1922); Bambezi (Le Doux, 1922).

*nataliensis* Angas, 1849 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *The Kafirs illustrated in a series of drawings taken among the Amazulu, Amaponda, and Amakosa tribes; [etc.]*: pl. 30 ([52] pp.). London. South Africa: “near D’Urban”. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea violarum gracilis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*disimilis* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea violarum*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 304 (297-316). Zimbabwe: “Rhodesia”; Mozambique: “Delagoa-Bay”. Treated as a form of *Acraea violarum gracilis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*aspectasema* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea violarum*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 305 (297-316). Zimbabwe: “Que Que River, Umgemi River, Bambezi”. Treated as a form of *Acraea violarum gracilis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*assimiliora* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea violarum*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 303 (297-316). Angola: “Baillundo”. Treated as a form of *Acraea violarum gracilis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*assimilis* Le Doux, 1922 (as f. of *Acraea violarum*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift* **1922**: 303 (297-316). Angola: “Baillundo”. Treated as a form of *Acraea violarum gracilis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### ***Rubraea violarum anchietai* (Mendes & Bivar-de-Sousa, 2017)** **Angola Speckled Red *Acraea***

*Acraea violarum anchietai* Mendes & Bivar-de-Sousa, 2017. *SHILAP Revista de Lepidopterologia* 45 (178): 231 (227-236).  
*Rubraea violarum anchietai* (Mendes & Bivar-de-Sousa, 2017). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** Angola: HUAMBO, Cuíma, XII-2015, 1 1, (BS-34931, Holotype (male) in the MUHNAC, Portugal).

**Diagnosis:** Differs from the nominate subspecies in the triangular rather than round white markings on the margin of the hindwing underside (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2017).

**Distribution:** Angola.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Cuíma (TL); Bihé (Eltringham, 1912); Calweha (Eltringham, 1912); Caconda (Eltringham, 1912); Cubal R. (Eltringham, 1912); Cambo (Eltringham, 1912); Caquenje (Eltringham, 1912); Benguella (Eltringham, 1912); Baillundo [Bailundo] (Le Doux, 1922); Kalukembé (Monard, 1956); Sangevé (Monard, 1956); Tiytunda (Monard, 1956); Bimbi (Monard, 1956); Chimporo (Monard, 1956); Chianga (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2017); Nova Lisboa (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2017); Sacaala, Nova Lisboa (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2017).

## ***R. cepheus* species-group**

### **\* *Rubraea abdera* (Hewitson, [1852])** **Abdera *Acraea***



Left – Male Abdera Acraea (*Rubraea abdera*). Right – mating pair. Metu Hills, Uganda.  
Images courtesy Dominique Bernaud.

*Acraea abdera* Hewitson, [1852], *in* Hewitson, [1851-6]. *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies 1*: 57 ([124] pp.). London.  
*Acraea abdera* Hewitson, 1852. Pierre, 1978.  
*Acraea (Rubraea) abdera* Hewitson, 1852. Henning & Williams, 2010.  
*Rubraea abdera* (Hewitson, [1852]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea abdera abdera* male. Left – upperside; right – underside  
Metu Hills, Uganda. D. Bernaud.  
Images courtesy Dominique Bernaud ex Bernaud Collection.



*Rubraea abdera abdera* female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mt Bana, Cameroon. D. Bernaud.  
Images courtesy Dominique Bernaud ex Bernaud Collection.

**Type locality:** Equatorial Guinea: “Fernando Po”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda.

**Habitat:** Forest edges (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** A localized, rare species, which has occasional population irruptions (Larsen, 2005a). Males patrol

territories about four metres long on forest paths, flying quite fast, about a metre above the ground. Males also defend territories on tree-tops (Larsen, 2005a). Mudpuddling by both sexes is seen in hot, dry weather (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:**

Bernaud, 2000b

Bernaud, et al., 2019: 471. (host-plant, larva, pupa).



*Rubraea abdera* larva, Metu Forest, Uganda.  
Image courtesy Dominique Bernaud.

**Larval food:**

*Oncoba crepiniana* De Wild. & T. Durand (Salicaceae) [Bernaud, pers. comm., 2016; Metu Forest, Uganda; as *Caloncoba crepiniana*].

*Oncoba gilgiana* Sprague (Salicaceae) [Pierre & Vuattoux, 1978 (Ivory Coast); as *Caloncoba gilgiana*].

*Oncoba glauca* (P.Beauv.) Planch. (Salicaceae) [Bernaud, 2000 (Central African Republic); as *Caloncoba glauca*].

*Oncoba spinosa* Forssk.) (Salicaceae) [Larsen, 2005a (Aburi, Ghana)].



Larval host plant, *Oncoba crepiniana*.  
Image courtesy Dominique Bernaud.

*Rubraea abdera abdera* (Hewitson, [1852])

**Abdera Acraea**

*Acraea abdera* Hewitson, [1852] *in* Hewitson, [1851-6]. *Illustrations of new species of exotic butterflies* 1: 57 ([124] pp.). London.

*Acraea abdera* Hewitson, 1852. Pierre, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) abdera abdera* Hewitson, 1852. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea Abdera abdera* (Hewitson, [1852]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**





*Rubraea abdera abdera* male. Left – upperside; right – underside  
Metu Hills, Uganda. D. Bernaud.  
Images courtesy Dominique Bernaud ex Bernaud Collection.



*Rubraea abdera abdera* female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mt Bana, Cameroon. D. Bernaud.  
Images courtesy Dominique Bernaud ex Bernaud Collection.

**Type locality:** Equatorial Guinea: “Fernando Po”.

**Distribution:** Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Uganda.

**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Bafang (Bernaud, 1995b); Mount Bana (Bernaud, 1995b); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea – Caldera de Luba, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

Gabon – Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Akaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998); Bamingui (Bernaud, 2000b); Bangoran (Bernaud, 2000b); Bohou River (Bernaud, 2000b); Koumbala (Bernaud, 2000b); Ndele (Bernaud, 2000b); Sangba Park (Bernaud, 2000b).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Lake Victoria (Pierre & Bernaud, 2014 – erroneous); Semuliki N.P. (S. Forbes, pers. comm., 2015); Budongo Forest (Bernaud, pers. comm., 2016); Bugoma Forest (Bernaud, pers. comm., 2016); Kei Mt. (Bernaud, pers. comm., 2016); Metu Forest (Bernaud, pers. comm., 2016); Kisubi (Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Rwoho (Bernaud *et al.*, 2019).

### *Rubraea abdera eginopsis* (Aurivillius, [1899])

Western Abdera Acraea

*Acraea cepheus* var. *eginopsis* Aurivillius, [1899] *in* Aurivillius, [1898-9]. *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapakademiens Handlingar* **31** (5): 93 (1-561).

*Acraea Abdera eginopsis* Hewitson, 1852. Pierre, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) abdera eginopsis* Aurivillius, 1899. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea Abdera eginopsis* (Aurivillius, [1899]). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea abdera eginopsis* male upperside.  
Toumodi, Ivory Coast. D. Bernaud.  
Image courtesy Dominique Bernaud ex Bernaud Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone?: “wahrscheinlich Sierra Leona”; Togo. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/c](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/c)).

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria (west).

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Kenema (C. Belcastro, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Tai (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Likpe (Maessen, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Aburi (Larsen, 2005a); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

*nigrescens* Eltringham, 1912 (as female f. of *Acraea cepheus*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1912**: 114 (1-374). Sierra Leone. Treated as a female form of *Acraea abdera eginopsis* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea cepheus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**  
**Cepheus Acraea**

*Papilio cepheus* Linnaeus, 1758. *Systema Naturae* **1**, Regnum Animale, 10<sup>th</sup> edition: 478 (824 pp.). Holmiae.

*Acraea (Rubraea) cepheus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea cepheus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cepheus cepheus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lobeke (Central), Cameroon. 6 May 2019. J. Dobson.  
Images M. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea cepheus cepheus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ebogo, Cameroon. 28 April 2019. J. Dobson.  
Images M. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [West Africa]: “Indiis”. [False locality.]

**Distribution:** Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan (south), Uganda, Malawi, Zambia.

Misattributed to the Madagascar fauna by Mabille [1887] (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

**Habitat:** Forest.

**Habits:** Very scarce in Nigeria (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:**

Bernaudo & Murphy, 2014: 98. (host-plant, egg, larva, pupa; ssp. *bergeriana*).

Congdon *et al.*, 2017 (final instar larva; ssp. *bergeriana*).

Bernaudo, *et al.*, 2019: 476. (host-plant, egg, larva, pupa; nominate ssp.)

**Larval food:**

*Oncoba* sp. (Salicaceae) [Congdon *et al.*, 2017; Lulanda, Tanzania; ssp. *bergeriana*; as *Caloncoba*].

*Oncoba crepiniana* De Wild. & T. Durand (Salicaceae) [Bernaudo, *et al.*, 2019; as *Caloncoba crepiniana*; for the nominate ssp.].

*Oncoba dentata* Oliv. (Salicaceae) [Larsen, 2005a; as *Lindaeckeria dentata*].

*Oncoba welwitschii* (Oliv.) (Salicaceae) [Pierre, 1979; Bampton *et al.*, 1991 (Congo); Bernaudo, 1995 (Cameroon); as *Caloncoba welwitschii*].

*Oncoba welwitschii* (Oliv.) (Salicaceae) [Bernaudo & Murphy, 2014; for ssp. *bergeriana*; as *Caloncoba welwitschii*].

## *Rubraea cepheus cepheus* Linnaeus, 1758

### Cepheus Acraea

*Papilio cepheus* Linnaeus, 1758. *Systema Naturae* 1, Regnum Animale, 10<sup>th</sup> edition: 478 (824 pp.). Holmiae.

*Acraea (Rubraea) cepheus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea cepheus cepheus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cepheus cepheus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lobeke (Central), Cameroon. 6 May 2019. J. Dobson.  
Images M. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea cepheus cepheus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ebogo, Cameroon. 28 April 2019. J. Dobson.  
Images M. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [West Africa]: “Indiis”. [False locality.]

**Distribution:** Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan (south), Uganda, Zambia.

Misattributed to the Madagascar fauna by Mabille [1887] (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

**Specific localities:**

Nigeria – Awka (Larsen, 2005a); Abak (Larsen, 2005a); Calabar (Larsen, 2005a); Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Bipundi (Strand, 1914); Korup (Larsen, 2005a); Ebogo (female illustrated above).

Gabon – Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope N.P. (Vande weghe, 2010); Bitam (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Okondja (Vande weghe, 2010); Ekouyi (Vande weghe, 2010); camp PPG (Vande weghe, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Isiro (male illustrated above); Leopoldville [Kinshasha] (Rogenhofer, 1890); Stanley Falls [Boyomo Falls] (Rogenhofer, 1890); Mukenge (Suffert, 1904); Quango (Suffert, 1904); Longatchimo, à 85 km. de Tshikapa, Kasai (Dufrane, 1945); Gombe (Dufrane, 1945); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Uganda – Ara (Carcasson, 1961); Bugoma Forest (Carcasson, 1961); Bwamba (Carcasson, 1961); Metu (Carcasson, 1961); Semuliki N.P. (S. Forbes, pers. comm., 2017); Bwindi (Davenport, *vide* Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Kei (Davenport, *vide* Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Kitechura (Davenport, *vide* Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Otzi (Davenport, *vide* Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Katera (Bernaud *et al.*, 2019); Patiko (Bernaud *et al.*, 2019).

Zambia – Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kaoma (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

*zosteria* Godart, 1819 *in* Latreille & Godart, [1819], [1824] (as sp. of *Acraea*). *Encyclopédie Méthodique. Histoire Naturelle [Zoologie]* 9 Entomologie: 232 (1-328 [1819], 329-828 [1824]). Paris. Angola: “la Côte

d'Angole". Treated as a synonym of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**baumanni** Rogenhofer, 1890 (as sp. of *Acraea* [*Gnesia*]). *Annalen des (K.K.) Naturhistorischen Museums. Wien.* 4: 551 (547-554). Democratic Republic of Congo: "Leopoldville und den Stanley-Fällen". Treated as a synonym of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**pheusaca** Suffert, 1904 (as ssp. of *Acraea cepheus*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 17: 25 (12-107). Democratic Republic of Congo: "Mukenge und dessen Umgegend". Treated as a synonym of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**sucepha** Suffert, 1904 (as ssp. of *Acraea cepheus*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 17: 25 (12-107). Democratic Republic of Congo: "Mukenge und Quango". Treated as an synonym of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**cepheana** Strand, 1914 (as f. of *Acraea cepheus*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* 79 (A.12.): 98 (97-144). Cameroon: "Bipundi". Treated as an aberration of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**disjuncta** Dufrane, 1945 (as ab. of *Acraea cepheus cepheus*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* 81: 110 (90-143). Democratic Republic of Congo: "Longatchimo, à 85 km. de Tshikapa, Kasai". Treated as an aberration *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**addenda** Dufrane, 1945 (as ab. of *Acraea cepheus cepheus*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* 81: 110 (90-143). Democratic Republic of Congo: "Katanga, Congo belge". Treated as an aberration of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**deficiens** Dufrane, 1945 (as ab. of *Acraea cepheus cepheus*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* 81: 110 (90-143). Democratic Republic of Congo: "region de Gombé, Congo belge". Treated as an aberration of *Acraea cepheus cepheus* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### *Rubraea cepheus bergeriana* (Pierre, 1979)

#### Red *Acraea*

*Acraea cepheus bergeriana* Pierre, 1979. *Compte Rendu des Séances de la Société de Biogéographie* 481: 79 (73-79).

*Acraea bergeriana* Pierre, 1979. Henning, G., 1993: 14.

*Acraea (Rubraea) bergeriana* Pierre, 1979. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Acraea cepheus bergeriana* Pierre, 1979. Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

*Rubraea cepheus bergeriana* (Pierre, 1979). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea cepheus bergeriana*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mugesse, Malawi. June 1974.

Images M.C. Williams ex Henning Collection.

**Type locality:** Tanzania: "Mts Uluguru, Kinola".

**Distribution:** Tanzania, Malawi (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Kinola in the Uluguru Mountains (TL); Bondwa Mountain in the Ulugurus, at 2 140 m (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa [Udzungwa] Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mufindi (Kielland, 1990d); Masagati Forest south of Ifakara (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mughese Forest (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

**Habitat:** Forest, from 350 to 2 140 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Attracted to flowers (Kielland, 1990d).

*bergeri* Pierre, 1976 (as female f. of *Acraea cepheus*). *Revue de Zoologie Africaine* **90**: 355 (354-356). Tanzania: “Mts Uluguru, Kinola”. [Invalid; junior primary homonym of *Acraea bergeri* Gaede, 1915 [Acraeinae].] Treated as a synonym of *Acraea cepheus bergeriana* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

**\* *Rubraea petraea* (Boisduval, 1847)#**  
**Blood-red Acraea**



Male Blood-red Acraea (*Rubraea petraea*), Ngoye Forest, KwaZulu-Natal.  
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.



Female forms of the Blood-red Acraea (*Rubraea petraea*). Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

*Acraea petraea* Boisduval, 1847. *In*: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l'Afrique australe* **2**: 589 (585-602).

*Acraea petraea* Boisduval. Trimen, 1862c.

*Acraea petraea* Boisduval, 1847. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.

*Acraea petraea* Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acraea petraea* Boisduval, 1847. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acraea (Rubraea) petraea* De Boisduval, 1847. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 84.

*Acraea (Rubraea) petraea* Boisduval, 1847. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea petraea* (Boisduval, 1847). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**



*Rubraea petraea*. Male (Wingspan 47 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 27 March 2005. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Rubraea petraea*. Female (Wingspan 48 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Black Rock, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 18 June 2002. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Alternative common name:** Blood Acraea.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Port Natal”.

**Distribution:** Kenya (coast), Tanzania, Malawi (south), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east), South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal).

In South Africa its distribution covers 51 quarter degree squares (931 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Specific localities:**

Kenya – coastal forests (Larsen, 1991c); Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Tabora (Suffert, 1904); Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Rondo Plateau near Lindi (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mzeze (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014).

Mozambique – Maputo Special Reserve (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).

KwaZulu-Natal – Port Natal [Durban] (TL); Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953); St Lucia Bay (Swanepoel, 1953); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Ndumo Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

**Habitat:** Coastal forest and bush. In Tanzania at altitudes from sea-level to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A generally uncommon species (Larsen, 1991c). Flies slowly, a few metres from the ground, often in the vicinity of its larval host-plant. Males establish and defend territories in glades and clearings in the bush, perching a few metres above the ground (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Harford (larva) and Trimen (pupa), in Trimen & Bowker, 1887, Vol. 1: 145 [as *Acraea Petraea* Boisduval; KwaZulu-Natal].

“**Larva.** Back yellowish-brown, with transverse blackish streaks; dorsal stripe and sides purplish-black, the latter much lighter about spiracles; lateral inflation edged with light-yellow, almost white. Under side – Light bluish-green; ventral claspers and pro-legs yellowish. Head black and polished, larger than second segment; mouth and bifid

mark on forehead white; in some specimens also two small white streaks on summit of head. Spines steely-black, largest on third, fourth, and fifth segments; a suffusion of white at the base of all excepting those on the second, third, fourth, and fifth segments. About 7/8-inch in length.” – H.C. Harford, *in litt.*

Of the younger larvae Mr. Harford remarks that they have very few black markings, and no dorsal or lateral stripes, but that these gradually appear and grow more distinct with the development of the insect. He further observes that the larvae feed on a tree in great numbers together, and that, when the bough upon which they are so congregated is shaken with any violence, they lower themselves to the ground by a silken thread, and there, lying still, are with great difficulty to be detected among the dead leaves and debris. **Pupa.** Pale-grey anteriorly; the outlines of the head and limbs and the nervures of the wings finely defined with black. Abdominal region of a browner tint; spots of the usual rows ochreous-yellow in black rings, separate from each other. Described from a drawing of Mr. Harford’s, giving a lateral view.

Fawcett, 1901: 294.

“**Larva.** Ground-colour pale golden brown, with dorsal and lateral black lines, and a black transverse line on each segment bearing two largish white spots and six long branched black spines, those on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> segments being longer than the remainder. Head large proportionately to body, black with a white bifid mark on front. Thoracic legs and claspers yellowish. The young larvae reared were all blackish in colour, and fed in companies on *Oncoba Kraussiana* (Planch). **Pupa** appears to be dichromatic, some being pale brown and others ferruginous; in both forms the fine black lines and spots peculiar to Acraeini pupae are much reduced. The pupal stage lasted 15 days in January.”

Clark, in Van Son, 1963: 113.

“**Egg.** Eggs are laid in clusters; pale watery yellow at first, changing to pale dull yellow-brown with a touch of purple; 0.65 mm in diameter by 0.7 mm high, with 15-17 longitudinal ribs connected by some 18-21 cross-braces. The egg-stage lasts 8-12 days. **Larva.** The young larva eats its way out near the top and after a rest eats the shell, then feeds on the upper or under surface between veins of young leaves, the leaf being generally covered with silk. Sometimes the moles bearing spines are set on whitish patches. 2<sup>nd</sup> instar mostly brown with dark brown, black-tipped protuberances and black shields on pro-legs. 3<sup>rd</sup> instar: The skin is redder brown covered with minute spine-like fur. 4<sup>th</sup> instar: The fur extends to the protuberances. Dorsal protuberances longest on 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> segments, those on 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> segments are a little shorter. Final instar: Some are entirely black with a small white patch in front of and behind the dorsal protuberances at the base; some have a broad dull yellow dorsal stripe from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> segments and duller on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This dorsal stripe is interrupted on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> segments, and with the longer protuberances gives the larva a humped appearance. The number of instars varies from 5 to 7, and the development proceeds as shown in the following table.

5 instars			6 instars		7 instars	
Instar	Size in mm	Days	Size in mm	days	Size in mm	days
1	2-3.5	7	1.75-3.25	7	1.5-3	5
2	-6	5	-5	5	-4.75	5
3	-9	5	-8	5	-7	5
4	-17	5	-13	4-5	-10	6
5	-30-31	9	-18	5-6	-16	6
6			-30-31	9	-20	9
7					-30-31	9
Total		31		35-37		45

The larvae are gregarious till the penultimate instar of each group, when they begin to separate. In addition to feeding on young shoots, the larvae will feed on flower buds. They do not seem keen on older leaves, and when young shoots are not available, they go into partial hibernation. **Pupa.** 20-22 mm long, variable in colour, being either white, pale dull yellow or yellowish salmon; all with two rows of salmon spots edged with black, which in some resolves into a netting pattern. Some larvae (of all shades) have a grey dorsum. Veins of wing-cases generally picked out in black.

Bernaude & Murphy, 2014: 152 – image of larva.

Congdon et al., 2017 [final instar larva].





Eggs and first instar larvae of the Blood-red Acraea (*Rubraea petraea*). Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.



Fifth instar and pupa of the Blood-red Acraea (*Rubraea petraea*). Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

#### Larval food:

*Oncoba tettensis* (Klotzsch) Gilg (Salicaceae) [Congdon *et al.*, 2017; Mkwaga, Tanzania].

*Xylothea kraussiana* Hochst. (Achariaceae) [Fawcett, 1901; as *Oncoba Kraussiana*].

*Xylothea kraussiana* Hochst. (Achariaceae) [Van Son, 1963: 114; as *Xylothea kotzei* Phillips].

***petrina*** Suffert, 1904 (as ssp. of *Acraea petraea*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **17**: 25 (12-107). No locality given. Treated as a synonym of *Acraea petraea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***taborana*** Suffert, 1904 (as ssp. of *Acraea petraea*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **17**: 26 (12-107). Tanzania: "Umgegend von Tabora". Treated as a synonym of *Acraea petraea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***pseudacontias*** Wichgraf, 1914 (as ab. of *Acraea petraea*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitung* **1914**: 348 (345-353). No locality given. Treated as a form of *Acraea petraea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

***grisea*** Neustetter, 1916 (as ab. of *Acraea petraea*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **30**: 97 (95-108). No locality given. Treated as a female aberration of *Acraea petraea* by Pierre & Bernaud, 2014.

### \* *Rubraea rohlfsi* (Suffert, 1904) Blood-red Speckled Acraea

*Acraea rohlfsi* Suffert, 1904. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **17**: 124 (124-132).

*Acraea (Rubraea) rohlfsi* Suffert, 1904. Henning & Williams, 2010.

*Rubraea rohlfsi* (Suffert, 1904). Williams & Henning, 2023: 38. **comb. nov.**

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Ukerewe”. Kielland doubts that the type locality is correctly given.

**Distribution:** Tanzania (north).

**Specific localities:**

Tanzania – Ukerewe Island, Lake Victoria (TL); Ambangulu, west Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d);  
Mazumbai, west Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habitat:** Forest, at altitudes between 1 100 and 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.