

## Genus *Acleros* Mabille, [1885]

### Dusky Darts

*In* Grandidier, [1885-7]. *Histoire, Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar* **19**: pl.54 (**18** [1887]: 364 pp.; **19** [1885]: 55pls).

Type-species: *Cycloptides leucopyga* Mabille, by monotypy.

The genus *Acleros* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Astictopterini Swinhoe, 1912; Subtribe Cupithina Grishin, 2023.

*Acleros* (**Dusky Darts**) is an Afrotropical genus with three subgenera (*Acleros*, *Isocleros* and *Paracleros*), containing 17 species in all.

Note that Huang *et al.*, 2024 treat *Acleros* and *Paracleros* as good genera, while making no mention of *Isocleros*. They make no formal taxonomic changes.

## Subgenus *Acleros* Mabille, [1885]

*In* Grandidier, [1885-7]. *Histoire, Physique, Naturelle et Politique de Madagascar* **19**: pl.54 (**18** [1887]: 364 pp.; **19** [1885]: 55pls).

Type-species: *Cycloptides leucopyga* Mabille, by monotypy.

## *Acleros (Acleros) bobiri* Collins & Larsen, 2008

### Bobiri Dusky Dart

*Acleros bobiri* Collins & Larsen, 2008. *Metamorphosis* **19**: 95 (42-113).

*Acleros (Acleros) bobiri* Collins & Larsen, 2008. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Acleros) bobiri*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bobiri Forest, Ghana. November 2008. SCC. ABRI-2019-2474.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Acleros) bobiri*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bobiri Forest, Ghana. November 2008. SCC. ABRI-2019-2475.

**Type locality:** Ghana: “Hohoe, Volta Region (06°60'N 00°46'E), (T. Maessen leg., coll. McGuire Center, Gainsville)”. Holotype illustrated as *Acleros bala* Berger, ms. in Larsen (2005a).

**Etymology:** Named after the Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary in Ghana (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Distribution:** Ghana.

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Hohoe (TL); Kakum National Park (Collins & Larsen, 2008); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Collins & Larsen, 2008); Suhien (Collins & Larsen, 2008), Amedzofe (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

*bala* Berger (as sp. of *Acleros*). Manuscript name. Type locality: Ghana, Volta Region.

***Acleros (Acleros) leucopyga* (Mabille, 1877)**  
**Malagasy Dusky Dart**

*Cyclopides leucopyga* Mabille, 1877. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (5) 7: 72 (71-73).

*Acleros leucoplaga* (Mabille, 1877).

*Acleros (Acleros) leucoplaga* (Mabille, 1877). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Acleros) leucopyga*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ranomafana, Madagascar. April 2018. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2470.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Acleros) leucopyga*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ankarana Suarez, Madagascar. December 2009. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2471.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Madagascar.

**Distribution:** Madagascar (south and south-west).

**Habitat:** Forest (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

***Acleros (Acleros) neavei* Evans, 1937**  
**Slow Dusky Dart**

*Acleros neavei* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 117 (212 pp.).

*Acleros (Acleros) neavei* Evans, 1937. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Acleros) neavei*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kasye Forest, Kigmoa, Tanzania. January 1989. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2472.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Acleros) neavei*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ntakatta Forest, western Tanzania. June 2000. MH, TCEC. ABRI-2019-2473.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Uganda: “Ngusi River, Unyoro, 3,000 ft”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo (east – Ituri), Uganda, Tanzania (eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika).

**Specific localities:**

Uganda – Ngusi River, Unyoro (TL); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Tanzania – Kigoma District (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habitat:** Forest. In Tanzania from 800 to 1 400 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Flight rather slow and low down, just above the vegetation (Kielland, 1990d). Frequently settles on leaves or on flowers (Kielland, 1990d).

### *Acleros (Acleros) nigrapex* Strand, 1913 Powdered Dusky Dart

*Acleros nigrapex* Strand, 1913. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 47 (30-84).

*Acleros (Acleros) nigrapex* Strand, 1913. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros nigrapex*. Male. Ebogo, Cameroon.  
Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.



*Acleros (Acleros) nigrapex*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Manonga, Bas-Uele, DRC. 20 July 2022. T. Desloges.  
Images T. Desloges ex Desloges Collection.



*Acleros(Acleros) nigrapex*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Minziro Forest, Tanzania. March 1991. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2468.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Alen”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

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

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

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Cameroon – Alen (TL); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau National Park (Vande weghe, 2010).

Angola – Kwanza Norte Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mawambi (Rebel, 1914); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Tanzania – Minziro Forest (uncommon to rare) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Habitat:** Forest.

**Habits:** Not a common species of skipper (Larsen, 2005a). Usually found flying, near the ground, along forest paths and in forest clearings. Often noted feeding from small flowers. It appears to favour more shady places than do *Acleros mackenii* and *Acleros ploetzi* (Congdon & Collins, 1998). The flight is also weaker than that of *Acleros mackenii* (Larsen, 2005a).

*pulverana* Strand, 1913 (as sp. of *Acleros*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 47 (30-84). Cameroon:

“Alen”.

*minusculus* Rebel, 1914 (as sp. of *Acleros*). *Annalen des (K.K.) Naturhistorischen Museums. Wien* **28**: 272 (219-294).  
[Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Urwalde bei Mawambi”.

***Acleros (Acleros) sparsum* Druce, 1909**  
**Large Dusky Dart**

*Acleros sparsum* Druce, 1909. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1909**: 410 (406-413).  
*Acleros (Acleros) sparsum* Druce, 1909. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Acleros) sparsum*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mount Kala, Yaounde, Cameroon. February 1994. SCC. ABRI-2019-2466.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Acleros) sparsum*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bangui, Central African Republic. April 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2467.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Bitje, Ja River, Cameroons, 2000 feet”.

**Distribution:** Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (east – Ituri Forest).

**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Bitje, Ja River (TL).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018).

**Subgenus *Isocleros* Grishin, 2023**

*In* Zhang *et al.*, 2023a. *The taxonomic report of the international Lepidoptera survey* **11** (3): 70.

Type-species: *Pamphila* (?) *mackenii* Trimen, 1868., by designation.

***Acleros (Isocleros) bibundica* Strand, 1913**  
**Dark Dusky Dart**

*Acleros bibundica* Strand, 1913. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 46 (30-84).  
*Acleros (Isocleros) bibundica* Strand, 1913. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Isocleros) bibundica*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Djoug, southern Cameroon. October 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019-2469.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Isocleros) bibundica*. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.  
Djoug, southern Cameroon. October 1993. S. Collins. ABRI Coll.  
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Kamerun, Bibundi”.

**Distribution:** Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Bibundi (TL).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Moera (Rebel, 1914); Ukaika (Rebel, 1914); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

*displacidus* Rebel, 1914 (as sp. of *Acleros*). *Annalen des (K.K.) Naturhistorischen Museums*. **28**: 272 (219-294).  
[Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Urwalde bei Moera und Ukaika”.

### *Acleros (Isocleros) instabilis* Mabille, 1889 Unstable Dusky Dart

*Acleros instabilis* Mabille, 1889. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) **9**: 168 (149-150, 155-156, 167-169, 183-184).

Synonym of *Acleros mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

*Acleros mackenii instabilis* Mabille, 1889. Larsen, 2005a: 511.

*Acleros (Isocleros) instabilis* Mabille, 1889. Grishin, 2023.

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Zanguebar”.

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania.

**Specific localities:**

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

Tanzania – Zanzibar (TL); Widespread (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

**Early Stages:**

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 28 [ovum, larva & pupa].

***Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii* (Trimen, 1868)**  
Shade Dusky Dart (#)

*Pamphila mackenii* Trimen, 1868. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1868**: 95 (69-96).

*Ancyloxypha mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

*Acleros mackenii* Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Acleros mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acleros mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 328.

*Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii*: Left: male. Right: female.  
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall



*Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii* Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kwamhalanga, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 6 March 2011. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii* Female (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 6 Sep 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “D’Urban”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Distribution:** Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland.

In South Africa its distribution covers 84 quarter degree squares (614 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Habitat:** Forest and coastal bush. Mostly found in very wet areas or in dense undergrowth on the banks of streams (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Habits:** Mostly frequents forest edges and clearings where it flies low down, settling on the leaves of plants in the undergrowth. It also often settles on long grass blades in forest glades (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). It flies relatively slowly and is not very active. Both sexes feed from flowers in the undergrowth. Males are also known to imbibe fluids from bird droppings (Larsen, 1991c). Males establish territories on the edge of forests or in clearings in forest.

**Flight period:** All year.

**Early stages:**

Clark, in Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 258; plate 27 [Durban, KwaZulu-Natal].

“Egg: Laid singly on underside of a leaf; 0.95 mm diameter by 0.65 mm high, with 19 to 24 longitudinal ribs braced by some 27 very fine staggered ribs, which break up into an extremely fine hexagonal pattern near the top of the egg. Colour brownish-red, then pale brown with a touch of purple or red, but darkening with age, above, as a result of the dark head of the larva showing through. Eggs hatch after 9 to 11 days. The shell is not eaten after emergence, but the larva bites away much of the upper surface of the egg before it emerges. Larva: 1<sup>st</sup> instar 2 growing to 4 mm in 8 days; 2<sup>nd</sup> instar 4 growing to 7 mm in 8 days; 3<sup>rd</sup> instar 7 growing to 11.5 mm in 8 days; 4<sup>th</sup> instar 11.5 growing to 18 mm in 13 days. Instars may be of shorter or longer duration than is recorded above. In the final instar the ventral portion of segments 10 and 11 are pure white. There is a variation in the intensity of colour, notably in the final instar. Larvae construct a cache by joining a leaf or leaves together, but young larvae partly bite away and turn down a portion of a leaf, attaching it to the under-side of the same leaf (as observed in the field, in the case of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> instar larvae). They crawl out at intervals to feed on the edge of a leaf. Moulting and pupation take place within a cache. Pupa: 13 mm. The pupa resembles a crumpled leaf, and is difficult to detect. It is secured to a silken pad, by its cremastral hooks, within the leaf-shelter. Emergence occurs after 21 or 22 days. The species is multi-brooded. Recorded from eggs and larvae from Durban.”



*Acleros (Isocleros) mackenii*. Left: final instar larva. Right: pupa.  
Images courtesy Allison Sharp.

**Larval food:**

*Acridocarpus longifolius* (G. Don) Hook. f. (Malpighiaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 325; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Acridocarpus smeathmanni* (DC.) Guill. & Perr. (Malpighiaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 162; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Bridelia micrantha* (Hoschst.) Baill. (Euphorbiaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 14; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Combretum molle* R. Br. ex G. Don (Combretaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 14; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Quisqualis* species (Combretaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 14; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Rhus coriaria* L. (Anacardiaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 325; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Terminalia* species (Combretaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 14; requires confirmation according to Cock & Congdon, 2013].

*Vigna* sp. (Fabaceae) [Larsen, 1991; Kenya].

*Vigna schimperi* Baker (Fabaceae). [Cock & Congdon, 2013; Ngong Forest, Kenya].



## *Acleros (Isocleros) olaus* (Plötz, 1884)

Mottled Dusky Dart

*Apaustus olaus* Plötz, 1884. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* 45: 156 (151-166).

Synonym of *Acleros mackenii* (Trimen, 1868). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

*Acleros mackenii olaus* (Plötz, 1884). Larsen, 2005a: 510.

*Acleros (Isocleros) olaus* (Plötz, 1884). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Isocleros) olaus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Lubowa, Uganda. 0 13N, 32 33E. 26 June 2015. T. Desloges.

Images T. Desloges ex Desloges Collection.

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

**Distribution:** Senegal, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa & Mendes, 1999), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic Congo, Angola, Sudan (south), Rwanda, Burundi.

**Specific localities:**

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

Ghana – Wli Falls (Larsen, 2005a); 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).

Equatorial Guinea – Santa Isabel, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

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

Angola – Bengo Province; Cabinda Province; Huambo Province; Kwanza Norte Province; Malanje Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

## *Acleros (Isocleros) ploetzi* Mabille, 1889

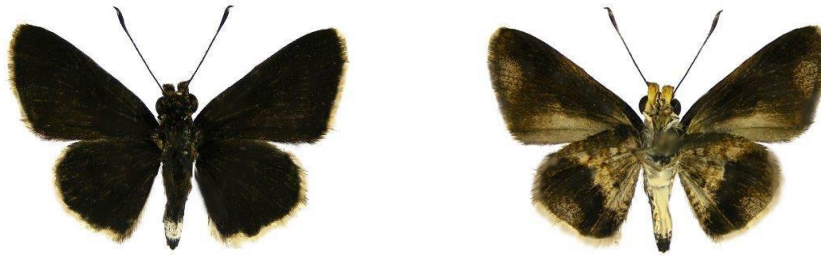
White-banded Dusky Dart

*Acleros ploetzi* Mabille, 1889. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) 9: 168 (149-150, 155-156, 167-169, 183-184).

*Acleros ploetzi* Mabille, 1889. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acleros ploetzi* Mabille, 1889. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 328.

*Acleros (Isocleros) ploetzi* Mabille, 1889. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Isocleros) ploetzi*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Near Nebobongo, Haut-Uele, DRC. 2 28N 27 38E. 23 July 2016. T. Desloges.  
Images T. Desloges ex Desloges Collection.



*Acleros (Isocleros) ploetzi*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lisombo, Mwinilunga district, Zambia. 14 April 2002.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** Ghana: “Aburi”.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from *Acleros mackenii* on the forewing underside, which is broadly white along the inner margin (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Aurivillius, 1910), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south), Uganda, Kenya (west and coast), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east).

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Dakar (Larsen, 2005a); Cap Vert (Larsen, 2005a).

Gambia – Farasutu, Walikunda, Sukuta (Jon Baker, pers. comm., May 2020).

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

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

Ghana – Aburi (TL); 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 – Victoria (Plötz, 1879).

Gabon – Mboumie (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka National Park (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

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

Tanzania – Widespread in forests (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mount Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

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

Angola – Bengo Province; Kwanza Norte Province; Malanje Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Mozambique – Dondo (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Xiluvo (Pennington and Cookson); Amatongas Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Musapa River Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Salone Forest (Pinhey).

Zimbabwe – Bomponi, below the Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994; male illustrated above).

**Habitat:** Forest, including secondary growth (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania at altitudes from 300 to 1600m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Similar to those of *Acleros mackenii* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). It is an unobtrusive little skipper that spends much of the time resting on green leaves but may be seen also at flowers (Larsen, 2005a), such as those of *Justicia flava* (Cock & Congdon, 2013).

**Flight period:** July-August and from February to May (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Sevastopulo, *vide* Cock & Congdon 2013: 31 [larva and pupa]

**Larval food:**

Fabaceae [Larsen, 1991c: 421].

*Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp. (Fabaceae) (cowpea) [Vuattoux, 1999; Ivory Coast].

*leucopygus* Plötz, 1879 (as sp. of *Apaustus*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* 40: 360 (353-364). Ghana: "Aburi"; Cameroon?: "bei Victoria". [Invalid; junior secondary homonym of *Acleros leucopyga* (Mabille), 1877 [Hesperiidae].]

### *Acleros (Isocleros) togo* Grishin, 2023 Togo Dusky Dart

*Acleros Isocleros) togo* spec. nov. Grishin, 2023.

**Type locality:** Togo: Misahöhe

**Diagnosis:** CO1 barcode difference 5.5% from *A. olaus*; 4.7% from *A. mackenii* and 5.3% from *A. instabilis*.

**Distribution:** Togo, Liberia.

**Specific localities**

Liberia – Firestone Plantation, Monrovia.

Togo – Misahöhe (TL).

### Subgenus *Paracleros* Mabille, [1885]

In Zhang *et al.*, 2023a. *The taxonomic report of the international Lepidoptera survey* 11 (3): 70.

Type-species: *Acleros biguttulus* Mabille, 1889, by designation.

### *Acleros (Paracleros) biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889) Small Dusky Dart

*Acleros biguttulus* Mabille, 1889. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) 9: 167 (149-150, 155-156, 167-169, 183-184).

*Acleros placidus* Evans, 1937. Syn. of *Paracleros biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889). Berger, 1978: 13.

*Acleros placidus* Miller, 1965. Syn. of *Paracleros biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889). Berger, 1978: 13.

*Paracleros biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889). Berger, 1978: 6. **comb. nov.**

*Acleros (Paracleros) biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Paracleros) biguttulus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 2 July 2015. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Acleros (Paracleros) biguttulus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bookoko, Central African Republic. May 1997. SCC. ABRI-2019-2460.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone: “Free-Town”.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from *Paracleros sangoanus* in the following respects: slightly larger; upperside darker; hindwing upperside with a broader white outer margin; hindwing underside markings better developed (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (south), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south) (Kielland, 1990d), Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (west), Malawi (Kielland, 1990d), Zambia.

**Specific localities:**

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

Sierra Leone – Freetown (TL).

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

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a); Rumpi Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Pointe Pongara (Vande weghe, 2010); Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Mboumie (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

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

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c); Tiriki (Larsen, 1991c); Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Tsavo (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Kasoge Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Kasye Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Gombe Stream (Kielland, 1990d); Kampisa in Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Mwanihana Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Masagati Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Kikuru Forest (abundant) (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Minziro Forest (common) (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002; male and female specimens illustrated above); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Habitat:** Forest, including somewhat degraded habitat (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania from 400 to 1 300 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** This is by far the commonest member of the genus (Larsen, 2005a). It is most often encountered on the edges of forest clearings and along forest roads (Larsen, 1991c). Individuals fly low down, in places where there is shade and grass (Larsen, 2005a). The flight is comparatively slow (Kielland, 1990d). They are often seen feeding from flowers (Larsen, 1991c).

*Acleros (Paracleros) maesseni* Berger, 1978  
Confounded Dusky Dart

*Paracleros maesseni* Berger, 1978. *Lambillionea* **78**: 14 (6-15).  
*Acleros (Paracleros) maesseni* Berger, 1978. Grishin, 2023.

**Type locality:** Ghana: “Likpe”.

**Distribution:** Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria (Cross River loop).

**Specific localities:**

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

Ghana – Likpe (TL); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a); Nkawkaw (Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a)

***Acleros (Paracleros) placidus* (Plötz, 1879)**  
**Western Dusky Dart**

*Apaustus placidus* Plötz, 1879. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **40**: 360 (353-364).

*Acleros (Paracleros) placidus* (Plötz, 1879). Berger, 1978: 11.

*Acleros (Paracleros) placidus* (Plötz, 1879). Grishin, 2023.



*Paracleros placidus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Lamto, Ivory Coast. June 1995. SCC. ABRI-2019-2463.

Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Paracleros) placidus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Yekepah, Nimba Mountains, Liberia. 11 January 2014. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** Ghana: “Aburi”.

**Distribution:** Ivory Coast, Ghana.

**Specific localities:**

Ivory Coast – Tiassale (Larsen, 2005a); Bossematie (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Aburi (TL); Owabi (Larsen, 2005a); Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habitat:** Grassy, shady areas in forest in good condition (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** Both sexes fly low down (Larsen, 2005a).

***Acleros (Paracleros) sangoanus* (Carcasson, 1964)**  
**Brown-dusted Dusky Dart**

*Acleros sangoanus* Carcasson, 1964. *Journal of the East Africa Natural History Society & Coryndon Museum* **24** (4): 71 (67- 72).  
Synonym of *Paracleros biguttulus* (Mabille, 1890). Berger, 1978: 7.  
*Acleros sangoanus* Carcasson, 1964. Congdon & Collins, 1998: 20.  
*Paracleros sangoanus* (Carcasson, 1964). Collins *et al.*, 2003: 104.  
*Acleros (Paracleros) sangoanus* (Carcasson, 1964). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Paracleros) sangoanus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bukoba, north-west Tanzania. February 1993. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2465.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Uganda: “Katera, Sango Bay, Masaka”.

**Diagnosis:** Can be distinguished from all other members of the genus on the hindwing underside: from costa to vein 6 ground colour pale gray with slight brownish dusting; rest of wing light vinaceous brown, overlaid with white scales. Other species with hindwing underside uniformly black, uniformly and heavily dusted with grey scales (Collins *et al.*, 2003).

**Distribution:** Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

Uganda – Sango Bay, Katera (TL).

Tanzania – Minziro Forest (uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Habitat:** Forest.

**Habits:** As for *Acleros nigrapex* (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

***Acleros (Paracleros) staudei* Collins & Larsen, 2000**  
**Kakamega Dusky Dart**

*Paracleros staudei* Collins & Larsen, 2000. *Metamorphosis* **11** (2): 69 (57-75).  
*Acleros (Paracleros) staudei* Collins & Larsen, 2000. Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Paracleros) staudei*. Male (Holotype). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kakamega Forest, Kenya. August 1998. SCC. ABRI-2019-2464.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Kenya: “Kenya, Kakamega [Forest] (African Butterfly Research Institute coll. et leg. [by unnamed collector]”. Described from two males.

**Distribution:** Kenya (west). Known only from the type locality.

**Specific localities:**

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (TL).

**Habitat:** Forest.

***Acleros (Paracleros) substrigata* (Holland, 1893)**  
**Threadbare Dusky Dart**

*Acleros substrigata* Holland, 1893. *Entomological News* 5: 28 (26-31).

Synonym of *Paracleros biguttulus* (Mabille, 1889). Berger, 1978: 8

Synonym of *Paracleros placidus* (Plötz, 1879). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

*Paracleros substrigata* (Holland, 1893). Collins & Larsen, 2000: 70.

*Acleros (Paracleros) substrigata* (Holland, 1893). Grishin, 2023.



*Acleros (Paracleros) substrigata*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bookoko, Central African Republic. September 1997. SCC. ABRI-2019-2461.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Acleros (Paracleros) substrigata*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bookoko, Central African Republic. May 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2462.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Ghana: Volta Region.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania (west).

**Specific localities:**

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

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

Ivory Coast – Bossematie (Larsen, 2005a); Banco (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Nigeria – Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kapanga (Berger, 1978).

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

**Habits:** An uncommon skipper (Larsen, 2005a).

*overlaeti* Berger, 1978 (as sp. of *Paracleros*). *Lambillionea* **78**: 12 (6-15). Democratic Republic of Congo: “Katanga, Kapanga”. Given as a good species in Ackery *et al.*, 1995, but synonymised with *Paracleros substrigata* (Holland) by Collins & Larsen, 2000 (*Metamorphosis* **11** (2): 70 (57-75)).