

Genus *Ampittia* Moore, [1881] Rangers

In Moore, [1880-2]. *The lepidoptera of Ceylon* 1: 171 (190 pp.). London.

Type-species: *Hesperia maro* Fabricius, by original designation [extralimital].
Currently considered to be a junior synonym of *Ampittia dioscorides* (Fabricius) according to Larsen & Congdon, 2012: 49.

The genus *Ampittia* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Aeromachini Tutt, 1906. The other Afrotropical genera in the Tribe Aeromachini are *Lepella* and *Prosopalpus*.

Ampittia (**Rangers**) is an Old World genus of 11 species, three of which are Afrotropical and eight of which are extralimital (Oriental). The pupae of *Ampittia* species have a pair of lateral cephalic horns (Larsen & Congdon, 2012). Cephalic horns, of different morphology, also occur in *Celaenorrhinus* and in *Tsitana uitenhaga* (Larsen & Congdon, 2012).

**Ampittia capenas* (Hewitson, [1868]) Riverine Ranger



Riverine Ranger (*Ampittia capenas*). Vunduzi River, Gorongosa National Park.
Image courtesy Bart Wursten.

Cycloides capenas Hewitson, [1868] *in* Hewitson, [1867-8]. *Descriptions of one hundred new species of Hesperidae* [sic]: 43 (56 pp.). London.

Ampittia capenas (Hewitson, 1868). Evans, 1937.

Ampittia capenas (Hewitson, 1867-68). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Ampittia capenas (Hewitson, 1867-68). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 324.



Ampittia capenas capenas. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rusitu, Haroni, Zimbabwe. 20 March 1998.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Ampittia capenas capenas. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Namuli, Mozambique. 20 April 2008.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: “Zambesi”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

Habitat: Banks of streams and rivers (Pringle *et al.*, 1994) in savanna country (Larsen, 1991c). In Tanzania subspecies *blanda* is especially common in *Brachystegia* woodland (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at altitudes from near sea-level to 1 700 m (n nominate subspecies) and 800 to 1 600 m (subspecies *blanda*) (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Not very common, and usually met with singly (Larsen, 1991c). Flies quite slowly, in the vicinity of patches of tall coarse grass, resting often, on the grass stems (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). It has a tendency to dash across open spaces, from one clump of bushes to another (Larsen, 1991c).

Flight period: August to October and February to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2012: 3 [larva & pupa]

Larval food:

An unidentified species of grass (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; Rondo Plateau, Tanzania].

Ampittia capenas capenas (Hewitson, [1868])
Riverine Ranger

Cycloptides capenas Hewitson, [1868] *in* Hewitson, [1867-8]. *Descriptions of one hundred new species of Hesperidae* [sic]: 43 (56 pp.). London.

Ampittia capenas (Hewitson, 1868). Evans, 1937.

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Ampittia capenas capenas. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rusitu, Haroni, Zimbabwe. 20 March 1998.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Ampittia capenas capenas. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Namuli, Mozambique. 20 April 2008.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: “Zambesi”.

Distribution: Kenya (east), Tanzania (east), Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe.

Specific localities:

Kenya – Coast (Larsen, 1991c); Kibwezi (Larsen, 1991c); Ukambani (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – East (Kielland, 1990d); south (Kielland, 1990d); Songea (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Ukaguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Rubeho Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mount Kwaraha at Babati (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Mozambique – Buzi River, below the Chrinda Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Amatongas; Mount Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Zimbabwe – Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mount Selinda (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

derbice Hewitson, 1877 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **20**: 327 (319-328). “Nyasa”.

Ampittia capenas blanda Evans, 1947 Central Riverine Ranger

Ampittia capenas blanda Evans, 1947. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **13**: 644 (641-648).

Type locality: [Zambia]: “Dunrobin Mine, N. Rhodesia”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Tanzania (west), Zambia (east).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

Zambia – Dunrobin Mine (TL); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Miengwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chisamba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luangwa Valley (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

**Ampittia parva* Aurivillius, [1925] Small Ranger

Ampittia parva Aurivillius, [1925] *in* Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter: 548 (614 pp.).

Ampittia parva Aurivillius, 1925. Evans, 1937.



Ampittia parva. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Pare Mountains, Tanzania. March 2005. CC et. al. ABRI-2019-2332.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Ampittia parva. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mangochi Mountain, Malawi. December 2014. D. Clough. ABRI-2019-2333.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Usambara: Mombo”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/p).

Diagnosis: A tiny skipper; upperside blackish brown with three large yellow patches on forewing, the patch in the cell elongated; hindwing with a large, rounded central yellow area (Kielland, 1990d).

Distribution: Kenya (south-east), Tanzania (north-east, including Zanzibar).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Mombo in the Usambara Mountains (TL); Zanzibar (Kielland, 1990d); Madaba in the Songea Region (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Masagati Forest s.w. of Ifakara (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Kimboza Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Nguu Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Kiono Forest near Sadani (Kielland, 1990d); Rau Forest at Moshi (N. Cordeiro, *vide* Kielland, 1990d).

Habitat: Marshy places in forests and along rivers at elevations of up to 1 200 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Generally a rare species (Larsen & Congdon, 2012). It often congregates in particular spots, flying around weakly, and frequently settles on the leaves of grasses (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Ampittia kilombero* Larsen & Congdon, 2012**
Ochre Ranger

Ampittia kilombero Larsen & Congdon, 2012. *Zootaxa* 3322: 51 (49-62).



Ampittia kilombero. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kilombero, Tanzania. June 2014. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2330.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Ampittia kilombero. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kilombero, Tanzania. May 2003. TCEC. ABRI-2019-2331.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Tanzania: “Mngeta River, Kilombero Valley, Udzungwa, 350 m (S 8° 19' 5.35"; E 36° 7' 49.24"”. Holotype male captured in November 2007 by Colin Congdon and housed in the African Butterfly Research Institute in Nairobi.

Diagnosis: Similar to *Ampittia parva* which differs most noticeably in that the hindwing underside is entirely ochreous not brown as in *kilombero* (Larsen & Congdon, 2012).

Distribution: Tanzania (south-eastern end of the Udzungwa Mountains).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Mngeta River, Kilombero Valley (TL); Chita, Kilombero Valley (8° 30' 24.46"S; 35° 55' 51.23"E") (Larsen & Congdon, 2012).

Habitat: Appears to be strongly tied to swampy ground (Larsen & Congdon, 2012) and may prove to be a wetland rather than forest insect, as are its congeners.

Habits: The flight is faster than that of *Ampittia parva* (Larsen & Congdon, 2012).

Flight period: Recorded in June and November (Larsen & Congdon, 2012).

Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2012: 4 [larva & pupa]

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

Larval food:

An unidentified fine-leaved grass (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; Kilombero Valley, Tanzania].
Leersia hexandra Sw. (Poaceae) [Congdon *et al.*, 2017; Mngeta, Tanzania].