

Genus *Lepella* Evans, 1937 Central Sylph

A catalogue of the African HesperIIDae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 4, 76 (212 pp.).

Type-species: *Hesperia lepeletier* Latreille, by original designation.

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

Lepella (Central Sylph) is a monobasic Afrotropical genus. It is placed in the tribe Aeromachini (Zhang, *et al.*, 2022: 35).

**Lepella lepeletier* (Latreille, [1824]) Central Sylph

Hesperia lepeletier Latreille, [1824] *in* Latreille & Godart, [1819], [1824]. *Encyclopédie Méthodique. Histoire Naturelle [Zoologie]* 9 Entomologie: 777 (1-328 [1819], 329-828 [1824]). Paris.

Lepella lepeletier (Latreille, 1824). Evans, 1937.

Lepella lepeletieri (Latreille, 1824). Kielland, 1990d. [Misspelling of species name].



Lepella lepeletier. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Chekonka, Ikelenge, Zambia. 12 June 2007.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Lepella lepeletier. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Zambezi Bridge, Ikelenge, Zambia. 16 June 2007.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: [“Cap de Bonne-Espérance”]. [False locality.]

Distribution: Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south), Uganda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (north-west), Zambia (north-west).

Erroneously recorded from South Africa by Trimen, 1866a (as *Cyclopides lepeletierii* Godart) and Trimen & Bowker, 1889 (as *Cyclopides lepeletierii* (Latreille, 1823)) (MCW).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Obudu Plateau (Larsen, 2005a); Mambilla Plateau (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Rumpi Hills (T. Helps, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

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

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

Uganda – Mpanga Forest (Safian & Pyrcz, 2020).

Kenya – Suna (Larsen, 1991c); Sotik (Larsen, 1991c); Trans-Nzoia (Larsen, 1991c); Mumias (Larsen, 1991c); Kakamega (Larsen, 1991c); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Ngara District (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga district (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lisombo.

Habitat: Submontane grassland in Nigeria (Larsen, 2005a). Forest and forest margins in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Colonies are localized but may contain large numbers of individuals (Larsen, 1991c). The flight is bounding (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Poaceae [Van Someren, 1974: 325; Sevastopulo, 1975].

africanus Mabilie; Plötz, 1884 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **45**: 395 (389-397). “Afrika”. [Invalid; manuscript name introduced in synonymy.]

romi Robbe, 1892 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **36**: 132 (132-134). “Congo”.