



The genus *Ampittia* in Africa with the description of a new species (Hesperiinae; Aeromachini) and three new species in the genera *Andronymus* and *Chondrolepis* (Hesperiinae, incertae sedis) (Lepidoptera; Hesperiidae)

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Abstract

The genus *Ampittia* Moore, 1882 is accepted as a valid genus occurring in both Africa and Asia on the basis of a number of unusual shared characters, a somewhat surprising result since we had expected to describe a new genus. The species *A. kilombero* **sp. nov.** from Tanzania is described as the third African member of the genus. *Andronymus fontainei* **sp. nov.** is described from the DRC as a probable endemic of the Albertine Rift. *Chondrolepis ducarme* **sp. nov.** is a submontane species that is certainly endemic to the Albertine Rift. *Chondrolepis uluguru* **sp. nov.** is a submontane species from the Uluguru Mountains in Tanzania; it is yet another endemic of the Eastern Arc Mountains that are one of the most urgent conservation concerns in Tanzania.

Key words: Albertine Rift, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eastern Arc, Tanzania

Introduction

Congdon and the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi have long been collaborating on the study of Afrotropical butterflies, not least their early stages. Much new information has been gathered, some of which has been published; even more remains to be published. Larsen is working on a monograph of the African Hesperiidae. We decided to collaborate in describing four new species of these interesting—but relatively neglected—butterflies. This makes new information available earlier and ensures that the eventual monograph will not be overburdened with descriptions of new taxa but concentrates on a balanced treatment of the almost 600 Hesperiidae so far known from Africa, whether well-known or recent. This approach might also result in useful feedback before the monograph is finalized. Four such papers have already been published (Larsen 2010; Larsen & Cock 2011; Larsen & Congdon 2011; Larsen & Collins 2011).

Congdon's extensive experience with breeding African Hesperiidae is now also reflected in his collaboration with Matthew Cock in a series of papers on their early stages, three of which are now published (Cock 2010; Cock & Congdon 2011a, 2011b).

The genus *Ampittia* and Africa

The type species of the genus *Ampittia* Moore is from the Oriental Region: *Hesperia maro* Fabricius by original designation [currently considered a junior synonym of *Ampittia dioscorides* Fabricius]. Aurivillius (1925) described a new Tanzanian species as *Ampittia parva*, noting the strong upperside similarity with *A. maro*. However, he also included several Malagasy species in *Ampittia*—where they do not belong—which were removed by Evans (1937) to his new, very different, endemic Malagasy genera *Hovala* (Heteropterinae) and *Fulda* (Hesperiinae). Evans maintained *A. parva* as one of only two Afrotropical species in *Ampittia*, adding *A. capenas* (Hewitson), till then usually placed in the genus *Kedestes* Watson.