METAMORPHOSIS

LEPIDOPTERISTS' SOCIETY OF AFRICA

Volume 31(1): 82–83

ISSN 1018–6490 (PRINT)
ISSN 2307–5031 (ONLINE)

NOTE

Taxonomic notes on members of the subtribe Polyommatina (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Polyommatinae) occurring in the Afrotropical region

Published online: 14 September 2020
DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/met.v31i1.17

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INTRODUCTION

Eliot (1973), in his classification of the family Lycaenidae, divided the subfamily Polyommatinae Swainson, 1827 into four tribes: Polyommatini Swainson, 1827; Lycaenesthini Toxopeus, 1929; Candalidini Eliot, 1973; Niphandini Eliot, 1973. He split the tribe Polyommatini into 30 'sections'. Talavera *et al*. (2013) published a paper on the systematics of the members of Eliot's '*Polyommatus* section', which attempted to establish criteria for the classification of this clade of butterflies. They proposed that this section (*sensu* Eliot 1973) be referred to as subtribe Polyommatina. Three of the genera in their proposed systematic arrangement for the subtribe Polyommatina contain species which occur in the Afrotropical region. Talavera *et al.* (2013) did not formalize the taxonomic changes proposed and also appear to not have addressed taxonomic changes made in papers published by Balint (1999), Lees *et al*. (2003) and Larsen (2005). In order to stabilize the taxonomy of the Afrotropical species, each of them is dealt with below.

SPECIES TAXONOMY

Genus ***Freyeria*** Courvoisier, 1920 (Type-species: *Lycaena trochylus* Freyer, [1844])

Freyeria trochylus (Freyer, [1844]). *Lycaena trochylus* was described from Turkey (Type locality: "europäischen Türkey"). It was designated, by monotypy, as the type species of *Freyeria* by Couvoisier when he erected the genus in 1920. Lees *et al.* (2003) formally transferred *trochylus* to *Chilades* and Talavera *et al*. (2013) informally transferred it back to *Freyeria*. Here it is formally recombined as *Freyeria trochylus* (Freyer, [1844]) **comb. rev.**

Freyeria minuscula (Aurivillius, 1909). *Cupido minuscula* was described from Madagascar (Type locality: "Andranohinaly [Andranohinalahy], Westküste (SW. Madagaskar)"). It was listed as *Freyeria minuscula* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Lees *et al*. (2003) formally transferred it to *Chilades* and Talavera *et al*. (2013), who misspelt the species name as *minuscule*, informally transferred it back to *Freyeria*. Here it is formally recombined as *Freyeria minuscula* (Aurivillius, 1909) **comb. rev.**

Genus ***Chilades*** Moore, [1881] (Type-species: *Papilio lajus* Stoll, [1780]; not Afrotropical)

Chilades parrhasius (Fabricius, 1793). *Hesperia parrhasius* Fabricius, 1793 was described from India (Type locality: "Habitat in India"). It was listed as *Freyeria parrhasius* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995) formally transferred it to *Chilades*.

Chilades naidina (Butler, 1886). *Catochrysops naidina* Butler, 1886 was described from Somalia (Type locality "Somalia"). It was listed as *Lepidochrysops naidina* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Balint (1999) formally recombined it as *Chilades naidina*. D'Abrera (2009) was apparently unaware of Balint (1999) and followed Ackery *et al*. (1995) in designating it as a species of *Lepidochrysops*. Talavera *et al*. (2013) were, in turn, apparently unaware of D'Abrera (2009), but correctly placed the species as *Chilades naidina*.

Chilades eleusis (Demaison, 1888). *Euchrysops eleusis* was described by Demaison from Egypt in 1888 (Type locality: "beaucoup de localités de la Nubie, dans l'île de Philé, à Ibsamboul, Ouadi-Halfa, etc."). Balint (1999) synonymised *eleusis* Demaison, 1888 as well as *Euchrysops nigeriae* Sharpe, 1902 with *Chilades naidina*

Butler, 1886. Larsen (2005) informally treats *eleusis* as a valid species. Larsen's treatment is now formalised as *Chilades eleusis* (Demaison, 1888), **stat. rev.**

Chilades serrula (Mabille, 1890). *Lycaena serrula* was described from Senegal (type locality: "Senegal"). It was listed as *Freyeria serrula* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995) formally placed it in *Chilades*. Balint (1999) considered *Chilades serrula* (Mabille, 1890) to be a possible synonym of *naidina* Butler, 1886 but made no formal taxonomic changes. Larsen (2005) does not mention this taxon in his book on West African butterflies. D'Abrera (2009) avers that *Chilades serrula* (Mabille, 1890) is a junior synonym of *Chilades eleusis* (Demaison, 1888) but makes no formal taxonomic changes. The treatment by Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995) thus stands.

Received: 25 July 2020
Published: 14 September 2020

Chilades sanctithome (Sharpe, 1893). *Catochrysops sancti-thomae* Sharpe, 1893 was described from Sao Tome & Principe (Type locality: "St. Nicolau" [Sao Tome]). It was listed as *Freyeria sanctithomae* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995) formally placed it in *Chilades*.

Chilades kedonga (Grose-Smith, 1898). *Everes kedonga* Grose-Smith, 1898 was described from Uganda (Type locality: "Second Kedong"). It was listed as *Chilades kedonga* in Ackery *et al*. (1995). Balint (1999) synonymised *kedonga* (Grose-Smith, 1898) with *Chilades naidina* (Butler, 1886). Both d'Abrera (2009) and Talavera *et al*. (2013) treat it as a valid species, apparently being unaware of the actions of Balint (1999). In synonymising *kedonga* with *naidina* Balint (1999) states (p. 46): "…. The primary types of the mentioned taxa [*kedonga* and *naidina*] cannot be distinguished with the help of any diagnostic character, thus I consider *kedonga* as junior synonym of *naidina*. Consequently *Cathocrysops* [*sic*] *naidina* Butler, [1886] = *Everes kedonga* Grose-Smith, 1898, **syn. nov.**"

This action is unwarranted. Even a cursory glance at the upper sides and undersides of the males of the two taxa make it evident that they are both valid species (Figs 1 & 2). *Chilades kedonga* (Grose-Smith, 1898) is therefore removed from synonymy with *Chilades naidina* Butler, 1886, **stat. rev.**

Figure 1 – *Chilades kedonga* ♂ recto (left), verso (right). Loldaiga, Kenya. 00°14′28″N, 37°06′35″E; 25.vi.2016; leg. A.J. Coetzer.

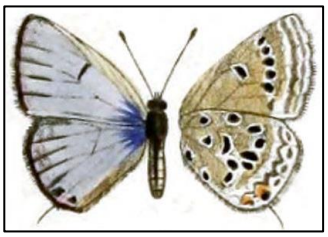

Figure 2 – *Chilades naidina* ♂ recto/ verso. Painting of the type of *naidina* from the original publication (Butler, 1886).

Chilades elicola (Strand, 1911). *Cupido elicola* was described from Ethiopia (type locality "Eli"). It was listed as *Freyeria elicola* in Ackery *et al*. (1995) but is given as *Chilades elicola* by Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995), d'Abrera (2009) and Talavera *et al*. (2013).

Chilades evorae Libert, Baliteau & Baliteau, 2011. This recently described taxon appears to a Cape Verde Islands endemic (Type locality "République du Cap-Vert, île de Santo Antão, Porto Novo, à 5 km au nord de Porto Novo, env. de Mesa").

Genus ***Luthrodes*** Druce, 1895 (Type-species:

Polyommatus cleotas Guérin-Méneville, 1831; not Afrotropical).

Luthrodes galba (Lederer, 1855). *Lycaena galba* Lederer, 1855 was described from Lebanon (Type locality: "Bierut" [Beirut]). It was listed as *Freyeria galba* in Ackery *et al*. (1995) but is given as *Chilades galba* by Hesselbarth *et al*. (1995) and d'Abrera (2009). Talavera *et al*. (2013) informally placed it in *Luthrodes*. Here it is formally recombined as *Luthrodes galba* (Lederer, 1855) **comb. rev.**

Luthrodes pandava (Horsfield, 1829). *Lycaena pandava* Horsfield, 1829 was described from Sri Lanka. It was given as *Chilades pandava* by d'Abrera (2009). Talavera *et al*. (2013) informally placed it in *Luthrodes*. Here it is formally recombined as *Luthrodes pandava* (Horsfield, 1829) **comb. rev.**

Note: *Euchrysops alberta* (Butler, 1901). *Chilades alberta* Butler, 1901 was formally (**comb. nov.**) recombined as *Euchrysops alberta* (Butler, 1901) by Larsen (2005). Talavera *et al*. (2013) mistakenly placed it in *Luthrodes*. Since this was informal, no taxonomic action is necessary.

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