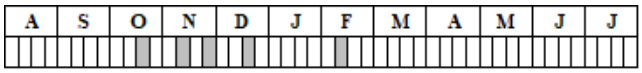
DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4314/met.v31i4.3

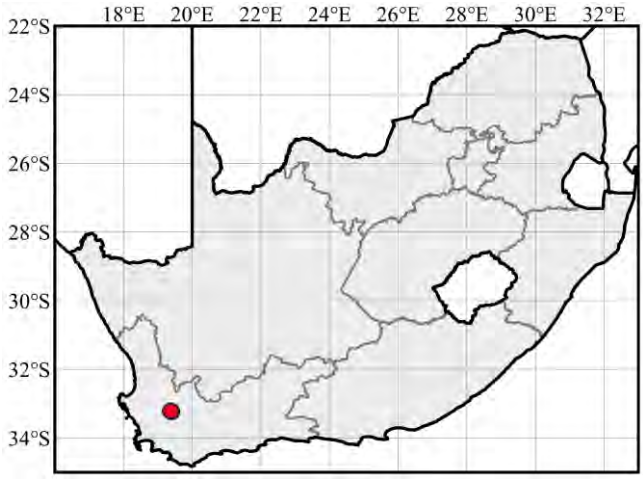
Genus *Chrysoritis* Butler, 1898.

Chrysoritis adonis adonis (Pennington, 1962)
Adonis Opal; Adonis Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

CR B1ab(i,ii,iv,v)+2ab(i,ii,iv,v)
Endemic





Type locality: Gydo Mountain (Ceres Dist., C.P.).

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, from the northern slopes of the Gydo Mountain near Ceres. It is suspected that this taxon may occur in the mountain ranges north of Gydo but there are no records to substantiate this to date. The taxon author has searched these possible localities but the species was not seen.

Habitat: Rocky slopes in montane fynbos at altitudes of 1 400–1 500 m above sea level, particularly flat depressions below rocky ridges or along them not peaks.

Vegetation types: FFs5 Winterhoek Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: A range-restricted endemic from the Gydo Mountain in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 8 km^2, AOO 8 km^2). There is one location. The taxon has not been seen during the normal flight period since 2004 despite regular surveys. The vegetation has shown no signs of degradation, but fruit tree farming has expanded on the lower slopes of the mountain range to the north and may have had an influence on the population through drift of insecticides used for crop spraying. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Critically Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The previous assessment was based on misidentifications and incorrect coordinates which resulted in more than one locality. Verification of the data have shown there is only one locality. Regular surveys still have resulted in no observations of this taxon. The threats remain unknown, there are no visible or obvious reasons as to why the taxon has not been seen for a number of years. It may occur on surrounding peaks but these are difficult to get to. The situation with this taxon would have been the same for the previous assessment and thus the change in status from Least Concern to Critically Endangered is non-genuine, as it should have also been Critically Endangered in the first assessment.

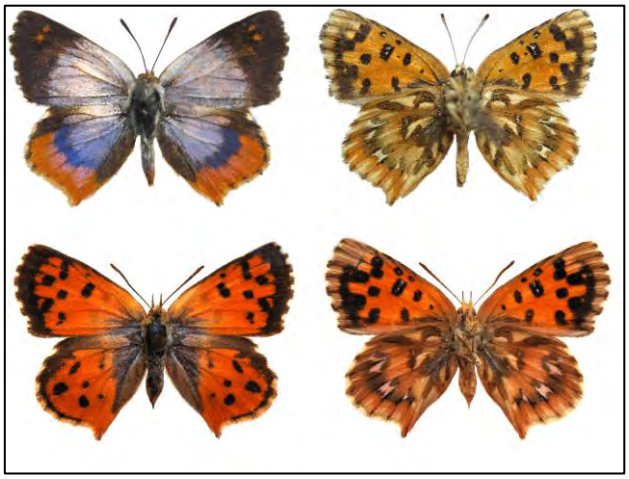
Threats: It is extremely difficult to assess the threats faced by this species. These may arise from farming activities near the locality, for example the use of herbicides and pesticides. The taxon has not been seen for a few years, but it is unclear why. It is not likely to be a result of drought because this taxon has also not been seen during the wettest seasons, and the drought has only been a recent event.

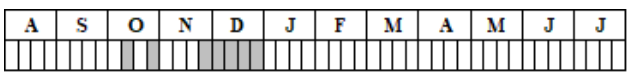
Conservation measures and research required: The taxon occurs in a protected area, but its population has shown a decline as no adults have been seen since 2004. Action is needed to determine the reason for the decline. More field work needs to be done to try and find new localities. Research needs to be done to determine its life history and ecology.

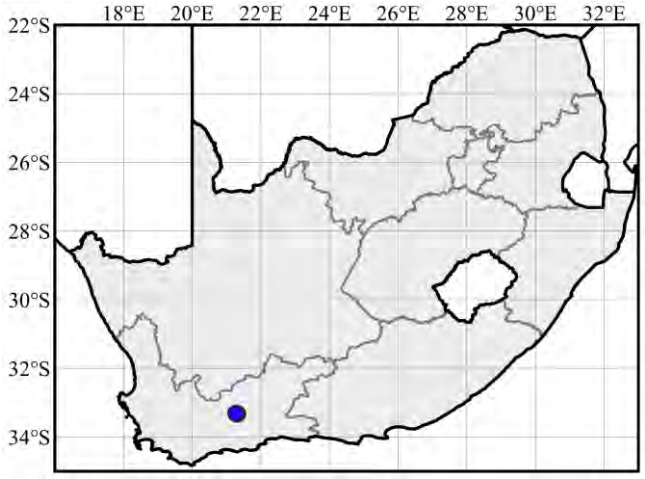
Chrysoritis adonis aridimontis Heath & Pringle, 2007
Eastern Adonis Opal; Dapper Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Extremely Rare
Endemic







Type locality: Elandsberg.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, from the Elandsberg mountains north of the Swartberg, near Ladismith.

Habitat: Summits of rocky ridges at an altitude of 1 540–1 630 m.

Vegetation types: FFq3 Matjiesfontein Quartzite Fynbos, FRs6 Matjiesfontein Shale Renosterveld.

Assessment rationale: This is a highly restricted endemic to the Western Cape province of South Africa (EOO 5 km^2). Overall the population is stable and no threats are foreseen. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Extremely Rare.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: The only possible (distant) future threat could be from climate change, which would affect all the subpopulations since, because they occur on the summit ridges of a mountain range, they would not be able to respond to increased temperatures by moving higher up the mountain.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation measures necessary - occurs in relatively inaccessible natural habitat with no threats.

Chrysoritis aureus (van Son, 1966)
Golden Opal; Hoëveld Goue Opaal

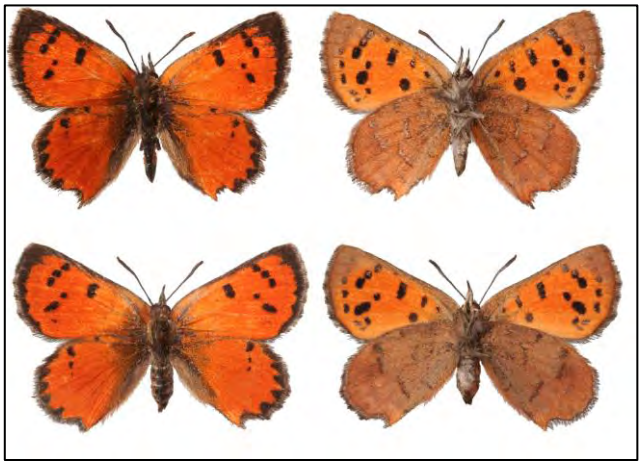
Graham A. Henning

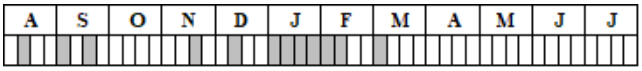
EN C2a(i)
Endemic

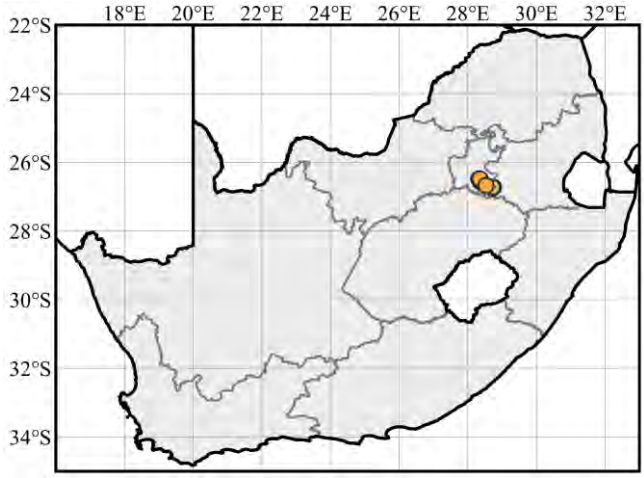
Type locality: Heidelburg (TVL.).

Taxonomy: The taxonomic relationship between *Chrysoritis aureus* and a *Chrysoritis* entity that occurs near Morgenzon in Mpumalanga has been resolved as this entity is being described as a subspecies of *C. aethon*.

Distribution: Endemic to Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa, near Balfour and Greylingstad in the south and Alice Glockner Nature Reserve and Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve near Heidelberg in the north.







Habitat: Rocky ridges below the peaks of mountains, in grassland patches at altitudes of 1 600–1 800 m with a diversity of forbs and stands of the host plant, *Clutia pulchella*, and the associated ant, *Crematogaster liengmei*, at sites covered with large rocks (0.5 – 2.0 m high) and only on cooler south-facing, steep, upper mid-slopes. Woody elements are less than 2 m high, without a tree stratum. Fire appears to be an essential factor for the maintenance of suitable habitat.

Vegetation types: Gm9 Tsakane Clay Grassland, SVcb11 Andesite Mountain Bushveld, SVcb9 Gold Reef Mountain Bushveld.

Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted species endemic to Gauteng and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa (EOO 297 km^2). The number of locations is six, with fragmentation on the mountain tops. The population is prone to threats from urban sprawl, such as pollution, acid rain and habitat destruction by residential developments and invasion of alien plants. The AOO, habitat, number of individuals and subpopulation at the type locality are declining. There are less than 1 000 mature individuals in the entire population, with less than 250 in each of the six subpopulations. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Endangered under criterion C.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: Lack of burning and encroachment of alien invasive vegetation have been observed to be the main

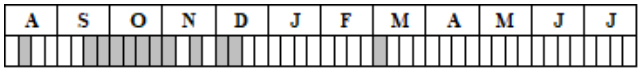
causes of the decline of the subpopulation at the type locality. Air pollution from nearby industries and resulting acid rain, lack of burning, and invasive alien plants are all causing ongoing decline in habitat quality at remaining subpopulations. The taxon is protected in two nature reserves.

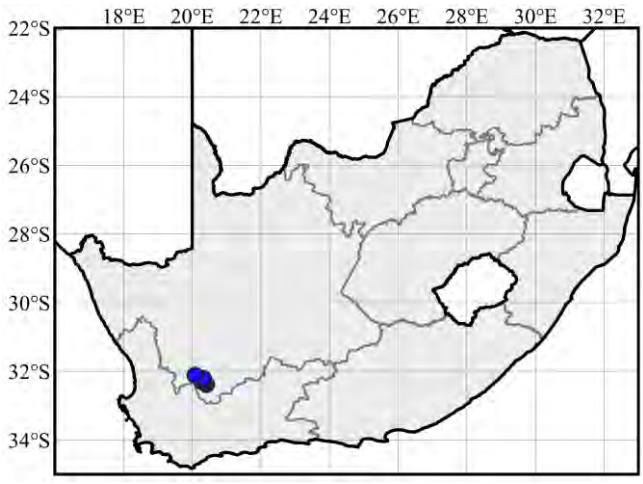
Conservation measures and research required: Research has been carried out on the habitat requirements of the taxon, including vegetation and host ant community studies. Monitoring of its various subpopulations to assess population size and trends should continue. A preliminary habitat management plan including landscape level issues such as fire and grazing regimes needs to be implemented.

Chrysoritis beaufortia charlesi (Dickson, 1970)
Black-tipped Beaufort Opal; Roggeveld Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

LC
Rare – Restricted Range
Endemic





Type locality: Western Cape province: Quagga Fontein, approximately 25 miles N.W. of Sutherland.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Northern Cape province, South Africa, from the Sneeukrans area of the Roggeveld Escarpment near Sutherland.

Habitat: Upper slopes of mountains at high altitude.

Vegetation types: FRs3 Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld, SKt3 Roggeveld Karoo, SKv4 Tanqua Escarpment Shrubland.

Assessment rationale: A restricted endemic from the Northern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 218 km^2). Even though this species is restricted in its range to certain high altitude zones, it is reasonably widespread and common within those areas, and there is no immediate or potential visible threat to these subpopulations. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern, and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

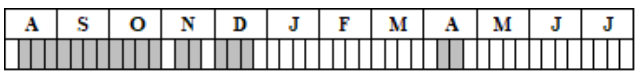
Threats: No documented threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis beaufortia stepheni (Dickson, 1978)
Kamieskroon Beaufort Opal; Hantamsberg Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

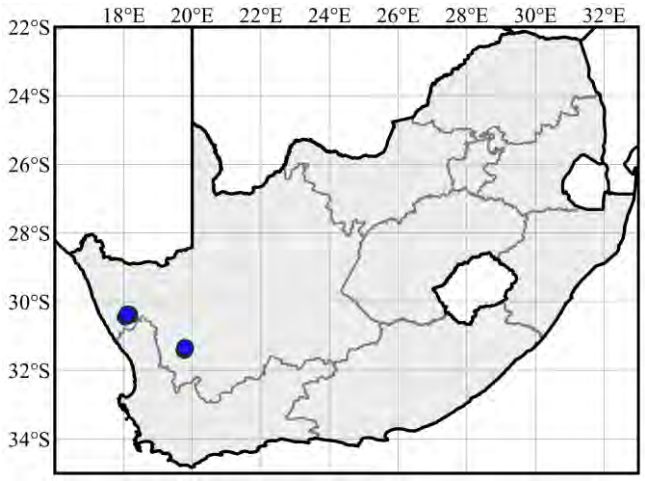
LC
Rare – Habitat specialist
Endemic



Type locality: Western Cape province: Hantam's Berg, Calvinia.

Taxonomy: There is debate concerning whether the populations from the Kamiesberg should be classified as an additional distinct subspecies.

Distribution: This is an endemic taxon from the Northern Cape province in South Africa, three subpopulations occur on the peaks of the Hantamsberg near Calvinia, and a further three on the Kamiesberg near Kamieskroon to the north-east.



Habitat: Upper slopes of mountains at high altitude.

Vegetation types: FFg1 Kamiesberg Granite Fynbos, FRd2 Hantam Plateau Dolerite Renosterveld, FRg1 Namaqualand Granite Renosterveld, SKn1 Namaqualand Klipkoppe Shrubland, SKn3 Namaqualand Blomveld, SKn6 Kamiesberg Mountains Shrubland.

Assessment rationale: This is an endemic taxon from the Northern Cape province in South Africa (EOO 2 212 km^2). It is confined to high altitude fynbos on the peaks of mountains, where its host plant occurs. There is no threat to the species because its localities are isolated and remote, with very little human interference. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: No documented threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis blencathrae (Heath & Ball, 1992)
Waaihoek Opal; Waaihoek Opaal

Fanie Rautenbach

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic

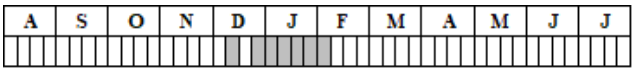
Type locality: Waaihoek Mountain near Worcester, Cape province.

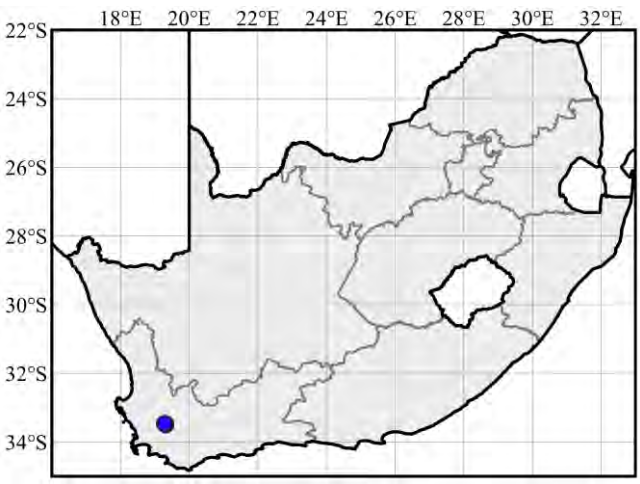
Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, only on the highest peaks of Waaihoek Mountain near Worcester.

Habitat: Mesic mountain fynbos, rarely more than 0.6 m high, close to peaks at altitudes of about 1 600 m.

Vegetation types: FFs30 Western Altimontane Sandstone Fynbos, FFs7 North Hex Sandstone Fynbos, FFs8 South Hex Sandstone Fynbos.





Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted endemic species found in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 6 km^2). The taxon only occurs on peaks above 1 600 m. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: This taxon occurs on high altitude peaks which are difficult to get to. There are no current threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

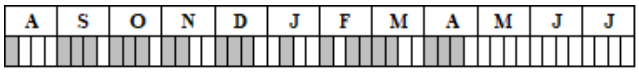
Chrysoritis brooksi tearei (Dickson, 1966)
Southern Angular Opal; Riversdal Opaal

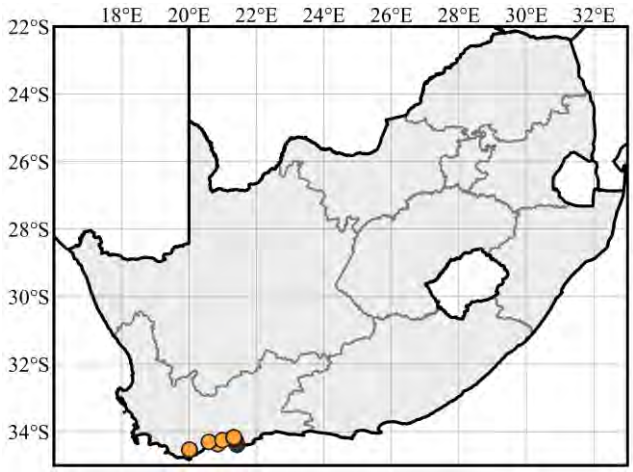
David A. Edge

EN B1ab(i,ii,iii)+2ab(i,ii,iii)
Endemic

Type locality: E. of Riversdale, Western Cape province.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.





Distribution: Endemic to the southern coastal region in the Western Cape province of South Africa, from Bredasdorp in the west to Stilbaai in the east.

Habitat: Found on sandy low hills sparsely covered by shrubs.

Vegetation types: AT37 Gouritz Valley Thicket, AT40 Hartenbos Dune Thicket, FFd9 Albertinia Sand Fynbos, FFl3 Canca Limestone Fynbos, FFs12 Overberg Sandstone Fynbos, FRs13 Eastern Ruens Shale Renosterveld.

Assessment rationale: A restricted endemic taxon to the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 2 177 km^2, AOO 48 km^2). There are six widely separated locations (17–72 km apart) with no possibility of gene flow between them, or recolonisation following local extinction and, therefore, the entire population is severely fragmented. Many of the subpopulations are threatened with habitat degradation from invasive alien plants and livestock overgrazing taking place. Some subpopulations are only known from one record and may not still be extant. It therefore qualifies as Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: We have better knowledge of the distribution of this taxon and a more accurate assessment of its AOO and EOO. There are six widely separated locations (17–72 km apart) with no possibility of gene flow between them, or recolonisation following local extinction and therefore we are able to say that the entire population is severely fragmented. Many of the subpopulations are threatened with habitat degradation from invasive alien plants and livestock overgrazing taking place. Some subpopulations are only known from one record and may not still be extant. The improved knowledge means that the previous assessment should also have been Endangered instead of Vulnerable, thus a non-genuine change in status.

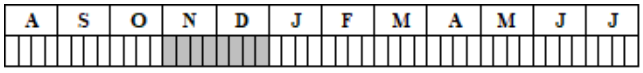
Threats: Large scale agro-industry farming, grazing and ranching, as well as invasive alien vegetation has caused the loss of some subpopulations in the past and may do so in the future. Current and future threats are encroachment by alien plants, agricultural activities and grazing by domestic livestock. The continued suppression of fires and the disruption of natural fire regimes may also impact on the viability of remaining habitat patches.

Conservation measures and research required: Monitoring of subpopulations and habitat quality is required to inform management actions, which may include control of alien invasive vegetation and elimination of domestic livestock grazing. The largest location 12 km south-east of Riversdale, with four subpopulations, merits some kind of formal protection (perhaps a stewardship agreement with CapeNature). Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis daphne (Dickson, 1975)
Kammanassie Opal; Kammanassie Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic

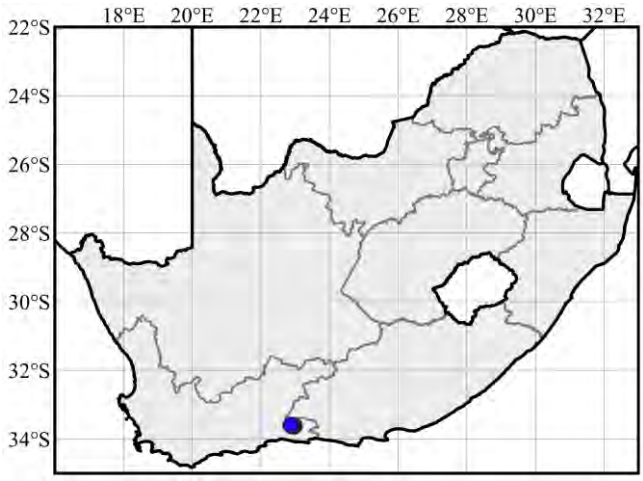


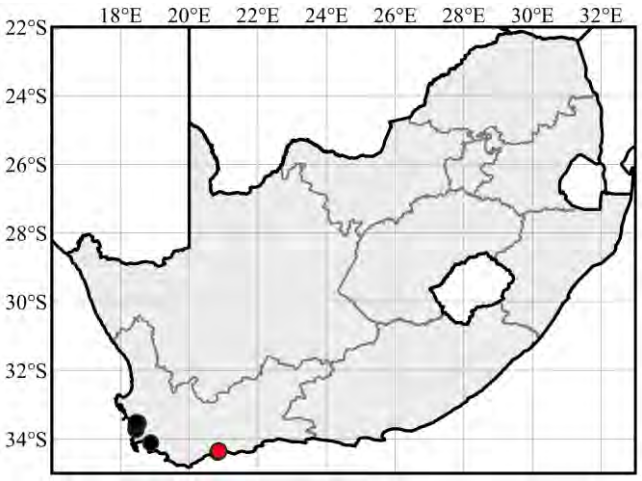
Type locality: Western Cape province: Mannetjiesberg, Kamanassieberg.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: An endemic from the Western Cape province in South Africa, from the eastern end of the Kammanassie Mountains near Uniondale, on the upper southern flanks in the vicinity of Mannetjiesberg.

Habitat: Rocky south-facing mountain slopes between 1 300 m and 1 700 m.





Vegetation types: FFb3 Central Inland Shale Band Vegetation, FFs25 North Kammanassie Sandstone Fynbos, FFs26 South Kammanassie Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: A highly range restricted endemic species found in a specialised habitat in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 13 km^2). No foreseeable threats affect this taxon as it occurs in a well-managed nature reserve. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

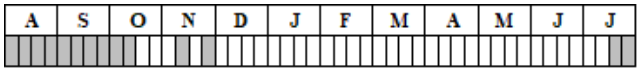
Threats: There are currently no threats to this species.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. All known populations occur in a well-managed nature reserve. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis dicksoni (Gabriel, 1947)
Strandveld Daisy Copper; Strandveld Kopervlerkie

David A. Edge

CR B1b(i,ii,iii,v)
Endemic



Type locality: Cape province, near Melkbosch Strand.

Taxonomy: There are small morphological differences between the subpopulations on the West Coast and those on the South Coast, but not sufficient to justify distinction at subspecies level. Genetic comparisons are not possible because there are no extant subpopulations on the West Coast from which to obtain DNA samples for comparison.

Distribution: Endemic to the south coast of the Western Cape province in South Africa, currently extant in the vicinity of Witsand at the Breede River mouth. Locally extinct on the West Coast, where it used to occur from Melkbosstrand to the Mamre area and also at Philadelphia.

Habitat: Arid lowland with low shrubs and sparse vegetation cover.

Vegetation types: FFd9 Albertinia Sand Fynbos, FFl3 Canca Limestone Fynbos, (FFd4 Atlantis Sand Fynbos), (FRs9 Swartland Shale Renosterveld), (FS6 Cape Flats Dune Strandveld).

Assessment rationale: A highly restricted endemic to the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 20 km^2). This species has been in decline ever since it was originally discovered on the West Coast in 1947. The last West Coast subpopulation at Pella Mission near Mamre became extinct in the 1990s. Fortunately, *Chrysoritis dicksoni* was discovered close to Witsand near the mouth of the Breede River in the 1980s and Ernest Pringle later found a "strong and viable colony" (Pringle, 1990), which was to the north of Witsand. However, the population is in decline and subjected to several threats, mainly due to alien invasive plants and overgrazing by domestic livestock. There is one location constituting a large northerly subpopulation and a much smaller southerly ephemeral subpopulation, separated by about 3 km of wheat fields. Exchange of individuals from the northerly subpopulation is infrequent but possible, since it is at the limit of the dispersal range of the species, but these are likely strays possibly blown by the wind and there is no evidence of breeding at the southerly subpopuolation. Approximately 95% of the individuals are in the more northerly subpopulation. This species therefore qualifies as Critically Endangered under criteria B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: At Witsand, the Vondeling part of the northerly subpopulation is owned by a very co-operative farmer who

has managed the habitat well, eradicating alien plants and only allowing light grazing by Bontebok and some cattle. There is no guarantee this situation will continue. The Westfield farm south of this has not been well managed, and there is a severe threat from proliferation of Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*). An eradication program is underway to control and eventually eliminate this threat. Another threat at Westfield was grazing of domestic livestock, but now that a Biodiversity Agreement has been signed only low density populations of indigenous herbivores (e.g. Bontebok, Eland) will be allowed. It is hypothesised that the underlying reason for the decline on the West Coast may have been climate change, with steadily rising temperatures and drought deteriorating the remaining small patches of habitat not destroyed by urban growth and agricultural expansion or engulfed by the spread of alien vegetation.

Conservation measures and research required: An intensive research programme has been conducted by D.A. Edge of LSA, and articles on the ant/scale insect interactions and vegetation communities have been published. Alien vegetation clearance has been carried out from 2015 on the Westfield farm near Witsand, by CapeNature. The owner of Westfield, Stellenbosch University, has agreed in principle to a Biodiversity Agreement with CapeNature for the portion of the farm where the butterfly occurs (c. 60 ha).

Relevant literature:

Edge, D.A. 2016. Vegetation associated with the critically endangered butterfly *Chrysoritis dicksoni* (Gabriel, 1947) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Aphnaeinae) at Witsand, Western Cape Province. *Metamorphosis* **27**: 66–77.

Giliomee, J. & Edge, D.A. 2015. The ants and scale insects on which the critically endangered butterfly *Chrysoritis dicksoni* (Gabriel) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Aphnaeinae) depends for its survival. *Metamorphosis* **26**: 38–43.

Heath, A. 2014. Uncovering secrets of the 'cuckoo' butterfly species *Chrysoritis dicksoni* (Gabriel, 1947), a social parasite of *Crematogaster* ants: A summary to the end of the 20th century with current conclusions. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 5–10.

Chrysoritis endymion (Pennington, 1962)

Endymion Opal; Endymion Opaal

Fanie Rautenbach

LC
Rare – Habitat specialist
Endemic

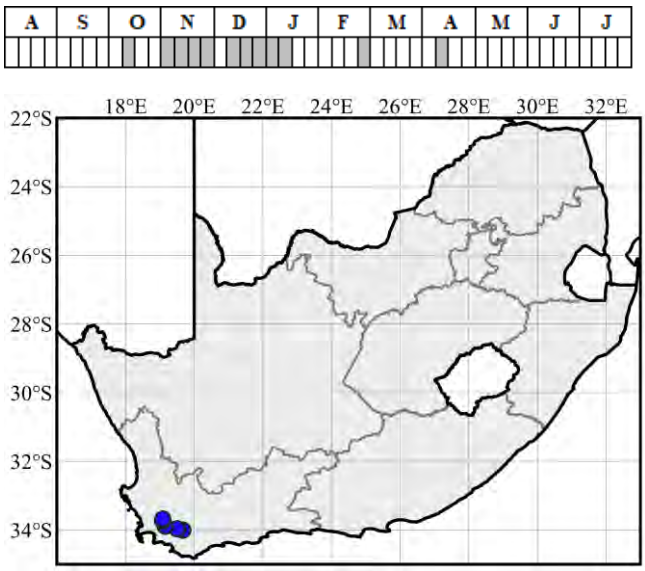
Type locality: Du Toit's Kop (Paarl Dist., C.P.).

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, from Du Toit's Kloof Pass near Worcester in the west to the Riviersonderend mountains in the east, at elevations above 1 200 m.

Habitat: On peaks above 1 200 m in altitude, directly below the peaks on rocky slopes below and above ridges, cliffs and suitable depressions.

Vegetation types: FFs10 Hawequas Sandstone Fynbos, FFs13 North Sonderend Sandstone Fynbos, FFs14 South Sonderend Sandstone Fynbos.



Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted taxon, endemic to the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 566 km^2). It is rare as it only occurs on a specific mountain range and only on the highest peaks in that mountain range. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: This taxon occurs on high altitude peaks which are difficult to get to. There are no current threats.

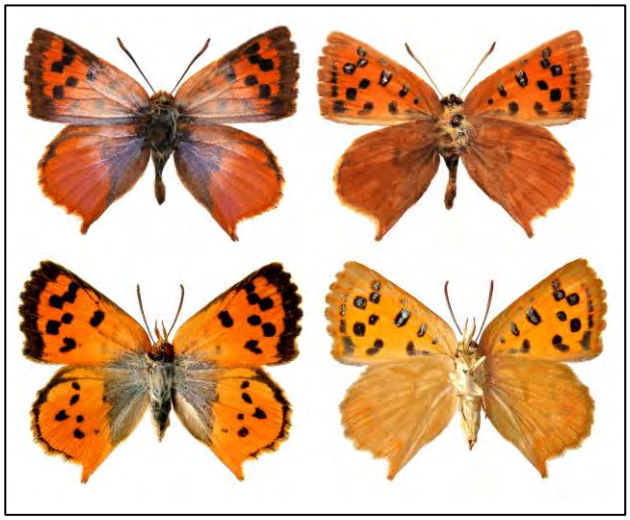
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. All known populations occur in a well-managed nature reserve. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

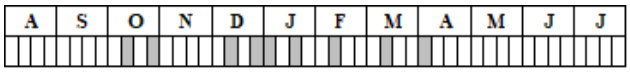
Chrysoritis irene (Pennington, 1968)

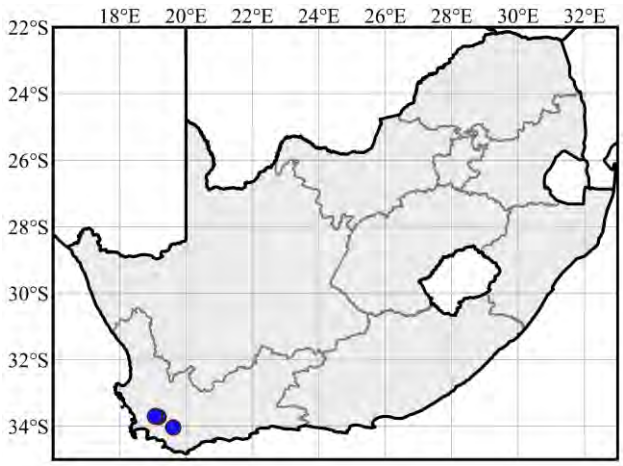
Hawequas Opal; Krans Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic







Type locality: Du Toit's Kloof Pass, C.P.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, from Du Toit's Kloof Pass near Paarl and Boschkloof near Worcester in the west to Greyton (Riviersonderend Mountains) in the east.

Habitat: Steep, rocky south- to southwest-facing mountain slopes, almost exclusively at the bases of large cliffs.

Vegetation types: FFg2 Boland Granite Fynbos, FFs10 Hawequas Sandstone Fynbos, FFs14 South Sonderend Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted endemic species from the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 144 km^2). There are no significant threats to the species. It is a habitat specialist because it seems to prefer west-facing slopes at the base of cliffs. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: Inappropriate fire regimes and encroachment of alien invasive plants may be future threats. At this stage these are not significant threats and currently there are no known threats.

Conservation measures and research required: The areas where the main subpopulations occur fall under the control of CapeNature. Adequate management of fire and alien vegetation is required. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Relevant literature:

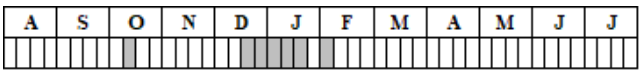
Heath, A. 2013. Further life history observations in the myrmecophilous genus *Chrysoritis* Butler, plus notes on dwarfism in reared specimens. *Metamorphosis* **23**: 16–21.

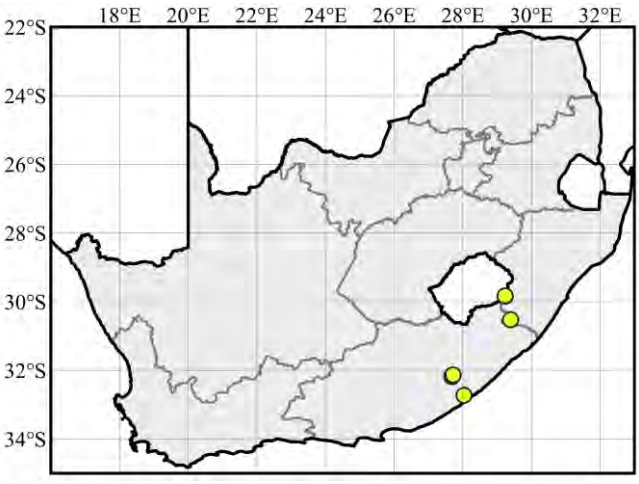
Chrysoritis lyncurium (Trimen, 1868)

Tsomo River Opal; Tsomo Goue Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

VU B1ab(ii,iii,iv,v)
Endemic





Type locality: Near the River Tsomo.

Taxonomy: It has been hypothesised that *Chrysoritis lyncurium* is the most westerly form of a cline with adults becoming gradually paler until it becomes *C. lycegenes* in the east (Owen-Johnson, 1991).

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa, from Ngxingxolo in the south to the southern Drakensberg in the north.

Habitat: Rocky slopes and hillsides in grassland where its host plants *Diospyros* species or *Myrsine* species grow in bush clumps amongst the rocky outcrops.

Vegetation types: Gd4 Southern Drakensberg Highland Grassland, Gs10 Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland, SVs6 Eastern Valley Bushveld, SVs7 Bhisho Thornveld.

Assessment rationale: This is an endemic species from the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa (EOO 15 830 km^2). There are six recorded locations. The locations around Mbulu are under severe threat from invasion by Black Wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*), and the number of mature individuals appear to have declined there. Known localities for the taxon are few and fragmented, and invasive alien plants and livestock overgrazing is causing ongoing decline in habitat quality at most of the locations. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Vulnerable under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

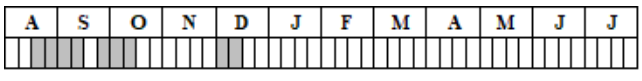
Threats: The Mbulu Forest locality is severely threatened by invasive Black Wattle, *A. mearnsii*. High intensity grazing also poses a significant risk.

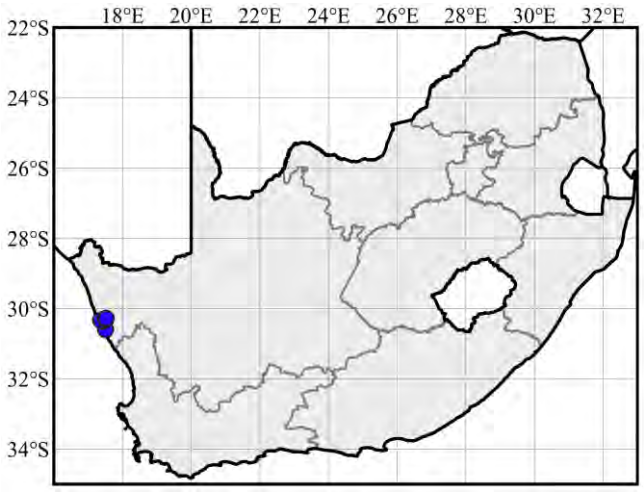
Conservation measures and research required: Removal of alien invasive plants, especially *A. mearnsii*, is required at the type locality and other sites. Further searches for additional subpopulations are urgently required. Research is needed into its relationship with *C. lycegenes* from further north-east; its life history and ecology/habitat requirements and its distribution and subpopulation sizes.

Chrysoritis lyndseyae (Henning, 1979)
Wallekraal Opal; Hemelse Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

LC
Rare – Restricted Range
Endemic





Type locality: 10 km north of Wallekraal, Namaqualand, Cape province, 150 m.

Taxonomy: This species was sunk in the early 2000s and then reinstated a few years later in 2011.

Distribution: Endemic to Namaqualand in the Northern Cape province in South Africa, with four subpopulations: 1) about 10 km inland from the coast east of Hondeklip Bay; 2) 7 km west of Wallekraal; 3) 10 km north of Wallekraal; 4) about 30 km south of Wallekraal on the farm Sarisaam.

Habitat: Open, hilly, sandy areas in Namaqualand Sandveld. Males defend territories higher up the sand dunes in shallow depressions.

Vegetation types: FFd1 Namaqualand Sand Fynbos, SKn4 Namaqualand Heuweltjieveld, SKs14 Namaqualand Heuweltjie Strandveld, SKs7 Namaqualand Strandveld, SKs9 Namaqualand Inland Duneveld.

Assessment rationale: A range-restricted endemic species from the Northern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 275 km^2). There are four subpopulations, one requiring additional taxonomic research. There are no significant current or future threats to the population. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Range Restricted).

Change in status from SABCA: Not previously assessed.

Threats: Although some grazing occurs in its habitat, it is not likely to become a significant threat because it occurs in a National Park. Alien invasives (Port Jackson Willow) and climate change may be future threats. There are no significant current or future threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation action needed at present as the species occurs in a national park. More field work is needed to establish the possible existence of additional subpopulations. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

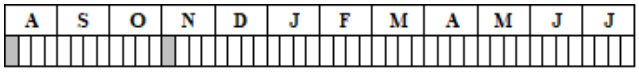
Relevant literature:

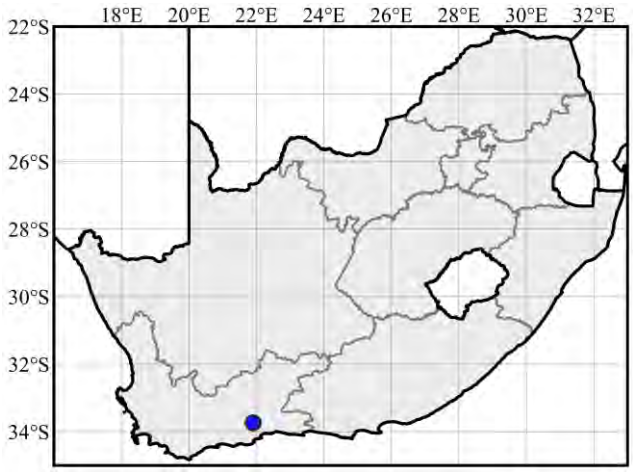
Heath, A. 2011. Taxonomic issues between *Chrysoritis lyndseyae* (S.F. Henning) stat. rev. and *C. thysbe bamptoni* (Dickson) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Aphnaeini). *Metamorphosis* **22**: 97–101.

Chrysoritis nigricans rubrescens Heath & Pringle, 2007
Gamka Dark Opal; Gamka Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Extremely Rare
Endemic





Type locality: Gamka Mountain Nature Reserve, 30 km WSW of Oudtshoorn, Western Cape Prov.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, only known from the highest parts of the Gamkaberg Nature Reserve near Oudtshoorn.

Habitat: Dry fynbos on the upper slopes of mountains.

Vegetation types: FFs22 South Rooiberg Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: A highly restricted taxon endemic to the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 0.1 km^2). Only recorded from a small part of the highest parts of the Gamkaberg Nature Reserve. There are currently no threats. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Extremely Rare.

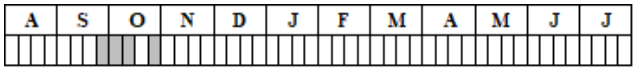
Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

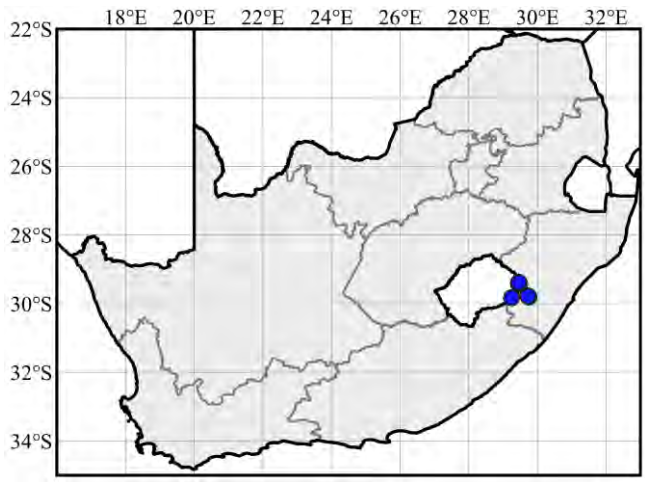
Threats: No threats at present. Remote location on a relatively inaccessible mountain range.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions necessary. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis oreas (Trimen, 1891)
Drakensberg Daisy Copper; Drakensberg Madeliefkopervlerkie
Adrian J. Armstrong

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic





Type locality: Natal: Drakensberg (alt. 7,000 ft).

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, occurring in the central and southern regions of the Drakensberg and nearby mountains. In the west, it occurs in the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site, from the Lotheni Nature Reserve section in the north to the Garden Castle State Forest section in the south. To the east, the species has been recorded from Marwaqa Nature Reserve

on Bulwer Mountain and from Clairmont Nature Reserve on the neighbouring Clairmont Mountain.

Habitat: Rocky southerly to south-easterly-facing grassland slopes between approximately 1 800 and 2 500 m altitude in the southern and central KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg and its foothills.

Vegetation types: Gd4 Southern Drakensberg Highland Grassland, Gd7 uKhahlamba Basalt Grassland.

Assessment rationale: Endemic to the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, this habitat specialist has a restricted range (EOO 1 181 km^2) and is known from only six subpopulations. Although no major or potential threats to this restricted-range species are known or predicted over the next decade, few colonies have been found to date. The species therefore is not common, and further survey work is required to establish its true distribution range as much suitable habitat is available both within and just outside of its currently known range. The taxon qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: For the 2012 assessment the future potential threats used to assess it as Near Threatened D2 were over-emphasised. Therefore the Red Listing was applied incorrectly previously. The assessment should have been Least Concern then too, thus the change in status from Near Threatened to Least Concern is non-genuine.

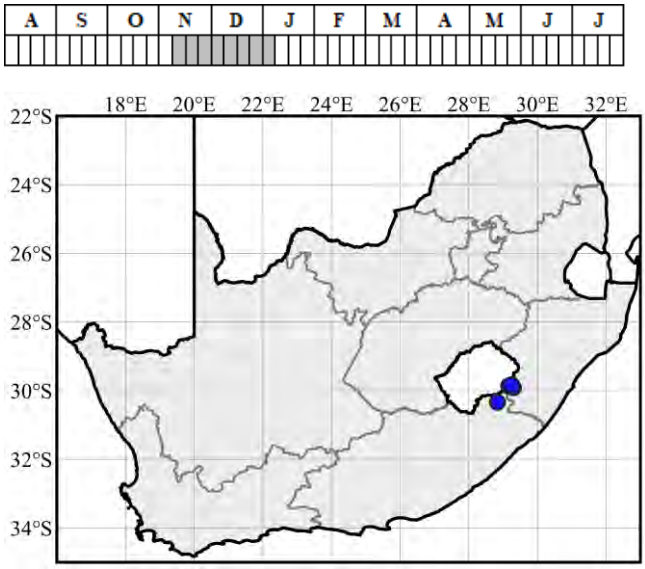
Threats: There are no current threats. Global climate change is not expected to greatly affect the climate in the distribution range of this species in the next decade at least.

Conservation measures and research required: Focussed searches are needed at suitable altitudes and vegetation types to discover additional subpopulations. Research into the life history and ecology/habitat requirements is needed.

Chrysoritis orientalis (Swanepoel, 1976)
Eastern Opal; Oostelike Opaal

Kevin N.A. Cockburn

LC
Rare – Restricted Range
Endemic



Type locality: Boesmansnek, Drakensberg Mountains.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa, occurring between Bushman's Nek west of Underberg in the east and Matatiele near Kokstad further west.

Habitat: Rocky ledges and gullies in grassland between 1 500 m and 2 000 m altitude.

Vegetation types: Gd4 Southern Drakensberg Highland Grassland, Gd7 uKhahlamba Basalt Grassland, Gs10 Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland, Gs12 East Griqualand Grassland.

Assessment rationale: A range-restricted endemic from the southern Drakensberg mountain range and foothills in KwaZulu-Natal province and Eastern Cape provinces, South Africa (EOO 476 km^2). The two locations are within 70 km of each other. The Bushman's Nek area has three subpopulations within 20 km of each other in mountainous terrain. There are large areas of the southern KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg which have not been explored, suggesting that the population of this butterfly is probably significantly larger than the records suggest. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

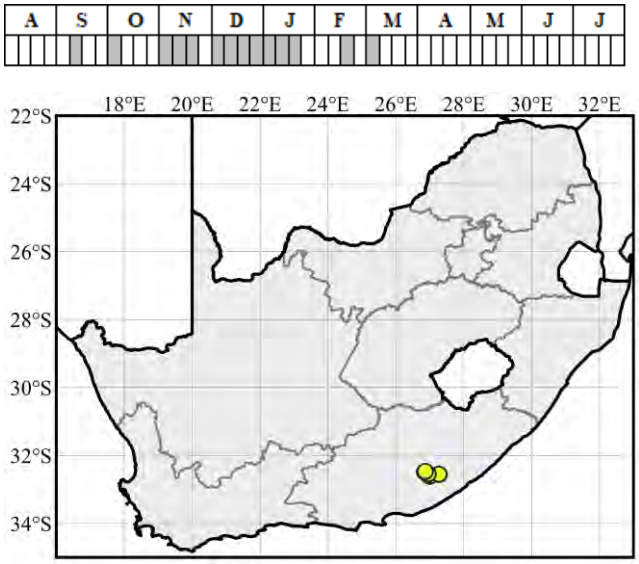
Threats: Although there are only four confirmed subpopulations for this species, there are no apparent threats.

Conservation measures and research required: Focussed searches are needed at suitable altitudes and vegetation types to discover additional subpopulations. Research into the life history and ecology/habitat requirements is needed.

Chrysoritis penningtoni (Riley, 1938)
Gaika Opal; Amatola Hoogland Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

VU B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)
Endemic



Type locality: Gaika's Kop, C.P.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, from Gaika's Kop at Hogsback and a few localities north and east on the Amatole mountains.

Habitat: Rocky outcrops with shrubs, in montane grassland at altitudes above 1 500 m.

Vegetation types: Gd1 Amathole Montane Grassland, Gd2 Amathole Mistbelt Grassland.

Assessment rationale: This is a range restricted endemic species from the Eastern Cape, South Africa (EOO 310 km^2 AOO 40 km^2). There are six locations. At present there is no evidence of population decline, but there is evidence of habitat deterioration as a result of alien vegetation and low frequency of fires. It therefore qualifies as Vulnerable under Criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

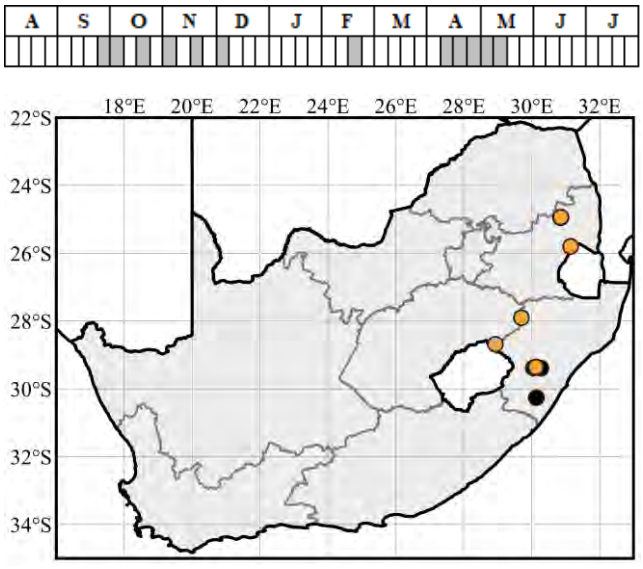
Threats: A taxon with small, scattered subpopulations although most of these are not under immediate threat. Three subpopulations are threatened by alien invasive species and overprotection from fire.

Conservation measures and research required: Focussed searches are needed at suitable altitudes and vegetation types to discover additional subpopulations. Research into the life history and ecology/habitat requirements is needed.

Chrysoritis phosphor borealis (Quickelberge, 1972)
Northern Golden Flash; Noordelike Goue Blits

Steve E. Woodhall

EN B1ab(iii,iv)+2ab(iii,iv)
Endemic



Type locality: Yellowwoods, Natal.

Taxonomy: This is a rarely seen butterfly of high Afrotemperate forest. There are two subspecies; *Chrysoritis phosphor phosphor* from the Eastern Cape (Amatole Mountains) and *C. phosphor borealis*.

Distribution: Endemic to the KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga provinces in South Africa, scattered between Curry's Post in the south and Graskop in the north. There is an unconfirmed record from Mozambique (G. Henning, pers. comm.), which has not been taken into consideration for this assessment.

Habitat: Most specimens have been found high up in

Afromontane forest remnants, surrounded by montane grassland. Specimens are often found near streams, where they drink from muddy ground.

Vegetation types: FOz2 Northern Afrotemperate Forest, FOz3 Southern Mistbelt Forest, FOz4 Northern Mistbelt Forest, Gm23 Northern Escarpment Quartzite Sourveld, Gs8 Mooi River Highland Grassland, Gs9 Midlands Mistbelt Grassland, (Gs9 Midlands Mistbelt Grassland).

Assessment rationale: This rare endemic has a wide range in the KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga provinces of South Africa (EOO 42 174 km^2, AOO 20–200 km^2). It is known from five severely fragmented subpopulations, and between five to 10 locations are suspected to occur. It has not been seen from two of these (Balgowan and Kowyn's Pass) for at least 10 years, possibly due to drought or the impacts of alien vegetation. Two locations (Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park and Ncandu Nature Reserve) are in protected areas, but the others are on private land close to public roads. The KwaZulu-Natal Midlands location at Balgowan (and possible other locations in the area that are currently undiscovered) are under possible future threat from shale gas extraction. This threat did not exist at the time of the previous assessment. The locations at Shiya lo Ngcubo and Kowyn's Pass are under threat from alien vegetation. The taxon is restricted to cool, high-altitude Afromontane forests, and at least two of these (Balgowan in the Midlands and Kowyn's Pass) have been notably drier in recent years and the butterfly has not been recorded there for several years (since 1981 for Balgowan and 2001 for Kowyn's Pass). Continued droughts and high temperatures could negatively impact this butterfly. Even though there is uncertainty about AOO and number of locations, the AOO is very likely to be less than 500 km^2. Number of locations is suspected to be fewer than 10 and the known ones are severely fragmented, and it has not been seen in some of its best known locations for several years. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The change in status is mainly due to more accurate data being used for the 2018 assessment, as well as better information being used. For the previous assessment, it was erroneously assumed that its habitat was widespread but since then it has been found that data this assumption were based on were inaccurate. Had it been known how restricted it actually was, it would have been assessed as Endangered during the first assessment. Therefore the change in status from Least Concern to Endangered is non-genuine.

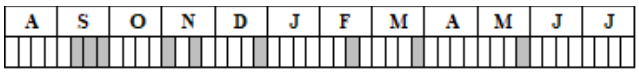
Threats: This is a rare taxon that has seldom been seen in recent years. Its habitat is under threat from invasion by alien species, and by increasingly frequent and severe droughts, and habitat change. Part of its range in KwaZulu-Natal province is under possible future threat from shale gas extraction ('fracking').

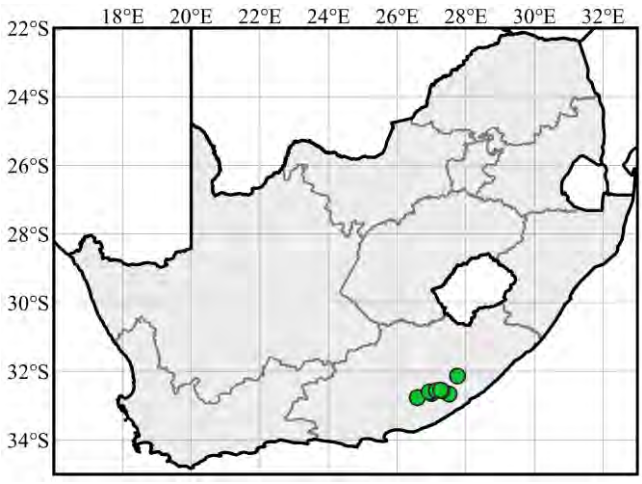
Conservation measures and research required: Surveys to better understand the distribution and abundance of this taxon are required. Appropriate conservation measures can only be implemented once additional information is obtained. Research into the life history and ecology/habitat requirements is also needed.

Chrysoritis phosphor phosphor (Trimen, 1864)
Golden Flash; Goue Blits

Ernest L. Pringle

LC
Endemic





Type locality: Bashee River, Kaffraria.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, from Fort Beaufort in the west to Mbashe River in the east, with isolated records from the Amatole mountains centred on the Hogsback area. Known subpopulations occur at Mbulu, Amabele, Stutterheim, Fort Beaufort and Hogsback.

Habitat: Afromontane forest.

Vegetation types: FOz3 Southern Mistbelt Forest, Gd1 Amathole Montane Grassland, Gs10 Drakensberg Foothill Moist Grassland, SVs7 Bhisho Thornveld.

Assessment rationale: An endemic taxon from the Eastern Cape province in South Africa (EOO 2 428 km^2). Both the habits and the habitat of this taxon make it impossible to assess its distribution, population densities, ecology or life history. There does not appear to be any immediate threat to

its known habitats. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

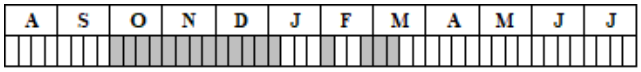
Threats: A rare taxon, that has lost some habitat in the past to plantation forestry. It does not appear to be significantly threatened at present.

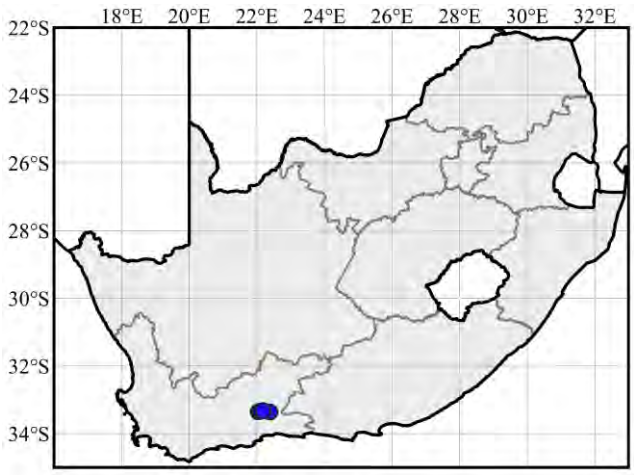
Conservation measures and research required: Surveys to better understand the distribution and abundance of this taxon are required. Appropriate conservation measures can only be implemented once additional information is obtained. Research into the life history and ecology/habitat requirements is also needed.

Chrysoritis pyramus pyramus (Pennington, 1953)
Pyramus Opal; Pyramus Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic





Type locality: Half a mile east of the summit of the Zwartberg Pass at 5,000 ft.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: An endemic from the Western Cape province in South Africa, from the Swartberg mountain range between the Swartberg Pass near Prince Albert in the west and the Meiringspoort gap near De Rust in the east.

Habitat: North-facing slopes of high mountains in the Swartberg mountain range above 1 500 m.

Vegetation types: FFs23 North Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs24 South Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This is a range restricted endemic taxon found in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 71 km^2). It is also a habitat specialist, only occurring high up on the northern side of the Swartberg mountain range, with the males most often found at the base of high north facing rocks. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

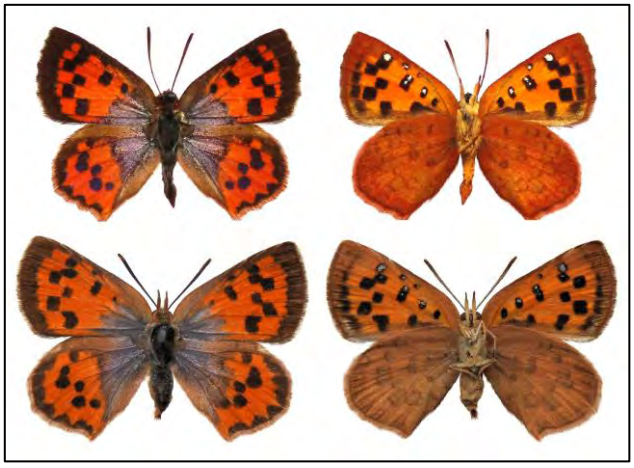
Threats: There are currently no threats to this species.

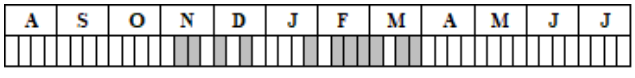
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions are necessary. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis pyroeis hersaleki (Dickson, 1970)
Mountain Sand-dune Opal; Donker Duin Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

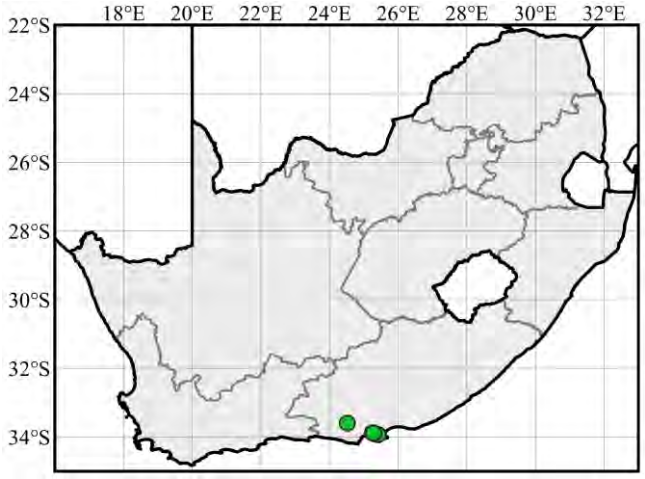
LC
Endemic





Type locality: Eastern Cape province: Lady's Slipper (Witteklip) Mtns., W. Of Port Elizebeth [sic].

Taxonomy: Although this subspecies is generally recognised as being restricted to the Eastern Cape, there are a number of subpopulations found in the mountains of the Western Cape which resemble this subspecies and whose status needs to be resolved.



Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, on the summits of the Baviaanskloofberg near Patensie in the west to near St Albans (flat ground near Old Cape Road) at Port Elizabeth in the east, with the strongest known subpopulation on the Witteklip Mountain to the west of Port Elizabeth.

Habitat: The taxon's preferred habitat is montane south-facing slopes from 700 m to 900 m reasonably close to the coast, on or near summits. It is also found at much lower elevations of about 100 m at St Albans, as well as at much higher altitudes in the Baviaanskloofberg (about 1 200 m).

Vegetation types: FFs27 Kouga Sandstone Fynbos, FFs28 Kouga Grassy Sandstone Fynbos, FFs29 Algoa Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: A range-restricted endemic from the Eastern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 77 km^2). There are no current threats, but invasive alien vegetation is a plausible future threat. There are four locations, with a possibility of there being more than 10. The discovery of this species on the summit of the Baviaanskloof mountains means that there are probably many other localities for it on this mountain range. These mountains are largely inaccessible, and so are relatively unexplored. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern.

Change in status from SABCA: The discovery of this species on the summit of the Baviaanskloof mountains means that there are probably many other localities for it on this mountain range. Both the Baviaanskloof and the Lady Slipper mountains form part of nature reserves. These mountains are largely inaccessible, and so are relatively unexplored. The number of locations is therefore likely more than 10 and the AOO is currently 28 km^2. There are also no real visible threats to the colonies on the summits of these mountains, which are little disturbed by humans, although invasive alien vegetation may be a future potential threat. As a result the change in status from Vulnerable to Least Concern is non-genuine.

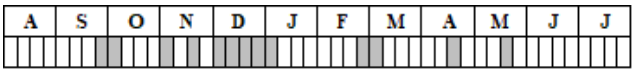
Threats: Alien invasive plants are a future potential threat, and this taxon has lost habitat in the past through urban development in Port Elizabeth.

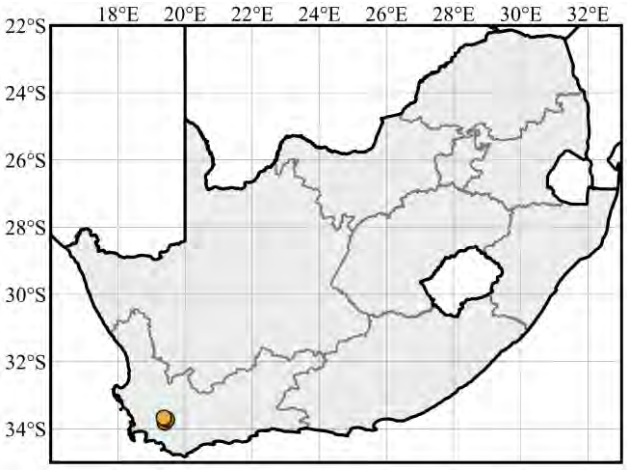
Conservation measures and research required: The encroachment of alien trees on Witteklip Mountain needs to be arrested and reversed. Efforts should be made to rediscover the St Albans locality. More subpopulations should be searched for on inland mountain ranges. Research into the taxonomy, life history and ecology/habitat requirements is also needed.

Chrysoritis rileyi (Dickson, 1966)
Worcester Opal; Skitter Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

EN B1ab(iii)+2ab(iii)
Endemic





Type locality: Brand Vlei, near Worcester, Cape province.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, near Worcester, restricted to the Brandvlei Dam area at the type locality on the eastern side of the dam and on the western side of the dam next to the main dam wall, as well as south of the Quaggaskloof Dam.

Habitat: Breede Sand Fynbos, on flat sandy terrain.

Vegetation types: FFa2 Breede Alluvium Fynbos, FFd8 Breede Sand Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted endemic species from the Western Cape province in South Africa (EOO 68 km^2, AOO 16 km^2). The AOO and EOO has increased since the previous assessment due to the discovery of a third subpopulation near the Quaggaskloof dam. There

are now three subpopulations occurring at two locations. There are threats of habitat loss mainly from the possible future increase in size of the two dams near the localities. Agricultural expansion poses a threat to the survival of the subpopulations on the western part of the Brandvlei Dam. Encroachment of invasive alien species (mainly *Acacia saligna*) is currently causing decline in habitat quality at two locations. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: Since the previous assessment a much bigger locality was discovered at Quaggaskloof dam, which increased the EOO from 4.5 km^2 to 68 km^2 and the AOO from 0.18 km^2 to 16 km^2. This locality would have existed during the previous assessment. The status has therefore been upgraded from Critically Endangered to Endangered and the change is not genuine.

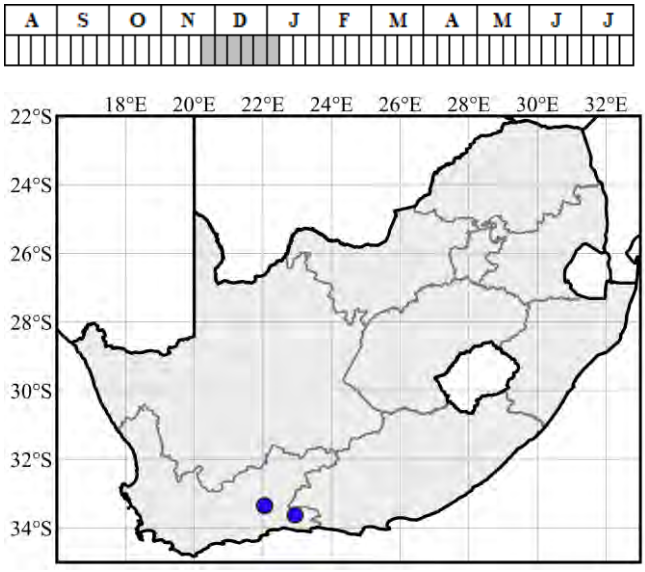
Threats: Future expansion of the Brandvlei and Quaggaskloof dams would destroy the subpopulations at Quaggaskloof and the eastern side of Brandvlei. Agricultural development (clearing for crops, application of pesticides etc.) poses a threat to the subpopulations on the western side of the dam. Encroachment by alien plants (Port Jackson Willow) and urban developments (resorts) pose threats to the subpopulations on the eastern side of the dam.

Conservation measures and research required: Conservation of the areas around the two subpopulations is required in the event of the expansion of the Brandvlei and Quaggaskloof dams or if agriculture in the area is expanded. Removal of alien vegetation at both locations is required, and the local authorities, prison services and farming community need to be made aware of this taxon and its habitat requirements to prevent further encroachment of the habitat by alien plants and agriculture. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis swanepoeli hyperion (Dickson, 1975)
Mountain Streamside Opal; Hyperion Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic



Type locality: Western Cape province: Zwartberg Pass.

Taxonomy: Originally described as a species, but later downgraded to a subspecies (Heath & Pringle, 2007).

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, found on the Swartberg mountain range a few hundred metres below the summit of the Swartberg Pass, and on the Kammanassie mountains near Uniondale at a similar altitude.

Habitat: Steep gullies descending from the highest peaks on the southern side of the Swartberg and Kammanassie mountain ranges.

Vegetation types: FFs23 North Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs24 South Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs26 South Kammanassie Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This endemic taxon is restricted to small areas of the Swartberg and Kammanassie mountains in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 38 km^2). It has particular habitat requirements, generally being found in steep south facing gullies. There are no threats and it is protected in a well-managed nature reserve. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

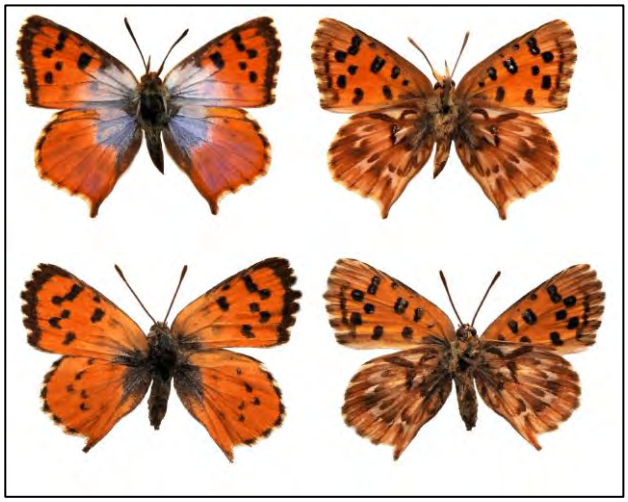
Threats: There are currently no threats to this taxon.

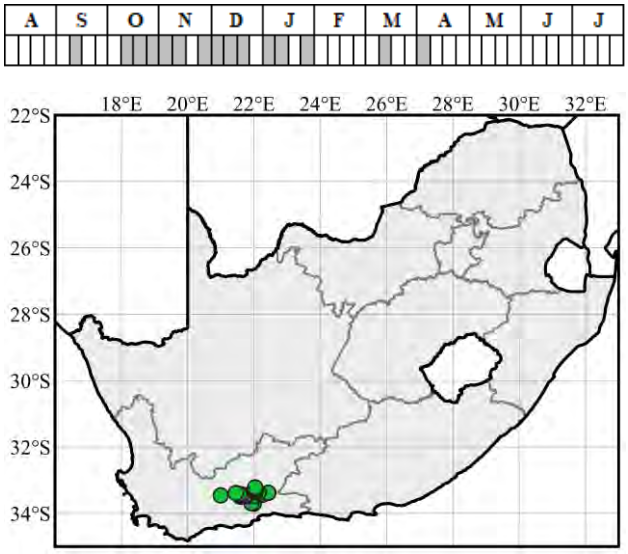
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions necessary. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis swanepoeli swanepoeli (Dickson, 1965)
Streamside Opal; Swartrand Opaal

David A. Edge

LC
Endemic





Type locality: Prince Albert (C.P.).

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, on both sides of the Swartberg mountain range from the Seweweekspoort area near Ladismith in the west to the Meiringspoort area near De Rust in the east, to the Huis River Pass and Gamkasberg Nature Reserve near Calitzdorp.

Habitat: Low-lying (800 m to 900 m) rocky kloofs at the foot of mountains with steep dry gullies and river beds.

Vegetation types: AT33 Gamka Arid Thicket, AT43 Mons Ruber Fynbos Thicket, AZi6 Southern Karoo Riviere, FFs21 North Rooiberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs23 North Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs24 South Swartberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFt1 Kango Conglomerate Fynbos, FRl1 Kango Limestone Renosterveld.

Assessment rationale: This taxon is endemic to the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 3 642 km^2). It has at least 23 subpopulations and has no threats as it occurs in mountainous terrain. Currently it qualifies under IUCN criteria as Least Concern.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: There are currently no threats to this species. All of its known locations are in mountainous terrain and in a nature reserve.

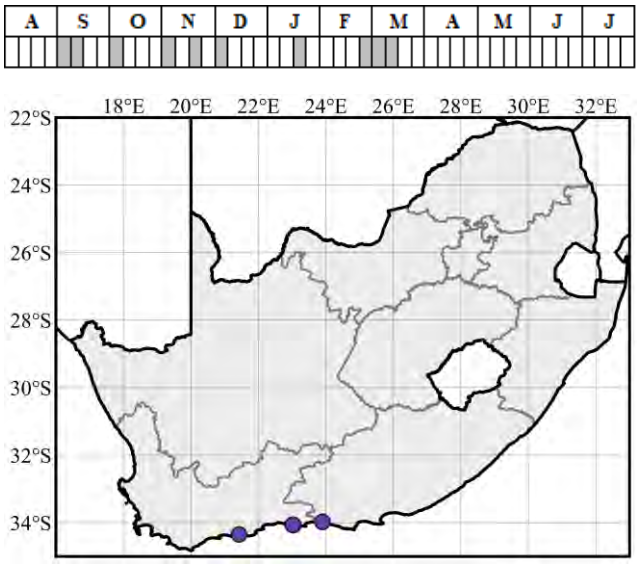
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Occurs in the Swartberg and Gamkaberg Nature Reserves. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis thysbe mithras (Pringle, 1994)

Brenton Thysbe Opal; Brenton Prag Opaal

David A. Edge

CR–PE C2a(ii)b
Endemic



Type locality: Knysna.

Taxonomy: There remains some doubt as to the status of the Stilbaai population, and whether it is *mithras*, since populations of nominate *C. t. thysbe* can be found as far east as Mossel Bay (Edge, 2005a). A phylogenetic study by the Museum of Comparative Anatomy at Harvard should resolve this.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces in South Africa, only recorded from the Still Bay area in the west, Brenton on Sea near Knysna and from Goesabos (Tsitsikamma) in the east.

Habitat: At Brenton on Sea on both north- and south-facing slopes at an altitude of 80 m to 120 m in disturbed areas of Knysna Sand Fynbos with a high abundance of *Osteospermum monilifera* (Bitou). The habitat at Stilbaai is

by contrast on limestone fynbos-covered hillsides at altitudes up to 300 m. The current state of the Goesabos locality near Storms River village is not known, but it was State Forest in 1977 and may have changed considerably since 1980 when the specimens were taken.

Vegetation types: AT40 Hartenbos Dune Thicket, FFd10 Knysna Sand Fynbos, FOz1 Southern Afrotemperate Forest.

Assessment rationale: This taxon has a very restricted range and is endemic to the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces in South Africa (EOO 643 km^2). There are three locations, with severe fragmentation - the locations are separated by 80-120 km, far greater than the average dispersal distance of this taxon of 1–2 km. The taxon is under threat to the extent that it may well be extinct at its type locality at Brenton near Knysna, and cannot be found at the other locations. The loss of the Brenton subpopulation over the last 20 years has reduced the EOO and AOO and habitat quality has generally declined. It has not been seen at any of its locations for nearly 20 years, with the whole area being searched several times per year during the flight period. Even when the Brenton subpopulation existed the taxon was very scarce and the population overall was < 250 mature individuals. 95% of all records historically are from one subpopulation (Brenton). It therefore qualifies as Critically Endangered under criterion C and may be Possibly Extinct.

Change in status from SABCA: This taxon was previously assessed as Data Deficient due to taxonomic uncertainties. However, recent improved knowledge of its distribution and population size has enabled an assessment to be carried out that assumes all the known subpopulations are the same taxon. It has not been seen at any of its locations for nearly 20 years, with the whole area being searched several times per year during the flight period and it would therefore have been Possibly Extinct for the previous assessment. Thus the change in status is non-genuine.

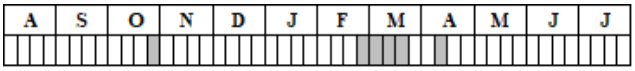
Threats: This subspecies has already disappeared from some of its former localities. Threats to the remaining subpopulations are habitat destruction and encroachment of alien vegetation. At Brenton on Sea, which is probably the only extant subpopulation, there is severe habitat degradation due to alien vegetation invasion, resulting in shading and fragmentation of the habitat, and to housing development, with loss of connectivity of microhabitats. The invasive alien vegetation consists chiefly of Rooikrans (*Acacia cyclops*), Black Wattle (*A. mearnsii*) and pines (*Pinus radiata*). The very small total population size and minute last known area of occupancy at Brenton on Sea (< 0.5 km^2) make this subspecies exceptionally vulnerable to any changing conditions. The fire frequency at Brenton was drastically reduced, leading eventually to a massive increase in fuel load and an extremely severe fire (June 2017). It is unknown if the Brenton subpopulation has survived the fire. The status of the weak subpopulation near Still Bay is unknown, since it has not been seen there since the 1990s. The Goesabos records are from even earlier and searches for this locality have so far not been successful.

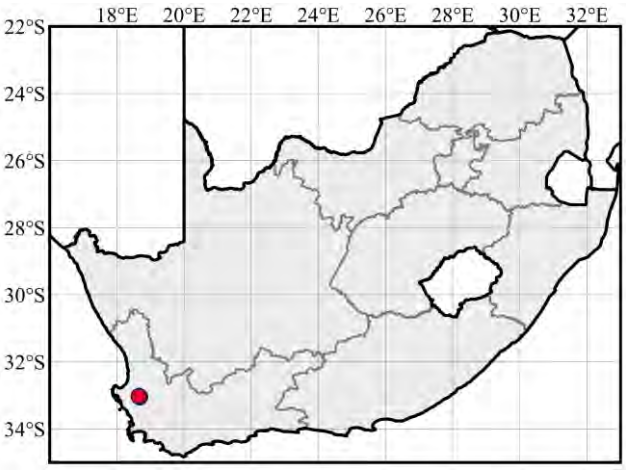
Conservation measures and research required: Searches have been conducted over the last 20 years to ascertain whether this taxon is still extant at or around Brenton on Sea, without success. A taxonomic/phylogenetic study is in progress to determine whether the subpopulation near Still Bay belongs to this taxon, but is handicapped by the lack of fresh DNA samples. An alien invasive plant eradication program and habitat restoration is in progress at Brenton on Sea. Research will not be possible until the taxon can be rediscovered.

Chrysoritis thysbe schloszae (Dickson, 1994)
Moorreesburg Thysbe Opal; Mooreesburg Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

CR B1ab(ii,iii,iv,v)
Endemic





Type locality: Western Cape province: Near Moreesburg.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, only found on the southern slopes to the peaks of the small mountain called Swartberg near Mooreesburg.

Habitat: Scrubby, low vegetation containing numerous mesembryanthemum plants (Aizoaceae).

Vegetation types: FRs9 Swartland Shale Renosterveld.

Assessment rationale: A range-restricted endemic from the Western Cape province in South Africa (EOO 2 km^2). Known to occur at only one location. The habitat has been degraded by recreational activities. The adults have not been seen since 2009, despite regular surveys and the AOO has

declined due to habitat degradation. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Critically Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

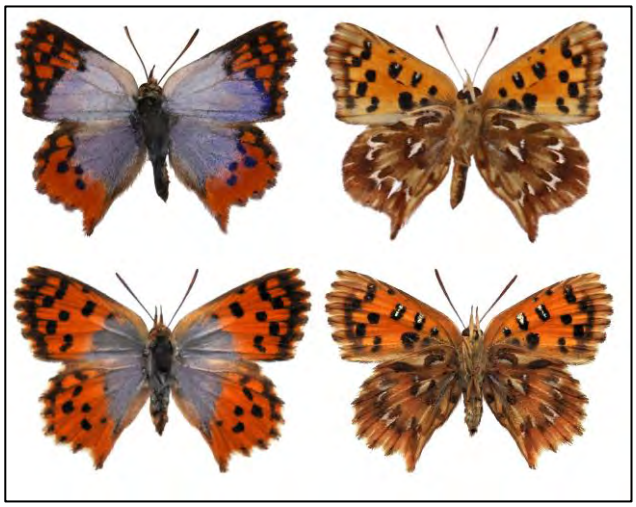
Threats: Ongoing degradation of habitat due to surrounding agricultural and recreational activities.

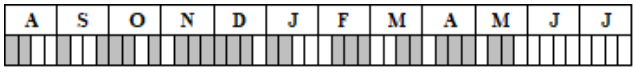
Conservation measures and research required: The area should be conserved and monitored, and the peaks should be reclaimed for conservation and converted to their original state. A special effort should be made to discover more sites, as the taxon may also exist on the Piketberg massif. Research will not be possible until a viable population is discovered.

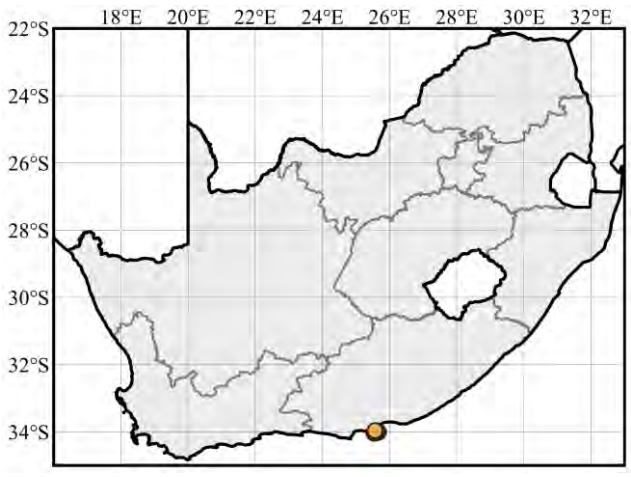
Chrysoritis thysbe whitei (Dickson, 1994)
Algoa Thysbe Opal; Algoa Prag Opaal

Ernest L. Pringle

EN B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv)
Endemic







Type locality: Eastern Cape province: Near Port Elizabeth 28 Feb. 1991. (John White).

Taxonomy: DNA work currently in progress indicates that this is a distinct species, with no relationship to *thysbe*.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, found only near Port Elizabeth.

Habitat: Vegetated coastal duneveld.

Vegetation types: AT48 Sardinia Forest Thicket, AT57 St Francis Dune Thicket, FFs29 Algoa Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This is a range-restricted endemic taxon from around Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa (EOO 69 km^2). There are four locations. Urban development has destroyed three subpopulations over the past forty years. For example, it would appear that it can no longer be found in Walmer. There is ongoing loss as a result of urban development and habitat degradation from invasive alien plants. However, nearly all of the remaining subpopulations do occur within public or private nature reserves. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Endangered under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: The habitats suitable for the taxon have been drastically reduced due to invasive Australian acacias (*Acacia longifolia* and *A. cyclops*) as well as urban expansion. Seven of the 11 subpopulations are found within nature reserves and currently have no threats (two subpopulations at Summerstrand within the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University reserve; two subpopulations at Cape Recife where a busy road and alien vegetation separates the two subpopulations; and two subpopulations at Schoenmakerskop where an intersecting road is a complete barrier). There is a subpopulation along the coast below Schoenmakerskop and towards Sardinia Bay that has no current significant threats. Two subpopulations at Humewood are separated by a big road and dense urban development and are currently experiencing habitat loss due to ongoing urban development. No adults have been seen at two subpopulations in Walmer and Bakens Valley since the 1980s, but regular surveys have not been conducted so there is a possibility of this taxon still occurring there. The Bakens Valley locality is in a conserved area with no current threats. The Walmer locality is near a township and under threat from urban development.

Conservation measures and research required: The existing sites should be monitored and protected, and appropriate management plans should be implemented. Research into the taxonomy, life history and ecology/habitat requirements is also needed.

Chrysoritis trimeni (Riley, 1938)
Diamond Opal; Diamant Opaal

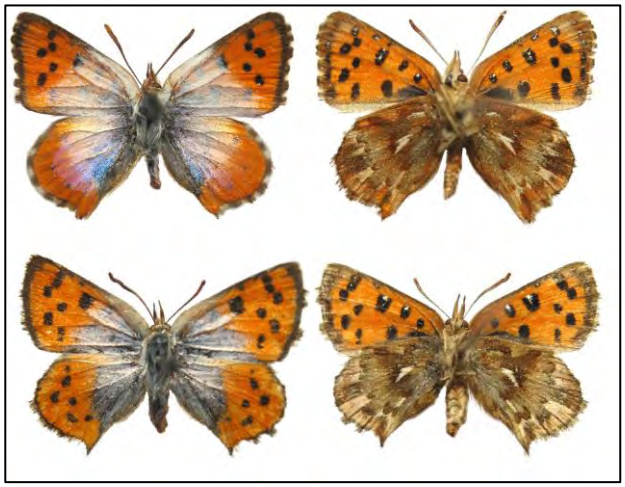
Justin Bode

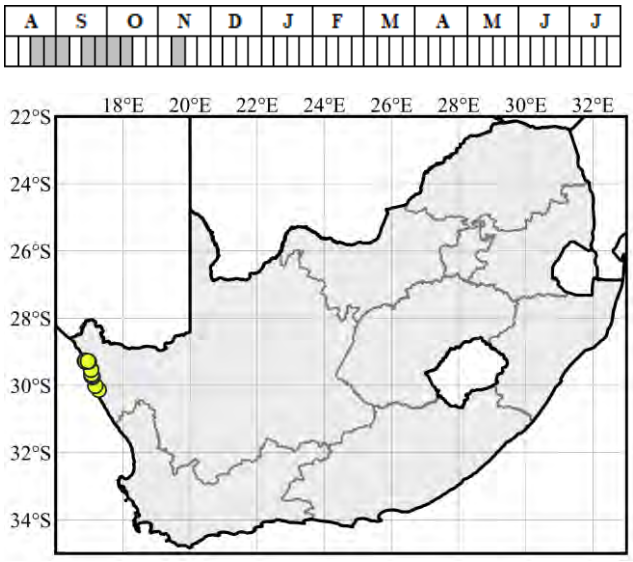
VU D2
Endemic

Type locality: Pt. Nolloth, Namaqualand.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Northern Cape province in South Africa, occurring on the northern Namaqualand coast between Noup in the south and Port Nolloth in the north.





Habitat: Coastal sand dunes.

Vegetation types: SKs1 Richtersveld Coastal Duneveld, SKs4 Richtersveld Sandy Coastal Scorpionstailveld, SKs7 Namaqualand Strandveld, SKs8 Namaqualand Coastal Duneveld.

Assessment rationale: Restricted to the Namaqualand coastline in the Northern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 698 km^2), and recorded from fewer than five locations, this endemic taxon is potentially threatened by future mining activities. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Vulnerable under Criterion D.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

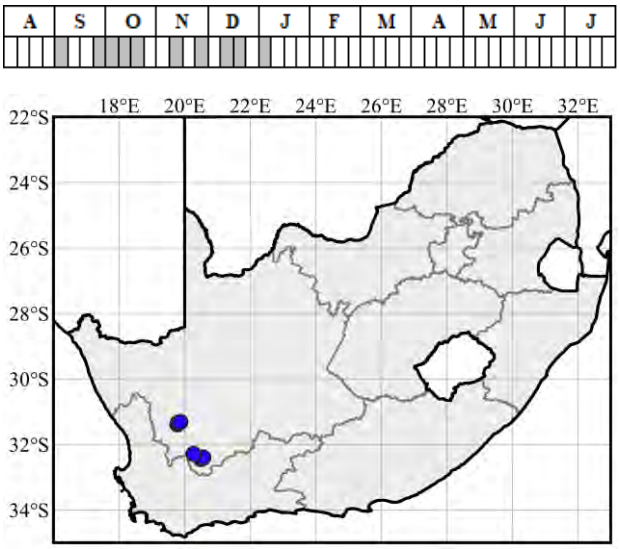
Threats: Diamond mining at Kleinsee and urban development at both Port Nolloth and McDougall's Bay have caused past habitat loss and also pose a future potential threat to this taxon.

Conservation measures and research required: The southern portion of the distribution range is situated in a restricted diamond-mining area. Efforts should be made to ensure that current and future mining activities do not endanger the known colonies. Urban development at Port Nolloth and McDougall's Bay should be monitored. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis turneri wykehami (Dickson, 1980)
Hantam Karoo Opal; Hantamplato Rif Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

LC
Rare – Habitat Specific, Low Density
Endemic



Type locality: Western Cape province: Hantam's Berg, Calvinia.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Northern Cape province in South Africa, in the high mountains near Sutherland in the south and the Hantamsberg near Calvinia in the north.

Habitat: At high altitude, on or just below mountain peaks.

Vegetation types: FRd2 Hantam Plateau Dolerite Renosterveld, FRs3 Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld, SKt2 Hantam Karoo.

Assessment rationale: An endemic taxon from the Northern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 1 952 km^2). There are no current threats. It is rarely encountered because it is localized within its range and only a few are ever seen at one time. It is only found at high altitudes where its host plant occurs. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Habitat Specialist and Low Density).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

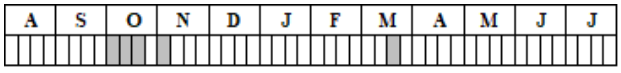
Threats: No known threats.

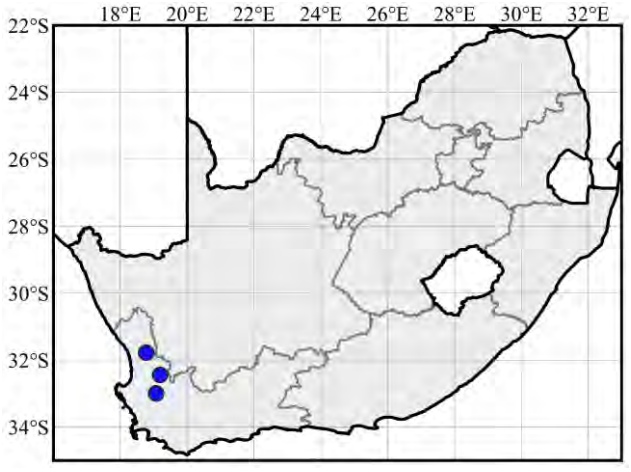
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis uranus schoemani (Heath, 1994)
Gifberg Uranus Opal; Gifberg Opaal

Andrew Morton

LC
Rare – Habitat specialist
Endemic





Type locality: Vanrhynsdorp.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Western Cape province in South Africa, from the Cedarberg mountains near Clanwilliam, Gifberg mountains near Vanrhynsdorp in the north and the Groot Winterhoek mountains in the South.

Habitat: Rocky ridges near the summits of high mountains.

Vegetation types: FFs1 Bokkeveld Sandstone Fynbos, FFs4 Cederberg Sandstone Fynbos, FFs5 Winterhoek Sandstone Fynbos.

Assessment rationale: This endemic taxon is restricted to three remote mountain summits in the Western Cape province, South Africa (EOO 1 620 km^2). Due to the nature of the terrain where it occurs it is under no threat. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Habitat Specialist) occurring only at high altitude in Sandstone Fynbos.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

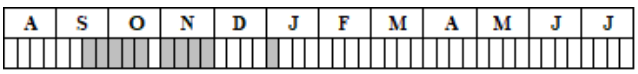
Threats: No known threats.

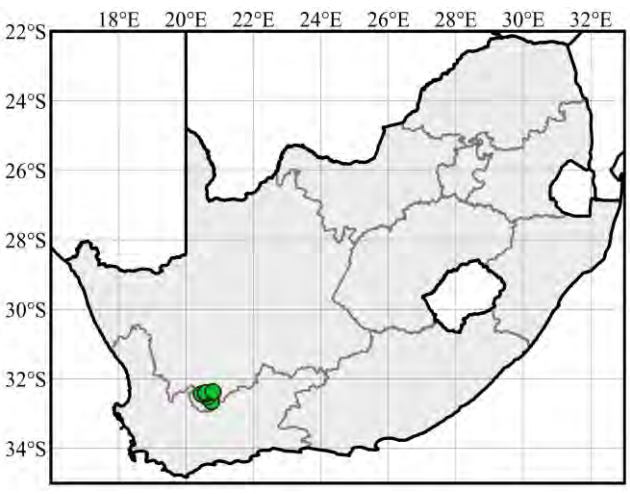
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

Chrysoritis violescens (Dickson, 1971)
Violet Opal; Viola Opaal

Harald E.T. Selb

LC
Endemic





Type locality: Western Cape province: Summit of Komsberg Pass, S.S.E. of Sutherland, Komsberg Escarpment.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Northern Cape province in South Africa, from the Roggeveld Escarpment around Sutherland.

Habitat: Bases of high-altitude rocky ridges on slopes of hills and mountains.

Vegetation types: FRs3 Roggeveld Shale Renosterveld.

Assessment rationale: An endemic taxon from the Sutherland area in the Northern Cape province, South Africa (EOO 569 km^2). There are no current threats and it does not show signs of severe fragmentation, continuing decline or extreme fluctuations. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: No known threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended. Research is required into the life history, ecology and ant symbionts; and the population size, distribution and trends need to be monitored.

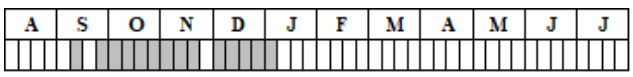
Genus *Crudaria* Wallengren, 1875.

Crudaria wykehami Dickson, 1983

Bedford Grey; Reguitlyn Valetjie

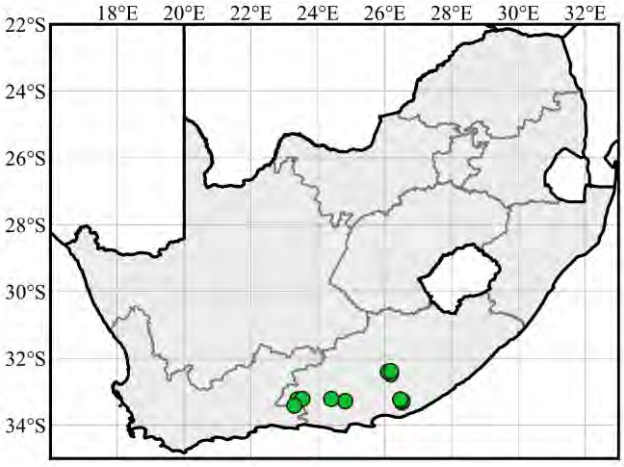
Ernest L. Pringle

LC
Endemic



Type locality: Western Cape province: Fraserburg. [False locality]

Taxonomy: The genus is in need of revision. In the Eastern Cape at least, *Crudaria wykehami* and *C. leroma* appear to be distinct, with populations of *leroma* being found in the Fish River Valley, and those of *wykehami* on the higher



ground on both sides overlooking this valley and beyond. They therefore overlap but without any evidence of intermingling so far (E.L. Pringle, pers. obs.). It has also been noted that, unlike *leroma*, the females of *wykehami* have a black tip to the abdomen (Heath, 1997; A. Heath, LepSoc, pers. comm.). There is good evidence to suggest that that the type locality of Fraserburg in the Northern Cape province given for this taxon was erroneous, and that the original specimens were found in the Eastern Cape. There are therefore no proven records from the Northern Cape.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province in South Africa, from Willowmore in the west to Grahamstown and Bedford in the east, erroneously described from the Northern Cape, where the type locality is recorded as Teekloof Pass in the Fraserburg district.

Habitat: At the base of dry hills and along dry river beds in the Karoo, in open patches between *Vachellia karroo* trees.

Vegetation types: AT16 Albany Bontveld, AT32 Fish Valley Thicket, AT38 Grahamstown Grassland Thicket, AT47 Saltaire Karroid Thicket, AT49 Sundays Arid Thicket, AT58 Willowmore Gwarrieveld, Gd1 Amathole Montane Grassland, Gh1 Karoo Escarpment Grassland, NKl2 Eastern Lower Karoo, SKv11 Eastern Little Karoo, SKv13 Prince Albert Succulent Karoo.

Assessment rationale: This is a wide-ranging endemic taxon from the Eastern Cape province in South Africa (EOO 18 302 km^2). Though the taxonomy remains data deficient, the strength and extent of distribution of known subpopulations means that there is no foreseeable threat to this taxon. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern.

Change in status from SABCA: Several new localities over a wide area have been found in the Eastern Cape province for this species since the previous assessment. It is plentiful in all the areas where it has been found. It should no longer be regarded as Data Deficient. The localities would have existed during the first assessment and it would therefore have been assessed as Least Concern then too, thus the status change to Least Concern is non-genuine.

Threats: There are no current threats.

Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions are currently required. Research is

needed into its taxonomy, life history and ecological/habitat requirements.

Relevant literature:

Heath, A., Kaliszewska, Z.A. & Pringle, E.L. 2018. An overview of the biology of the Afrotropical butterfly genus *Crudaria* Wallengren, 1875 (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Aphnaeinae), including some new observations. *Metamorphosis* **29**: 92–117.

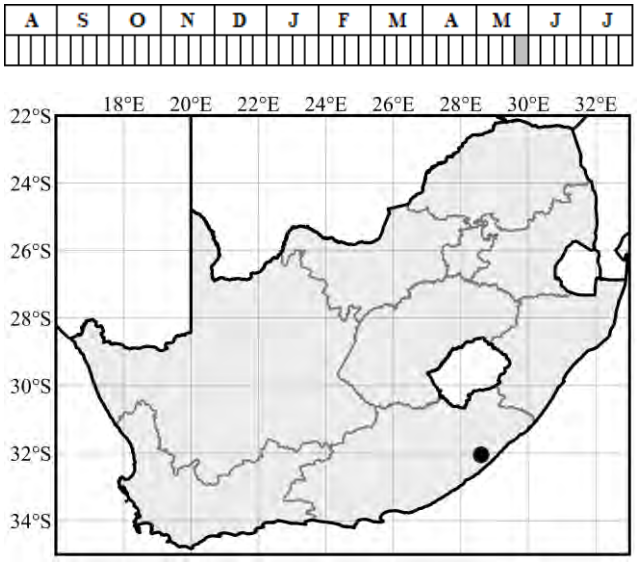
Genus *Deloneura* Trimen, 1868.

Deloneura immaculata Trimen, 1868

Mbashe River Large Buff; Basheerivier Geelvlerkie

Mark C. Williams

EX
Endemic



Type locality: Bashee River, Kaffraria.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues (but see below).

Distribution: Was endemic to the Eastern Cape province in South Africa, recorded only from a single, fairly remote and obscure locality near Fort Bowker overlooking the Mbashe River.

Habitat: Described as a wooded area along the steep banks of the Mbashe River in the present Eastern Cape province in riverine forest, possibly in the ecotone between what is now referred to as Eastern Valley Bushveld (of the Sub-Escarpment Savanna Bioregion) and Mthatha Moist Grassland (of the Sub-Escarpment Grassland Bioregion).

Vegetation types: (SVs6 Eastern Valley Bushveld).

Assessment rationale: This was an endemic species from the Eastern Cape province, South Africa. It was only recorded from three females captured by Colonel J.H. Bowker near "Fort Bowker" ... "at the end of December 1863". Numerous undocumented surveys, by a number of butterfly collectors over the last century, for this taxon have been unsuccessful. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Extinct.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: The taxon is extinct.

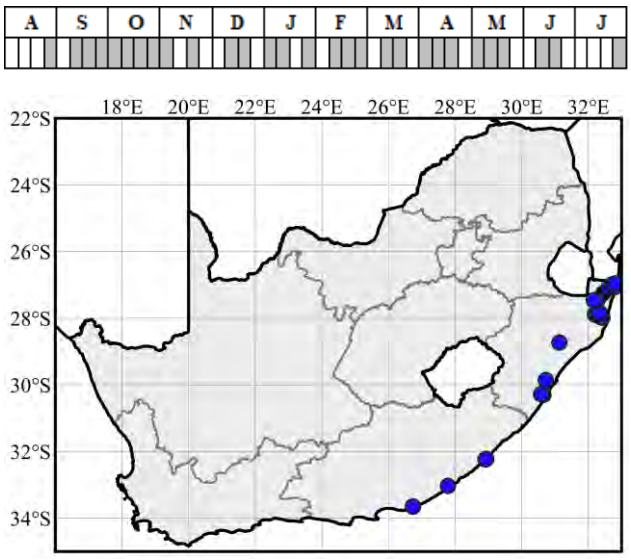
Conservation measures and research required: No conservation actions recommended (taxon is presumed extinct). Research is needed into its taxonomy and its relationship with *D. millari millari.* It may be possible to extract DNA from museum specimens.

Deloneura millari millari Trimen, 1906

Millar's Large Buff; Bos Geelvlerkie

Steve E. Woodhall

LC
Rare – Low Density



Type locality: Bluff ridge, Durban, Natal.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues. *Deloneura millari millari* is the South African subspecies. *D. millari dondoensis* is the Mozambican subspecies, occurring in the Dondo Forest region.

Distribution: Occurs in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-

Natal provinces of South Africa, near Kenton-on-Sea in the south, northwards along the eastern coastal and sub-coastal region. It is also found, as another subspecies, in southern Mozambique.

Habitat: Coastal and sub-coastal forest, bushveld, savanna and thicket. Only trees harbouring certain coccids (Sternorrhyncha), with which the species is associated, contain colonies of this taxon.

Vegetation types: AT41 Kasouga Dune Thicket, AT53 Umtiza Forest Thicket, AZd3 Cape Seashore Vegetation, CB1 Maputaland Coastal Belt, CB5 Transkei Coastal Belt, FOa2 Swamp Forest, FOz5 Scarp Forest, FOz7 Northern Coastal Forest, FOz8 Sand Forest, SVl16 Southern Lebombo Bushveld, SVl18 Tembe Sandy Bushveld, SVl20 Western Maputaland Clay Bushveld, SVl23 Zululand Lowveld, SVs6 Eastern Valley Bushveld, (CB3 KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland), (SVl26 Muzi Palm Veld and Wooded Grassland).

Assessment rationale: This taxon occurs in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa (EOO 79 942 km^2). The number of locations is about 20. The taxon's habitat is mostly not severely fragmented except for some subpopulations outside protected areas. It has not been recorded for many years in at least three of its locations. The Shongweni location has been well explored in recent years and the butterfly has not been seen there since 1974. Although some of its localities are inside protected areas (False Bay Park, Phinda Resources Reserve), the Makathini flats area is under severe pressure from agriculture and human settlement. Shongweni Reserve, having been handed over to the local community after a land claim, is now being managed by that community as a special Nature Reserve. Maputaland faces a possible future threat of deltamethrin spraying to control tsetse fly, in preparation for sterile male release (A. Armstrong, pers comm, and www-naweb.iaea.org/nafa/ipc/tsetse-flies.html). Such actions would threaten more than half of the known subpopulations, and most of the recently observed ones. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Low Density).

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: This taxon faces a variety of threats. Some of the subpopulations in Maputaland are in protected areas, such as Sileza Nature Reserve, Manguzi Forest Reserve, False Bay Park and Kosi Bay Nature Reserve. Others are inside private nature reserves such as Phinda Private Nature Reserve and Sobhengu/Nibela Lodge. Manguzi is under threat from illegal wood gathering and forest clearance, which is not being controlled by the authorities. The subpopulation near Mbazwana on the Makathini Flats is under threat from bush clearance and small scale farming. Other subpopulations outside Maputaland are in protected areas – Nkandla Forest, Shongweni Nature Reserve, Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve and Dwesa-Cwebe Wildlife Reserve. But two of these have been subject to successful land claims and one of these face threats of small scale agriculture, overgrazing and informal settlements.

Conservation measures and research required: The known subpopulations in protected areas could be studied to ascertain the requirements for effective habitat protection. Areas outside protected areas should be considered for local protection from bush clearance and small scale farming. Research is needed into its life history, ecology/habitat requirements, and the population distribution and size.

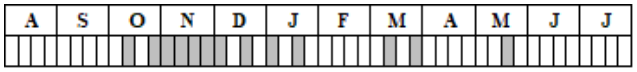
Genus *Durbania* Trimen, 1862.

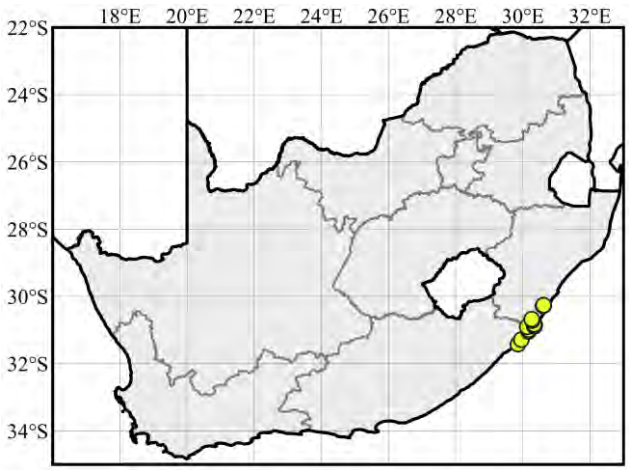
Durbania amakosa albescens Quickelberge, 1981

Whitish Amakosa Rocksitter; Witrand Amakoza Klipsitter

Kevin N.A. Cockburn

VU B1ab(i,ii,iii,iv)
Endemic





Type locality: Margate, Natal South Coast, at 30°51'S., 30°22'E.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa, occurring on the coastal belt from Lusikisiki in the south to near Scottburgh in the north.

Habitat: Moist grassland amongst rocks, which are the substrate for lichens upon which the larvae feed.

Vegetation types: CB3 KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland, CB4 Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld, FOz5 Scarp Forest, Gs20 Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland, SVs5 KwaZulu-Natal Sandstone Sourveld, (CB4 Pondoland-Ugu Sandstone Coastal Sourveld).

Assessment rationale: An endemic restricted to a small area along the coast in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces in South Africa (EOO 1 426 km^2), known from six

severely fragmented subpopulations. The taxon has very specific habitat requirements - the habitat consists of scattered outcrops of rocks in grassland, where the rocks provide a substrate for the larval food (lichen) and the grasses growing amongst the rocks provide shelter for both the larval and pupal stages. Despite some subpopulations occurring within protected areas, the population is moderately fragmented with reduced chance of movement between subpopulations due to severe habitat transformation barriers and lack of movement corridors. There are seven locations. Land claims and threats of land invasion at Vernon Crookes Nature Reserve are potential future threats to the subpopulation occurring there. High human population growth and associated development and habitat loss in the KwaZulu-Natal part of the range is a threat, with a planned pipeline an immediate threat to one of the colonies in relatively pristine grassland. The number of subpopulations, and thus the AOO, is probably declining. In the southern part of the range a major road corridor with its associated ribbon development is underway, and large scale mining is being planned south of the KwaZulu-Natal/Eastern Cape border. Injudicious fire use for fodder production in the southern part of the range remains a constant threat to colonies of the taxon. Habitat loss is inevitably leading to a decline in the EOO and a fall in the number of mature individuals. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Vulnerable under criterion B.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: Fragmentation and degradation of suitable habitat continues due to urban and agricultural development, particularly in the KwaZulu-Natal part of the range. Habitat modification is due to reduction of fire or injudicious burning, and the encroachment of alien vegetation. Planned major road construction and potential dune mining activities in the range pose habitat destruction threats in the areas immediately south of the provincial border. A current plan (2017) for a water pipeline in Margate poses a direct threat to a subpopulation, as the pipeline excavation would create a major disturbance and destruction of habitat in the area occupied by the Seaslopes colony of the butterfly. Grasslands in the region are prone to invasion by *Chromolaena odorata* (Triffid weed), as well as self-seeded Pine and Eucalyptus species, unless properly managed.

Conservation measures and research required: Land-use planning and development for the coastal region must consider this taxon. Conservation measures should be habitat-focused, and specifically consider fire and alien vegetation management. Monitoring of the various subpopulations and habitat trends is needed.

Durbania amakosa flavida Quickelberge, 1981
Yellowish Amakosa Rocksitter; Gelerige Amakoza Klipsitter

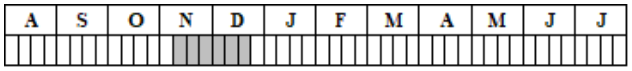
Kevin N.A. Cockburn

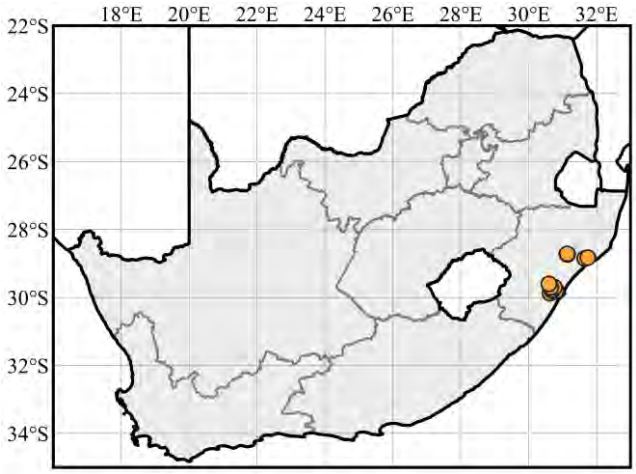
EN C2a(i)
Endemic

Type locality: Shongweni Dam, Natal, at 29°50'S., 30°43'E.

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the KwaZulu-Natal province in South Africa, inland of Durban in the south and on the hills





near the Ngoye and Nkandla forests in the north.

Habitat: Moist grassland amongst rocks which act as a substrate for lichens upon which the larvae feed.

Vegetation types: CB3 KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Belt Grassland, FOz5 Scarp Forest, Gs19 Dry Coast Hinterland Grassland, Gs20 Moist Coast Hinterland Grassland, Gs9 Midlands Mistbelt Grassland, SVs3 KwaZulu-Natal Hinterland Thornveld, SVs5 KwaZulu-Natal Sandstone Sourveld, SVs6 Eastern Valley Bushveld.

Assessment rationale: This taxon is endemic to grasslands in KwaZulu-Natal province, South Africa (EOO 5 796 km^2). There are 15 subpopulations at nine locations. The majority of the subpopulations occur inland of the city of Durban. This area is experiencing extremely rapid urbanisation and population growth. Pristine, undisturbed and properly managed areas of suitable habitat are decreasing. The number of subpopulations and thus the AOO is decreasing. Numbers in the two northern locations, both occurring in protected areas can be assumed to be stable. Appropriate fire management is essential to the maintenance of the relevant vegetation types, and unseasonal burning is becoming commonplace. The habitat niche required by this taxon is very specific, with a particular structure of rocky patches necessary in the grassland. The rocks act as a substrate for the larval food (lichens), and the shelter of the grasses adjacent to the rocks is necessary for both larvae and pupae. These niche requirements are only met in small areas, in which colonies are established. A very high percentage of records for this taxon are from the southern or Durban inland

location. A number of subpopulations in this location have been lost, and further subpopulations are expected to be lost in the near future, as habitat transformation is probably unstoppable in this area. This will probably lead to a major population reduction. This taxon exists typically in small and extremely localised colonies extending to only a few hundred m^2. All recorded populations to date have fewer than 250 individuals and the overall populations is suspected to less than 1 000 adults. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Endangered under criterion C.

Change in status from SABCA: The status has not changed from the previous assessment.

Threats: Most known sites are adjacent to areas with high human population density. Overgrazing and human settlement pressures potentially threaten the remaining habitat. Over 60% of the localities are near to rapidly expanding human settlements. In the southern part of this taxon's range some of the habitats may be lost within the next ten years, and some have already been lost to settlement and other development.

Conservation measures and research required: Inclusion in land-use and development planning is recommended. Conservation measures should be habitat-orientated, and habitat changes should be monitored. Conservation authorities in the northern locations should receive appropriate awareness training.

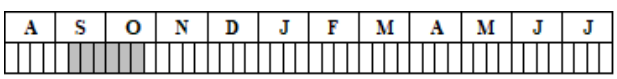
Genus *Durbaniella* Van Son, 1959.

Durbaniella clarki belladonna Ball, 1994

Karoo Little Rocksitter; Karoo Kaapse Klipsitter

Ernest L. Pringle

LC
Rare – Restricted Range, Habitat Specialist
Endemic

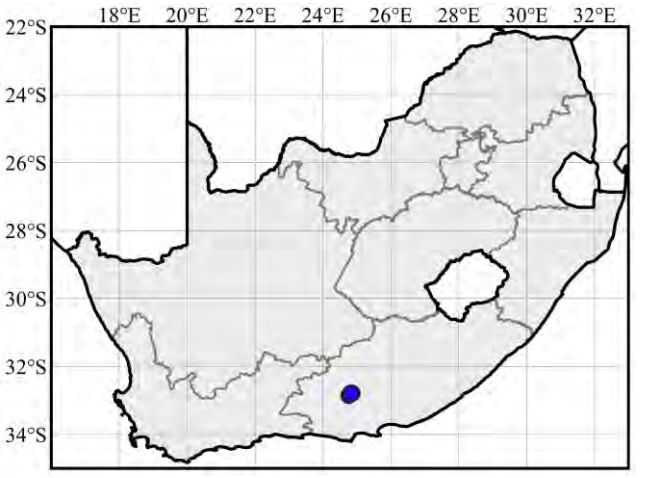


Type locality: 30 km northeast of Jansenville, Eastern Cape. 27 Sept. 1986 (Dr J.B. Ball).

Taxonomy: There are no notable issues.

Distribution: Endemic to the Eastern Cape province of South Africa, from three localities approximately 30 km north-east of Jansenville.

Habitat: Low hills in Sundays Thicket in the Albany Thicket



Biome. The habitat is fairly close to Lower Karoo Gwarrieveld of the Lower Karoo Bioregion of the Nama-Karoo Biome on south-facing slopes. The microhabitat used by this taxon consists of dolerite rocks (known locally as 'ysterklip' due to the high iron silicate content) on which the necessary larval food of orange-red crustose lichens/cyanobacteria grows.

Vegetation types: AT49 Sundays Arid Thicket.

Assessment rationale: This is a restricted endemic from the Eastern Cape province in South Africa (EOO 4 km^2). There are three locations, but further surveys of suitable habitat are required. Although habitat degradation from overgrazing and climate change may be future threats, there are no significant current threats. The taxon thus qualifies globally under the IUCN criteria as Least Concern and is nationally classified as Rare (Restricted Range and Habitat Specialist). There are many other suitable localities, but these have been inadequately explored. It is probable that further locations will be found in the future.

Change in status from SABCA: At its known locality it is reasonably plentiful. No searches for it have been carried out away from its known locality, except for the current author expanding the search on two occasions, and quickly found it at two other localities nearby. This butterfly feeds on rock lichen and suitable rocks with the same lichen occur over a wide area in this region, covering at least another 50 km. The taxon has no significant threats because it occurs in a remote arid area where only livestock farming takes place. Livestock cannot really threaten a species that breeds on rock lichens, and there is no evidence to suggest to the contrary. There is also no evidence of any decline in these populations over time. The taxon should have previously been assessed as Least Concern and thus the status change from Vulnerable to Least Concern is non-genuine.

Threats: No current threats, but overgrazing, removal or loss of vegetation shading the breeding rocks and climate warming/aridification are possible future risk factors. Moisture for the needed microclimate mainly comes from valley mist. Possibly the necessary moisture/humidity gradients will change with climate warming. The vegetation ecosystem status of the habitat is Least Threatened.

Conservation measures and research required: A search for other localities is necessary. Co-operation with local farmers is needed to prevent habitat deterioration. Research into the life history and ecology and population monitoring are also required.