

Genus *Kobelana* Larsen & Collins, 2013

Metamorphosis **23**: 12 (8-15).

Type-species: *Nisoniades kobela* Trimen, 1864, by original designation.

The genus *Kobelana* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Pyrginae Burmeister, 1878; Tribe Tagiadini Mabille, 1878. Other genera of the Tribe Tagiadini in the Afrotropical Region are *Eagris*, *Procampa*, *Calleagris*, *Tagiades*, *Netrobalane*, *Caprona*, *Leucochitonea* and *Abantis*.

Kobelana (Skippers) is a South African genus of two species.

**Kobelana kobela* (Trimen, 1864)#

Mrs Raven's Skipper



Resting female of the Mrs Raven's Flat (*Kobelana kobela*). Greytown, KwaZulu-Natal
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Nisoniades kobela Trimen, 1864. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) **2**: 180 (175-180).

Nisoniades kobela Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.

Pterygospidea kobela (Trimen, 1864). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

Calleagris kobela Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Calleagris kobela (Trimen, 1864). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Calleagris kobela (Trimen, 1864). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 312.

Calleagris kobela (Trimen, 1864). Mecenero *et al.*, 2013: 72.

Kobelana kobela (Trimen, 1864). Larsen & Collins, 2012: 12.



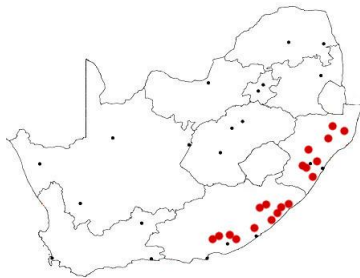
Kobelana kobela. Male (Wingspan 43 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Port St Johns, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 24 March 2008. J. Dobson.



Kobelana kobela. Female (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Port St Johns, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 24 March 2008. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common names: Mrs Raven’s Flat; Pondo Platvlerkie (Afrikaans).

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Bashee River, Kaffraria”.



Distribution: South Africa
(KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape
Province).

In South Africa its distribution covers 31
quarter degree squares (231 records) [see
<http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as
moderately widespread.

Specific localities:

KwaZulu-Natal – Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Greytown (Swanepoel, 1953); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953); Ingwavuma (Mecenero *et al.*, 2016).

Eastern Cape Province – Bashee River (TL; Bowker); Somerset East (Swanepoel, 1953); King William’s Town (Swanepoel, 1953); East London (Swanepoel, 1953); Port St Johns (Swanepoel, 1953).

Habitat: Montane forest and temperate coastal forest.

Habits: The flight is not fast but specimens are easily disturbed, and will then flit around for a short time and alight on another plant. Individuals usually settle low down, on the underside of leaves, with the wings fully expanded. Both sexes feed from flowers. Males establish territories in clearings and along paths and roads in the forest. These clearings are defended in the morning hours, specimens usually perching, with opened wings, on the upper surface of leaves (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Flight period: November to May but most numerous in February and March (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Kobelana krooni* (Vári, 1974)#**

Kroon’s Skipper



Resting female of Koon's Flat (*Kobelana krooni*)
Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson

Calleagris krooni Vári, 1974. *Annals of the Transvaal Museum* **29**: 10 (9-25).

Calleagris krooni Vári, 1974. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Calleagris krooni Vári, 1974. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 312.

Kobelana krooni (Vári, 1974). Larsen & Collins, 2012.



Kobelana krooni. Male (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sabie, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 18 February 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

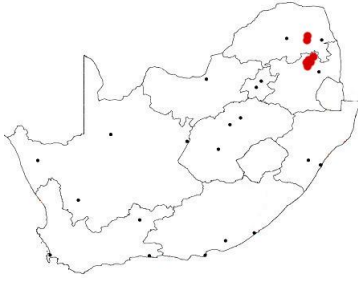


Kobelana krooni. Female (Wingspan 49 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mariepskop, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 5 March 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Groot Platvlerkie (Afrikaans).

Type locality: South Africa: “Mariepskop”. Holotype (male) in Ditsong Museum, Pretoria.

Diagnosis: Similar to *Kobelana kobela*, from which it can be distinguished by its larger size, the larger and more numerous hyaline spots on the forewing, and on the hindwing underside by the lighter ochreous irroration between the postdiscal spots and the wing margin (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).



Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga – along the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg escarpment).

In South Africa its distribution covers 6 quarter degree squares (125 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as localized.

Specific localities:

Limpopo Province – The Downs (Letaba District) – H.A. Junod, February, 1919 (Vari, 1974); Haenertsburg – C.J. Swierstra, December, 1922 (Vari, 1974).

Mpumalanga – Mariepskop, between 600 and 1 200 m (TL); Malelane – Dr A. Gould, February, 1903 (Vari, 1974); Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Kowyn's Pass (Swanepoel, 1953); Blyfstaanhoogte, near Sabie (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams, unpub.).

Habitat: Montane escarpment forest.

Habits: Flight not particularly fast, and seldom more than a metre above the ground. Both sexes feed from flowers (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Males defend territories in clearings and along roads, perching with fully opened wings on the upper surface of leaves of low-growing plants.

Flight period: November to May. Commonest from February to April (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.