

## Genus *Caprona* Wallengren, 1857

Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar. Stockholm annis 1838-1845. Collecta (n.s.) 2 (4): 51 (55 pp.).

Type-species: *Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, by monotypy.

= *Stethotrix* Mabille, 1890. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) 9: 184 (149-150, 155-156, 167-169, 183-184). Type-species: *Stethotrix heterogyna* Mabille, by monotypy.

Synonym based on extralimital type-species: *Abaratha* Moore.

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

*Caprona* (Ragged Skippers) is an Old World (Afro-oriental) genus of six species, three of which are Afrotropical and three of which are Oriental.

### \**Caprona adelica* Karsch, 1892

Western Ragged Skipper

*Caprona adelica* Karsch, 1892. *Entomologische Nachrichten. Berlin*. 18: 241 (241-244).



*Caprona adelica*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bobo-Dioulasso, Dinnderesso, Burkina-Faso. 7 July 1996.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** Togo: “Forschungsstation Bismarckburg im Hinterlande von Togo”.

**Distribution:** Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria (north), Sudan (south), ?Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya (north-west), Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Malawi.

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Kedegou (Larsen, 2005a); Mako (Larsen, 2005a).

Burkina Faso – Bobo Dioulassou (Larsen, 2005a); Dinderesso (Larsen, 2005a).

Guinea – Kankan (Larsen, 2005a); Fouta Djallon (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kogyae National Park (Larsen, 2005a); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Togo – Bismarckburg (TL).

Benin – Pendjari National Park (Coache *et al.*, 2014a).

Nigeria – Jos (Larsen, 2005a); Minna (Larsen, 2005a); Borgu (Larsen, 2005a); Lokoja (Larsen, 2005a).

Kenya – Ortum in West Pokot (Larsen, 1991c).

**Habitat:** In West Africa it occurs in Guinea savanna (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** A generally scarce skipper (Larsen, 2005a). They have been found feeding from the flowers of *Tridax* in Ghana (Larsen, 2005a). Males perch on bushes, about a metre off the ground and display their androconial hair-tufts; this also occurs when they are hilltopping (photo in Larsen, 1988 and 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

Possibly *Grewia* species (Tiliaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].

**Note:** Larsen (2005a) believes that the disjunct populations in Malawi and Shaba (DRC) may repay study; possibly they represent an undescribed species or subspecies.

*kordofani* Bethune-Baker, 1916 (as var. of *Caprona adelica*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (8) 17: 380 (378-385). [Sudan?]

### \**Caprona cassualalla* Bethune-Baker, 1911

Kavango Ragged Skipper

*Caprona cassualalla* Bethune-Baker, 1911. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (8) 8: 506 (506-542).

*Caprona cassualla* Bethune-Baker, 1911. Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [Misspelling of species name]

*Caprona cassuallala* Behtune-Baker, 1911. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 315.



*Caprona cassuallala*. Male (wet season form). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Otjiwarongo, Namibia. 9 April 1994. H. Selb.  
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** Angola: “Cassualalla, N. Angola”. Type in the Natural History Museum, London.

**Diagnosis:** See *Caprona pillaana* for differentiation.

**Distribution:** Angola, Namibia (north). The distribution of this species and that of *Caprona pillaana* is discussed by Vári (1974).

Recorded, erroneously, from Nigeria (Larsen, 2005a).

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Cassualalla (TL); Kwanza Norte Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

**Habitat:** Very dry savanna.

**Habits:** Similar to those of other species of the genus. Both sexes feed from the flowers of trees in spring (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** September to June (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Ficq, *vide* Pringle *et al.* (1994) has recorded seasonal forms of this species.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Grewia* species (Tiliaceae) [G. Hobohm, *in* Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 186].

**\**Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, 1857#**  
Ragged Skipper



Males of the Ragged Skipper, *Caprona pillaana*. Images courtesy Allison Sharp.

- Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, 1857. *Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar. Stockholm annis 1838-1845. Collecta (n.s.)* 2 (4): 51 (55 pp.).  
*Caprona pillaana* Wallengren. Trimen, 1866a.  
*Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, 1857. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.  
*Caprona pillaana* Wallengren. Swanepoel, 1953a.  
*Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, 1857. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Caprona pillaana* Wallengren, 1857. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 315.



*Caprona pillaana*. Male (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Highlands G.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa. 21 January 2012. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Caprona pillaana*. Female (Wingspan 40 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Highlands G.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa. 21 January 2012. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Caffraria”. [false locality]. Type in the Natural History Museum, London. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/p](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/p)).

**Diagnosis:** Close to *Caprona cassualalla* but: 1 – transverse row of transparent spots in forewing very irregularly shaped; 2 – outer pale line of median fascia on hindwing not continued into anal angle; 3 – a faint white line running from above the anal angle outside the median fascia towards the middle of the wing (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). *Caprona pillaana* lacks the prominent black spot in space 1b on the hindwing underside, which is present in *Caprona adelica* (Larsen, 1991c).

**Distribution:** Ghana (north-east), Benin, Nigeria (north-east), Djibouti, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana (north and east), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Northern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999), Yemen.

In South Africa its distribution covers 87 quarter degree squares (281 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as widespread.

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Nakpanduri (Maessen, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – Pendjari National Park (Coache *et al.*, 2014a).

Nigeria – Shellem (Larsen, 2005a); ?near Zaria (Cornes, 1971); Obudu Town (P. Walwanda, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Kenya – Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Ologorsale (Larsen, 1991c); Chyulu Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c); Yatta Plateau (Larsen, 1991c); Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (Larsen, 1991c); Tana River (Larsen, 1991c); Ngong Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Kibwezi (Cock & Congdon, 2011); Ndara Ranch (Cock & Congdon, 2011).

Tanzania – Widespread (Kielland, 1990d); Lolkisale (Kielland, 1990d); Mount Meru (Kielland, 1990d); Ruaha National Park (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mount Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Zomba Mountain (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Kasempa (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Angola – Moxico Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Mozambique – Siluve (Pennington).

Botswana – Boti-Sepopa (Pinhey); Maun (Pinhey); Kasane (Pinhey); Lobatse (Larsen, 1991); Kanye (Larsen, 1991); Gaborone (Larsen, 1991); Mahalapye (Larsen, 1991); Serowe (Larsen, 1991); Tati (Larsen, 1991); Kazungula (Larsen, 1991); Mababe Flats (Larsen, 1991); Tsao (Larsen, 1991); Gumare (Larsen, 1991); Sepupa (Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Mica (Swanepoel, 1953); Tzaneen (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Sibasa (Swanepoel, 1953); Vivo (Swanepoel, 1953); Polokwane (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953); Warmbaths (Swanepoel, 1953); Highlands Wilderness (Bode & Bode, unpublished checklist); Soetdoring Farm [-24.561 28.233] (A. Mayer, pers comm. 2015).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Lydenburg district (Swanepoel, 1953).

North West Province – Zeerust (Swanepoel, 1953); Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006).

Gauteng – Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953).

KwaZulu-Natal – Durban (Swanepoel, 1953); Pinetown (Swanepoel, 1953); Stanger (Swanepoel, 1953); Greytown (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Hluhluwe (Swanepoel, 1953); Umkomaas (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Northern Cape Province – Kimberley (Swanepoel, 1953).

Swaziland – Mlawula N. R. ([www.sntc.org.sz](http://www.sntc.org.sz)).

**Habitat:** Mainly dry savanna (bushveld) but also moist savanna and riverine forest. In West Africa it is mainly associated with Sudan savanna (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania at altitudes from near sea-level to 1 900 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** Very scarce in West Africa but commoner in East and southern Africa (Larsen, 2005a). Even in East and southern Africa, however, it is uncommon and is usually found in one's and two's (Larsen, 1991c). The flight is quite rapid. Both flowers and damp spots on the banks of streams are visited. Males show strong hilltopping behaviour but they tend to select perches on trees a little below the summit (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Territories are defended very aggressively by perching males (Larsen, 1991c). Terblanche (2007) described the use of androconial tufts by males during territorial perching.

**Flight period:** All year. The spring brood differs slightly in appearance from summer specimens (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Paré, in Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 82.

Final instar larva cylindrical; colour off-white and densely covered with half millimetre long setae; setae arise from small white tubercles giving larva a granulated appearance; each segment with a pair of very small black dots, one on each side of the dorsal mid-line. Head black and dorsally bi-lobed; densely covered by 2 mm long setae; setae on dorsum of lobes black, the rest white; an ill-defined band of grey setae bisecting head laterally, giving the appearance of a stripe across the face. Attains a length of 25 mm. Pupa 20 mm long; cylindrical; white and covered with a waxy powdery bloom.

Eggs are laid singly on a leaf of the foodplant. Larvae live in shelters during the day, feeding only at night. The larval stage last about 42 days. Pupation occurs in the larval shelter, which consists of two leaves stitched together with silk. The pupa is secured by a y-shaped silk girdle and a cremaster attached to the upper leaf of the shelter. The two arms and the foot of the 'y' are attached to the roof and floor of the shelter, respectively. Pupal period about 10 days.

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 82 (photograph of fourth instar larva).

Cock & Congdon, 2011: 33.



Final instar larva and pupa of *Caprona pillaana*. Images courtesy Allison Sharp.

#### **Larval food:**

*Dombeya burgessiae* Gerrard ex Harv. (Sterculiaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 83].

*Dombeya rotundifolia* (Hochst.) Planch. (Sterculiaceae) [Platt (1921), cited by Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 186].

*Grewia bicolor* Juss. (Tiliaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2011; Kenya].

*Grewia capitellata* Bojer (Tiliaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2011; Kenya; as *Grewia ectasicarpa* S. Moore].

*Grewia flava* DC. (Tiliaceae) [Woodhall, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 315].

*Grewia monticola* Sond. (Tiliaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 83].

*Grewia plagiophylla* K. Schum. (Tiliaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2011; Kenya].

*Grewia similis* K. Schum. (Tiliaceae) [van Someren, 1974; East Africa].

*Sterculia quinqueloba* (Garke) K.Schum. (Sterculiaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 83].

#### **Relevant literature:**

Terblanche, 2007 [Androconial hair-tuft displays].

*heterogyna* Mabille, 1890 (as sp. of *Stethotrix*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) 9: 184 (149-150, 155-156, 167-169, 183-184). [South Africa]: "Natal".