

Genus *Ceratricula* Larsen, 2013

Zootaxa 3666 (4): 479 (476-488).

Type-species: *Ceratrachia semilutea* Mabille, 1891, by original designation.

Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique 35: 65 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).

The genus *Ceratricula* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809, *incertae sedis*. Other genera in the Subfamily HesperIIDae, *incertae sedis* are *Tsitana*, *Lepella*, *Astictopterus*, *Arnetta*, *Prosopalpus*, *Kedestes*, *Fulda*, *Gorgyra*, *Gyrogra*, *Teniorhinus*, *Herila*, *Ceratrachia*, *Flandria*, *Pardaleodes*, *Hollandus*, *Ankola*, *Xanthodisca*, *Acada*, *Rhabdomantis*, *Osmodes*, *Parosmodes*, *Osphantes*, *Acleros*, *Paracleros*, *Semalea*, *Hypoleucis*, *Meza*, *Paronymus*, *Andronymus*, *Malaza*, *Perrotia*, *Ploetzia*, *Moltena*, *Chondrolepis*, *Zophopetes*, *Gamia*, *Artitropa*, *Mopala*, *Gretna*, *Pteroteinon*, *Leona*, *Caenides*, *Monza*, *Melphina*, *Melphinyet*, *Noctulana*, *Fresna*, *Platylesches*, and *Erionota*.

Ceratricula (Tufted Forest Sylph) is a monotypical Afrotropical genus.

**Ceratricula semilutea* (Mabille, 1891)

Tufted Forest Sylph

Ceratrachia semilutea Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* 35: 65 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).

Ceratricula semilutea (Mabille, 1891). Larsen, 2013: 483 **comb. nov.**



Ceratricula semilutea congdoni. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Mwinilunga, Zambia. 29 March 1981.

Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Ceratricula semilutea congdoni. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Hillwood, Mwinilunga, Zambia. 7 December 1983.

Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Lagos en Afrique”.

Diagnosis: Upperside similar to that of *Ceratrachia hollandi* but *semilutea* male hindwing with pronounced brown sex brand (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west), Zambia (north-west).

Habitat: Closed forest. Usually found in small glades and along forest paths. Also found along stream banks Larsen, 2013).

Habits: Rather local and only occasionally numerous (Larsen, 2013). In the field *semilutea* is difficult to distinguish from the much commoner *Ceratrachia phocion* and is thus probably often overlooked (Larsen, 2005a). Individuals have been noted feeding from low growing flowers (Congdon & Collins, 1998). *Ceratrachia semilutea* tends to fly higher above the ground than species of the genus *Ceratrachia* (Larsen, 2013).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Ceratrachia semilutea semilutea (Mabille, 1891)

Ceratrachia semilutea Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* 35: 65 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).
Ceratrachia semilutea (Mabille, 1891). Larsen, 2013: 483 **comb. nov.**

Type locality: Nigeria: “Lagos en Afrique”. Place of deposition of type unknown (Larsen, 2013).

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria.

Specific localities:

Guinea – Nimbas (Larsen, 2005a).

Sierra Leone – Guma (Belcastro, 1986); Loma Mountains (Belcastro, 1986).

Liberia – Harbel (Larsen, 2005a).

Ivory Coast – Nimbas (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Assin Foso (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Atewa Range (Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – Lagos (TL); Ilaro (Larsen, 2005a); Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a); Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Ceratrachia semilutea indeterminabilis (Strand, 1912)

Ceratrachia indeterminabilis Strand, 1912. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* 78 (A.9.): 110 (92-111).

Synonym of *Ceratrachia semilutea* Mabille, 1891. Evans, 1937.

Ceratrachia semilutea indeterminabilis (Strand, 1912). Larsen, 2013 **comb. nov., stat. rev.**

Type locality: Cameroon: “Alen”. Place of deposition of type unknown (Larsen, 2013).

Diagnosis: Larger than the other two subspecies, with more prominent dark spotting on the hindwing underside

Distribution: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo (west).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Alen (Strand, 1912).

Gabon – Mondah (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa, Ivindo National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau National Park (Vande weghe, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kinshasa (Larsen, 2013).

Ceratrachia semilutea congdoni Larsen, 2013

Ceratrachia semilutea congdoni Larsen, 2013. *Zootaxa* 3666 (4): 481 (476-488).



Ceratricula semilutea congdoni. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mwinilunga, Zambia. 29 March 1981.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Ceratricula semilutea congdoni. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Hillwood, Mwinilunga, Zambia. 7 December 1983.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Katera Forest, vii, 1937 (T.H.E. Jackson leg.)”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate subspecies in the paler ochreous-yellow on the hindwing upperside and the even paler beige-yellow hindwing underside. In the nominate subspecies the brown patch in the cell on the hindwing underside is missing (Larsen, 2013).

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east), Uganda (west), Tanzania (extreme north-west), Zambia (north-west).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Orientale Province (Larsen, 2013); Kivu Province (Larsen, 2013); Shaba Province (Larsen, 2013); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Katera Forest (TL); Tero Forest (Larsen, 2013); Bwindi Forest (Larsen, 2013); Semuliki N.P. (S. Forbes, pers. comm., 2017).

Tanzania – Munene Forest (common) (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Minziro Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Kikuru Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (A. Gardiner; male illustrated above); Hillwood Farm (A. Gardiner; female illustrated above).

Notes: Tends to be a rather local subspecies but in Uganda it is more numerous than are the other subspecies (Larsen, 2013).