

Genus *Fresna* Evans 1937

A catalogue of the African HesperIIDae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 164 (212 pp.).

Type-species: *Hesperia netopha* Hewitson, by original designation.

The genus *Fresna* 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*, *Ceraticula*, *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*, *Platylesches*, and *Erionota*.

Fresna (Acraea Skippers) is an Afrotropical genus of six species.

**Fresna carlo* Evans, 1937

Evans' Acraea Skipper

Fresna carlo Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African HesperIIDae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 166 (212 pp.).

Type locality: Cameroon: "Cameroons (Bitje)".

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, ?Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west).

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Guma Valley near Freetown (Larsen, 2005a).

Ivory Coast – Gagnoa (Larsen, 2005a); Banco (C. Belcastro, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kakum National Park (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Bitje (TL).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri (Larsen, 2005a); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Habitat: Forest (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: One of the rarest Afrotropical hesperiids (Collins *et al.*, 2003). Larsen (2005a) illustrates a male on bird-droppings.

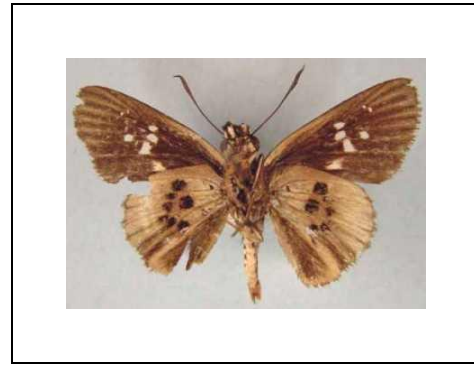
Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Fresna cojo* (Karsch, 1893)

Large Acraea Skipper

Pamphila (*Hesperia*) *cojo* Karsch, 1893. *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **38**: 250 (1-266).



Fresna cojo. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 33mm. Lubaris, Kigoma, Tanzania. 74. J. Keilland [Kielland].
(Henning collection – H62).

Type locality: Togo: “Bismarckburg”.

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea-Bissau (Larsen, 2005a), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, north-west), Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (north-west), Zambia (north-west).

Specific localities:

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a).

Togo – Bismarckburg (TL).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Obudu Town (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – near Korup (T. Helps, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Kenya – Yala River (Evans, 1937).

Tanzania – Lubalizi Valley (Kielland, 1990d); Kemfu Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Ntakatta Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Lubaris, Kigoma (male illustrated above).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Habitat: Drier open forest and transition to Guinea savanna in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania from 900 to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: A very scarce species (Larsen, 1991c; Collins *et al.*, 2003). Kielland noted specimens feeding on the nectar of bean flowers (Kielland, 1990d). Numbers of individuals were found on the flowers of *Tagetes* in Ghana (Larsen, 2005a).

Flight period: Flies in most months of the year (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Albizia zygia (DC.) J.F.Macbr. (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Andira inermis (W.Wright) DC. (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Anthonotha crassifolia (Baill.) J.Léonard (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Millettia thonningii (Schumach. & Thonn.) Baker (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

**Fresna jacquelinae* Collins & Larsen, 2003

Fresna jacquelinae Collins & Larsen, 2003. *Metamorphosis* 14 (3): 105 (63-110).

Type locality: Cameroon: “south of Yaounde, Ebogo, December 1998”. Holotype (male) in African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi; genitalia SCC 465.

Etymology: Named for Jacqueline Miller of the Allyn Museum, U.S.A., in recognition of her contributions to Afrotropical lepidopterology (Collins *et al.*, 2003).

Distribution: Cameroon, Zambia (Gardiner, 2010b).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Ebogo, south of Yaounde (TL).

Zambia – Ikelenge district (Gardiner, 2010b).

Habitat: Miombo woodland, near rivers (Gardiner, 2010b).

Habits: Rare and difficult to capture as, like other species in the genus, it only alights for a brief moment, before flying off and not returning (Gardiner, 2010b).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Fresna maesseni* Miller, 1971**

Maessen's Acraea Skipper

Fresna maesseni Miller, 1971. *Bulletin of the Allyn Museum* (2): 9 (17 pp.).

Type locality: Ghana: "Likpe".

Distribution: Ivory Coast (Warren-Gash, pers. comm., 2002), Ghana, Cameroon (Collins *et al.*, 2003), Democratic Republic of Congo (Larsen, 2010).

Specific localities:

Ivory Coast – Tai National Park (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Likpe (TL); Abetifi near Nkawkaw (Kuhne, 1999); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Cameroon – Ebogo (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kivu (Ducarme, *vide* Larsen, 2010); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: An extremely rare species of acraea skipper (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Fresna netopha* (Hewitson, 1878)**

Common Acraea Skipper

Hesperia netopha Hewitson, 1878. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (5) 1: 345 (340-348).



Fresna netopha. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 34mm. Udos Camp, Kakamega Forest, Kenya. 13-15.VI.1996.
A.J. Gardiner. (Gardiner Collection).

Alternative common name: Yellow Acraea Skipper.

Type locality: "West Africa".

Distribution: Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya (west), Tanzania (north-west), Zambia (north-east).

Specific localities:

Ghana – Cape Coast (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c; female illustrated above); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Luongo River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalungwishi River (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Habitat: Drier, open forest and, in West Africa, the transition between forest and Guinea savanna. Also in degraded areas in the forest zone (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania from 900 to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: A fairly common species (Collins *et al.*, 2003). They are usually encountered singly, perching on leaves or blades of grass (Larsen, 1991c). Both sexes avidly seek flowers (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Paullinia pinnata (Sapindaceae) [R. Vuattoux, *vide* Larsen, 1991c: 430; Cock & Congdon, 2013].

Pericopsis laxiflora (Benth.) Meeuwen (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; as *Afrormosia* [*Pericopsis*] *laxiflora*; Ivory Coast; according to Cock & Congdon, 2013 this record is for *Fresna nyassae*].

****Fresna nyassae* (Hewitson, 1878)#**
Variegated Acraea Hopper

Hesperia nyassae Hewitson, 1878. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (5) 1: 345 (340-348).

Fresna nyassae (Hewitson, 1878). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Fresna nyassae (Hewitson, 1878). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331.



Fresna nyassae. Male (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mphaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 22 March 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Fresna nyassae. Female (Wingspan 41 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mphaphuli Nature Reserve, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 19 June 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Variegated Acraea Skipper; Rooitjie-springertjie (Afrikaans).

Type locality: “Nyassa”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Angola,

Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south), Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province; KwaZulu-Natal – Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 173), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

Specific localities:

Ghana – Tano Ofin (ABRI, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Kagoro (Larsen, 2005a); Acharu Forest (Larsen, 2005a); Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Angola – Bie Province; Huambo Province; Malanje Province; Moxico Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Seziwa River, Kampala (Evans, 1937).

Kenya – Suna (Larsen, 1991c); Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c); Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c); Arubuko-Sokoce (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Common in the west, scarcer in the east (Kielland, 1990d); Nyumbenitu Mountain in the Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); near Kiono Forest at Sadani (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Solwezi (Riley, 1921); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kabompo (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kawambwa (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Makutu Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Zimbabwe – Vumba; Harare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mazowe (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Lake Chivero spillway (A. Duke).

Limpopo Province – Mpaphuli Nature Reserve.

KwaZulu-Natal – Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Habitat: Moist savanna, especially *Brachystegia* woodland. In Tanzania from 800 to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: A fairly common species (Collins *et al.*, 2003). Uncommon in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). Males establish territories around trees and perch high up in the crown (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). They are often observed feeding from flowers (Kielland, 1990d). Individuals have been seen resting on grass stems in wet patches in Kenya (Larsen, 1991c).

Flight period: All year but commonest in the spring and summer months (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Trimen, 1893 [larva & pupa; Mozambique; of form *ennuari* according to Cock & Congdon, 2013]

Paré, in Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331. [Zimbabwe; f. *ennuari*]

“The egg is rose-pink and laid on new growth. The first instar larva is bright scarlet with a black head while later instars are whitish in colour with a brown head. The final instar is smooth and white with a discrete black dorsal longitudinal stripe on each segment except the first two and the last. The headshield is reddish brown with symmetrical orange markings.”

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 172. [Zimbabwe; f. *ennuari*]

Eggs laid singly on young leaves; rose pink in colour. First instar larva bright scarlet; head black. Later instars whitish with brown head. Final instar smooth, white; broken black dorsal stripe; head reddish brown with symmetrical orange markings. The pupa, illustrated on p. 173 is brown, fading laterally to light brown and to white ventrally; dorsal and dorso-lateral surface peppered with minute brown protuberances/setae.

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 173 (photograph of final instar larva and pupa; Zimbabwe; f. *ennuari*).

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 57.

Larval food:

Albizia sp. (Fabaceae) [Le Pelly, 1959; Uganda; f. *plata*].

? *Isobertinia* sp. (Caesalpinioideae) [Dollman (unpublished) *vide* Cock & Congdon, 2013; f. *ennuari*].

Julbernardia globiflora (Benth.) Troupin (Fabaceae) [Paré, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 331; Zimbabwe; f. *ennuari*].

Paullinia pinnata L. (Sapindaceae) (exotic) [Vuattoux, 1999; Ivory Coast; according to Cock & Congdon, 2013 this record is for *Fresna netopha*].

Pericopsis laxiflora (Benth.) Meeuwen (Fabaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; as *Afrormosia* [*Pericopsis*] *laxiflora*; Ivory Coast; according to Cock & Congdon, 2013 this record is for *Fresna nyassae* form *joppa*].

roncilgonis Plötz, 1882 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **43**: 451 (314-344, 436-456). Angola.

ennuari Riley, 1921 (as f. of *Parnara nyassae*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1921**: 257 (234-259). [Zambia]: “Solwezi”.

plata Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Fresna nyassae*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidæ indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 165 (212 pp.). [Uganda]: “Seziwa River-Kampala, 3,500 ft”.

joppa Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Fresna nyassae*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidæ indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 166 (212 pp.). Ghana: “Gold Coast”.