

Genus *Paronymus* Aurivillius, [1925] Large Darts

In Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 520 (614 pp.).

Type-species: *Hesperia ligora* Hewitson, by subsequent designation (Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 127 (212 pp.)).

The genus *Paronymus* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809, Tribe Hesperini Latreille, 1809. Other genera in the Tribe Hesperini, are *Lepella*, *Prosopalpus*, *Kedestes*, *Fulda*, *Gorgyra*, *Gyrogra*, *Teniorhinus*, *Flandria*, *Hollandus*, *Xanthodisca*, *Acada*, *Rhabdomantis*, *Osmodes*, *Parosmodes*, *Osphantes*, *Acleros*, *Paracleros*, *Semalea*, *Hypoleucis*, *Tsitana*, *Andronymus*, *Malaza*, *Perrotia*, *Ploetzia*, *Moltena*, *Chondrolepis*, *Zophopetes*, *Gamia*, *Artitropa*, *Mopala*, *Pteroteinon*, *Leona*, *Caenides*, *Monza*, *Melphina*, *Melphinyet*, *Noctulana*, *Fresna*, and *Platylesches*.

Paronymus (**Large Darts**) is an Afrotropical genus of four species.

**Paronymus budonga* (Evans, 1938) Budonga Large Dart

Gastrochaeta budonga Evans, 1938. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **1**: 312 (312-315).

Meza budonga (Evans, 1938). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 109.

Paronymus budonga (Evans, 1938). Larsen, *in* Congdon & Collins, 1998: 21.



Paronymus budonga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Mille, Lolodorf, Cameroon. May 2012. PA. ABRI-2019-2536.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Paronymus budonga. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. November 2000. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2537.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Budongo”.

Distribution: Cameroon (Vande weghe, 2010); Gabon (Vande weghe, 2010); Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west), Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Gabon – Mount Belinga (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Uganda – Budonga Forest (TL); Katera Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Tanzania – Minziro Forest, especially Kere Hill (common) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Paronymus ligora* (Hewitson, 1876)**
Great Large Dart

Hesperia ligora Hewitson, 1876. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **18**: 450 (449-457).

Pardaleodes ligora (Hewitson, 1876). Holland, 1896.

Andronymus ligora (Hewitson, 1876). Mabille, 1904.

Paronymus ligora (Hewitson, 1876). Evans, 1937.



Paronymus ligora. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Saniquellei, Nimba Mountains, Liberia. 12 January 2014. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Paronymus ligora. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nebobongo, Haut-Uele, Democratic Republic of Congo. 2 27 N, 27 37 E. 23 July 2016. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy T. Desloges.

Type locality: Angola.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Specific localities:

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

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

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Gabon – Waka (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Habitat: Usually forest in good condition; occasionally in degraded habitat (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A scarce species of skipper (Larsen, 2005a). Males are usually found when perched on leaves along forest paths, 1.5 to 2 m above the ground (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 32 [pupal case]

Larval food:

An unidentified Dicotyledon [Cock & Congdon, 2013].

thersander Mabille, 1890 (as sp. of *Carystus*). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) **10**: 30 (17-51). Sierra Leone: “Sierra-Leone”.

****Paronymus nevea* (Druce, 1910)**
Scarce Large Dart

Pardaleodes nevea Druce, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 376 (356-378).



Paronymus nevea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Mille, Lolodorf, Cameroon. May 2012. PA. ABRI-2019-2542.



Paronymus nevea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Suhin, Ghana. February 2012. RV. ABRI-2019-2543.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

Distribution: Guinea, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (east), Zambia (north-west).

Specific localities:

Guinea – Nzerekore (Collenette, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

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

Nigeria – Afi River, Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upper Kasai district (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002; male illustrated above).

Habitat: Primary forest in good condition (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A very rare skipper throughout its range (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Paronymus xanthias* (Mabille, 1891)**

Yellow Large Dart

Carystus xanthias Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 117 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).

Pardaleodes xanthias (Mabille, 1819). Holland, 1896.

Andronymus xanthias (Mabille, 1891). Mabille, 1904.

Paronymus xanthias (Mabille, 1891). Evans, 1937.



Paronymus xanthias xanthias. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Maan, southern Cameroon. November 2006. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2532.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Paronymus xanthias xanthias. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Libreville, Gabon. 29 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Lagos”.

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

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: An uncommon skipper, usually met with in ones or twos (Larsen, 2005a). Flies along forest paths, settling on low vegetation (Congdon & Collins, 1998). When perched with closed wings it is easily mistaken for the much commoner *Andronymus marina* (Kielland, *vide* Congdon & Collins, 1998). Males are usually found perching on leaves in dense forest (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Paronymus xanthias xanthias (Mabille, 1891)

Yellow Large Dart

Carystus xanthias Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* 35: 117 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).

Pardaleodes xanthias (Mabille, 1891). Holland, 1896.

Andronymus xanthias (Mabille, 1891). Mabille, 1904.

Paronymus xanthias (Mabille, 1891). Evans, 1937.



Paronymus xanthias xanthias. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Maan, southern Cameroon. November 2006. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2532.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Paronymus xanthias xanthias. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Libreville, Gabon. 29 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Lagos”.

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

Specific localities:

Guinea – Sereidou (Larsen, 2005a); Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Loma Mountains (Larsen, 2005a); Freetown (Larsen, 2005a).

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Tai (Larsen, 2005a); Nimbas (Larsen, 2005a); Abidjan area (Larsen, 2005a); Abengourou (Larsen, 2005a).

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

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

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Pongara (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo, Lope (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Akaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

Paronymus xanthias kiellandi Congdon & Collins, 1998

Eastern Yellow Large Dart

Paronymus xanthius kiellandi Congdon & Collins, 1998. *In*: *Supplement to Kielland’s butterflies of Tanzania*: p.x (143 pp.) ABRI and Lambillionea.

Type locality: Tanzania: “Bukoba, Bulembe, 23.ii.1993, J. Kielland”. In African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi.

Diagnosis: Differs from the nominate subspecies in the following respects: forewing upperside hyaline spots reduced and spot in space 3 higher than it is wide; hindwing upperside patch narrower (not extending into space 2); in male sex brands less evident; dorsal surface of abdomen dark (predominantly yellow in *xanthias*); hindwing underside marginal band wider and more obviously divided at 4 (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

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

Specific localities:

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

Tanzania – Bulembe (TL); Minziro Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Kikuru Forest (uncommon in both) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Zambia – Lisombo (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kalene Hill (A. Gardiner, *vide* Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Note: Heath *et al.* (2002: 15) suggest that the Zambian material may represent an undescribed subspecies, distinct from *kiellandi*.