Genus *Metisella* Hemming, 1934
Sylphs

Stylops **3**: 99 (97-99). [Replacement name for *Watsonia* Tutt.]
Type-species: *Papilio metis* Linnaeus, by original designation.

= *Watsonia* Tutt, 1906 *in* Tutt, 1905-6. *A natural history of the British butterflies; their world-wide variation and geographical distribution* **1**: 191 (479 pp.). London. Type-species: *Papilio metis* Linnaeus, by original designation. [Invalid; junior homonym of *Watsonia* Elwes and Edwards, 1897, and *Watsonia* Folin, [1880].]

The genus *Metisella* belongs to the Family Hesperiidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Heteropterinae Aurivillius, 1925, Tribe Heteropterini Aurivillius, 1925. The other genera in the Tribe Heteropterini in the Afrotropical Region are *Willema* and the Madagascan *Hovala*.

Metisella (**Sylphs**) is an Afrotropical genus of 15 species. The larvae feed on various species of grasses and one species (*M. syrinx*) feeds on a species of bamboo (Cock & Congdon, 2017). Certain species appear to select specific species of grass as larval hosts but much more field research is required.

**Metisella orientalis* (Aurivillius, 1925)
Eastern Sylph

Cyclopides metis f. *orientalis* Aurivillius, 1925. *In*: Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 551 (614 pp.).).
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Evans, 1937.
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 322.
Metisella abdeli (Krüger, 1928). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **22**: 287 (287-288). Replacement name. Seven, 1997 (*Centre for Entomological Studies Miscellaneous Papers* **48**: 3 (2-3).
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Lamas, pers. comm., April, 2008. [see Note 2, below].
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Larsen, 2009.

Metisella orientalis orientalis. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kibale Forest, Uganda. 22 October 2014. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella orientalis orientalis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mutare, Zimbabwe. 14 March 1997.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

Type locality: Africa: "the whole of east Africa as far as Mt Elgon". Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/m).
Diagnosis: A variable species, with a number of described forms (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Distinguished from *Metisella metis* on the underside by the presence of faint yellow spots (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Distribution: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Swaziland (Duke *et al*., 1999).

Misattributed to the Nigerian fauna by Kielland (1990) and Larsen (1991) (not included in Larsen, 2005a).
Habitat: Forest, usually not below 1 500 m (Larsen, 1991c). In Tanzania from 800 to 2 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: Similar to those of *Metisella metis* (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Males are known to mud-puddle (Kielland, 1990d).
Flight period: All year (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2017 [leaf shelters, larva, pupa].

Larval food:
Cenchrus trachyphyllus (= *Pennisetum trachyphyllum*) (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017].
Festuca africana (Hack.) Clayton (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017].
Panicum maximum (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017; in captivity].
Panicum trichocladum (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017].
Pennisetum species (Poaceae) [M.J.W. Cock, *vide* Larsen, 1991c: 409].

Note 1: Larsen (1991: 409) avers that the taxon *Metisella orientalis* may subsume further subspecies, or even species.

Note 2: Lamas (pers. comm., April, 2008) states: "*orientalis* is the valid name, as it can be interpreted as having been proposed as a subspecific name, and was used as such by Evans, Ackery *et al*., and Larsen, Seven (1997) being mistaken in her treatment of *orientalis* as infrasubspecific – *abeli* (not "*abdeli*") Krüger, 1928 is a junior subjective synonym."

Metisella orientalis orientalis (Aurivillius, [1925])
Eastern Sylph

Cyclopides metis f. *orientalis* Aurivillius, 1925. *In*: Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 551 (614 pp.).).
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Evans, 1937.
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella orientalis orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 322.
Metisella abdeli (Krüger, 1928). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **22**: 287 (287-288). Replacement name. Seven, 1997 (*Centre for Entomological Studies Miscellaneous Papers* **48**: 3 (2-3).
Metisella orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Lamas, pers. comm., April, 2008. [see Note 2, above].
Metisella orientalis orientalis (Aurivillius, 1925). Larsen, 2009.

Metisella orientalis orientalis. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kibale Forest, Uganda. 22 October 2014. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella orientalis orientalis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mutare, Zimbabwe. 14 March 1997.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

Type locality: Africa: "the whole of east Africa as far as Mt Elgon". Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/m).
Distribution: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia (north-east), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (eastern border), Swaziland (Duke *et al*., 1999).
Specific localities:
Cameroon – Bitje (Evans, 1937).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Southern Semliki Valley (Evans, 1937); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).
Uganda – Kabale (Evans, 1937); Mpanga Forest (Safian & Pyrcz, 2020).
Kenya – Hoey's Bridge (Evans, 1937); Teita Hills (Larsen, 1991c; form *lambda*); forest in the west (Larsen, 1991c; form *theta*); Mount Kulal (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – On practically every mountain with evergreen forest (Kielland, 1990d); Nguela, Usambara (Evans, 1937); Great Craters (Evans, 1937).
Malawi – Mulanje (Evans, 1937); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).
Zambia – Mpika (Heath *et al*., 2002); Shiwa Ngandu (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mbala (Heath *et al*., 2002); Nyika (Heath *et al*., 2002).
Mozambique – Mount Mabu (Congdon & Bampton, 2009); Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al*., 2010); Mount Namuli (Congdon *et al*., 2010); Mount Mabu (Congdon *et al*., 2010).

abeli Krüger, 1928 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **22**: 287 (287-288). **Type locality**: [Africa]: "Columbien". [False locality.]. Lamas (pers. comm., April, 2008) states: "*orientalis* is the valid name, as it can be interpreted as having been proposed as a subspecific name, and was used as such by Evans, Ackery *et al*., and Larsen, Seven (1997) being mistaken in her treatment of *orientalis* as infrasubspecific – *abeli* (not "*abdeli*") Krüger, 1928 is a junior subjective synonym."

alpha Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 70 (212 pp.). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: "S. Semliki Valley".

beta Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 70 (212 pp.). [Malawi]: "Nyasaland

(Mlanje)".

gamma Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 70 (212 pp.). Cameroon: "Cameroons (Bitje)".

delta Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 71 (212 pp.). [Malawi]: "Nyasaland (Mlanje)".

zeta Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 71 (212 pp.). [Uganda]: "Kabale 5,500 ft".

theta Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 71 (212 pp.). [Kenya]: "Hoey's Bridge". This is the wet season form of *orientalis* (Cock & Congdon, 2017).

kappa Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 71 (212 pp.). [Tanzania]: "Usambara (Nguela)".

lamda Evans, 1937 (as f. of *Metisella orientalis*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 71 (212 pp.). [Tanzania]: "Great Craters, Tanganyika".

Metisella orientalis elgona Evans, 1938
Elgon Eastern Sylph

Metisella orientalis elgona Evans, 1938. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **1**: 312 (312-315).
Metisella abdeli elgona Evans, 1938. Seven, 1997.
Metisella orientalis elgona Evans, 1938. Lamas, pers. comm., April, 2008. [See remarks under the nominate subspecies].
Metisella orientalis elgona Evans, 1938. Larsen, 2009.

Type locality: Kenya/Uganda: "Mount Elgon, 12,000 feet".
Distribution: Uganda, Kenya (near the summit of Mount Elgon).
Specific localities:
Kenya/Uganda – Mount Elgon, 12 000 feet (TL).

****Metisella aegipan*** (Trimen, 1868)#
Mountain Sylph

Cyclopides aegipan Trimen, 1868. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1868**: 94 (69-96).
Cyclopides aegipan Trimen, 1868. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella aegipan Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.


Metisella aegipan aegipan. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvalei, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 30 December 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella aegipan aegipan. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvalei, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 8 December 2012. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Amatola Mountains, on the summit of the Hog's Back". Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.
General remarks: Discovered by Colonel J.H. Bowker on the Hogsback, Eastern Cape Province on 20th January, 1867 (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).
Distribution: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Lesotho.
Habitat: Wetlands, marshy places and grassy gullies, in montane grassland.
Habits: The flight is slow, just above the level of the grass. They fly backwards and forwards over the marshy ground that they favour, sometimes resting on grass stems with folded wings or feeding from flowers (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: December to February for the nominate subspecies and January-February for subspecies *inyanga* (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

Metisella aegipan aegipan (Trimen, 1868)#
Mountain Sylph

Cyclopides aegipan Trimen, 1868. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1868**: 94 (69-96).
Cyclopides aegipan Trimen, 1868. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella aegipan Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella aegipan aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella aegipan aegipan (Trimen, 1868). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella aegipan aegipan. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvalei, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 30 December 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella aegipan aegipan. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvalei, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 8 December 2012. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Amatola Mountains, on the summit of the Hog's Back". Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.
Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province – extreme east, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Lesotho.
Specific localities:
Limpopo Province – The Downs – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (Swanepoel, 1953); Haenertsburg – Paardevlei (Swanepoel, 1953); Welcome Mine (Swanepoel, 1953); Chuniespoort (Swanepoel, 1953); Ysterberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Makapan's Caves (Swanepoel, 1953); Potgietersrus (Swanepoel, 1953); Waterberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Nylstroom (Swanepoel, 1953); Warmbaths (Swanepoel, 1953); Wolkberg (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Lydenburg District (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Waterval Boven (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990).
North West Province – Magaliesberg (Swanepoel, 1953).
Gauteng – Krugersdorp (Swanepoel, 1953).
KwaZulu-Natal – Drakensberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Table Mountain, Ulundi, 6 000 feet, Weenen County (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).
Eastern Cape Province – Hog's Back (TL; Bowker); Queenstown (Swanepoel, 1953), Amatola Mountains, above 1 800 m (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Lesotho – Blue Mountain Pass (Kroon).

Metisella aegipan inyanga Evans, 1956
Inyanga Mountain Sylph

Metisella aegipan inyanga Evans, 1956. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (12) **8**: 882 (881-885).
Metisella aegipan inyanga Evans, 1955. Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [date of authorship erroneous]
Metisella aegipan inyanga Evans, 1955. Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321. [date of authorship erroneous]

Metisella aegipan inyanga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Inyanga, Zimbabwe. 8 February 1975.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella aegipan inyanga. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Inyanga, Zimbabwe. 8 February 1975.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: [Zimbabwe]: "Inyanga Downs, S. Rhodesia".
Distribution: Mozambique (adjoining Zimbabwe), Zimbabwe (eastern border).
Specific localities:
Zimbabwe – Inyanga Mountains (TL); Chitora Hills (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mutare (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Chimanimani Mountains (D. and R. Plowes).

**Metisella alticola* (Aurivillius, [1925])
Streaked Sylph

Cyclopides alticola Aurivillius, [1925]. *In*: Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 551 (614 pp.).

Metisella alticola. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bwindi Forest, Uganda. February 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2296.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella alticola. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bwindi Forest, Uganda. February 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2297.

Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: "Central Africa: volcano of Birunga"; [Kenya/Uganda]: "Mt Elgon".
Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east), Uganda (west), Rwanda.
Specific locqalities:
Democratic Republic of Congo – Birunga volcano (TL); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Uganda – Mount Elgon (Aurivillius, 1925); Kabale (male illustrated above).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

**Metisella congdoni* de Jong & Kielland, 1983
Mottled Sylph

Metisella congdoni de Jong & Kielland, 1983. *Entomologische Berichten* **43**: 169 (169-172).

Metisella congdoni. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mufindi, Tanzania. Emerged April 2000. C. Congdon. ABRI-2019-2294.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella congdoni. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mufindi, Tanzania. March 1992. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2295.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Tanzania: "Mufindi, Kireme, 5900"'.
Distribution: Tanzania (south).
Specific localities:
Tanzania – Kireme, Mufindi (TL); Luisenga River, Mufundi (Kielland, 1990d); slopes of Mount Rungwe (Kielland, 1990d).
Habitat: Mountain streams and clearings in forest, from 1 550 to 1 950 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: Flies along the banks of streams (Kielland, 1990d).
Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2017 [larva, pupa].

Larval food:
Festuca africana (Hack.) Clayton (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017].

**Metisella decipiens* (Butler, 1896)
Banded Sylph

Heteropterus decipiens Butler, 1896. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) **18**: p.? (159-163).

Metisella decipiens. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Near Livingstonia, Malawi. 8 April 1995.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella decipiens. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Livingstonia, Malawi. February 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2309.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Kondowi, Lower Nyika".
Distribution: Tanzania (south), Malawi, Mozambique (north) (Congdon *et al*., 2010).
Specific localities:
Tanzania – Kigonsera Hill (Gaede, 1917); Tukuyu (Kielland, 1990d); Mufindi (Kielland, 1990d); Kiransi Forest near Dabaga (Kielland, 1990d); Mwanihana Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Kitesa Forest (1700-1800 m) between Songea and Lake Malawi (Kielland, 1990d).
Malawi – Kondowi, Lower Nyika (TL); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).
Mozambique – Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al*., 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).
Habitat: Montane open and forest habitats (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at altitudes from 1 100 to 1 900 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: Occurs in localized colonies, which may contain fairly large numbers of individuals (Kielland, 1990d). Flies in grassy areas bordering montane forest (Kielland, 1990d).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

abscissa Gaede, 1917 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Internationale Entomologische Zeitschrift* **11**: 29 (29-31). [Tanzania]: "Kigonsera, Deutsch-O.-Afrika". Ackery *et al*., 1995: 84 state: "Evans (1937) treats

abscissa Gaede as a subspecies, but according to Gifford (1965) it is sympatric with *decipiens*."

**Metisella kakamega* de Jong, 1976
Kakamega Sylph

Metisella kakamega de Jong, 1976. *Zoologische Mededeelingen* **49**: 302 (299-306).

Metisella kakamega. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakamega, western Kenya. January 1996. S. Collins. ABRI Coll.
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella kakamega. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakamega, western Kenya. August 1996. S. C. Collins. ABRI Coll.
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Kenya: "Western Province, Kakamega District, Kakamega forest". Known only from the male holotype (Larsen, 1991c).
Distribution: Kenya (west).
Specific localities:
Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c). Known only from the type locality (Larsen, 1991c).
Habitat: Forest – edges and road verges (Larsen, 1991c).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Poaceae [Larsen, 1991c: 410].

**Metisella kambove* (Neave, 1910)
Congo Sylph

Cyclopides kambove Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 76 (2-86).

Metisella kambove kambove. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mutundu South, Mufulira, Zambia. 9 February1980.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella kambove kambove. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kundalila Falls, Zambia. December 1977. A. Heath. ABRI-2019-2293.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: "Kambove".
Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Zambia.
Habitat: Moist *Brachystegia* woodland. In Tanzania from 1 000 to 1 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A common species (Kielland, 1990d).
Flight period: Only common during the wet season (Kielland, 1990d).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

Metisella kambove kambove (Neave, 1910)
Congo Sylph

Cyclopides kambove Neave, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 76 (2-86).

Metisella kambove kambove. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mutundu South, Mufulira, Zambia. 9 February1980.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella kambove kambove. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kundalila Falls, Zambia. December 1977. A. Heath. ABRI-2019-2293.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: "Kambove".
Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Tanzania (south-west), Zambia (north-west to Copperbelt).
Specific localities:
Democratic Republic of Congo – Kambove (TL).
Tanzania – Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d).
Zambia – Mwinilunga (Heath *et al*., 2002); Kabompo River (Heath *et al*., 2002); Solwezi (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al*., 2002; male illustrated above).

Metisella kambove gamma de Jong [in prep – see Larsen, 2005a]
Western Congo Sylph

Metisella kambove gamma, 20??.

Type locality: ?
Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon.
Specific localities:
Nigeria – Gashaka-Gumpti National Park (A. Dunn, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

****Metisella malgacha*** (Boisduval, 1833)#
Grassveld Sylph

Male of the Grassveld Sylph (*Metisella malgacha orina*)
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

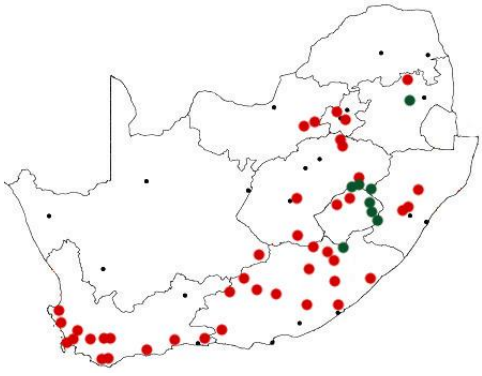
Steropes malgacha Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 215 (149-270).
Cyclopides malgacha Boisduval. Trimen, 1866a (*Rhop. Afr. Aust.*, ii, p. 294, n. 183).
Cyclopides malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella malgacha Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Metisella malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella malgacha (De Boisduval, 1933). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella malgacha malgacha. Male (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Simonstown, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 10 December 2003. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella malgacha malgacha. Female (Wingspan 29 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Compassberg, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 9 December 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common names: Grasveld-walsertjie (Afrikaans).
Type locality: [South Africa]: "environs de Tamatave [Madagascar]". [False locality.]. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.



Distribution: South Africa –

Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal (south), Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province), Lesotho (lowlands). [ssp. *malgacha* – red dots]

Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal – Drakensberg), Lesotho (highlands). [ssp. *orina* – green dots]

Distribution: South Africa, Lesotho.
Evans (1937) records specimens from Mozambique, probably erroneously. This is repeated by Congdon *et al*., 2010. Diehl (1955) recorded the species from Madagascar but this is probably a misidentification of a *Fulda* species collected from the Betroka region (Lees *et al*., 2003).
Habitat: Grassland, and grassy areas in the fynbos and Karoo, from sea-level in the Western Cape Province to 3 000 metres in Lesotho.
Habits: Flies slowly, less than a metre above the ground. Settles on grass stems, usually with the wings closed. Both sexes are attracted to flowers.
Flight period: All year but scarce to absent in winter in colder climates.

Early stages:

Clark, *in* Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 244; plate 20 [as *Metisella malgacha malgacha*; (apparently) Cape Town, Western Cape].

"*Egg*: 0.8 mm diameter by 0.6 mm high, laid singly on a blade of grass. Whitish, with numerous very small, round indentations on the surface. Eggs hatch after 10 to 15 days. The empty shell is generally eaten. *Larva*: 1st instar 1.5 growing to 3 mm in 7 days; 2nd instar 3 growing to 5 mm in 7 to 11 days; 3rd instar 5 growing to 8 mm in 4 to 6 days; 4th instar 8 growing to 12 mm in 4 to 8 days; 5th instar 12 growing to 21 mm in 8 to 13 days. The larva, after hatching, crawls to the end of a blade of grass and constructs a tube by drawing the edges of the blade together with silk. It lives within this tube and feeds on the tip of the blade, extending the tube backward as necessary. Pupation takes place in the tube which was finally used by the mature larva. *Pupa*: 16 or 17 mm. Secured within its tube by cremastral hooks and a girdle. Emergence occurs after some 12 days. *Parasites*: It is assumed that parasites will be the same as those attacking the following species, *M. metis*. This species is multi-brooded As with other species, development is retarded in cold weather. Recorded apparently from eggs and larvae from Cape Town."

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 125 [photograph of final instar larva]).

Larval food:
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959].

Metisella malgacha malgacha (Boisduval, 1833)#
Grassveld Sylph

Steropes malgacha Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 215 (149-270).
Cyclopides malgacha Boisduval. Trimen, 1866a (*Rhop. Afr. Aust.*, ii, p. 294, n. 183).
Cyclopides malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella malgacha Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella malgacha malgacha (Boisduval, 1833). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella malgacha malgacha (De Boisduval, 1933). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella malgacha malgacha. Male (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Simonstown, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 10 December 2003. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella malgacha malgacha. Female (Wingspan 29 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Compassberg, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 9 December 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "environs de Tamatave". [False locality.]. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.
Distribution: South Africa (Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal (south), Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province), Lesotho (lowlands).
Specific localities:
North West Province – Potchefstroom (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).
Gauteng – Johannesburg (Swanepoel, 1953).
Free State Province – Vet River (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Bethulie (Swanepoel, 1953); Ladybrand (Swanepoel, 1953); Ficksburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Bethlehem (Swanepoel, 1953); Bloemfontein (Swanepoel, 1953).
KwaZulu-Natal – Karkloof (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953); Greytown (Swanepoel, 1953).
Eastern Cape Province – Between Somerset East and Murraysburg (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Stormberg (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Port St Johns (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Somerset East (Swanepoel, 1953); Molteno (Swanepoel, 1953); Middelburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Burgersdorp (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Tsomo River (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).
Western Cape Province – Cape Town (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Hout Bay (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Noord Hoek (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Simonstown (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Stellenbosch (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Paarl (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Robertson (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Swellendam (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Plettenberg Bay (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Assegaaibos (Swanepoel, 1953), Velddrif (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Northern Cape Province – Noupoort (Swanepoel, 1953).
Lesotho – Maseru (Swanepoel, 1953); Leribe (Swanepoel, 1953).

limpopona Wallengren, 1857 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar. Stockholm* annis 1838-1845. Collecta (n.s.) **2** (4): 50 (55 pp.). [South Africa]: "Caffraria". Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/l).

Metisella malgacha orina Vári, 1976#
Drakensberg Grassveld Sylph

Metisella malgacha orina Vári, 1976. *Annals of the Transvaal Museum* **30**: 124 (121-144).
Metisella malgacha orina Vári, 1976. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella malgacha orina Vári, 1976. Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella malgacha orina. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sterkspruit Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 3 November, 2001. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

Metisella malgacha orina. Female (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
The Sentinel, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 6 January 2006. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Drakenbergse Gasveld-walsertjie (Afrikaans).
Type locality: Lesotho: "Mokhotlong". Holotype (male) in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Distribution: South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal – Drakensberg), Lesotho (highlands).

The specimens illustrated above are from near Lydenburg and more closely resemble subspecies *orina* than specimens of the nominate subspecies from the Cape Peninsula.

Specific localities:
Mpumalanga – Sterkspruit Nature Reserve (Williams; male and female illustrated above).
Lesotho – Mokhotlong (TL); Giant's Castle (Swanepoel, 1953); Sehonghong Valley.

**Metisella medea* Evans, 1937
Rusty Sylph

Metisella medea Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 69 (212 pp.).

Metisella medea medea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kapsemoite, Kenya. November 1997. SCC. ABRI 2019-2290.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella medea medea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mau, Kenya. February 1998. SCC. ABRI-2019-2291.

Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Kenya]: "Mt Kenya".
Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique (Congdon *et al*., 2010).
Habitat: Submontane meadows, especially in the vicinity of forests (Larsen, 1991c; Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania it flies at altitudes from 1 000 to 2 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: Adults fly in open parts of the forest and on road verges in forests. They bask while perched on vegetation and feed from flowers (Cock & Congdon, 2017).
Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2017 [leaf shelters, larva, pupa].

Larval food:
Cenchrus trachyphyllus (= *Pennisetum trachyphyllum*) [Cock & Congdon, 2017; in captivity].
Ehrharta species (Poaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 409].
Ehrharta erecta var. *abyssinica* (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017; requires confirmation].
Helictotrichon elongatum (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017; requires confirmation].

Metisella medea medea Evans, 1937
Rusty Sylph

Metisella medea Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 69 (212 pp.).

Metisella medea medea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kapsemoite, Kenya. November 1997. SCC. ABRI 2019-2290.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella medea medea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mau, Kenya. February 1998. SCC. ABRI-2019-2291.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Kenya]: "Mt Kenya".
Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (east); Uganda, Kenya (west, central), Tanzania.
Specific localities:
Nigeria – Gashaka-Gumpti National Park (A. Dunn, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).
Democratic Republic of Congo –Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Uganda – Mpanga Forest (Safian & Pyrcz, 2020).
Kenya – Mount Kenya (TL); Suna (Larsen, 1991c); Meru (Larsen, 1991c); Mara River (Larsen, 1991c); Chepalungu (Larsen, 1991c); Uplands (Larsen, 1991c); Njoro (Larsen, 1991c); Katamaya (Larsen, 1991c); Mount Elgon (Larsen, 1991c); Limuru (Larsen, 1991c); Ngong (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Mountains of Northern Highlands (Kielland, 1990d); West Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguu Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Kanga Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Rubeho Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Ukaguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nyambenitu Mountain in east Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d).

Note: The taxonomic status of the populations in Nigeria and Cameroon is uncertain; they may be an undescribed subspecies or even species (Larsen, 2005a).

Metisella medea nyika Evans, 1937
Nyika Rusty Sylph

Metisella medea nyika Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 69 (212 pp.).

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Kusungu Mt, Nyasaland".
Distribution: Tanzania (southern highlands), Malawi (Nyika Plateau), Mozambique.
Specific localities:
Malawi – Kusungu Mountain (TL); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).
Mozambique – Mount Namuli (Congdon *et al*., 2010).

Note: Larsen (2005a) states that this subspecies should be considered a distinct species.

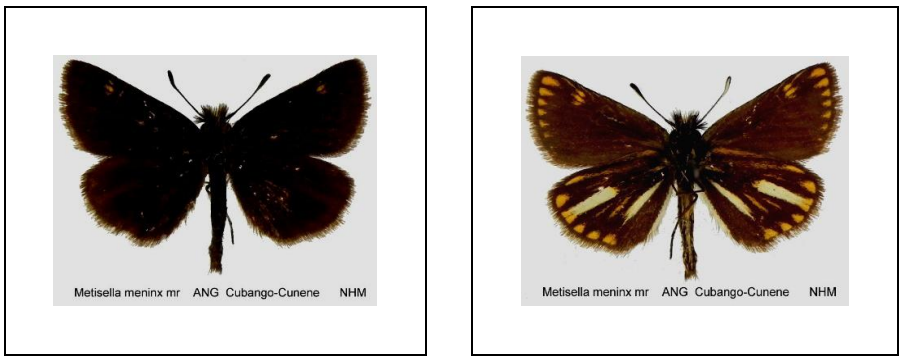
**Metisella meninx* (Trimen, 1873)#
Marsh Sylph

Cyclopides meninx Trimen, 1873. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1873**: 121 (101-124).
Thymelicus meninx (Trimen, 1873). Wallengren, 1875 (*Ofv. K. Vet.-Akad. Forh.*, 1875, p. 92).
Cyclopides meninx Trimen, 1873. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella meninx (Trimen, 1873). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella meninx Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella meninx (Trimen, 1873). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella meninx (Trimen, 1873). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 322.

Metisella meninx. Male (Wingspan 27 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rayton, Gauteng Province, South Africa. 24 January, 1998. M. Williams.

Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

Metisella meninx. Female (Wingspan 28 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Heidelburg, Gauteng, South Africa. 22 January 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Metisella meninx. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Cubango-Cunene Watershed, Angola.
Images courtesy Torben Larsen (ex Natural History Museum Collection, London).

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Potchefstroom, Transvaal Republic". Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

General remarks: Discovered by Walter Morant, in December 1868, in the Potchefstroom District, North West Province (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).

Distribution: Angola, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province – north, KwaZulu-Natal – north-west).

The record for Angola (Evans, 1937) was, for many years, regarded as probably erroneous but was confirmed by Larsen (see 'specific localities' below).

Specific localities:

Angola – Upper Cubango-Cunene Watershed, 5500 ft, Central Angola (TA Barns Nov 1928); Bihe (Pemberton); N. Bailundu (Pemberton); Cubal River (Penrice) – these four records from labal data in the Natural History Museum, London *vide* Torben Larsen, July 2010; Benguela Province; Bie Province; Huambo Province; Moxico Province (Mendes *et al*., 2013).

Limpopo Province – 35 km east of Vaalwater (24 17 27.8S, 28 27 42.9E) (C.Willis, 29 Nov., 2012; SABCA 26696); Bateleur Nature Reserve (M.Williams, March 2013).

Mpumalanga – Middelvlei (Swanepoel, 1953); Argent (Swanepoel, 1953); Piet Retief (Swanepoel, 1953); White River (Swanepoel, 1953); Sabie River (Swanepoel, 1953); near Amsterdam (Pringle *et al*., 1994).

North West Province – Potchefstroom (TL; Morant); Potchefstroom – Die Oog (Swanepoel, 1953).

Gauteng – Pretoria – Waterval (Swanepoel, 1953); Fairy Glen (Swanepoel, 1953); Johannesburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Pyramid, north of Pretoria (Pringle *et al*., 1994); near Rayton (Williams; male illustrated above).

Free State Province – banks of the Vaal River, near Sasolburg (Kroon).

KwaZulu-Natal – banks of the Ngogo River, near Newcastle (Hutchinson).

Habitat: Marshes and stream banks in wetlands in open grassland, at altitudes of 1 400 to 1700 metres.

The marshes are often in the headwaters of streams (Henning & Roos, 2001).
Habits: Males fly in a skipping, irregular pattern just above the level of the grass, during most hours of the day. They rest on grass blades (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Females are less active and tend to fly lower down among the grass blades. Both sexes feed from flowers, those recorded including *Scabiosa columbaria* (Dipsacaceae), *Persicaria attenuata* (Polygonaceae), *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (Scrophulariaceae), and *Conyza podocephala* (Asteraceae) (Henning & Roos, 2001). Males occasionally drink from damp spots with decaying vegetation.
Flight period: December to March. In certain, drier summers the flight period may be restricted to December and January.
Early stages:

Henning & Roos, 2001: 28, 29 [as *Metisella meninx*].

Egg just under 1 mm in diameter and 0,5 mm high; dome-shaped; greenish yellow; smooth, with slight pores. First instar larva just over 2 mm long on eclosion; greenish yellow with short greyish yellow spines; head large, black with smooth surface; conspicuous dark brown neck-shield; body becomes greenish after first few feeds.

Eggs laid on upper surface of leaf-blade, about half way down. May be laid singly but often two eggs are laid up to half a centimetre apart. Eggs eclose after about two to three weeks. Larvae construct a shelter at the tip of a leaf, on the upper surface, by connecting the leaf edges. The shelter is lined with silk. The larva is thus secreted by day and at night, when the leaf curls, the silk maintains the shape of the shelter thus preventing injury to the larva. The larvae feed during the cooler hours, in the early morning and late afternoon.

Roos & Henning, 2002 [as *Metisella meninx*].

Larval food:
Leersia hexandra Sw. (Poaceae) (Rice grass) [Henning & Roos, 2001: 28].
Conservation status: Classified as Vulnerable by Henning *et al*., 2009: 63. Reclassified as Rare – Habitat Specialist by Mecenero *et al*., 2013..

Relevant literature:
Roos & Henning, 2002 [Life history].
Henning, G.A., & Roos, P.S. 2001. [Life history].

argentiostriatus Plötz, 1886 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **47**: 110 (83-117). [South Africa]: "Natal".

Metisella metis* (Linnaeus, 1764)#
Gold-spotted Sylph

Specimens of the Gold-spotted Sylph (*Metisella metis*)
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall

Papilio metis Linnaeus, 1764. *Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Reginae*: 325 (720 pp.). Holmiae.
Hesperia metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Latreille, 1823 (*Enc. Meth.*, ix p. 776, n. 129).
Cyclopides metis Linnaeus. Trimen, 1866a (*Rhop. Afr. Aust.*, ii, p. 293, n. 182).
Heteropterus metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Staudinger, 1888 (*Exot. Schmett*., I, pl. 100).

Cyclopides metis (Cramer). Trimen & Bowker, 1889 (*S.A. Butts*., III, p.266).
Metisella metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella metis Linnaeus. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella metis metis. Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kalk Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 10 September 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella metis metis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
George, Western Cape Province,South Africa. August 1982. RJ Southey. ABRI-2019-2292.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Cap. b. spei". Lectotype designated by Honey & Scoble, 2001: 349.
Distribution: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland.
Recorded, in error, from Angola by Druce (1875) and Trimen & Bowker (1889).
Habitat: Forest and moist woodland. The nominate subspecies occurs in more open habitats in the Western Cape Province.
Habits: This is an active insect but the flight is relatively slow and fluttering (Trimen & Bowker, 1889). Both sexes regularly feed from flowers. Males establish poorly defined territories in clearings or along paths in the forest or bush. Both sexes usually rest on the leaves of low growing bushes or herbaceous plants, often with the wings half opened (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Trimen & Bowker (1889) note that the wings are often expanded when the butterfly is at rest but on occasion the wings are held erect but not touching.
Flight period: All year but much scarcer in the cooler months (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).
Early stages:

Clark, 1940: 46 [subspecies *paris*].

Clark, *in* Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 246; plate 21 [as *Metisella metis paris*; Eastern Cape].
"*Egg*: 0.75 mm diameter by 0.5 mm high; laid singly on a blade of grass. Pure white, with some 120 longitudinal ribs composed of small moles, which diminish in number towards the micropyle. Larva hatches after 8 or 9 days. The discarded shell is generally eaten, leaving only the base. *Larva*: 1st instar 1.5 growing to 3.5 mm in 8 days; 2nd instar 3.5 growing to 5 mm in 6 to 7 days; 3rd instar 5 growing to 9 mm in 5 to 6 days; 4th instar 9 growing to 15 mm in 6 days; 5th instar 15 growing to 31 to 35 mm in 7 days. The larva, on hatching, crawls to the tip of the blade of grass and forms a tube by drawing and binding the edges together. It feeds at intervals on the tip. As the blade is eaten the edges are drawn together lower down, and when it is nearly all eaten the larva

moves to another one. The whole larval state is spent in a grass tube and pupation also takes place in it. When the larva becomes too big for a tube, it may lie along the midrib of a blade before constructing another tube. *Pupa*: 14 to 18 mm; generally secured by its cremastral hooks and a girdle. Emergence occurs after 14 to 18 days. *Parasites*: Larvae are attacked in the later instars by *Apanteles* and other parasites. *Meteorus testaceous* (Hymenoptera), in the 4th instar, has been identified up to the present. Tachnids also attack larvae but the resulting maggot generally emerges from the side of the pupa and pupates itself, amongst debris. Two of these species are: *Nemorilla* (*Jesuimgia*) *cruciata* (Tachinidae) and *Thecocarcelia incedens* (Diptera). Sometimes pupation occurs in the tube itself. Parasitized larvae become listless and turn a pale dirty yellow if the maggot is advanced enough to emerge before pupation. There is a rotation of broods, with retarded development in the winter in the less warm areas. Recorded from the Eastern Cape Province (Port Elizabeth or East London)."

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 332 [photograph of final instar larva and pupa].

Larval food:
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959].
Panicum deustum Thunb. (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 190].
Setaria megaphylla (Steud.) T. Durand & Schinz (Poaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 128; may be a synonym of *S. sulcata* (Cock & Congdon, 2017)].
Stenotaphrum dimidiatum (L.) Brongn. (Poaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 128; a synonym of *S. secundatum* (Cock & Congdon, 2017)].
Stenotaphrum glabrum (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 190; a synonym of *S. secundatum* (Cock & Congdon, 2017)].
Stenotaphrum secundatum (Walter) Kuntze (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959].
Stipa dregeana Steud. (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 190].

Note: The subspecific taxonomy of this species is in doubt since the distribution of the nominate subspecies and subspecies *paris* appears to overlap in the Swellendam district (Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321).

Metisella metis metis (Linnaeus, 1764)#
Gold-spotted Sylph

Papilio metis Linnaeus, 1764. *Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Reginae*: 325 (720 pp.). Holmiae.
Hesperia metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Latreille, 1823 (*Enc. Meth.*, ix p. 776, n. 129).
Cyclopides metis Linnaeus. Trimen, 1866a (*Rhop. Afr. Aust.*, ii, p. 293, n. 182).
Heteropterus metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Staudinger, 1888 (*Exot. Schmett*., I, pl. 100).
Cyclopides metis (Cramer). Trimen & Bowker, 1889 (*S.A. Butts*., III, p.266).
Metisella metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella metis Linnaeus. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella metis metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella metis metis (Linnaeus, 1764). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella metis metis. Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kalk Bay, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 10 September 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella metis metis. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
George, Western Cape Province,South Africa. August 1982. RJ Southey. ABRI-2019-2292.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Cap. b. spei". Lectotype designated by Honey & Scoble, 2001: 349.
Distribution: South Africa (Western Cape Province – from the Cape Peninsula, east to the Swellendam district).
Specific localities:
Western Cape Province – Cape Town (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Genadendal (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Caledon District (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Swellendam (Trimen & Bowker, 1889).

Metisella metis paris Evans, 1937#
Eastern Gold-spotted Sylph

Metisella metis paris Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 70 (212 pp.).
Metisella metis paris Evans, 1937. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella metis paris Evans, 1937. Pringle *et al*., 1994: 321.

Metisella metis paris. Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Buffelskloof Nature Reserve, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 3 October 2004. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

Metisella metis paris. Female (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Barberton, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 26 November 2006. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Natal". Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.
Distribution: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province), Swaziland.
Specific localities:

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve ("Malta Forest") (Swanepoel, 1953; male illustrated above); Woodbush (Swanepoel, 1953); Duiwelskloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Soutpansberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Entabeni Forest (Swanepoel, 1953); Louis Trichardt (Swanepoel, 1953).

Mpumalanga – Lydenburg District (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Sabie (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953); Buffelspoort Nature Reserve (Williams).

KwaZulu-Natal – Tunjumbili (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Oribi Gorge (Swanepoel, 1953); Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Durban (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Eshowe (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953).

Eastern Cape Province – Bashee River (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Uitenhage (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Bathurst District (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); King William's Town (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Windvogelberg (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Grahamstown (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Port Elizabeth (Swanepoel, 1953); Port Alfred (Swanepoel, 1953); East London (Swanepoel, 1953); Somerset East (Swanepoel, 1953); Suurberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Queenstown district (Swanepoel, 1953); Port St Johns (Swanepoel, 1953); Cintsa East (male illustrated above).

Western Cape Province – Knysna (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Plettenberg Bay (Trimen & Bowker, 1889); Grootvadersbosch, between Swellendam and Heidelberg (Pringle *et al*., 1994).

**Metisella midas* (Butler, 1894)
Golden Sylph

Cyclopides midas Butler, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 671 (643-684).

Metisella midas midas. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nsobe Camp, Copperbelt, Zambia. 13 April 2015.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella midas midas. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Namuli, Mozambique. 27 April 2008.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Zomba".
Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique (Congdon *et al*., 2010).
Habitat: Damp, grassy edges of evergreen forest (Heath *et al*., 2002). In West Africa it is found in grassy areas on the edges of submontane forest (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania at altitudes from 900 to 2 300 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: The species is locally common in its swampy grassland habitats (Larsen, 1991c). The flight is slow and low down (Larsen, 2005a). On cool days it basks with the wings held three-quarters open (Larsen, 1991c).
Flight period: Flies in the rainy season (Kielland, 1990d).
Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2017 [egg, leaf shelters, larva, pupa; parasitoids, ssp. *midas*]

Larval food:
Leersia hexandra Sw. (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; Nairobi].

Metisella midas midas (Butler, 1894)
Golden Sylph

Cyclopides midas Butler, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 671 (643-684).

Metisella midas midas. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nsobe Camp, Copperbelt, Zambia. 13 April 2015.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Metisella midas midas. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Namuli, Mozambique. 27 April 2008.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Zomba".
Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east, including Shaba), Uganda, Kenya (central and west), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique.

Specific localities:
Democratic Republic of Congo –Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).
Uganda – Mpanga Forest (Safian & Pyrcz, 2020).
Kenya – Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c); Meru (Larsen, 1991c); Kiambu (Larsen, 1991c); Kakamega (Larsen, 1991c); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c); Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c); Masai Mara (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Widespread but absent from dry central area (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al*., 2006).
Malawi – Zomba Plateau (TL; male specimen illustrated above).
Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al*., 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al*., 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al*., 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al*., 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al*., 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al*., 2002); Kanona (Heath *et al*., 2002); Samfya (Heath *et al*., 2002); Luongo River (Heath *et al*., 2002); Shiwa Ngandu (Heath *et al*., 2002).
Angola – Bie Province; Huambo Province; Huila Province; Kwanza Sul Province; Malanje Province; Uige Province (Mendes *et al*., 2013).
Mozambique – Mount Namuli (Congdon *et al*., 2010).

xanthometis Mabille, 1898 (as sp. of *Cyclopides*). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* **66**: 218 (182-231). "Afrique centrale".

Metisella midas malda Evans, 1937
Western Golden Sylph

Metisella midas malda Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 68 (212 pp.).

Type locality: Nigeria: "Kumbo, 5,500 ft".
Distribution: Nigeria (Obudu Plateau), Cameroon.
Specific localities:
Nigeria – Kumbo (TL).

**Metisella quadrisignatus* (Butler, 1894)
Four-spot Sylph

Cyclopides quadrisignatus Butler, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 670 (643-684).

Metisella quadrisignatus quadrisignatus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Njombe Forest, Tanzania. April 1986. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2312.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella quadrisignatus quadrisignatus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Njombe Forest, Tanzania. May 1989. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2313.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Zomba".
Distribution: Uganda (Davenport, 1996; requires confirmation), Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi.
Diagnosis: As the specific name suggests this species is characterized by four orange spots on the upper side of each fore wing. These spots are sometimes reduced (Cock & Congdon, 2017).
Habitat: Wet grasslands, in montane forest clearings or open country (Larsen, 1991c). In Tanzania from 1 700 to 2 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: The flight is not fast and when settled, usually on a blade of grass, the wings are folded closed above the body (Larsen, 1991c). When basking the wings are held three-quarters of the way open (Larsen, 1991c). Flowers are often visited (Larsen, 1991c).
Early stages:

Cock & Congdon, 2017 [leaf shelters, larva, pupa].

Larval food:
Cynodon nlemfuensis (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2017; requires confirmation].

Metisella quadrisignatus quadrisignatus (Butler, 1894)
Four-spot Sylph

Cyclopides quadrisignatus Butler, 1894. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 670 (643-684).

Metisella quadrisignatus quadrisignatus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Njombe Forest, Tanzania. April 1986. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2312.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella quadrisignatus quadrisignatus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Njombe Forest, Tanzania. May 1989. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2313.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Malawi]: "Zomba".
Distribution: Kenya (south-east), Tanzania (north), Malawi.
Diagnosis: Smaller than ssp. *nanda* and with reduced spotting (Cock & Congdon, 2017).
Specific localities:
Kenya – Chyulu Hills (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Mount Kilimanjaro (Kielland, 1990d); Mount Meru (Kielland, 1990d); Oldeani-Ngorongoro (Kielland, 1990d); Mount Longido (Kielland, 1990d).
Malawi – Zomba (TL); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Metisella quadrisignatus nanda Evans, 1937
Northern Four-spot Sylph

Metisella quadrisignatus nanda Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 72 (212 pp.).

Type locality: [Kenya]: "Escarpment, 6,500 ft".
Distribution: Kenya (highlands east of the Rift Valley).
Specific localities:
Kenya – Nairobi (Cock & Congdon, 2017).

**Metisella syrinx* (Trimen, 1868)#
Bamboo Sylph

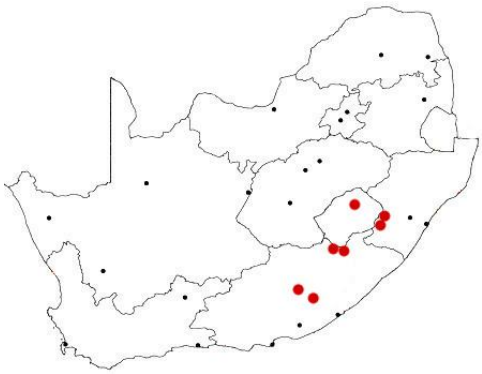
Cyclopides syrinx Trimen, 1868. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1868**: 93 (69-96).
Cyclopides syrinx Trimen, 1868. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Metisella syrinx (Trimen, 1868). Hemming, 1934 (*Stylops* **3**: 99).
Metisella syrinx Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Metisella syrinx (Trimen, 1868). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Metisella syrinx (Trimen, 1868). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 322.

Metisella syrinx. Male (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.

Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 21 December 2010. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Metisella syrinx. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 24 December 1995. H. Selb & S. Joubert.
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

Alternative common name: Bamboes-walsertjie (Afrikaans).
Type locality: [South Africa]: "on the summit of Gaika's Kop, the highest point of the Amatola Mountains, being about 6,800 feet above sea-level". Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.



Distribution: South Africa – KwaZulu-Natal – south-west, Eastern Cape Province – north-east, Lesotho.

Distribution: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – south-west, Eastern Cape Province – north-east), Lesotho.
Specific localities:
KwaZulu-Natal – Drakensberg Gardens (Kroon); Mzimkulu Wilderness area (Woodhall, 2005a).
Eastern Cape Province – Gaika's Kop (TL; Bowker); Hogsback Mountains (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Great Winterberg (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Elandsberg (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Lesotho – Maluti Mountains (Trimen, 1870).
Habitat: Rocky areas on the summit of mountains, in montane grassland. Very closely associated with the larval host-plant, mountain bamboo.
Habits: May be found in large numbers, during the peak of its flight period, flying slowly around the larval host-plant. Male territories are in the stands of mountain bamboo, perching on the plant itself.
Flight period: January and February (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Bergbambos tessellata (Nees) Stapleton (= *Thamnocalamus tessellatus* (Nees) Soderstr. & R.P.Ellis) (Poaceae) (mountain bamboo) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 191; as *Arundinaria tessellata*].
Conservation status: Classified as 'Rare (Habitat Specialist) by Mecenero *et al*., 2013.

****Metisella trisignatus*** (Neave, 1904)

Three-spot Sylph

Cyclopides trisignatus Neave, 1904. *Novitates Zoologicae* **11**: 343 (323-363).

Metisella trisignatus trisignatus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakamega, Kenya. October 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019-2310.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella trisignatus trisignatus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rangwe Mountain, western Kenya. September 2003. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2311.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Victoria Nyanza [Uganda]: "Entebbe".
Distribution: South Sudan (Cock & Congdon, 2017); Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia.
Diagnosis: Characterized by the three orange spots on the upper side of the fore wing.
Habitat: Submontane to montane grassland and forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at 1 200 to 2 200 m (nominate subspecies) and 1 800 to 2 200 m (subspecies *tanga*) (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A sometimes common species in the forests of western Kenya (Larsen, 1991c). Occasionally mud-puddles (Cock & Congdon, 2017).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

Note: The genitalia of *kambove, trisignatus* and *quadrisignatus* are very similar and two or all three species may be conspecific. The genus is in dire need of revision (Kielland, 1990d).

Metisella trisignatus trisignatus (Neave, 1904)
Three-spot Sylph

Cyclopides trisignatus Neave, 1904. *Novitates Zoologicae* **11**: 343 (323-363).

Metisella trisignatus trisignatus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakamega, Kenya. October 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019-2310.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Metisella trisignatus trisignatus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Rangwe Mountain, western Kenya. September 2003. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2311.
Images M.C.Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Victoria Nyanza [Uganda]: "Entebbe". The type locality is correct, as verified by Larsen (pers. comm., 2010).
Distribution: South Sudan (Cock & Congdon, 2017), Uganda (east and north), Kenya (highlands, mainly west of the Rift Valley and further north), Tanzania.
Specific localities:
Uganda – Entebbe (TL).
Kenya – Nyahururu (Larsen, 1991c); Thomson's Falls (Larsen, 1991c); Mara (Larsen, 1991c); Maralal (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); southern highlands (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Udzungwa Mountains (Cock & Congdon, 2017).

Metisella trisignatus tanga Evans, 1937
Southern Three-spot Sylph

Metisella trisignatus tanga Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 72 (212 pp.).

Metisella trisignatus tanga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nsobe Camp, Copperbelt, Zambia. 13 April 2015.
Images MC Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: "Great Craters, Tanganyika".
Distribution: Tanzania (highlands), Zambia (north-east).
Specific localities:
Tanzania – Great Craters (TL); Mbulu Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Kwaraha Mountain at Babati (Kielland, 1990d).
Zambia – Kundalila Falls near Kanona (Heath *et al*., 2002).