

Genus *Calopieris* Aurivillius, [1899] Desert Beauty

In: Aurivillius, [1898-9]. *Kungliga Svenska Vetenskapakademiens Handlingar* **31** (5): 385, 415 (1-561).

Type-species: *Pontia eulimene* Klug, by monotypy.

The genus *Calopieris* belongs to the Family Pieridae Swainson, 1820; Subfamily Pierinae Swainson, 1820; Tribe Teracolini Reuter, 1896. The other genera in the Tribe Teracolini in the Afrotropical Region are *Colotis*, *Eronia*, *Teracolus*, *Pinacopteryx*, *Gideona* and *Afrodryas*.

Calopieris (**Desert Beauty**) is a monobasic Afrotropical genus.

**Calopieris eulimene* (Klug, [1829]) Desert Beauty

Pontia eulimene Klug, [1829] *in* Klug, [1829-45]. *In*: Ehrenburg, C.G., *Symbolae Physicae, seu icones et descriptiones corporum naturalium novarum aut minus cognitorum* pl. 7 ([183] pp.).

Calopieris eulimene (Klug, 1829). Aurivillius, 1899.



Calopieris eulimene. Male (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
South of Jebel Aulla, Sudan. 31 August 2007. P. Ward.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Calopieris eulimene. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wadi Rima, Tihama, Yemen. October 1992. SCC. ABRI-2019-2918.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Sudan: “Ambukohl”.

Distribution: Chad, Sudan, Red Sea coast, Saudi Arabia (west), Yemen.

Specific localities:

Sudan – Ambukohl (TL); 25 km west of Omdurman (Larsen, pers. comm.).

Habitat: The species inhabits very hot sandy areas where its host plant *Capparis decidua* grows (Sahel conditions). Very few other butterflies survive in such areas. In Arabia such areas are the flat coastal plains, stretching from the Red Sea to the mountain foothills. In Sudan it was found under similar conditions, some 25 km west of Omdurman (Larsen, pers. comm.).

Habits: The flight is fast and determined (Larsen, pers. comm.).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Capparis decidua (Forssk.) Edgew. (Capparaceae) (Larsen, 1982).