

Genus *Ariadne* Horsfield, [1829]

Castors

In: Horsfield, [1828-9]. *A descriptive catalogue of the lepidopterous insects contained in the museum of the Honourable East India Company* [3] (1: 1-80; 2: 81-144.). London.

Type-species: *Papilio coryta* Cramer, by monotypy [extralimital].

Synonym based on extralimital type-species: *Ergolis* Boisduval, 1836.

The genus *Ariadne* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Biblidinae Boisduval, 1833; Tribe Biblidini Boisduval, 1833. The other genera in the Tribe Biblidini in the Afrotropical Region are *Byblia*, *Mesoxantha*, *Neptidopsis* and *Eurytela*.

Ariadne (**Castors**) is an Old World genus of 14 species, five of which are Afrotropical.

**Ariadne actisanes* (Hewitson, 1875)

Large Castor

Ergolis actisanes Hewitson, 1875. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* 11: 183 (182-184).



Ariadne actisanes. Male. Left: upperside; right: underside.
Near Mbogi, Djugu Terr., Ituri, Democratic Republic of Congo. 10 June 2017. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.

Type locality: Gabon: "Gaboons"; Cameroon: "Cameroons".

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Benin City (Larsen, 2005a); Sapoba (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Massouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Langoue (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Habitat: Disturbed areas in forest (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A rather scarce butterfly, with a stronger flight, higher above the ground, when compared to other species in the genus (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Ariadne albifascia* (Joicey & Talbot, 1921)**

White-banded Castor

Ergolis albifascia Joicey & Talbot, 1921. *Bulletin of the Hill Museum, Witley* 1: 52 (40-166).



Ariadne albifascia. Male. Left: upperside; right: underside.
Gwane-Bangu Rd., Ango Terr., Bas-Uele, Democratic Republic of Congo. 25 July 2019. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.



Ariadne albifascia. Female. Left: upperside; right: underside.
Nebobongo, Wamba Terr., Haut-Uele, Democratic Republic of Congo. 5 July 2014. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Semliki Valley, Ruwenzori”.

Distribution: Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2018), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Congo, Angola (Mendes *et al.*, 2018), Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (west).

Recorded, in error, from Senegal by Carcasson (1981) (Larsen, 2005a).

Specific locations:

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

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

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

Benin – Ko (= Lama) Forest (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2018).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Semliki Valley, Ruwenzori (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Kibale Forest (R. Schutte, unpublished).

Habitat: Forest, especially open degraded habitats (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Populations of this butterfly occur both allopatrically and sympatrically with those of *Ariadne enotrea* but *Ariadne albifascia* is decidedly scarcer on the whole (Larsen, 2005a). The behaviour is virtually identical to that of *Ariadne enotrea* (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: The same as for *Ariadne enotrea* (Larsen, 2005a) [Fontaine, 1981?].

****Ariadne enotrea* (Cramer, [1779])**
African Castor



Left: Male African Castor (*Ariadne enotrea*). Kibale Forest, Uganda. October 2014. Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Right: *Ariadne enotrea suffusa* underside. Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 9 June 2017. Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Papilio enotrea Cramer, [1779] *in* Cramer, [1779-80]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa en America* 3: 73 (176 pp.). Amsteldam & Utrecht.



Ariadne enotrea enotrea. Male (Wingspan 50 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Biakpa Mountain Paradise, Ghana. 24 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Ariadne enotrea enotrea. Female (Wingspan 51 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Bobiri Forest, Ghana. 22 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: “la Côte d’Afrique”. Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leona”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (Fermon *et al.*, 2001), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania.

Habitat: Forest, especially disturbed areas, and heavy woodland. In Tanzania subspecies *archeri* occurs at altitudes from 1 000 to 1 500 m and subspecies *suffusa* from 800 to 1 200 m (Kielland, 1990d). In West Africa it is found in disturbed areas in the forest zone (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A common butterfly that keeps to open places (Larsen, 2005a), hovering around bushes, especially near damp places and stream banks (Kielland, 1990d). The flight pattern is like that of a species of *Neptis*, but is slower (Larsen, 1991c). They are seldom seen at flowers but often at sap exuding from plants damaged by insects (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages:

Congdon *et al.*, 2017 [final instar larva].

Larval food:

Dalechampia ipomoeifolia Benth. (Euphorbiaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 133].

Tragia benthamii Baker (Euphorbiaceae) [Vuattoux & Blandin, 1979; Ivory Coast].

Tragia brevipes Pax (Euphorbiaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 133].

Tragia impedita Prain (Euphorbiaceae) [Congdon *et al.*, 2017; Minziro, Tanzania].

Tragia volubilis L. (Euphorbiaceae) [Vuattoux & Blandin, 1979; Ivory Coast].

Ariadne enotrea enotrea (Cramer, [1779])

African Castor

Papilio enotrea Cramer, [1779] *in* Cramer, [1779-80]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa en America* 3: 73 (176 pp.). Amsteldam & Utrecht.



Ariadne enotrea enotrea. Male (Wingspan 50 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Biakpa Mountain Paradise, Ghana. 24 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Ariadne enotrea enotrea. Female (Wingspan 51 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Bobiri Forest, Ghana. 22 November 2011. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: “la Côte d’Afrique”. Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leona”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon (west).

Specific localities:

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

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

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

Benin – Noyau Central, Lama Forest (Fermon *et al.*, 2001); Lokoli (Tchibozo *et al.*, 2008); Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

alphaea Drury, 1782 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Illustrations of Natural History* 3: index et 49 (76 pp.). London. Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”.

Ariadne enotrea archeri Carcasson, 1958

Congo African Castor

Ariadne archeri Carcasson, 1958. *Occasional Papers. Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi* 5: 4 (3-9).

Type locality: Angola: “Gobela [sic], Angola (Portuguese West Africa)”.

Distribution: Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (south), Tanzania (west).

Specific localities:

Angola – Gobela (TL).

Tanzania – Sibweza (Kielland, 1990d); Kampisa (Kielland, 1990d); Wanzizi (Kielland, 1990d); Ntakatta (Kielland, 1990d); Lubalizi River (Kielland, 1990d).

Note: In Tanzania it appears to be intermixed with subspecies *suffusa* (Kielland, 1990d). Larsen (2005a) believes that *archeri* may be a distinct species.

Ariadne enotrea suffusa (Joicey & Talbot, 1921)
Dark African Castor

Ergolis enotria suffusa Joicey & Talbot, 1921. *Bulletin of the Hill Museum, Witley* 1: 52 (40-166).



Ariadne enotrea suffusa. Male (Wingspan 53 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 10 November 2007. P. Ward.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Ariadne enotrea suffusa. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Semuliki National Park, Uganda. 4-8 June 2017. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Ariadne enotrea suffusa. Female (Wingspan 53 mm). Left: upperside; right: underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 11 November 2007. P. Ward.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Albertville, Congo Belge”.

Diagnosis: Compared to subspecies *archeri* the underside is darker, the upperside of the male lacks the paler median areas and the female is greyer (Kielland, 1990d).

Distribution: Cameroon (east), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (west).

Specific localities:

Gabon – Throughout (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Albertville (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c).

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

****Ariadne pagenstecheri* (Suffert, 1904)**
Scalloped Castor

Ergolis pagenstecheri Suffert, 1904. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* 17: 125 (124-132).



Ariadne pagenstecheri. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kakamega Forest, Kenya. 7 October 1997.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

Alternative common name: Pagenstecher’s Castor.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Bukoba am Victoria Nyanza”.

Diagnosis: Smaller than *Ariadne enotrea* with more evenly curved brown bands on the upperside of the wings and the underside of both wings with three clearly defined reddish brown bands (Kielland, 1990d).

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (east and central), Sudan (south), Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya (west), Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Gashaka-Gumpti National Park, Mambilla Plateau (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Yaounde (Bartel, 1905).

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

Uganda – Mubuku Valley, E. Ruwenzori (Heron, 1909); Ruwenzori (Heron, 1909); Toro (Heron, 1909); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Rwanda – Cyamudongo Forest (Uwizelimana *et al.*, 2021).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c); Nandi (Larsen, 1991c); South Kavirondo (Larsen, 1991c).

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

Habitat: Margins of submontane and montane forest. In Tanzania at altitudes from 1 200 to 2 300 m, i.e. generally higher up than *Ariadne enotrea* (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Has a slow flight, typical for the genus (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Tragia brevipes Pax (Euphorbiaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 133].

murina Bartel, 1905 (as sp. of *Ergolis*). *Novitates Zoologicae* **12**: 135 (129-152). Cameroon: “Kamerun (Jaunde-Station, offne Stelle im Urwald)”.

aurantiaca Heron, 1909 (as f. of *Ergolis pagenstecheri*). *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* **19**: 154 (141-178). Uganda: “Mubuku Valley, E. Ruwenzori. Ruwenzori. Toro”.

****Ariadne personata* (Joicey & Talbot, 1921)**

Kassai Castor

Ergolis personata Joicey & Talbot, 1921. *Bulletin of the Hill Museum, Witley* **1**: 53 (40-166).

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kassai District”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo (Mongala, Uele, Ituri, Tshopo, Tshuapa, Kasai, Sankuru).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upper Kassai District (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.