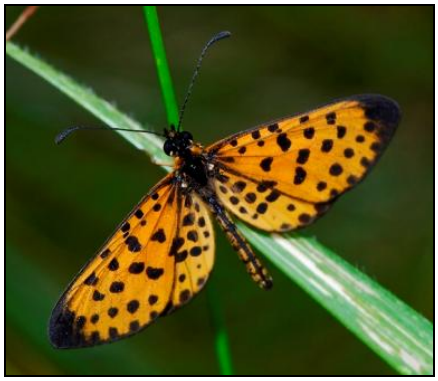
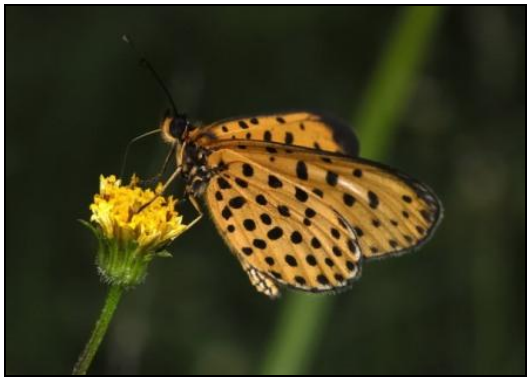
Genus *Pardopsis* Trimen, 1887
Polka Dot

South-African butterflies: a monograph of the extra-tropical species **1** [*Nymphalidae*] 182 (355 pp.). London.
Type-species: *Acraea punctatissima* Boisduval, by monotypy.

The genus *Pardopsis* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Heliconiinae Swainson, 1822; Tribe Argynnini Swainson, 1833. The subtribal placement of *Pardopsis* is *incertae sedis*.

Pardopsis (**Polka Dot**) is a monobasic Afrotropical genus.

****Pardopsis punctatissima*** (Boisduval, 1833)#
Polka Dot

Male Polka Dot (*Pardopsis punctatissima*) in the Umtumvuna Nature Reserve.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Acraea punctatissima Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 179 (149-270).
Acraea punctatissima Boisduval. Trimen, 1862c.
Pardopsis punctatissima (Boisduval, 1833). Trimen & Bowker, 1887a.
Pardopsis punctatissima Boisduval. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Pardopsis punctatissima (Boisduval, 1833). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Pardopsis punctatissima De Boisduval, 1833. Pringle *et al*., 1994: 85.


Pardopsis punctatissima. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Cintsa East, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. December, 2000. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

Pardopsis punctatissima. Female (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Umtamvuna River, KwaZulu-Natal. 29 December 2003. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Madagascar: "Dans les bois humides, aux environs de Tamatave".
Distribution: Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo (Kivu), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al*., 1999), Madagascar.
Specific localities:
Kenya – widespread (Larsen, 1991c); Pokot (Larsen, 1991c); Ngong Forest, Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018).
Tanzania – Widespread (Kielland, 1990d); lower slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro (Liseki & Vane-Wright, 2018).
Malawi – Throughout (Bernaud & Murphy, 2014). Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al*., 2010); 15 localities given by Bernaud & Murphy, 2014.
Zambia – Mufulira (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mkushi (Heath *et al*., 2002); Kanona (Heath *et al*., 2002); Kawambwa (Heath *et al*., 2002); Chambeshi Valley (Heath *et al*., 2002); Luangwa Valley (Heath *et al*., 2002); Chipata (Heath *et al*., 2002); Lundazi (Heath *et al*., 2002); Mutinondo (Congdon & Bampton).
Mozambique – Gazaland (Van Son, 1963); Dondo (Van Son, 1963); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013); Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).
Zimbabwe – Bulawayo (Van Son, 1963); Harare (Van Son, 1963); Sabi Valley (Van Son, 1963); Mutare District (Van Son, 1963).
Limpopo Province – Letsitele Valley (Swanepoel, 1953); Munnik (Swanepoel, 1953); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve ("Malta Forest"); Wolkberg (Van Son, 1963).
Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Nelspruit (Swanepoel, 1953); Malelane (Van Son, 1963); Mariepskop area (Henning, 1994c).
KwaZulu-Natal – Oribi Gorge (Swanepoel, 1953); Durban (Swanepoel, 1953); Verulam (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953); Great Noodsberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Uvongo Beach (Van Son, 1963); Isipingo (Van Son, 1963); Bellair (Van Son, 1963); Sarnia (Van Son, 1963); Krantzkloof (Van Son, 1963); Empangeni (Van Son, 1963); St Lucia (Van Son, 1963); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Hluhluwe (male illustrated above).
Eastern Cape Province – Hankey (Swanepoel, 1953); Zuurberg (Swanepoel, 1953); Van Staden's Pass (Swanepoel, 1953); Uitenhage (Swanepoel, 1953); Port Elizabeth (Swanepoel, 1953); Bellevue (Swanepoel, 1953); Alicedale (Swanepoel, 1953); Grahamstown (Swanepoel, 1953); Port Alfred (Swanepoel, 1953); King William's Town (Swanepoel, 1953); Humansdorp (Van Son, 1963); Port St Johns (Van Son, 1963); Ngqeleni (Van Son, 1963); Umsikaba (Van Son, 1963); Embotyi (Van Son, 1963); Lusikisiki (Van Son, 1963); Cintsa East (Williams & Dobsons).
Madagascar – Tamatave (TL); Nosy Iranje (R. Schutte, pers. comm. April 2010); Nosy Be (R. Schutte, pers. comm. April 2010); Anjajavy Peninsula (R. Schutte, pers. comm. April 2010).

Habitat: Moist grassland, often close to thick bush (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Dry open habitats in Zambia (Heath *et al*., 2002). In Madagascar in transformed grassland and anthropogenic environments (Lees *et al*., 2003). In Tanzania from sea-level to 1 900 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A locally common species (Kielland, 1990d). The flight is weak and close to the ground. Specimens frequently settle on grass stems or other low vegetation (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Appears to be mimicked by lycaenid species of the genus *Pentila* (Kielland, 1990d).
Flight period: All year (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:

Van Someren, 1935

Clark, *in* Van Son, 1963: 125 [Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape].

"**Egg**. The eggs are laid singly. They are 0.8 mm high, 0.7 mm in diameter at base and 0.3 mm at the micropyle; pale yellow when laid, darkening slightly, and then the black head develops. The egg stage lasts 8 days. **Larva**. 1st instar: The young larva eats its way out near the micropyle and devours the discarded shell. It is 1.5 mm long, pale watery yellowish green with very dark brown spines on brown patches. Later, brown markings develop on the lateral line and over the dorsum of segments 4 and 10. Head black with black setae. The body is covered with minute hairs. When disturbed, the first five segments are raised and the head is bent down. The larvae grow to 3.25 mm in 5 days. They feed on the upper surface of young leaves. 2nd instar: Dorsal protuberances white except on the 1st, 4th and 12th segments where they are brown. On segments 2 and 3 there is a black spine between the dorsal and lateral ridge protuberances. On the 4th segment there is a small protuberance between the dorsal and ridge protuberances. The rest of the segments have only the dorsal and ridge protuberances. The body is covered with minute whitish hairs. The larvae grow to 5.5 mm in 4 days. 3rd instar: The larvae begin to feed on the edges of the leaves. They grow to 8.5-9 mm in 5 days. 4th instar: There is a colour variation, the sides being more bluish and the dorsal line black. The long protuberances on the first segment are independantly movable. The larvae grow to 12.5-15 mm in 7 days. The final instar varies in shades of blue-black and blackish brown with broken white stripes and salmon-yellow bases to whitish protuberances. The dorsal protuberances on the 4th segment are black. The larvae grow to 22-24 mm in 11 days. **Pupa**. This is 16-17 mm long, and is suspended head downwards and secured to a silken mat by cremastral hooks. The pupal stage lasts about 17 days."

Dickson, 1972.

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

Bernaud & Murphy, 2014: 161 – images of host-plant, egg, larva and pupa.

Larval food:
Hybanthus capensis (Thunb.) Engl. (Violaceae) [Clark and Dickson, *in* Van Son, 1963: 125].
Afrohybanthus enneaspermus (L.) Flicker (Violaceae) [Congdon *et al*., 2017; Mutinondo, Zambia; as *Hybanthus enneaspermus* (L.) F.Muell.].

stictica Boisduval, 1847 (as sp. of *Acraea*). *In*: Delegorgue, A., *Voyage dans l'Afrique australe* **2**: 590 (585-602). South Africa: "Pays de Amazoulous". Treated as a synonym of *Acraea punctatissima* by Bernaud, 2009.