

Genus *Antanartia* Rothschild & Jordan, 1903

Admirals

Novitates Zoologicae **10**: 508 (491-542).

Type-species: *Papilio delius* Drury, by original designation.

The genus *Antanartia* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Nymphalinae Rafinesque, 1815; Tribe Nymphalini Rafinesque, 1815. The other genus in the Tribe Nymphalini in the Afrotropical Region is *Vanessa*.

Antanartia (**Admirals**) is an Afrotropical genus containing three species. The genus was revised by Howarth (1966).

“The genus *Antanartia* is sister to *Nymphalis*, is prominently distinct from it, and forms a long branch in the tree indicating accelerated evolution, which resulted in its relatively unusual wing shape and pattern, likely due to convergence more similar to the two *Vanessa* species formerly placed in *Antanartia* (*Vanessa hippomene* (Hübner, [1823] and *Vanessa dimorphica* Howarth, 1966) rather than to *Nymphalis*. Overall, the *Vanessa* group [*Hypanartia*, *Vanessa*, *Antanartia* and *Nymphalis*] has split over a relatively narrow time period into 4 most prominent clades, which (except *Antanartia*) diversified around the same time, indicating evolutionary significance of that time point. Therefore, it is meaningful to define genera as these 4 clades, assigning more recent diversifications to subgenera. This study completes genomic coverage of all distinct lineages in the *Nymphalis* group, and the results are unlikely to change after inclusion of the remaining species.” (Zhang *et al.*, 2021: 41).

**Antanartia borbonica* (Oberthür, 1879)

Mascarene Admiral

Vanessa borbonica Oberthür, 1879. [get ref. – not in Ackery, *et al.*, 1995]
Antanartia borbonica Oberthür, 1880. D’Abrera, 2004: 288.

Type locality: Reunion: “Bobone”.

Distribution: Mauritius, Reunion.

According to Lees *et al.* (2003) *Antanartia borbonica* is misattributed to the Madagascar fauna by Viette (1995).

Flight period: September to May but commonest in February and March (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Early stages:

Manders, 1906 [*Antanartia borbonica mauritiana*].

Larval food:

Pilea urticifolia (L.f.) Blume (Urticaceae) [Manders, 1906].

Relevant literature:

Guillermet, 2003a [Biology notes].

Antanartia borbonica borbonica (Oberthür, 1879)

Vanessa borbonica Oberthür, 1879. [get ref. - not in Ackery, *et al.*, 1995]

Antanartia borbonica borbonica Oberthür, 1880. D'Abbrera, 2004: 288.

Type locality: Reunion: “Bobone”.

Distribution: Reunion.

Relevant literature:

Waltemathe, 2010. New locality records.

Antanartia borbonica mauritiana Manders, 1908

Antanartia hippomene mauritiana Manders, 1908. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1907**: 437 (429-454).

Antanartia borbonica mauritiana Manders, 1908. D'Abbrera, 2004: 288.

Type locality: Mauritius: “Curepipe”.

Diagnosis: Considerably smaller than the nominotypical subspecies (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

General notes: On the verge of extinction (Davis & Barnes, 1991). Regarded by Lawrence (2016) to be extinct.

Distribution: Mauritius.

Specific localities:

Mauritius – Curepipe (TL); Moka at 360 m (Vinson, 1938).

**Antanartia delius* (Drury, 1782)

Forest Admiral



Left: Male Forest Admiral (*Antanartia delius delius*). Kibale Forest, Uganda. October 2014. Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Right: Male Forest Admiral (*Antanartia delius delius*). Camp Kombo, Cameroon. April 2019. Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Papilio delius Drury, 1782. *Illustrations of Natural History* **3**: index, et 18 (76 pp.). London.

Antanartia delius Drury, 1782. D'Abbrera, 2004: 288.



Antanartia delius delius. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 25 November, 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Antanartia delius delius. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Tumani River, near Mbogi, Ituri. 22 April 2016. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.

Alternative common name: Orange Admiral.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”.

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo (Suffert, 1904), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Gabon, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania.

Habitat: Lowland forest (Kielland, 1990d). In West Africa it occurs mainly in secondary forest, where its main host-plant *Musanga* species is common (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: This species is usually met with in small numbers and flies very rapidly along forest roads, perching with the wings partly opened (Larsen, 2005a). Males defend territories aggressively against conspecifics (Larsen, 1991c). Both sexes come to fermented fruit (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages:

Larsen, 2005a.

The larva is very similar to that of the Palearctic *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus, 1758) and like that species lives in tents constructed from the leaves of the foodplant. The tent is made by chewing through the midrib near the end of the leaf and making a cylindrical shelter.

Larval food:

Didymodoxa caffra (Thunb.) Friis & Wilmot-Dear (Urticaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 322; as *Australina*

acuminata Wedd.].
Musanga species (Moraceae) [Schultze, 1920; Boorman & Roche, 1959].
Pouzolzia parasitica (Forssk.) Schweinf. (Urticaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 322].
Urtica species (Urticaceae) [Ackery *et al.*, 1995].

Antanartia delius delius (Drury, 1782)

Papilio delius Drury, 1782. *Illustrations of Natural History* 3: index, et 18 (76 pp.). London.
Antanartia delius delius Drury, 1782. D'Abrera, 2004: 288.



Antanartia delius delius. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 25 November, 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Antanartia delius delius. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Tumani River, near Mbogi, Ituri. 22 April 2016. T. Desloges.
Images courtesy Thomas Desloges.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”.

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo (Suffert, 1904), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (west).

Specific localities:

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

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

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

Ghana – Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Alen Nkoma (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Bitam (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kamituga (Dufrane, 1945); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Toro (Sharpe, 1904); Kibale Forest (R. Schutte, unpublished).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Gombe Stream National Park (Kielland, 1990d).

eurocilia Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* **3** (1): 79 (488 pp.). [Africa]: “Indiis”. [False locality.]

demonica Godart, 1819 *in* Latreille & Godart, [1819], [1824] (as sp. of *Vanessa*). *Encyclopédie Méthodique. Histoire Naturelle [Zoologie]* **9** Entomologie: 301 (1-328 [1819], 329-828 [1824]). Paris. [Africa]: “Nous la soupçonnons d’Amérique”. [False locality.]

amauroptera Sharpe, 1904 (as sp. of *Antanartia*). *Entomologist* **37**: 181 (181-183). Uganda: “Toro”.

nigrescens Suffert, 1904 (as ssp. of *Hypanartia delius*). *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **17**: 108 (108-123). Togo.

kamitugensis Dufrane, 1945 (as f. of *Antanartia delius*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* **81**: 99 (90-143). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Kamituga”.

Antanartia delius guineensis Howarth, 1966

Antanartia delius guineensis Howarth, 1966. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **18**: 27 (21-43).

Type locality: Equatorial Guinea: “Macias Nguema”.

Distribution: Equatorial Guinea (Bioko).

Specific localities:

Equatorial Guinea – Macias Nguema (TL); Caldera de Luba, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

**Antanartia schaeneia* (Trimen, 1879)#

Long-tailed Admiral



Long-tailed Admiral (*Antanartia schaeneia*).
Images courtesy Ian Sharp (left) and Steve Woodhall (right).

Eurema schaeneia Trimen, 1879. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1879**: 329 (323-346).
Eurema schoeneia Trimen, 1879. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a. [Misspelling of species name]
Antanartia schoeneia Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Misspelling of species name]
Antanartia schaeneia (Trimen, 1879). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Antanartia schaeneia (Trimen, 1879). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 123.



Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia. Male (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Linwood Forest, KwaZulu-Natal. 13 February 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Elandshoogte, Mpumalanga, South Africa. April 2016. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Cape Colony: Bathurst; King William’s Town. Kafirland: Bashee River. Natal: D’Urban. Transvaal: Potchefstroom [false locality]; Leydenburg District”.

Diagnosis: Larger than other species of the genus and with longer hindwing tails (Kielland, 1990d).

Distribution: Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007), Zimbabwe, South Africa.

Habitat: Montane Forest. In Tanzania at the same altitudes as *Vanessa dimorphica* (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Flies strongly, on the edges of forest, and will disappear into the forest if disturbed. Specimens settle on low vegetation on the edges of forest or along forest roads. Males are strongly territorial, defending their territories from perches low down (Larsen, 1991c). Both sexes feed from flowers (Larsen, 1991c) and are also attracted to fermented fruit (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Males come to animal dung and other foul matter (Larsen, 1991c) and often mud-puddle (Pringle *et al.* 1994).

Flight period: All year.

Early stages:

Clark, in Van Son, 1979: 13 (Plate 31) [as *Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia*].

“Eggs are laid singly on young shoots or leaves. They are 1 mm in diameter by 0,9 mm high, with 14-15 longitudinal ribs and 40-45 cross-braces. At first they are pale dull green, darkening slightly later. The larva hatches after 10-13 days. The young larva is at first watery dull yellow but as soon as it feeds on green food, it turns green; it is 2,5 mm on hatching and grows to 4,5 mm in four to five days. The second instar takes five days and the larva grows to 7 mm. In the third instar the larva grows to 12 mm in five days, and in the fourth instar it reaches 19 mm in six days. The final instar takes about 12 days and the larvae grow to 30-35 mm. The pupa is suspended by cremastral hooks only and is 18 mm long. The imago hatches after about 13 days.”



Final instar larva and pupa of *Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia*.
Images courtesy Ian Sharp.

Larval food:

Boehmeria nivea (L.) Gaudich. (Urticaceae) [Platt, 1921: 101; subspecies *schaeneia*].

Didymodoxa caffra (Thunb.) Friis & Wilmot-Dear (Urticaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 142; as *Australina accuminata*; subspecies *dubia*].

Laportea alatipes Hook. F. (Urticaceae) [I. Sharp, 2017; Mariep’s Kop, Mpumalanga, South Africa].

Laportea peduncularis (Wedd.) Chew (Urticaceae) [Platt, 1921: 101; subspecies *schaeneia*].

Pouzolzia parasitica (Forssk.) Schweinf. (Urticaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 322; subspecies *dubia*].

Sceptocarpus hypselodendron (Hochst. ex A.Rich.) Wedd. (Urticaceae) [Mullin, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 123; as *Urera hypselodendron*; Vumba (Zimbabwe); subspecies *dubia*].

Sceptocarpus trinervis (Hochst.) Friis & Immelman (Urticaceae) [Mullin, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 123; Mount Selinda (Zimbabwe); subspecies *dubia*; as *Urera cameroonensis* Wedd.].

Urtica species (Urticaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 353].

Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia (Trimen, 1879)#

Eurema schaeneia Trimen, 1879. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1879**: 329 (323-346).

Eurema schoeneia Trimen, 1879. Trimen & Bowker, 1887a. [Misspelling of species name?]

Antanartia schoeneia Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Misspelling of species name?]

Antanartia schaeneia (Trimen, 1879). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia (Trimen, 1879). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 123.



Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia. Male (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Linwood Forest, KwaZulu-Natal. 13 February 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Antanartia schaeneia schaeneia. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Elandshoogte, Mpumalanga, South Africa. April 2016. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Cape Colony: Bathurst; King Williams Town. Kafirland: Bashee River. Natal: D’Urban. Transvaal: Potchefstroom [false locality]; Leydenburg District”.

Diagnosis: Subspecies *dubia* may be distinguished from the nominate subspecies by the broader transverse band on the underside of the forewing. In addition the band is stepped at vein 1 instead of at vein 2 (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province).

Specific localities:

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953); Broederstroom Forest (Swanepoel, 1953).

Mpumalanga – Lydenburg District (Trimen, 1879); Graskop (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel,

1953); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).
KwaZulu-Natal – Durban (Trimen, 1879); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953).
Eastern Cape Province – Bathurst (TL); King William’s Town (Trimen, 1879); Bashee River (Trimen, 1879); Port Alfred (Swanepoel, 1953); Hogsback (Swanepoel, 1953); Stutterheim (Swanepoel, 1953).

commixta Butler, 1880 (as sp. of *Hypanartia*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (5) **5**: 336 (333-344, 384-395). [South Africa]: “Natal”.

Antanartia schaeneia diluta Rothschild & Jordan, 1903

Antanartia schaeneia diluta Rothschild & Jordan, 1903. *Novitates Zoologicae* **10**: 510 (491-542).

Type locality: [Ethiopia]: “Kaffa”.

Distribution: Ethiopia.

Specific localities:

Ethiopia – Kaffa (TL).

Antanartia schaeneia dubia Howarth, 1966

Antanartia schaeneia dubia Howarth, 1966. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **18**: 29 (21-43).
Antanartia schaeneia dubia Howarth, 1966. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 123.



Antanartia schaeneia dubia. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mutare, Zimbabwe. 28 March 1997.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.



Antanartia schaeneia dubia. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nandi Forest, Kenya. 8 October 1997.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

Type locality: Malawi: “Nyika, Kasungu Mt”.

Diagnosis: Subspecies *dubia* may be distinguished from the nominate subspecies by the broader transverse band on the underside of the forewing. In addition the band is stepped at vein 1 instead of at vein 2 (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east – Kivu, Ituri), Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007), Zimbabwe (eastern border).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).

Kenya – Kakamega (Stoneham, 1934); Highlands of western Kenya (Larsen, 1991c); central highlands (Larsen, 1991c); Chyulu Hills (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – on all forested mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Kasungu Mountain, Nyika (TL); Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Zomba Mountain (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Nyika (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Makutu Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mafinga Mountains (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Mount Chipero (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – Mutare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mount Selinda (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Laurenceville, Vumba (male illustrated above).

nigerrimus Stoneham, 1934 (as sp. of *Antanartia*). *Bulletin of the Stoneham Museum* (20): [1] ([2 pp.]). Kenya: “Kakamega, Kenya Colony”.