

Genus *Melitaea* Fabricius, 1807

False Fritillary

The genus *Melitaea* belongs to the Family Nymphalidae Rafinesque, 1815; Subfamily Nymphalinae Rafinesque, 1815; Tribe Melitaeini Newman, 1870; Subtribe Melitaeina Newman, 1870. There are no other genera in the Subtribe Melitaeina in the Afrotropical Region.

Melitaea (**False Fritillary**) is a largely extralimital (Palearctic) genus of 68 species, two of which are Afrotropical. One of these species is largely extralimital.

**Melitaea abyssinica* Oberthür, [1909]

Melitaea didyma f. *abyssinica* Oberthür, [1909] *in* Oberthür, [1909-10]. *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* 243 (3: 101-415; 4: 1-691).

Type locality: Ethiopia: “Abyssinie”.

Diagnosis: Wingspan – male 38 mm; female 46 mm.

Distribution: Ethiopia.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Melitaea deserticola* Oberthür, [1909]

Melitaea didyma deserticola Oberthür, [1909] *in* Oberthür, [1909-10]. *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* 243 (3: 101-415; 4: 1-691).



Melitaea deserticola scotti. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

J. Sumara, Yemen, 2700m. October 1992. S. Collins. ex ABRI.

Images J. Dobson ex ABRI collection.

Type locality: Algeria: “Mécheria; Laghouat; Biskra”.

Distribution: North Africa, penetrating south to Chad, to Egypt, Sinai, Lebanon, Jordan, Arabia.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Randonia africana Coss. (Resedaceae) [TARRIER, 2001: 157-158; Morocco].

deserticola Oberthür, 1876. *Études d'Entomologie* 1: 25 (1-74).

Melitaea deserticola scotti Higgins, 1941

Melitaea abyssinica scotti Higgins, 1941. *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 91: 236 (175-365).



Melitaea deserticola scotti. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
J. Sumara, Yemen, 2700m. October 1992. S. Collins. ex ABRI.
Images J. Dobson ex ABRI collection.

Type locality: Yemen: “Jebel Jihaf, western face. 6600 ft”.

Distribution: Yemen, Oman.

Specific localities:

Yemen – Jebel Jihaf (TL).

Melitaea deserticola macromaculata Belter, 1934

Melitaea deserticola macromaculata Belter, 1934. *Arbeiten über Morphologische u. Taxonomische Entomologie. Berlin-Dahlem* 1: 106 (105-115).

Type locality: Lebanon: “N. Ibrahim, Nord-Libanon”.

Distribution: Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Saudi Arabia (west).