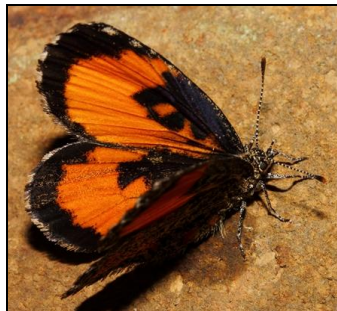


## Genus *Durbania* Trimen, 1862 Rocksitters

*Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) 1: 400 (398-406).  
Type-species: *Durbania amakosa* Trimen, by monotypy.

*Durbania* (**Rocksitters**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing two species.

### \**Durbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862# Amakosa Rocksitter



Amakosa Rocksitters (*Durbania amakosa*) on lichen-covered rocks.  
Images courtesy Allison Sharp (left) and Andre Coetzer (right).

- D'Urbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) 1: 401 (398-406).  
*D'Urbania amakosa* Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.  
*D'Urbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.  
*Durbania amakoza* Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Misspelling of species name]  
*Durbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Durbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 129.  
*Durbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. d'Abreu, 2009: 626.

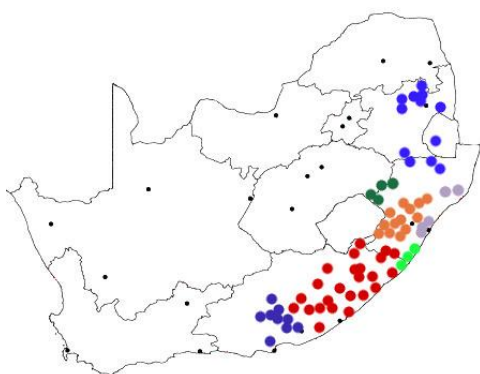


*Durbania amakosa amakosa*. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January, 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Durbania amakosa amakosa*. Female (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January, 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “King William’s Town and Windvogelberg”.



#### Distribution of *Durbania amakosa*

*Ssp. amakosa* (red dots) – KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province.  
*Ssp. albescens* (light green dots) – KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province.  
*Ssp. ayresi* (blue dots) – South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland.  
*Ssp. flavida* (mauve dots) – KwaZulu-Natal.  
*Ssp. natalensis* (salmon dots) – KwaZulu-Natal.  
*Ssp. penningtoni* (purple dots) – Eastern Cape Province.  
*Ssp. sagittata* (dark green dots) – Free State Province, Kwa Zulu-Natal.

**Distribution:** South Africa, Swaziland.

**Habitat:** Grassland. In areas with lichen-covered rocks.

**Habits:** Specimens flutter weakly around large rocks, frequently settling on the lichen-covered surface of these rocks. They often rest on the rock for long periods, the underside colouration affording them excellent camouflage. Interestingly, they sometimes settle on the side of a rock and shuffle backwards towards the ground. Occasionally they also lie on their side on the surface of the rock, perhaps to avoid casting a shadow or in order to absorb heat from the rock surface (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** The nominate subspecies flies in December and January (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); subspecies *penningtoni* flies in November and December (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); subspecies *sagittata* has been recorded in January (Henning & Henning, 1993). Subspecies *flavida* emerges in early November, about a month before the closely related subspecies *natalensis* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Subspecies *ayresi* flies from November to January (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Early stages:**

Trimen & Bowker, 1887, Vol. 2: 216 [as *D'Urbania Amakosa* Trimen; Pembroke, near King William's Town, Eastern Cape; nominate subspecies].

“**Larva.** Ashy-grey; a dorsal central darker line bordered on each side by a row of rather ill-defined whitish spots; on each side inferiorly a row of round red spots – those along anterior half of body with white marks between them. Head red. Rather sparsely set with moderately-long ashy-grey hairs, and (apparently) with a shorter closer clothing of ochrey-yellow hairs along the back and on each side; the long hairs apparently springing series of tubercles. Length 6 lin.” [Illustrated in Plate II, fig. 2, from a drawing by Mrs M.E. Barber].

“**Pupa.** Pale-brown; some darker lines indicating outline of limbs. Under side smooth; a flat silken coating covering most of abdominal surface (only basal segment bare). Back and sides very hairy; the thorax and basal half of abdomen with tufts of short sandy and longer whitish hairs; the terminal half with four rows (two dorsal and two lateral) of tubercles supporting fascicles of very long bristly brown and whitish hairs, the lateral tufts being the longest. Length, 5-6 lin. – Plate II, ff. 2a (from my own drawings).

The above descriptions are made from drawings (of the larva) and specimens (of the pupa) received from Mrs. Barber, who wrote that these earlier stages of *Amakosa* were discovered by Miss Fanny Bowker at Pembroke, near King William’s Town. The caterpillars were feeding on the grass above named, and were gregarious; on a flat rock beneath the grass numerous chrysalides were attached in a group, five or six within a

square inch, by a slight silken web; and among several of the butterflies close at hand there were some quite fresh from the chrysalis and unable to fly. Mrs. Barber notes that the chrysalis state is of very short duration. A good many butterflies emerged on the journey to Grahamstown, and I extracted a fully-developed dead ♀ from one of the pupae sent to me.”

Murray, 1935.

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 240, plate 112 [as *Durbania amakosa amakosa*; East London, Eastern Cape].

“Egg: 0.8 mm diam. x 0.45 mm high. Laid singly or in small batches among lichen on rocks or in crevices where they may over-winter. Eggs are pink but pass through a brown ‘ink-sac’ on being laid; and the depth of tone seems to suit the surroundings. The ribbing on the surface of the egg is very clear but irregular in so far as the longitudinal ribs are concerned. Larva: Full details concerning the 1st-3rd instars are not available for inclusion in this work, but in the 4th instar the larva grows to a length of 6 mm; in the 5th instar to 10 mm in about 30 days; and in the 6th instar to 17 mm in about 37 days. The duration of instars is very variable. There are neither tubercles nor honey-gland in this species. The body markings match the Lichen on the rocks and the lateral spines act as shadow-breakers, both rendering the larva inconspicuous. When moulting the larva merely crawls out of the old skin, leaving a neat pile of skin with the old head-piece attached to it. Apparently there is only one brood, very rarely more. The complicated arrangement of the very numerous setae in the larva of this species can be seen clearly from the plate representing the life-history. This record is unfortunately not complete, as regards the full details of the earlier instars, as mentioned above. Pupa: 10 mm. Attached to the partially discarded larval skin which is itself attached to the rock, in a concealed spot. The imago emerges after 15-37 days. Parasites: Pupa. Killed by small Chalcids which emerge, one per pupa, by eating their way out of the thoracic portion of the pupa. Recorded from eggs and larvae from East London, eastern Cape Province.”

Henning, S., 1983: 68 [Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal; subspecies *natalensis*].

“This species was bred from specimens collected at Karkloof in Natal. The eggs were laid singly or in small batches among lichen on rocks or in crevices. The larvae fed on the strands of blue-green algae (Cyanophyta) which were found amongst the lichen, not on the lichen itself as recorded by Clark & Dickson (1971) for the nominate subspecies. The duration of the instars was very variable. There were neither tubercles nor honey-gland in this species. The body markings matched the lichen on the rocks and the lateral hairs acted as shadow-breakers, both rendering the larva inconspicuous. When moulting the larva merely crawled out of the old skin. The larvae did not appear to be ant-associated in any way. The pupa was attached to the partially discarded larval skin which was itself attached to the rock in a concealed spot, usually a rock overhang.”



*Durbania amakosa albescens* egg and *D. a. natalensis* final instar larva.  
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.



*Durbania amakosa natalensis* pupa.  
Image courtesy Andre Coetzer.

**Larval food:**

“On a common species of grass, *Anthistiria ciliata*” [Fanny Bowker, *vide* M.E. Barber, *in* Trimen & Bowker, 1887, Vol. 2: 216; Pembroke, near King William’s Town].  
Rock lichen (Lichenes) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 240].  
Cyanobacteria on rocks [Henning, 1983: 68; as “algae (Cyanophyta)”]; Bampton, 1995 (as “algae”)].  
Rock lichens (Lichenes) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130].

***Durbania amakosa amakosa* Trimen, 1862#  
Amakosa Rocksitter**

*D’Urbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) 1: 401 (398-406).  
*D’Urbania amakosa* Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.  
*D’Urbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.  
*Durbania amakoza* Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Misspelling of species name]  
*Durbania amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Durbania amakosa amakosa* Trimen, 1862. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 129.  
*Durbania amakosa amakosa* Trimen, 1862. d’Abreu, 2009: 626.



*Durbania amakosa amakosa*. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gaika’s Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January, 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Durbania amakosa amakosa*. Female (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gaika’s Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January, 2002. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “King William’s Town and Windvogelberg”.

**Diagnosis:** The extent of the orange markings on the upperside of the wings varies in both sexes but in this subspecies the postdiscal spots on the underside of the hindwing are always white (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – south, Eastern Cape Province).

**Specific localities:**

KwaZulu-Natal – Mount Curry, Kokstad (Swanepoel, 1953); near Underberg (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).  
Eastern Cape Province – King William’s Town (TL); Windvogelberg near Queenstown (Trimen, 1862); Pembroke, King William’s Town (Trimen & Bowker, 1887); East London (Swanepoel, 1953); Amabele (Swanepoel, 1953); Gaika’s Kop (Swanepoel, 1953; male and female illustrated above); Stutterheim (Swanepoel, 1953); Butterworth (Swanepoel, 1953); Kei River

(Swanepoel, 1953); Tsomo River (Swanepoel, 1953); Bashee River (Swanepoel, 1953); Umzimkulu (Swanepoel, 1953); Dordrecht (Swanepoel, 1953); Grahamstown (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

*Durbania amakosa albescens* Quickelberge, 1981#  
Whitish Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakosa albescens* Quickelberge, 1981. *Durban Museum Novitates* 12: 218 (215-222).

*Durbania amakosa albescens* Quickelberge, 1981. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 129.

*Durbania amakosa albescens* Quickelberge, 1981. d'Abreu, 2009: 626.



*Durbania amakosa albescens*. Male (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 8 December 2002. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Durbania amakosa albescens*. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 17 December 2002. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Durbania amakosa albescens*. Female (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Margate, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 20 December 1993. S. Joubert.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “Margate, Natal South Coast, at 30° 51'S., 30° 22'E.”.

**Diagnosis:** Differs from the nominate subspecies in that it has more pronounced whitish irroration on the upperside of the apex of the forewing, as well as on the underside of the hindwing. In addition, the cilia show broader areas of white and the discal spots on the upperside of the wings of the male are more yellowish (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – south coast, Eastern Cape Province).

**Specific localities:**

KwaZulu-Natal – Margate (TL; D. Whiteley); Paddock near Port Shepstone (Heathcote); near Port Edward (Schoeman); Scottburgh (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Red Desert, Port Edward (J. Dobson, African Butterfly News, 2021 no.1: 26).

Eastern Cape Province – Lusikisiki (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

**Conservation status:** Classified as Vulnerable (Henning *et al.*, 2009: 25).

*Durbania amakosa ayresi* van Son, 1941#

Northern Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakoza* [sic] *ayresi* van Son, 1941. *Journal of the Entomological Society of Southern Africa* 4: 182 (179-196).

*Durbania amakosa ayresi* Van Son, 1941. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Durbania amakosa ayresi* Van Son, 1941. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130.

*Durbania amakosa ayresi* van Son, 1941. d'Abreu, 2009: 626.



*Durbania amakosa ayresi*. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 22 December 2004. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Durbania amakosa ayresi*. Male (Wingspan 29 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Oshoek, Swaziland. 22 December, 2011. P. Webb.  
Images courtesy Peter Webb.



*Durbania amakosa ayresi*. Female (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Dirkiesdorp, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 22 December 2004. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “Kastrol Nek, Wakkerstroom District, Transvaal”.

**Diagnosis:** In this subspecies the orange spots on the hindwing of the male are fused into a continuous band and the underside postdiscal spots are white, or only slightly tinged with orange (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland.

**Specific localities:**

Mpumalanga – Kastrol Nek, Wakkerstroom District (TL); Lydenburg district (Ayres); Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Graskop – Kowyn’s Pass (Swanepoel, 1953); Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Mariepskop (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

KwaZulu-Natal – Vryheid (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

Swaziland – Mbabane (Swanepoel, 1953).

*Durbania amakosa flavida* Quickelberge, 1981#  
Yellowish Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakosa flavida* Quickelberge, 1981. *Durban Museum Novitates* 12: 219 (215-222).

*Durbania amakosa flavida* Quickelberge, 1981. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130.

*Durbania amakosa flavida* Quickelberge, 1981. d’Abrera, 2009: 626.



*Durbania amakosa flavida*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Key Ridge, near Kloof, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 16 December 2006. D. McDermott.  
Images Jeremy Dobson ex Dobson Collection.



*Durbania amakosa flavida*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Key Ridge, near Kloof, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 16 December 2006. D. McDermott.  
Images Jeremy Dobson ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “Shongweni Dam, Natal, at 29° 50'S., 30° 43'E.”.

**Diagnosis:** Most similar to subspecies *natalensis*, from which it is distinguished by the paler and yellower discal spots (male) and bands (female) and the less intensely black ground colour (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal).

**Specific localities:**

KwaZulu-Natal – Shongweni Dam (TL); Kloof (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Inchanga (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Ngoye Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Nkandla Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mkuze? (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Monteseel, Inchanga (M. Liptrot, African Butterfly News, 2021 no.1: 23).

**Conservation status:** Classified as Endangered (Henning *et al.*, 2009: 26).

*Durbania amakosa natalensis* van Son, 1959#  
Natal Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakoza* [sic] *natalensis* van Son, 1959. *Novos Taxa Entomologicos* (16): 8 (15 pp.).  
*Durbania amakosa natalensis* Van Son, 1959. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Durbania amakosa natalensis* Van Son, 1959. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 129.  
*Durbania amakosa natalensis* van Son, 1959. d'Abbrera, 2009: 626.



*Durbania amakosa natalensis*. Male (Wingspan 29 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Wing Walk Farm, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 3 January 1996. J. Greyling.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.



*Durbania amakosa natalensis*. Female (Wingspan 39 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
 Wing Walk Farm, Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 3 January 1996. J. Greyling.  
 Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “Balgowan, Natal”.

**Diagnosis:** Characterized by the deeper reddish spots on the upperside of the wings, and the bright orange-red colour of the postdiscal spots on the underside of the hindwing (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Distribution:** South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – inland of Pietermaritzburg, north to Karkloof and Muden, and west to the Drakensberg Escarpment).

**Specific localities:**

KwaZulu-Natal – Balgowan (TL); Loteni (Swanepoel, 1953); Giant’s Castle (Swanepoel, 1953); Riet Vlei (Swanepoel, 1953); Spitzkop (Swanepoel, 1953); Karkloof (Swanepoel, 1953); Muden (Swanepoel, 1953); Greytown (Swanepoel, 1953); Bushman’s Nek (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Estcourt (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Malvern (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Ulundi (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

*Durbania amakosa penningtoni* van Son, 1959#  
Pondo Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakoza* [sic] *penningtoni* van Son, 1959. *Novos Taxa Entomologicos* (16): 7 (15 pp.).  
*Durbania amakosa penningtoni* Van Son, 1959. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.  
*Durbania amakosa penningtoni* Van Son, 1959. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 129.  
*Durbania amakosa penningtoni* van Son, 1959. d'Abbrera, 2009: 626.





*Durbania amakosa penningtoni*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Winterberg, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 22 December 2012.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Durbania amakosa penningtoni*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Fort Fordyce, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 23 December 2012.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “Grahamstown”.

**Diagnosis:** In this subspecies the forewing spots are almost chrome-yellow and steadily lengthen down to area 1. In females the chrome-yellow colour may cover the whole hindwing inside the marginal border (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). The postdical spots on the hindwing underside are greyish white, with only a trace of orange-yellow suffusion (Van Son, 1959).

**Distribution:** South Africa (Eastern Cape Province).

**Specific localities:**

Eastern Cape Province – Grahamstown (TL); Alicedale near Grahamstown (Swanepoel, 1953); near Grahamstown (G. Pennington); Bedford (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Adelaide (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Suurberg (E. and A. Pringle); Port Elizabeth (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Cradock (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Stutterheim (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

### *Durbania amakosa sagittata* Henning & Henning, 1993#

#### Maluti Amakosa Rocksitter

*Durbania amakosa sagittata* Henning & Henning, 1993. *Metamorphosis* 4 (4): 160 (159-164).



*Durbania amakosa sagittata*. Male (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Oliviershoek Pass, Free State Province, South Africa. 18 December, 2010. M. Williams.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



*Durbania amakosa sagittata*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Witsieshoek, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. January 2016. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** South Africa: “South Africa: Southern slope, QuaQua Mountain, 15.i.1992, R.F. Terblanche.” Described from 30 males and 13 females, all from the type locality. Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.

**Distribution:** South Africa (Free State Province, Kwa Zulu-Natal).

**Specific localities:**

Free State Province – Phuthaditjhaba (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013); Oliviershoek Pass.

KwaZulu-Natal – Bergville (Mecenero *et al.*, 2013).

**Conservation status:** Classified as Vulnerable (Henning *et al.*, 2009: 27).

**\**Durbania limbata* Trimen, 1887#**  
**Natal Rocksitter**



Male (left) and female (right) of the Natal Rocksitter (*Durbania limbata*).  
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

*Durbania limbata* Trimen, 1887. *South-African butterflies: a monograph of the extra-tropical species 2 Erycinidae and Lycaenidae* 217 (242 pp.). London.

*Durbania limbata* Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

*Durbania limbata* Trimen, 1887. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Durbania limbata* Trimen and Bowker, 1887. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130.

*Durbania limbata* Trimen, 1887. d’Abrera, 2009: 626.



*Durbania limbata*. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 2 March 2003. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

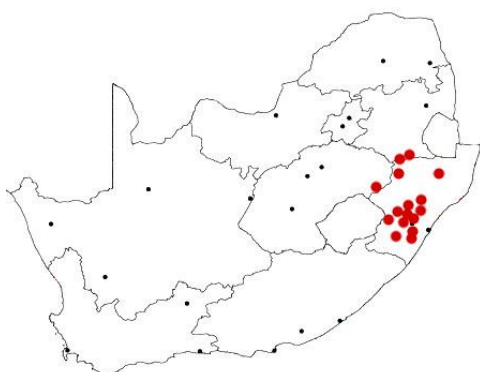


*Durbania limbata*. Female (Wingspan 30 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Balgowan, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 25 March 1996. S. Joubert.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.

**Type locality:** [South Africa]: “Natal. Upper Districts.- Estcourt and Bushman’s River”.

**Original description:**

“Exp. al., male 1 in. 0.5-3 lin.; female 1 in. 4.5 lin. Closely allied to *D. Amakosa*, Trim. Male. Blackish-brown, with a hind-marginal orange-red band, macular in fore-wing, very broad and unbroken in hind-wing. Fore-wing: band lying very close to hind-margin, composed of five elongate-ovate spots, between subcostal nervure and first median nervule, gradually diminishing downward; a small or minute orange spot immediately above first spot of band, and the trace of a still smaller spot just before it. Hind-wing: band more than twice as broad as in fore-wing, except the first spot (between subcostal nervules), which is small, and in two out of three examples partly separate from band, and extending to submedian nervure, its outer edge sinuated by the very narrow dark hind-marginal streak. Under side: hind-wing and narrow apical and hind-marginal border of fore-wing very pale greyish-brown irregularly speckled with white. Fore-wing: orange band situated as on upper side, but not macular, the five spots being enlarged and confluent, - its outer edge with a series of blackish nervular indentations, its inner edge bounded by a conspicuous black streak; costal area from base to band rather widely speckled with white; inner discal area smooth fuscous, not speckled; in discoidal cell two blackish white-ringed spots, one near base rounded, the other 8-shaped about middle; a similar larger, curved, sublunulate mark at extremity of cell. Hind-wing: a double parallel series of white annulets near base, - two annulets being above discoidal cell, two 8-shaped ones in cell, and two below cell; an imperfect elongate suffused white lunule at extremity of cell; a series of nine elongate, orange, outwardly black and brown dotted, white-ringed spots, submarginal for the greater part of its course, round the wing from costa beyond middle to inner margin close to base. Cilia brownish, with very small white inter-nervular interruptions. Female. Similar, slightly paler. Fore-wing: band broader, its upper three spots confluent; a very small additional (sixth) spot between first median nervule and submedian nervure. Hind-wing: band broader, except as regards the first spot. Under side: as in male, but subocellate orange and blackish white-ringed spots in the hind-wing enlarged and slightly suffused.”



**Distribution of *Durbania limbata***

Mpumalanga, Free State Province,  
KwaZulu-Natal.

**Distribution:** South Africa (Mpumalanga, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal).

**Specific localities:**

Mpumalanga – near Wakkerstroom (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Free State Province – Harrismith (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

KwaZulu-Natal – rocky ridges overlooking the Bushmans River, near Estcourt (TL; Hutchinson);

Newcastle (Swanepoel, 1953); Balgowan (Swanepoel, 1953); Rietvlei (Pringle *et al.*, 1994);

Greytown (9,5 km out on the road to Muden) (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Curry's Post (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); near Bulwer (Migdoll).

**Habitat:** Rocky areas in grassland.

**Habits:** Males establish territories around outlying single rocks. They often bask with partially opened wings and periodically fly around their territory. The flight is slow and rather cumbersome (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

**Flight period:** March, April and, sometimes, into May (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). There is a December record for the species from Bulwer (Migdoll).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

Rock lichens (Lichenes) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130].

Algae (Cyanophyta) on rocks [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 130].

*amabilis* Staudinger, 1888 *in* Staudinger & Schatz, 1884-8 (as sp. of *Durbania*). *Exotischer Schmetterlinge* 1: 268 (333 pp.). Bayern. [South Africa]: "Transvaal".