

Genus *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 Obanias

Metamorphosis 9 (2): 67 (66-85).

Type-species: *Liptena subvariegata* Grose-Smith & Kirby [1890], by original designation.

Obania (**Obanias**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing seven species.

Obania subvariegata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1890]) Pearl-spotted Obania

Liptena subvariegata Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1890]. *In* Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887-92]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 1: 43 (183 pp.). London.

Obania subvariegata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1890). Collins & Larsen, 1998: 67, **comb. nov.**

Obania subvariegata Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1890. d'Abrera, 2009: 652.

Type locality: Cameroon: "Cameroons".

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Habitat: Forest of good quality (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Larsen (2005a) noted two males of this uncommon species perched on dry twigs about 1.5 m above the ground, beneath an 'ant-tree'. The species is always associated with ant-trees (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Obania subvariegata subvariegata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1890]) Pearl-spotted Obania

Liptena subvariegata Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1890]. *In* Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887-92]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 1: 43 (183 pp.). London.

Obania subvariegata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1890). Collins & Larsen, 1998: 67, **comb. nov.**

Obania subvariegata subvariegata Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1890. d'Abrera, 2009: 652.

Type locality: Cameroon: "Cameroons".

Distribution: Nigeria (Cross River loop), Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Mkpot 1 area in the Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a); Ikom (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Langoue (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Kebiri Forest, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Obania subvariegata aliquantum (Druce, 1910) Congo Pearl-spotted Obania

Liptena subvariegata aliquantum Druce, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1910: 363 (356-378).

Obania subvariegata aliquantum (Druce, 1910). Collins & Larsen, 1998: 67, **comb. nov.**

Obania subvariegata aliquantum Druce, 1910. d'Abrera, 2009: 652.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Tshopo, Kasai).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upper Kasai district (TL); Kisangani (Berger, 1981).

Obania tullia (Staudinger, 1892)

Orange Obania

Pseuderesia tullia Staudinger, 1892. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **4**: 221 (215-223).

Liptena tullia (Staudinger, 1892). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 510.

Obania tullia (Staudinger, 1892). Collins & Larsen, 1998: 67, **comb. nov.**

Obania tullia Staudinger, 1892. d’Abrera, 2009: 652.

Type locality: Gabon: “innern des nörd-lichen Gabun-Gebietes”.

Distribution: Nigeria (Cross River loop), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Mkpot in the Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a; single male).

Gabon – Camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

Habitat: Forest of good quality (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Appears to be a rare butterfly (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Obania tulliana (Grose-Smith, [1901])

Red Obania

Liptena tulliana Grose-Smith, [1901]. *In*: Grose-Smith, [1897-1902]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* **3**: 134 (214 pp.). London.

Obania tulliana (Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1901). Collins & Larsen, 1998: 67, **comb. nov.**

Obania tulliana Grose-Smith, 1901. d’Abrera, 2009: 652.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Four days journey from Beni”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Uele, North Kivu, Sankuru).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Four days journey from Beni (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Obania catalina (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887])

Dark Obania

Pseuderesia catalina Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887]. *In*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887-92]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* **1**: 4 (183 pp.). London.

Liptena catalina Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1887. d’Abrera, 2009: 651.

Obania catalina (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887]). Libert, 2021: 36, **stat. rev.**

Type locality: Cameroon: “Cameroons”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon.

Specific localities:

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

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

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipasa (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: Although not a common butterfly it is probably the commonest of the ‘black’ West African liptenas (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens settle on dry twigs, less than 50 cm from ground level, males making short patrol flights from these perches. They are very difficult to see against the forest floor (Larsen, 2005a). Larsen (2005a) suspects that this species may be associated with ground-dwelling rather than arboreal ants.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Obania catalina catalina (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887])

Dark Obania

Pseuderesia catalina Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887]. *In*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887-92]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 1: 4 (183 pp.). London.

Liptena catalina Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1887. d’Abrera, 2009: 651.

Obania catalina (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887]). Libert, 2021: 36, **stat. rev.**

Obania catalina Catalina (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1887]). Libert, 2023: 97–98.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Cameroons”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Gabon.

Specific localities:

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

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

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

Obania catalina annae Collins & Libert, 2023

Sierra Leone Dark Obania

Obania catalina annae Collins & Libert, 2023. Notes révisionnelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023) *Lambillionea* CXXIII 2: 99.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: Guma Valley, Peninsular Mts, 400 m.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia.

Specific localities:

Côte d’Ivoire: (West) Taï Forest; (North) between Mount Nimba and Danané where it flies with the nominate subspecies (see below).

Liberia: (South-east) Putu; near Jacksonville; north of Greenville; Mount Nimba; Davoyi; Kpaine.

Sierra Leone: Gola near the Liberia border in the east; common near Freetown; Bumbuna, in the Loma Mountains.

Obania catalina liberiensis Libert, 2023

Liberia Dark Obania

Obania catalina liberiensis Libert, 2023. Notes révisionnelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023) *Lambillionea* CXXIII 2: 99–100.

Type locality: Wologizi Mountains, Lofa County, base camp forest,

Distribution: Liberia (north-west)

Specific localities:

Liberia: Type locality; Foya Proposed Protected Area, Lofa County.

***Obania o-rubrum* (Holland, 1890)**
Large Black Obania

Pseuderesia o-rubrum Holland, 1890. *Psyche, a Journal of Entomology*. Cambridge, Mass. 5: 425 (423-431).

Liptena o-rubrum Holland, 1890. d'Abreu, 2009: 650.

Obania o-rubrum (Holland, 1890). Libert, 2021: 36, **stat. rev.**



Obania o-rubrum o-rubrum. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bouamir, Cameroon, 27 November 2022. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Obania o-rubrum o-rubrum. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bouamir, Cameroon, 28 November 2022. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Gabon: “upon the upper waters of the River Ogove in the French Territory of Gaboon”.

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania.

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: Both sexes fly close to the ground, settling frequently on low vegetation and dry twigs. This behaviour is most unusual for a species of *Liptena* but has also been observed in *Liptena despecta* (Congdon & Collins, 1998). The habits are very similar to those of *Liptena catalina* in West Africa, but it is much scarcer (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Obania o-rubrum o-rubrum (Holland, 1890)

Large Black Obania

Pseuderesia o-rubrum Holland, 1890. *Psyche, a Journal of Entomology. Cambridge, Mass.* 5: 425 (423-431).

Liptena o-rubrum Holland, 1890. d'Abreu, 2009: 650.

Obania o-rubrum (Holland, 1890). Libert, 2021: 36, **stat. rev.**



Obania o-rubrum o-rubrum. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Bouamir, Cameroon, 27 November 2022. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Obania o-rubrum o-rubrum. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Bouamir, Cameroon, 28 November 2022. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Gabon: “upon the upper waters of the River Ogove in the French Territory of Gaboon”.

Distribution: Nigeria (south and east), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Bitje, Ja River (Druce, 1910).

Gabon – upper reaches of the Ogove River (TL); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Langoue (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Kongou (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Kebiri Forest, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

daemon Druce, 1910 (as sp. of *Liptena*) [in part]. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1910: 363 (356-378). Cameroon: “Bitje, Ja river, Cameroons, 2000 ft”.

Obania tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894])

Central Large Black Obania

Pseuderesia tripunctata Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]. *In*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1892-7]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 2: 116 (261 pp.). London.

Liptena o-rubrum tripunctata Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1894. d'Abreu, 2009: 650.

Obania o-rubrum tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]). **stat. rev.** Libert, 2021: 36.

Obania tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]) **stat. rev.** Libert, 2023. Notes révisiennelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023) *Lambillionia* CXXIII 2: 88.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Kuilu”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Mongala, Uele, North Kivu, Kasai, Sankuru, Lualaba).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kuilu (TL); Upper Kasai district (Druce, 1910); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

daemon Druce, 1910 (as sp. of *Liptena* [in part]). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 363 (356-378). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

Obania tripunctata tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]) Large Black Obania

Pseuderesia tripunctata Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]. *Lt*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1892-7]. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 2: 116 (261 pp.). London.

Liptena o-rubrum tripunctata Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1894. d’Abrera, 2009: 650.

Obania o-rubrum tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]). *stat. rev.* Libert, 2021: 36.

Obania tripunctata (Grose-Smith & Kirby, [1894]) *stat. rev.* Libert, 2023: 88.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Kuilu”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (Mongala, Uele, North Kivu, Kasai, Sankuru, Lualaba).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kuilu (TL); Upper Kasai district (Druce, 1910); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

daemon Druce, 1910 (as sp. of *Liptena* [in part]). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 363 (356-378). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

Obania tripunctata equatorialis Libert, 2023 Equatorial Large Black Obania

Obania tripunctata equatorialis Libert, 2023. Notes révisionnelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023) *Lambillionea* **CXXIII** 2: 93–94.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: Lukolela, Province de l’Equateur, RDC.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (see map below).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo Coquilhatville (= Mbandaka) c. 170 km north-east of Lukolela; Kuluboku c. 50 km from Mbandaka; Kundu near Lake Tumba.

Obania tripunctata teroana (Talbot, 1935) Eastern Large Black Obania

Liptena o-rubrum teroana Talbot, 1935. *Entomologist’s Monthly Magazine* **71**: 72 (69-78, 115-127, 147-153).

Liptena o-rubrum teroana Talbot, 1935. d’Abrera, 2009: 650.

Obania o-rubrum teroana (Talbot, 1935). Libert, 2021: 36. *stat. rev.*

Obania tripunctata teroana (Talbot, 1935) *stat. rev.* Libert, 2023: 94. Notes révisionnelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023) *Lambillionea* **CXXIII** 2: 94.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: c. 20 km west of Victoria Nyanza, SE Buddu, near Kakindu Hill.

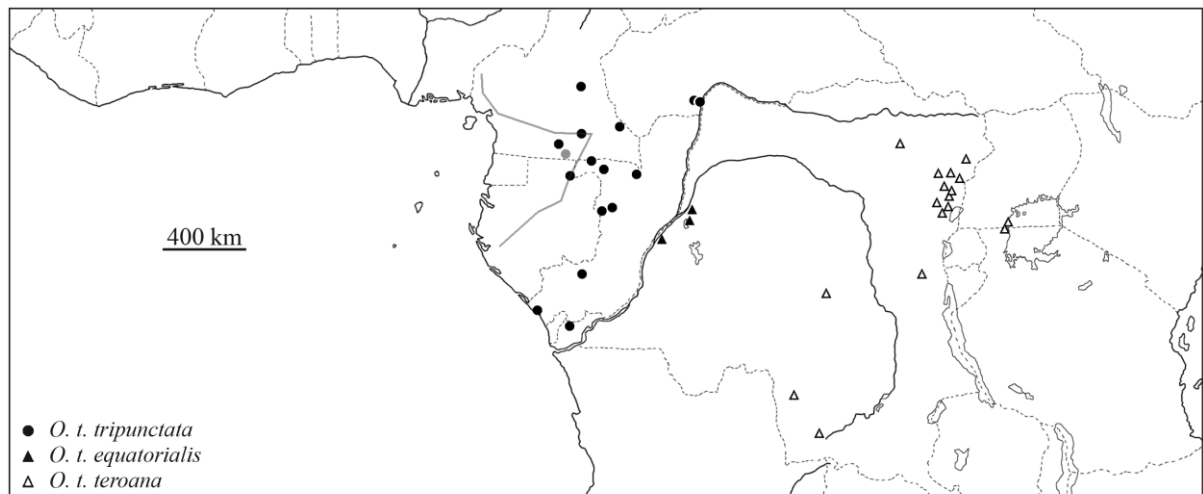
Distribution: Tanzania, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (see map below)

Specific localities:

Tanzania c. 20 km west of Victoria Nyanza, SE Buddu; Minziro Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Kikuru Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Uganda Tero forest in south-west Uganda is its eastward limit.

Democratic Republic of Congo North-west of Bunia (Thomas Desloges); to the north of the Mitumba mtns; at Kamituga, near Mwenga (Dufrane), at Sankuru (Katako-Kombe), Shaba (Kapanga and Kafakumba) the southern limit of its distribution.



Map of the separation of the subspecies of *O. tripunctata* (grey line marks the easternmost distribution of *Obania catalina*)

***Obania alticola* Libert, 2023**
Montane Black Obania

Obania alticola Libert, 2023. Notes révisiionnelles sur le genre *Obania* Collins & Larsen, 1998 (2023). *Lambillionea* CXXIII 2: 95.

Type locality: Mount Hoyo, 1400 m, Irumu district, Eastern Province. Democratic Republic of Congo.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo.

Specific localities: Type locality only.