

Genus *Epitola* Westwood, [1851] Pointed Flashes

In: Doubleday & Westwood, [1846-52]. *The genera of diurnal Lepidoptera*, London: pl.68 (1: 1-250 pp.; 2: 251-534 pp.). London.

Type-species: *Epitola elion* Westwood, by monotypy.

Epitola (**Pointed Flashes**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing five species. Revised by Libert, M. 1999 (Révision des genres *Epitola* Westwood, *Hypophytala* Clench et *Stempfferia* Jackson, et description de trois nouveaux genres (Lepidoptera Lycaenidae). A.B.R.I. and *Lambillonea*, February, 1999, 219 pp.). Revised again by Libert in 2020.

Note: *Epitola lamborni* Bethune-Baker, 1922 and *Epitola pulverulentula* Dufrane, 1953 (as *pulverulenta* in Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 524) are regarded by Libert (1999) as **nomen dubium**. D'Abbrera (2009: 684) informally lists *pulverulentula* (as *pulverulenta*) as a valid species, ignoring Libert's taxonomic treatment.

Classification of the Genus *Epitola*

(Libert, 2020)

E. posthumus clade

E. posthumus

E. uranoides

E. occidentalis

E. urania clade

E. urania

E. larseni

**Epitola posthumus* (Fabricius, 1793)

Common Giant Epitola

Papilio posthumus Fabricius, 1793. *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* 3 (1): 149 (488pp.).

Epitola posthumus Fabricius, 1793. d'Abbrera, 2009: 664.



Epitola posthumus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mbalmayo, Cameroon. Jan.-April 2002. Gardiner Collection.
Images M. Williams ex Gardiner collection.

Type locality: No locality given. Neotype designated from Ashanti, Ghana by Libert (1999).

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Gabon, Angola (Mendes *et al.*, 2018), Congo.

Specific localities:

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

Ghana – Ashanti (Neotype; Libert, 1999); Coomassie, between Mansu and the River Prah (Hewitson, 1874); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Gabon – Ekouk (Vande weghe, 2010); Gamba (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Ekouyi (Vande weghe, 2010).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: A fairly common species. Both sexes are often found perched on dry creepers, from where they make occasional fast and wild-looking flights. When in flight they appear to be larger than they actually are. Their perches range from one to 10 metres above the ground (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

elion Westwood, 1851. *In* Doubleday & Westwood, 1846-52 (as sp. of *Epitola*). *The genera of diurnal Lepidoptera*, London: pl. 68 [1851], 471 [1852] (1: 1-250 pp.; 2: 251-534 pp.). London. Ghana: “Ashanti”.

belli Hewitson, 1874 (as sp. of *Epitola*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) 13: 382 (380-383). Ghana: “Coomassie, between Mansu and the River Prah”.

****Epitola uranoides* Libert, 1999**

Libert's Giant *Epitola*

Epitola uranoides Libert, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 37 (219 pp.).

Epitola uranoides Libert, 1999. d'Abreu, 2009: 666.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Kapanga, Zaïre (Lulua)”.

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

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kapanga, Lulua (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (H. Selb, unpublished, 2016).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits:

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Epitola occidentalis* Libert, 1999**

Epitola uranoides occidentalis Libert, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 38 (219 pp.).

Epitola uranoides occidentalis Libert, 1999. d'Abreu, 2009: 666.

Epitola occidentalis Libert, 1999. Libert, 2020: 666. **Stat. rev.**



Epitola occidentalis. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bobiri, Ghana. 20 April 2014. A. Gardiner.
Images M. Williams ex Gardiner collection.

Type locality: Ivory Coast: “Tiassalé, Côte d’Ivoire”. Holotype (male) in MNHN, Paris.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo.

Specific localities:

Guinea – Labe (Libert, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Gola Forest (Libert, 2020).

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

Ivory Coast – Tiassale (TL); Alepe (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Togo – Bismarckburg (Libert, 2020); Kloto (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: A relatively scarce species in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). The habits are similar to those of congeners (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Epitola urania* Kirby, 1887

Purple Giant Epitola

Epitola urania Kirby, 1887. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (5) **19**: 441 (441-445).

Epitola urania Kirby, 1887. d’Abrera, 2009: 666.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Cameroons”.

Distribution: Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Kumbo (Libert, 2020).

Gabon – Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo (Vande weghe, 2010); Ekouyi (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Albertville (Joicey & Talbot, 1921); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Bunyenvu Forest (Libert, 2020).

Habits: A fairly common species (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

tanganikensis Joicey & Talbot, 1921 (as ssp. of *Epitola urania*). *Bulletin of the Hill Museum, Witley* **1**: 86 (40-166). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Albertville, Tanganyika”. Given as a subspecies of *Epitola urania* by Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 525 but regarded as a synonym of *Epitola urania* by Libert, 1999: 39 [*In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (L.s.)*]. **Note:** d’Abrera (2009: 666) treats *tanganikensis* as a subspecies of *urania*, ignoring Libert (1999: 39), and not changing its status formally.

****Epitola larseni*** Libert, 2020

Epitola larseni Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 24 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Liberia: Putu Range, Grand Gedeh County, 19-31 XII 2010 (Sz. Safian & E. Zakar leg.);
BOLD: MLIB-1422. Holotype (male) in ABRI, Nairobi.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo.

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (Libert, 2020); Mogbaima (Libert, 2020); Madina (Libert, 2020).

Liberia – Mount Beeton, Putu Range (TL).

Ivory Coast – Gagnoa (Libert, 2020); Issia (Libert, 2020); Tiassale (Libert, 2020); Abidjan (Libert, 2020).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Ho (Libert, 2020); Sagamase (Libert, 2020);
Bia (Libert, 2020).

Togo – Kloto (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.