

Genus *Geritola* Libert, 1999 Light Flashes

In: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 117 (219 pp.).

Type-species: *Epitola gerina* Hewitson, 1878, by original designation.

Geritola (**Light Flashes**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing 24 species. Characterized by the white underside of the wings – related genera in the tribe Epitolini have brown or golden undersides (Safian *et al.*, 2015). The genus is confined to the forests of the equatorial forest zone (Safian *et al.*, 2015). All species appear to have a myrmecophilous relationship with ants belonging to the genus *Crematogaster* (Larsen, 2005).

**Geritola albomaculata* (Bethune-Baker, 1903)

White-spotted Epitola

Epitola albomaculata Bethune-Baker, 1903. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) **12**: 329 (324-334).

Geritola albomaculata (Bethune-Baker, 1903). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola albomaculata Bethune-Baker, 1903. d'Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leone [Moyamba (Larsen, 2005a)]”.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana (Safian *et al.*, 2012), Nigeria, Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (TL; Larsen, 2005a).

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

Nigeria – Omo (Libert, 2020)

Cameroon – Lolodorf (Libert, 2020)

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: This is apparently a scarce species (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola amieti* Libert, 1999

Geritola (Geritola) amieti Libert, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 127 (219 pp.).

Geritola amieti Libert, 1999. d'Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: “mont Fébé (1000m), Yaoundé, Cameroun”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Congo (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Mount Febe, Yaounde (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola conception* (Suffert, 1904)

Epitola conception Suffert, 1904. *Deutsche Entomologische Zeitschrift, Iris* **17**: 54 (12-107).

Geritola conception (Suffert, 1904). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola conception Suffert, 1904. d'Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: Holotype (male): Barombi Station (Preuss), genitalia Libert 93-217; in Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin. Neallotype (female): Ebogo, Nyong River, Cameroon, (?) II 1998 (S. Collins); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon (Libert, 1999).

Recorded (in error) from the Democratic Republic of Congo by Ducarme (2018).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Barombi Station (TL); Ebogo (Libert, 2020).

Early stages:

Eltringham, 1921b: 475 [ex Lamborn, Nigeria].

The following account probably refers to another species since *Geritola conception* apparently does not occur in Nigeria [MCW]. “**Pupa.** (Plate XII, fig. 13). Very pale with a few dark markings as shown in the figure. Small lateral clusters of delicate hairs, and on head, thorax, and abdomen, tufts of long chitinous processes having flattened dentate extremities. A few short setae scattered sparsely over the cuticle, and much longer ones projecting from the terminal segments. Length 12 mm.”

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola cyanea* (Jackson, 1964)

Epitola cyanea Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 71 (59-80).

Geritola cyanea (Jackson, 1964). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola cyanea Jackson, 1964. d’Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Uganda: “Bwamba, Mongiro Forest”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Mongiro Forest, Bwamba (TL); Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola daveyi* (Roche, 1954)

Davey’s *Epitola*

Epitola daveyi Roche, 1954. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **3**: 499 (489-501).

Geritola daveyi (Roche, 1954). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola daveyi Roche, 1954. d’Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Isoba”.

Distribution: Nigeria (east), Cameroon (coast).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Isoba, in the south-east (TL).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: A very scarce species (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola dubia* (Jackson, 1964)

Epitola dubia Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 70 (59-80).

Geritola dubia (Jackson, 1964). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola dubia Jackson, 1964. d’Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Uganda: “Bwamba, Mongiro”.

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

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Geritola dubia dubia (Jackson, 1964)

Epitola dubia Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 70 (59-80).

Geritola dubia (Jackson, 1964). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola dubia Jackson, 1964. d’Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Uganda: “Bwamba, Mongiro”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Kisangani (Libert, 2020).

Uganda – Mongiro Forest, Bwamba (TL).

Geritola dubia inflata Libert, 2020

Geritola dubia inflata Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 74 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Cameroon: Holotype (male): Ebogo, XII 1998 (S Collins); genitalia Libert 115-147; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Ebogo, nr Mbalmayo, III 2000 (ABRI Leg.); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Ebogo (Libert, 2020); Kribi (Libert, 2020); Sangmelima (Libert, 2020); Dja (Libert, 2020); Maan (Libert, 2020); Bertoua (Libert, 2020).

Gabon – Lope N.P. (Vande weghe, 2010).

Congo – Etoumbi (Libert, 2020)

Central African Republic – Boukoko (Libert, 2020); Yakoli (Libert, 2020); Bangui (Libert, 2020).

**Geritola frankdaveyi* Libert, 1999

Warri Epitola

Geritola (Geritola) frankdaveyi Libert, 1999. *l.r.*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 133 (219 pp.).

Geritola frankdaveyi Libert, 1999. d’Abrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Warri, Nigeria”. Known from only two males; the female is unknown (Larsen, 2005a).

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Nigeria (Niger Delta).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Warri (TL; single male); Umuhaia (Larsen, 2005a; single male); Omo (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola gerina* (Hewitson, [1878])**

Gerina Epitola

Epitola gerina Hewitson, [1878]. *In* Hewitson, [1862-78]. *Illustrations of diurnal lepidoptera. Lycaenidae*: 19 (1: 1-228; 2: 95 pp.; **Supplement**: 1-48.). London.

Geritola gerina (Hewitson, 1878). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola gerina Hewitson, 1878. d'Abreu, 2009: 678.

Type locality: “Congo”.

Distribution: Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria (south), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

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

Ghana – Aburi Botanical Gardens (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Tanzania – Kere Hill, Minziro Forest (not uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Kikuru Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998); Munene Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: This is the commonest and most widespread species in the genus *Geritola* (Larsen, 2005a). A female has been observed ovipositing on a tree trunk, just below an ant nest, and on an ant trail (Kielland, *vide* Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola goodii* (Holland, 1890)**

Good's Epitola

Epitola goodii Holland, 1890. *Psyche, a Journal of Entomology. Cambridge, Mass.* 5: 424 (423-431).

Geritola goodii (Holland, 1890). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola goodi Holland, 1890. d'Abreu, 2009: 678. [misspelling of species name].

Type locality: Gabon: “River Ogove”.

Distribution: Nigeria (east), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Abak in eastern Nigeria (St Leger, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ogove River (TL).

Tanzania – Kere Hill, Minziro Forest (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: This is a rare species, only one specimen being known from West Africa. It is more common in the equatorial zone (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens remain high in the canopy (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola jackiana* Collins & Libert, 1999**

Geritola (Geritola) jackiana Collins & Libert, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (Ls.)*: 137 (219 pp.).

Geritola jackiana Collins & Libert, 1999. d'Abreu, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Ebogo, Nyong, Cameroun”.

Distribution: Cameroon (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Nyong, Ebogo (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola laeae* Collins & Libert, 1999

Geritola (Geritola) laeae Collins & Libert, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (L.s.)*: 126 (219 pp.).
Geritola laeae Collins & Libert, 1999. d'Abreera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: Holotype (male): Maan, VI 1997 (S C Collins); genitalia Libert 97-086; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Neallotype (female): Maan, Cameroon, IV 2003 (ABRI Leg.); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Maan (TL); Sakbayeme (Libert, 2020); Dja (Libert, 2020); Mount Mil, Lolodorf (Libert, 2020).

Equatorial Guinea – Benito (Libert, 2020).

Gabon – Belinga (Vande weghe, 2010).

Congo – Kelle (Libert, 2020); Odzala (Libert, 2020).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola kivuana* Libert, 2020

Geritola kivuana Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 68 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Democratic Republic of Congo: Holotype (male): Mambungu, XI 2013 (ABRI Leg.); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Kanyatsi, E. Kivu, I 2015 (ABRI Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-2278; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (north-east).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mambungu (TL); Kanyatsi (Libert, 2020); Biakatu (Libert, 2020); Lubango (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola tessmanni* Libert, 2020

Geritola tessmanni Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 69 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Cameroon: Holotype (male): Maan, VIII 1996 (S C Collins); genitalia Libert 97-037; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Maan, VIII 1996 (S C Collins); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Maan (TL).

Equatorial Guinea – Alen (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola liana* (Roche, 1954)**

Epitola liana Roche, 1954. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **3**: 500 (489-501).

Geritola liana (Roche, 1954). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola liana Roche, 1954. d'Abbrera, 2009: 678.



Geritola liana. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.

Mabira Forest, Uganda. 17 April 2010. P. Ward.

Images M.C. Williams ex P. Ward collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Bwamba”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west) (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Bwamba (TL).

Tanzania – Kere Hill, Minziro Forest (very common) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola mirifica* (Jackson, 1964)**

Epitola mirifica Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 72 (59-80).

Geritola mirifica (Jackson, 1964). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola mirifica Jackson, 1964. d'Abbrera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Congo: “Moyen Congo, Etoumbi”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Congo (Libert, 1999), Central African Republic (Noss, 1998).

Specific localities:

Congo – Etoumbi (TL); Ebogo (Libert, 2020); Maan (Libert, 2020).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola mirabilis* Libert, 2020**

Geritola mirabilis Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 71 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Democratic Republic of Congo: Holotype (female): Maliva, Kivu, VII 2012 (ABRI)

Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-1445; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Known only from the female holotype.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (north-east).

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Maliva (TL).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola nitide* (Druce, 1910)**

Epitola nitide Druce, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 366 (356-378).

Geritola nitide (Druce, 1910). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola nitide Druce, 1910. d'Abreera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Bitje, Ja River, 2000 ft”.

Distribution: Cameroon (Libert, 1999).

Records of this species from West Africa refer to *Geritola gerina* (Larsen, 2005a).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Bitje, Ja River (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola nitidica* Libert & Collins, 1999**

Geritola (Geritola) nitidica Libert & Collins, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 123 (219 pp.).

Geritola nitidica Libert & Collins, 1999. d'Abreera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Djourn, sud-Cameroun”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Djourn (TL).

Gabon – Belinga (Vande weghe, 2010).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola pacifica* Safian & Libert, 2015**

Geritola (Geritola) pacifica Safian & Libert, 2015. *Zootaxa* **3931** (2): 287 (286-292).

Type locality: Liberia: “Camp Alpha, Gola National Forest 6-10.II.2011. Leg. Sáfian, Sz. Gen. prep.: SAFI00072 (deposited in the ABRI collection, genitalia stored in micro-vial and pinned to specimen) Coordinates: 7°32'4.94"N, 10°41'20.61"W. Elevation: 348 m”. Female first described by Safian, 2020: 222.

Diagnosis: Safian (2020: 222) compares the females of *G. pacifica*, *G. nitidica* and *G. wardi*.

Distribution: Liberia.

Specific localities:

Liberia – Gola National Forest (TL); Gambo Trail, Sapu N.P. [5°32'12"N, 8°20'52"W] (Safian *et al.*, 2015); Foya Proposed Protected Area (Safian, 2020); Wologizi Mtns (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Habitat: Hyper-wet lowland forest (Safian *et al.*, 2015).

Habits: Males display on tree trunks on hilltops (Safian, 2020: 223).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola prouvesti* Bouyer & Libert, 1999

Geritola (Geritola) prouvesti Bouyer & Libert, 1999. *Il*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 129 (219 pp.).
Geritola prouvesti Bouyer & Libert, 1999. d'Abreera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Maan, S. Cameroun”. Holotype (male) in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Maan (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola demarginata* Libert, 2020

Geritola demarginata Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 72 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Cameroon: Holotype (male): Maan, VII 1999 (S C Collins); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Maan (TL).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola virginea* (Bethune-Baker, 1904)

Black-wing Epitola

Epitola virginea Bethune-Baker, 1904. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) 14: 230 (222-233).

Geritola virginea (Bethune-Baker, 1904). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Geritola virginea Bethune-Baker, 1904. d'Abreera, 2009: 678.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leone [Moyamba (Larsen, 2005a)]”.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria (south), Cameroon, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Aburi Botanical Gardens (Larsen, 2005a).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: A rather scarce species, associated with ant-trees. Females seem to be encountered more often than are males (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Geritola wardi* Safian & Collins, 2015

Geritola (Geritola) wardi Safian & Collins, 2015. *Zootaxa* 3931 (2): 288 (286-292).



Geritola wardi. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 3 July 2011. P. Ward.
Images M.C. Williams ex P. Ward collection.



Geritola wardi. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 24 August 2008. P. Ward.
Images M.C. Williams ex P. Ward collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Radio Hill, Mabira Forest 6. II. 2011. Leg. P.R.F. Ward. Gen. prep.: SAFI00073 (deposited in the ABRI collection, genitalia stored in micro-vial and pinned to specimen). Coordinates: 0°23'20.10"N, 33°0'39.85"E. Elevation: 1340 m”.

Distribution: Uganda (east). Known only from the type locality (Libert, 2020).

Specific localities:

Uganda – Mabira Forest (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Geritola zelica* (Kirby, 1890)**

Epitola zelica Kirby, 1890. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) 6: 272 (261-274).

Geritola zelica (Kirby, 1890). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Type locality: Cameroon: “Barombi”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, ?Tanzania (Libert, 2020).

Records of this species from West Africa refer to *Geritola gerina* (Larsen, 2005a).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Note: D’Abrera (2009: 678) informally treats *zelica* as a synonym of *gerina*, stating that “Jackson (1962: 138) regards *zelica* Kirby as being a junior synonym of *gerina* Hewitson.” He ignores Libert’s (1999) treatment, in which *zelica* was given as a valid species.

Geritola zelica zelica (Kirby, 1890)

Epitola zelica Kirby, 1890. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) **6**: 272 (261-274).
Geritola zelica (Kirby, 1890). Libert, 1999 **comb. nov.**

Type locality: Cameroon: “Barombi”.

Distribution: Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Barombi (TL); Bitje (Bethune-Baker, 1915).

subalba Bethune-Baker, 1915 (as sp. of *Epitola*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (8) **16**: 190 (186-203). Cameroon: “Bitje”.

Geritola zelica viridis Libert, 2020

Geritola zelica viridis Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.: mise à jour de la Révision* (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 63 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Democratic Republic of Congo: Holotype (male): Maliva, Kivu, VII 2013 (ABRI Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-1529; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Isale, Kivu, VI 2014 (ABRI Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-1913; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Maliva (TL); Isale (Libert, 2020); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Bwamba (Libert, 2020); Mongiro (Libert, 2020).

Tanzania - ?Minziro (Libert, 2020).