

Genus *Epitolina* Aurivillius, 1895 Dusties

Entomologisk Tidskrift **16**: 205 (195-220, 255-268).

Type-species: *Teriomima dispar* Kirby, by monotypy.



Epitolina larseni female feeding at an extrafloral nectary on a vine tendril. Ebogo, Cameroon.
Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Epitolina (**Dusties**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing five species. Generic review by Libert, 2000 (*Lambillionea* **100** (1) (Tome II): 95-115).

Epitolina dispar group

**Epitolina dispar* (Kirby, 1887) Orange-spotted Dusty



Orange-spotted Dusty male, *Epitolina dispar*.
Libreville, Gabon. Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Teriomima dispar Kirby, 1887. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (5) **19**: 367 (360-369).
Epitolina dispar Kirby, 1887. d'Abbrera, 2009: 686.



Epitolina dispar. Male. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Libreville, Gabon. 21 June 2016. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Epitolina dispar. Female. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Ivindo, Gabon. 24 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Epitolina dispar. Female. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Bobiri, Ghana. 20 May 2014. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Cameroons”; Ghana: “Ashanti”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Katako-Kombe, Sankuru), Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

Guinea – near Conakry, Nimba (Larsen, 2005a); Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

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

Ghana – Aburi (Möschler, 1887); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Barombi (Kirby, 1890); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Safala (Vande weghe, 2010); Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Mondah (Vande weghe, 2010); Alen Nkoma (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); Langoue (Vande weghe, 2010); Kongou (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (H. Selb, unpublished, 2016).

Habitat: Forest, both primary and secondary (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A widespread and common butterfly, perhaps the commonest pritiine (Larsen, 2005a). It does not appear to be tied to individual ant-trees. Both sexes usually perch low down, on twigs, tendrils or straws of grass. They are sedentary by nature and when disturbed fly about rapidly for a short while before re-alighting, often on the same perch (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens are often seen at extrafloral nectaries (Larsen, 2005a). Farquharson (1922) observed that they drove ants away from extra-floral nectaries in the same manner as did individuals of *Teratonera isabellae* (see this species for details of this behaviour). Farquharson (1922) also noted that they fed from the secretions of ant-attended coccids.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

mnestra Möschler, 1887 (as sp. of *Liptena*). *Abhandlungen hrsg. Von der Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft* **15**: 63 (49-100). [Ghana: “Goldküste, Aburi”].

dubia Kirby, 1890 (as sp. of *Teriomima*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) **6**: 271 (261-274). Cameroon: “Barombi”.

****Epitolina melissa* (Druce, 1888)**
Yellow-powdered Dusty



Powdered Dusty male, *Epitolina melissa*.
Ebogo, Cameroon. Image courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Teriomima melissa Druce, 1888. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **25**: 109 (108-109).

Synonym of *Epitolina dispar* Kirby. Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 528.

Epitolina melissa (Druce, 1888). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 79.

Epitolina melissa Druce, 1888. d'Abrera, 2009: 686.



Epitolina melissa. Male. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Ivindo, Gabon. 20 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Epitolina melissa. Male. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Bobiri, Ghana. 20 May 2014. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Addah”. Holotype in Natural History Museum, London.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

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

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

Ghana – Addah (TL).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ogowe (Kirby, 1890); Alen Nkoma (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Ndougou (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope N.P. (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010); camp Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010); camp PPG (Vande weghe, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kafakumba; Kapanga; Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).

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

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: This is a fairly common butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). The habits are similar to those of *Epitolina dispar*. Several males are often found whirling around each other in sunny spots in the forest. They usually fly close to the ground (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

cordelia Kirby, 1890 (as sp. of *Teriomima*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) **6**: 270 (261-274). Gabon: “Ogowe”. Given as a synonym of *Epitolina dispar* (Kirby, 1887) by Ackery *et al.* (1995), but regarded to be a synonym of *Epitolina melissa* (Druce, 1888) by Larsen (2005a).

****Epitolina collinsi* Libert, 2000**

Bordered Dusty

Epitolina collinsi Libert, 2000. *Lambillionea* **100** (1) (Tome II): 107 (95-115).

Epitolina collinsi Libert, 2000. d’Abrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Central African Republic: “Yakoli, R.C.A., 30 VIII 1996 (S. Collins).” Holotype in ABRI, Nairobi.

Distribution: ?Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic.

Larsen (2005a) suspects that the two females from Sierra Leone, included in the original description of the species, are either mislabeled or misidentified.

Specific localities:

Central African Republic – Yakoli (TL).

Habitat: Forest.

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

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Epitolina catori group

**Epitolina catori* Bethune-Baker, 1904

Orange-flecked Dusty

Epitolina catori Bethune-Baker, 1904. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) **14**: 227 (222-233).

Epitolina catori Bethune-Baker, 1904. d’Abrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Moyamba, Sierra Leone”. Holotype in Natural History Museum, London.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania.

Habitat: Forest (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Much scarcer than *Epitolina dispar* and *Epitolina melissa*, especially west of the Dahomey Gap. The flight of the male is rapid and irregular, and they are difficult to follow as they flit in and out of the sunlight in the semi-shade of the forest undergrowth. They usually fly a metre or two above the ground and spend long periods perched on dry twigs (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Epitolina catori catori Bethune-Baker, 1904

Orange-flecked Dusty

Epitolina catori Bethune-Baker, 1904. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) **14**: 227 (222-233).

Epitolina catori Bethune-Baker, 1904. d’Abrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Moyamba, Sierra Leone”. Holotype in Natural History Museum, London.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon (west).

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (TL).

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

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Epitolina catori ugandae Jackson, 1962

Eastern Orange-flecked Dusty

Epitolina catori ugandae Jackson, 1962. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **12**: 159 (125-163).

Epitolina catori ugandae Jackson, 1962. d’Abrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Uganda: “Mpigi, Mpanga Forest”.

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

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Mpanga Forest, Mpigi (TL).

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

Note: Larsen (2005a) avers that *ugandae* may be a distinct species.

****Epitolina larseni* Libert, 2000**
Orange-studded Dusty



Epitolina larseni. Left: Male, Ebogo, Cameroon. Right: Female feeding at an extrafloral nectary on a vine tendril. Ebogo, Cameroon. Images courtesy Jeremy Dobson.

Epitolina larseni Libert, 2000. *Lambillionea* **100** (1) (Tome II): 113 (95-115).

Epitolina larseni Libert, 2000. d’Abrera, 2009: 686.



Epitolina larseni. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ebogo, Cameroon. 28 April 2019. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Mont Fèbé (env. 1000 m), Yaoundé, Cameroun, I 1985 (M. Libert).”
Holotype in MNHN, Paris.

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

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Mount Febe, Yaounde (TL).

Gabon – Lambarene (Vande weghe, 2010); Ndjole (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo (Vande weghe, 2010); Ipassa (Vande weghe, 2010).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

