

Genus *Hypophytala* Clench, 1965 Banded Flashes

In: Fox *et al.*, 1965. *Memoirs of the American Entomological Society* No. 19: 316 (438 pp.).
Type-species: *Epitola hyettoides* Aurivillius, by original designation.

The genus *Hypophytala* belongs to the Family Lycaenidae Leach, 1815; Subfamily Poritiinae Doherty, 1886; Tribe Epitolini Jackson, 1962. The other genera in the Tribe Epitolini in the Afrotropical Region are *Iridana*, *Teratoneura*, *Epitola*, *Cerautola*, *Hewitola*, *Geritola*, *Stempfferia*, *Cephetola*, *Deloneura*, *Batelusia*, *Tumerepedes*, *Pseudoneaveia*, *Neaveia*, *Epitolina*, *Phytala*, *Neoepitola*, *Aethiopana*, *Hewitsonia*, and *Powellana*.

Hypophytala (**Banded Flashes**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing 13 species. The genus *Hypophytala* Clench, 1965 was treated as a junior synonym of *Phytala* Westwood, 1851 by Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530 but is treated as a valid genus by Congdon & Collins, 1998 (*Supplement to Kielland's butterflies of Tanzania*: 80 (143 pp.). ABRI and Lambillionea) and Libert, 1999.

Hyetta species-group

**Hypophytala hyetta* (Hewitson, 1873)

Phytala hyetta Hewitson, 1873. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **10**: 150 (149-151).
Hypophytala hyetta (Hewitson, 1873). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.
Hypophytala hyetta Hewitson, 1873. d'Abrera, 2009: 684.

Type locality: Angola: "Angola".

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (Libert, 2020).

Misattributed to the West African fauna (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Hypophytala hyetta hyetta (Hewitson, 1873)

Phytala hyetta Hewitson, 1873. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine* **10**: 150 (149-151).
Hypophytala hyetta (Hewitson, 1873). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.
Hypophytala hyetta Hewitson, 1873. d'Abrera, 2009: 684.

Type locality: Angola: "Angola".

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (south-west) (Libert, 2020).

Specific localities:

Gabon – Kuilu (Aurivillius, 1898); Leke near Franceville (Vande weghe, 2010).

intermixta Aurivillius, 1898 (as sp. of *Phytala*). *Entomologisk Tidskrift* **18**: 215 (213-222). Gabon:

“Kuilu”. Treated as a synonym of *Hypophytala hyetta* (Hewitson, 1873) by Larsen (2005a).

Hypophytala hyetta latifascia Libert & Collins, 1999

Hypophytala hyetta latifascia Libert & Collins, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 194 (219 pp.).
Hypophytala hyetta latifascia Libert & Collins. d’Abrera, 2009: 684. [date of authorship omitted; should be 1999].

Type locality: Central African Republic: “Maka, R.C.A.”.

Distribution: Central African Republic (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Central African Republic – Maka (TL).

**Hypophytala vansomereni* (Jackson, 1964)

Phytala vansomereni Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 60 (59-80).
Hypophytala vansomereni (Jackson, 1964). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.
Hypophytala vansomereni Jackson, 1964. d’Abrera, 2009: 684.



Hypophytala vansomereni. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Zika Forest, Uganda. 12 June 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Masaka, Sango Bay, Katera”.

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

Specific localities:

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

Uganda – Masaka, Sango Bay, Katera (TL).

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

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Hypophytala kivuetta* Libert, 2020

Hypophytala kivuetta Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 140 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Democratic Republic of Congo: Holotype (male): Mapimbi, N Kivu, XII 2012 (ABRI Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-1538; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Mapimbi, N Kivu, XI 2013 (ABRI Leg.); BOLD: MLIB-1541; in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (north-east)

Specific localities:

Democratic Republic of Congo – Mapimbi (TL); Beni (Libert, 2020); Kasuo (Libert, 2020); Mambasa (Libert, 2020); Kisangani (Libert, 2020); Bangupa (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Hypophytala hyettina* (Aurivillius, 1898)**

Western Flash

Phytala hyettina Aurivillius, 1898. *EntomologiskTidskrift* **18**: 214 (213-222).

Hypophytala hyettina (Aurivillius, 1898). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala hyettina Aurivillius, 1898. d'Abreera, 2009: 684.



Hypophytala hyettina. Female. Left – upperside; right- underside.
Monogaga, near San Pedro, Ivory Coast. 24 July 1996. A. Gardiner.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leona [Moyamba (Larsen, 2005a)]”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/h).

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

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (TL).

Ivory Coast – Banco (Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Yapo (Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Azigny (Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

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

Habitat: Forest.

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

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Hypophytala leonetta* Libert, 2020**

Hypophytala leonetta Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 142 (157 pp.; 15 plates).
Published by the author.

Type locality: Sierra Leone: Holotype (male): Moyambina, 17 III 1903; coll. Cator; in the NHM Museum, London.

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Liberia.

Specific localities:

Sierra Leone – Moyamba (TL); Banta (Libert, 2020); Gola (Libert, 2020).

Liberia – Harbel (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Nothing published.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Hypophytala hyettoides* (Aurivillius, 1895)**

Common Flash

Epitola (*Phytala* ?) *hyettoides* Aurivillius, 1895. *Entomologisk Tidskrift* **16**: 206 (195-220, 255-268).

Phytala hyettoides (Aurivillius, 1895). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530.

Hypophytala hyettoides (Aurivillius, 1895). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala hyettoides Aurivillius, 1895. d'Abrera, 2009: 684.



Hypophytala hyettoides. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Aburi Botanical Garden, Ghana. 28 November, 2011. J. & C. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Kitta, Bonge”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/h).

Distribution: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon.

Specific localities:

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

Nigeria – Oshodi, Lagos district (Jackson, 1964).

Cameroon – Kitta, Bonge (TL).

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

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: A fairly common species, but localized to large, old ant-trees growing near open spaces that are used by the butterfly as patrol grounds (Larsen, 2005a). At times it may be abundant in Aburi Botanical Gardens, Ghana. In the early morning roosting males can be seen on the tendrils of creepers; later numbers of males patrol the lawns from 11h00 to 13h00. Contests between up to four males simultaneously, occur at great speed. When other males are absent they perch on the lawn, often with open wings. A male was also noted defending a territory on the edge of a patch of forest on an overcast day, holding his wings flat when perched, presumably in order to maintain body temperature (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

aequatorialis Jackson, 1964 (as sp. of *Phytala*). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 62 (59-80). Nigeria: “Lagos Dist., Oshodi”. Synonymized (male only) with *Hypophytala hyettoides* (Aurivillius, 1895) by Libert (1999: 196).

****Hypophytala ultramarina* Libert & Collins, 1999**

Ultramarine Flash

Hypophytala ultramarina Libert & Collins, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 198 (219 pp.).

Hypophytala ultramarina Libert & Collins, 2004. d’Abrera, 2009: 686. [date of authorship erroneous; should be 1999].

Type locality: Cameroon: “Afanesselé, Cameroun”.

Distribution: Togo, Nigeria (south and Cross River loop), Cameroon, Congo (west).

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Eket (Larsen, 2005a); Ikom (Larsen, 2005a); Okomu (Larsen, 2005a); Ubiaja (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Afanessele (TL).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: Uncommon in the west, more common in Cameroon (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Henleyi species group

**Hypophytala henleyi* (Kirby, 1890)

Grose-Smith’s Flash

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

Phytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530.

Hypophytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala henleyi Kirby, 1890. d’Abrera, 2009: 684.

Hypophytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Libert, 2020: 144.



Hypophytala henleyi henleyi. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kongu, Ivindo, Gabon. 23 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Barombi”.

Distribution: Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Habitat: Forest.

Habits. Quite a rare species (Larsen, 2005a). Males have been seen perching on twigs at 08h45 (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Hypophytala henleyi henleyi (Kirby, 1890)

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

Phytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530.

Hypophytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala henleyi Kirby, 1890. d’Abrera, 2009: 684.

Hypophytala henleyi (Kirby, 1890). Libert, 2020: 144.



Hypophytala henleyi henleyi. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kongu, Ivindo, Gabon. 23 November 2017. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “Barombi”.

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

Specific localities:

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

Nigeria – Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).

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

Equatorial Guinea – Rebola, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

Democratic Republic of Congo – near Kinshasha (Larsen, 2005a); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits. Quite a rare species (Larsen, 2005a). Males have been seen perching on twigs at 08h45 (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

aequatorialis Jackson, 1964 (as sp. of *Phytala*). *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 62 (59-80). Nigeria: “Lagos Dist., Oshodi”. Synonymized (female only) with *Hypophytala hyettoides* (Aurivillius, 1895) by Libert (1999: 196).

Hypophytala henleyi depuncta Libert, 2020

Hypophytala henleyi depuncta Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 147 (157 pp.; 15 plates). Published by the author.

Type locality: Ghana: Holotype (female): Ankasa, XI 2003 (ABRI Coll.); in ABRI Collection, Nairobi.

Distribution: Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana (west).

Specific localities:

Liberia – Kpain (Libert, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Abengourou (Libert, 2020); Agboville (Libert, 2020); Alepe (Libert, 2020); Danane-Nimba (Libert, 2020); Issia (Libert, 2020); Mt Peko (Libert, 2020).

Ghana – Ankasa (TL); Dunkwa (Libert, 2020); Bia (Libert, 2020); Tano Ofin (Libert, 2020).

**Hypophytala reducta* (Aurivillius, 1923)

Phytala reducta Aurivillius, 1923. *In*: Schultze & Aurivillius, 1923. *Ergebnisse der Zweiten Deutschen Zentral-Afrika Expedition* **1**(17): 1197 (1113-1242).

Hypophytala reducta (Aurivillius, 1923). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala reducta Schultze & Aurivillius, 1923. d’Abrera, 2009: 684. [Authorship erroneous; should be Aurivillius, 1923]

Type locality: Cameroon: “Malén”.

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

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Malen (TL).

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

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Hypophytala obscura* (Schultze, 1916)**

Phytala obscura Schultze, 1916. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **81** (A.12.): 142 (136-142).

Hypophytala obscura (Schultze, 1916). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala obscura Schultze, 1916. d’Abbrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Equatorial Guinea: “Bei San Carlos (süd Fernando-Poo)”.

Distribution: Equatorial Guinea (Bioko) (Libert, 1999).

Specific localities:

Equatorial Guinea – San Carlos (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Hypophytala nigrescens* (Jackson, 1964)**

Black Flash

Phytala nigrescens Jackson, 1964. *Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)* (Entomology) **15**: 67 (59-80).

Hypophytala nigrescens (Jackson, 1964). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala nigrescens Jackson, 1964. d’Abbrera, 2009: 686.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Onitsha, Manu, Awka”. Appears to be known only from the holotype (male). The female is unknown (Larsen, 2005a).

Distribution: Nigeria.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Awka, Mamu Forest, just east of the Niger at Onitsha (TL).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Note: Because only a single specimen has ever been caught there are doubts about its true status (Larsen, 2005a).

****Hypophytala benitensis* (Holland, 1890)**

Holland’s Flash

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

Phytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530.

Hypophytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala benitensis Holland, 1890. d’Abbrera, 2009: 684.

Hypophytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Libert, 2020: 147.

Type locality: Gabon: “River Ogove”.

Distribution: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic (Libert, 2020).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: A rare species (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Hypophytala benitensis benitensis (Holland, 1890)

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

Phytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 530.

Hypophytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Congdon & Collins, 1998: 80.

Hypophytala benitensis Holland, 1890. d'Abreu, 2009: 684.

Hypophytala benitensis (Holland, 1890). Libert, 2020: 147.

Type locality: Gabon: "River Ogove".

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic (Libert, 2020).

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Yakaduma (Aurivillius, 1923); Limbe (Libert, 2020); Mt Oku (Libert, 2020).

Gabon – Ogove River (TL); Mboumie (Vande weghe, 2010); Ndjole (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope N.P. (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Bangui (Libert, 2020).

rezia Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1893 (as sp. of *Epitola*). *In*: Grose-Smith & Kirby, 1892-7. *Rhopalocera exotica, being illustrations of new, rare and unfigured species of butterflies* 2: 86 (261 pp.). London. Cameroon: "Cameroons". Treated as a synonym of *Hypophytala benitensis* (Holland, 1890) by Libert (1999: 200).

schultzei Aurivillius, 1923 (as sp. of *Phytala*). *In*: Schultze & Aurivillius, 1923. *Ergebnisse der Zweiten Deutschen Zentral-Afrika Expedition* 1(17): 1196 (1113-1242). Cameroon: "Yakaduma". Treated as a synonym of *Hypophytala benitensis* (Holland, 1890) by Libert (1999: 200). Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/s).

Hypophytala benitensis contrasta Libert, 2020

Hypophytala benitensis contrastata Libert, 2020. *Epitola l.s.*: mise à jour de la Révision (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae); 148 (157 pp.; 15 plates). Published by the author.

Type locality: Ivory Coast: Holotype (male): Issia, VIII 1966 (T.H.E. Jackson); National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi. Allotype (female): Issia, IX 1966 (T.H.E. Jackson); National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi.

Distribution: Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria.

Specific localities:

Ivory Coast – Tai Forest (Libert, 2020); Agboville (Libert, 2020); Banco (Libert, 2020); Issia (Libert, 2020).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Fumesua near Kumasi (Libert, 2020).

Nigeria – Calabar (Libert, 2020); Ubiaja (Libert, 2020); Umuhaia (Libert, 2020).

**Hypophytala minziro* Libert & Collins, 1999

Hypophytala benitensis minziro Libert & Collins, 1999. *In*: Libert, 1999. *Révision des Epitola (l.s.)*: 202 (219 pp.).

Hypophytala benitensis minziro Libert & Collins, 1999. d'Abreu, 2009: 684.

Hypophytala minziro Libert & Collins, 1999. Libert, 2020: 148, **stat. rev.**

Type locality: Tanzania: "Minziro, Bukoba, 1200 m, Tanzanie".

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

Specific localities:

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

(Libert, 2020); Teturi (Libert, 2020); Lubango (Libert, 2020).
Tanzania – Kere Hill, Minziro Forest (uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).
Habitat: Nothing published.
Habits: Nothing published.
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.