

Genus *Leptotes* Scudder, 1876 Zebra Blues

Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences **3**: 124 (98-129).

Type-species: *Lycaena theonus* Lucas, by original designation [extralimital].

= *Cylyrius* Butler, 1897. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 830 (817-850).

Type-species: *Polyommatus webbianus* Brullé, by original designation [extralimital]. Synonymised with *Leptotes* Scudder, 1876 by Fric *et al.* (2019).

= *Cyclirius* auctt. An incorrect subsequent spelling of *Cylyrius* Butler, 1897.

= *Syntarucus* Butler, 1901. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1900**: 929 (911-946). Type-species: *Papilio telicanus* Lang, by original designation.

= *Syntarucoides* Kaye, 1904. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1904**: 190 (159-229). Type-species: *Papilio cassius* Cramer, by original designation [extralimital].

= *Langia* Tutt 1906. *In*: Tutt, 1905-6. *A natural history of the British butterflies; their world-wide variation and geographical distribution* **1**: 314 (479 pp.). London. Type-species: *Papilio telicanus* Lang, by original designation. Invalid; junior homonym of *Langia* Moore, 1872, and objective synonym of *Syntarucus* Butler.

= *Raywardia* Tutt, 1908. *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* **20**: 143 (143-144). Unnecessary replacement name for *Langia* Tutt.

The genus *Leptotes* belongs to the Family Lycaenidae Leach, 1815; Subfamily Polyommatinae Swainson, 1827; Tribe Polyommataini Swainson, 1827; Subtribe *incertae sedis*. The other genera in the Subtribe *incertae sedis* in the Afrotropical Region are *Cupidopsis*, *Pseudonacaduba*, *Catochrysops*, *Lampides*, *Uranothauma*, *Cacyreus*, *Harpenderyus*, *Cylyrius*, *Tuxentius*, *Tarucus*, *Zintha*, *Zizeeria*, *Zizina*, *Actizera*, *Zizula*, *Brephidium*, *Oraidium*, *Azanus*, *Eicochrysops*, *Euchrysops*, *Orachrysops*, *Lepidochrysops*, *Thermoniphias* and *Oboronia*.

Leptotes (**Zebra Blues**) is a fairly cosmopolitan genus containing 30 species, 16 of which are found in the Afrotropical Region (Fric *et al.*, 2019). The distribution of one of the Afrotropical species extends into the Palearctic. Most species of *Leptotes* are very difficult to identify on their facies alone. The genitalia of each species are, however, diagnostically useful (see Kroon, 1973; Vari, 1976 and Henning & Henning, 1989 – references in Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 237). Fric *et al.* (2019) published a paper dealing with the phylogeny and biogeography of the genus.

Relevant literature

Fric *et al.*, 2019 [Phylogeny and biogeography].

Libert, 2011 [Female genitalia; distribution in Cameroon; new taxa].

Species list for the genus *Leptotes* (after Fric et al., 2019).

African species

Leptotes adamsoni Collins & Larsen, 1991
Leptotes babaulti (Stempffer, 1935)
Leptotes brevidentatus (Tite, 1958)
Leptotes casca (Tite, 1958)
Lycaena cassioides Capronnier, 1889 [not mentioned in Fric *et al.*, 2019]
Leptotes durrelli Fric, Pyrcz & Wiemers, 2019
Leptotes jeanneli (Stempffer, 1935)
Leptotes mandersi (Druce, 1907)
Leptotes marginalis (Stempffer, 1944)
Leptotes mayottensis (Tite, 1958)
Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767) (also in Mediterranean Europe and southwest Asia)
Leptotes pulcher (Murray, 1874)
Leptotes pyrczi Libert, 2011
Leptotes rabefaner (Mabille, 1877)
Leptotes sanctithomae (Sharpe, 1893)
Leptotes socotranus (Ogilvie-Grant, 1899)
Leptotes webbianus (Brullé, 1839) (Palearctic not Afrotropical)

Asian and Australian species

Leptotes lybas (Godart, 1823)
Leptotes plinius (Fabricius, 1793)

American species

Leptotes andicola (Godman & Salvin, 1891)
Leptotes bathyllos Tessmann, 1928
Leptotes callanga (Dyar, 1913)
Leptotes cassius (Cramer, 1775)
Leptotes delalande Balint & Johnson, 1995
Leptotes krug Balint, Johnson, Salazar & Velez, 1995
Leptotes lamasi Balint & Johnson, 1995
Leptotes marina (Reakirt, 1868)
Leptotes parrhasioides (Wallengren, 1860)
Leptotes perkinsae Kaye, 1931
Leptotes trigemmatum (Butler, 1881)

****Leptotes adamsoni* Collins & Larsen, 1991**

Adamson's Zebra Blue

Leptotes adamsoni Collins & Larsen, 1991. *In*: Larsen, 1991. *The butterflies of Kenya and their natural history*: 232, 440 (490 pp.). Oxford.

Leptotes adamsoni Collins & Larsen, 1991. d'Abrera, 2009: 812.

Type locality: Kenya: "Kora Rock, Tana River Expedition, Aug. 1976 (A.R. Pittaway, leg.)."

Type material in the National Museum, Nairobi.

Diagnosis: Smaller than other species in the genus and both sexes have more rounded wings. A 1 mm dark border on upperside of all four wings. The only other species with black borders, *Leptotes marginalis*, has borders of even width and very pointed forewings (Larsen, 1991c).

Description:

"This species is considerably smaller than the other African *Leptotes*, with a forewing length of 9-10 mm, the shape being more rounded than normal. The ground colour of the male is a slightly darker violet, with a 1 mm dark border on all four wings. On the forewings this border narrows slightly towards the apex. The female, of which only a single specimen in bad condition is available, appears to be darker above, with broader dark forewing borders, and with less blue suffusion than normal in the genus. On the underside of the forewings the

subapical costal dark line is united with the post-discal spot in space 3, forming a complete arc, such as is usually the case in *S. pulcher* Murray, but not in the other mainland species. The male genitalia are distinctive (Fig. A2), the quadrate shape of the valves being very different from all other species. The general ground plan is normal, with the characteristic penis of the group, but the subunci are rather massive.”

Etymology: Named for George Adamson, whose efforts were instrumental in setting up the Kora National Park, where the types were collected.

Distribution: Kenya (Near Kora Town, Tana River).

Known only from the type series.

Specific localities:

Kenya – Kora Rock, Tana River – a few km outside Kora Town (TL).

Habitat: Riverine vegetation on the Tana River, with *Cordia sinensis* as the dominant plant.

Habits: Specimens were noted feeding from the flowers of a creeper (*Premna* species) (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Leptotes babaulti* (Stempffer, 1935)#**

Babault's Zebra Blue

Syntarucus babaulti Stempffer, 1935. *Mission Scientifique de l'Omo* 2: 235 (219-240). Paris.

Syntarucus babaulti Stempffer, 1935. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Leptotes babaulti (Stempffer, 1935). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238.

Leptotes babaulti Stempffer, 1935. d'Abrera, 2009: 812.



Babault's Zebra Blue (*Leptotes babaulti*) male underside.
Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.



Leptotes babaulti. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 28mm. Barberton, Transvaal, S. Africa. 12 Nov 72.
G.A. Henning. (Henning collection – H431).

Type locality: [Kenya]: “Kitale”.

Diagnosis: In the male genitalia the end of the valve is very broad but is obliquely angled, with about 20 very small teeth (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia (widespread), Angola (Stempffer, 1957), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal). Also in Yemen.

Specific localities:

Gambia – Pirang, Seleti, Walikunda, Basse (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

Benin – Lokoli (Tchibozo *et al.*, 2008); Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.* (2017).

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

Rwanda – Le Muhari (Dufrane, 1953).

Kenya – Kitale (TL).

Tanzania – Throughout (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chalimbana (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lumangwe Falls (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mporokoso (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Xiluvo (Kroon).

Zimbabwe – Harare (A. Duke); Mutare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Burma Valley (Kroon).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (male illustrated above); Lydenburg (Rossouw); Noordkaap (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Morgenzon Forestry (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Blyderivierspoort Nature Reserve (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

KwaZulu-Natal – Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Habitat: Savanna bushveld at 1 000 m, riverine bush, to montane grassland at 1 900 m (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). In Tanzania at altitudes from sea-level to 2 200 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: As for *Leptotes pirithous*. A common species in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

Flight period: All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Probably *Plumbago auriculata* Lam. (Plumbaginaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 111].

juncta Dufrane, 1953 (as f. of *Tarucus pulchra*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* **89**: 56 (41-57). Rwanda: “Le Muhari, territoire Shangagu, Ruanda, altitude 1500 m”.

ornata Dufrane, 1954 (as f. of *Syntarucus babaulti*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* **90**: 68 (66-68). Ethiopia: “Abyssinie, 1909 (sana localité précise)”.

****Leptotes brevidentatus* (Tite, 1958)#**

Short-toothed Zebra Blue

Syntarucus brevidentatus Tite, 1958. *Entomologist* **91**: 189 (189-191).

Syntarucus brevidentatus Tite, 1958. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Leptotes brevidentatus (Tite, 1958). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238.

Leptotes brevidentatus Tite, 1958. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes brevidentatus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 28mm. Kings Kloof, Krugersdorp, Transvaal, S. Africa. 23.4.72.
G.A. Henning. (Henning collection – H432).



Leptotes brevidentatus. Female upperside.
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Alternative common name: Tite's Zebra Blue.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: "W. shore of L. Manyara".

Diagnosis: Distinguished by the male genitalia, in which the valve ends very broadly, with about 10 small finger-like processes diminishing serially in size (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Angola (Tite, 1958) Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999). Also in Yemen.

Specific localities:

Guinea – Labe (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Burkina Faso – Bala (A. Gardiner, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kakum National Park (Larsen, 2005a); Shai Hills on the Accra Plains (Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – Shaki (Larsen, 2005a); Obudu Plateau (Larsen, 2005a).

Tanzania – Western shore of Lake Manyara (TL); Widespread (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chirundu (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Botswana – Moeng and Moremi Gorge, Tswapong Hills (Larsen, 1991); Tlokweng (Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990).

Mpumalanga – Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

Gauteng – King's Kloof, Krugersdorp (male illustrated above).

KwaZulu-Natal – Durban (Murray); Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Ndumo Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Eastern Cape Province – near Port Elizabeth (Clark & Dickson, 1971).

Western Cape Province – Cape Peninsula (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Cape Town (Dickson); Dedgefield (Claassens).

Habitat: Woodland (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: As for *Leptotes pirithous* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). This is the scarcest of the four similar species of *Leptotes* (*pirithous*, *babaulti*, *jeanneli* and *brevidentatus*) (Larsen, 2005a).

Flight period: As for *Leptotes pirithous* (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 68 [as *Syntarucus brevidentatus*; near Port Elizabeth (Eastern Cape) and from Durban (KwaZulu-Natal)].

“Egg. 0.5 mm diam. x 0.3 mm high. Laid singly among buds. Pure white with two sets of white ribs, 24 in each, radiating in opposite directions, from the micropyle, in involute curves and continuing diagonally down the sides. The intersections are punctuated by small moles. Eggs hatch after 7 days. The discarded shell is

not eaten. **Larva.** 1st instar 0.8 mm, growing to 1.75 mm in 4-5 days; 2nd instar growing to 3 mm in 4-5 days; 3rd instar growing to 5.5 mm in 5-8 days; 4th instar growing to 9-9.5 mm in 8-11 days. The honey-gland is present in the 2nd to 4th instars; tubercles in the 4th instar only, and each with 31 spines. Larvae feed on the flowers and buds, extending their ‘necks’ to burrow well into these. They moult where they are feeding and the old skin is left as an empty bag. The colour varies considerably: green with white diagonal stripes, dull purple with white stripes, and variations in between, including pinkish purple. All have white or pinkish marks on the side of the dorsum on segments 2, 3 and 9. On *Plumbago*, ants are very limited owing to the sticky nature of the calyces of the flowers, to which dead ants and parasites are found adhering. There is a rotation of broods. **Pupa.** 6.5-7 mm. Secured to a twig or dead leaves by the cremastral hooks and a girdle. The imago emerges after some 10 days. **Parasites.** Egg, larva and pupa – as for *S. telicanus* [= *Leptotes pirithous*].”

Larval food:

Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 68].

Plumbago auriculata Lam. (Plumbaginaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238].

Plumbago zeylanica L. (Plumbaginaceae) [Larsen, 1991; Moremi Gorge, Botswana].

Plumbago species (Plumbaginaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 68].

Vigna species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 68].

**Leptotes casca* (Tite, 1958)

Syntarucus casca Tite, 1958. *Entomologist* **91**: 190 (189-191).

Leptotes casca Tite, 1958. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.

Type locality: Comoro Islands: “Anjouan I.”.

Distribution: Comoro Islands.

Specific localities:

Comoro Islands – Anjouan Island (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Leptotes cassioides* (Capronnier, 1889)

Lycaena cassioides Capronnier, 1889. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **1889**: 121 (118-127).

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

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Note: D’Abrera (2009: 812) avers that *cassioides* is a synonym of *rabefaner* but makes no formal taxonomic changes.

**Leptotes durrelli* Fric, Pycrz & Wiemers, 2019

Leptotes durrelli Fric, Pycrz & Wiemers, 2019. *Systematic Entomology* **44**: 662 (652-665).

Type locality: Mauritius: Grande Riviere Noire, 1 km east, 10-15 m, 26.xii.2016 (Pycrz). Holotype (male) in the Zoological Museum of the Jagiellonian University.

Diagnosis: The appearance of *L. durrelli* is similar to Mediterranean populations of *L. pirithous* in having a darker blue colour in males and dark females with a blue basal half of the forewings. This pattern contrasts with lighter blue males and females of *L. pirithous* from the Afrotropical region. The underside pattern of *L. durrelli* differs from that of *L. pirithous*, as the latter has almost square spots and also the arrangement of the spots between R, M1, M2 and M3 is almost linear in *L. pirithous*, whereas the spots are arranged in an arch in *L. durrelli*. Also the genitalia are similar in these two species but

differ in size and proportions between the phallus and the carinas. The genitalia of another species known from the area, *L. rabefaner*, are very distinct (see Stempffer, 1935) as the end of the valva bears several long teeth similar to *L. jeanneli* (Fric *et al.* 2019).

Distribution: Mauritius, Reunion, Madagascar.

Specific localities:

Mauritius – Grand Riviere Noire (TL); Palmar, Le Surcouf (Fric *et al.*, 2019); Trou d’Eau Douce (Fric *et al.*, 2019); Bassin Blanc, 2 km n. Chamouny (Fric *et al.*, 2019); Chamarel (Fric *et al.*, 2019).

Reunion – NE Le Petit Serre (Fric *et al.*, 2019); Mont-Vert les Hauts (Fric *et al.*, 2019).

Madagascar – Mahajanga (Fric *et al.*, 2019); Fianarantsoa (Fric *et al.*, 2019).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Leptotes jeanneli* (Stempffer, 1935)#**

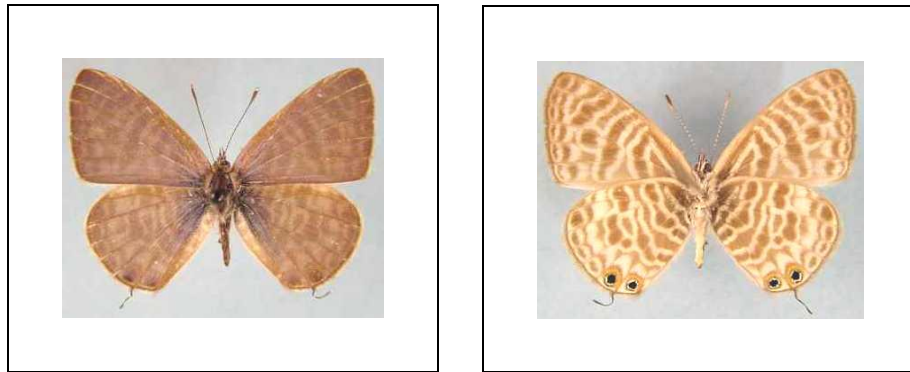
Jeannel’s Zebra Blue

Syntarucus jeanneli Stempffer, 1935. *Mission Scientifique de l’Omo* 2: 232 (219-240). Paris.

Syntarucus jeanneli Stempffer, 1935. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Leptotes jeanneli (Stempffer, 1935). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238.

Leptotes jeanneli Stempffer, 1935. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes jeanneli. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 29mm. Sabie. 5 Apr 71. W. Teare. (Henning collection – H433).



Leptotes jeanneli. Female upperside.
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Type locality: Kenya: “mont Elgon versant est, 2.470 mètres”.

Diagnosis: Only the genitalia are diagnostic. In the male the end of the valve is moderately broad with three or four moderately large finger-like processes gradually diminishing in size from the one end (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Guinea-Bissau (Mendes *et al.*, 2008), Guinea, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia (widespread), Angola (Stempffer, 1957), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga), Swaziland. Also in Yemen and Mauritius (Pyrzcz, 2017).

Specific localities:

Ghana – Kyabobo National Park (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.* (2017).

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

Kenya – Mount Elgon (TL).

Tanzania – Throughout (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mt Zomba (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Zambia – Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); 60 km south of Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Nyika (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – Mutare (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Burma Valley (Kroon).

Limpopo Province – Entabeni (Hennings); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”).

Mpumalanga – Sabie (Kroon; male illustrated above); Lydenburg (Rossouw); Barberton (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mariepskop (Hennings).

Swaziland – Mbabane (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Habitat: A variety of habitats, including forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at altitudes from sea-level to 2 400 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: As for *Leptotes pirithous*. Males often mudpuddle together with males of *Leptotes pirithous* (Kielland, 1990d).

Flight period: All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Relevant literature:

Pyrzcz, 2017 [First record from Mauritius].

Note: At Mazumbai in the West Usambara Mountains there is a very dark blue population with a distinct post-discal white band on the underside of the hind wing. Its genitalia are similar to those of *jeanneli*, but as it flies together with typical *jeanneli* it may be distinct (Kielland, 1990d: 216).

****Leptotes mandersi* (Druce, 1907)**

Nacaduba mandersi Druce, 1907. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (7) **20**: 219 (219-220).

Cylyrius mandersi Druce, 1907. d’Abreu, 2009: 811.

Leptotes mandersi (Druce, 1907). Fric *et al.*, 2019.

Type locality: Mauritius. Described by Druce from specimens collected by Manders in about 1900.

Distribution: Mauritius.

Specific localities:

Mauritius – Blue Bay in the south-east (Davis & Barnes, 1991); Le Morne Brabant in the south-west (Davis & Barnes, 1991); Flacq on the north-east coast (Davis & Barnes, 1991); Aigrettes Island [-20.] (Florens & Probst, 1995).

General notes: Not seen by P.M.H. and J.P.L. Davis in the years 1967-1980; the status of the species is thus uncertain (Davis & Barnes, 1991). Lawrence (2016) states that it is possibly confined presently to the offshore island of Aigrettes.

Habitat: Apparently restricted to the coast (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Habits: Reported to be a high flyer (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Early stages:

Manders, 1908.

Larval food:

Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb. (Fabaceae) [Manders, 1908; as *Caesalpinia boducella* Fleming].

****Leptotes marginalis* (Stempffer, 1942)**

Black-bordered Zebra Blue

Syntarucus marginalis Stempffer, [1942]: 124. [? Get ref.]

Leptotes marginalis Aurivillius, 1924. d'Abreu, 2009: 812.



Leptotes marginalis. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 24mm. Ghibe-Tolley, Ethiopia. 28/ix/1997.
A.J. Gardiner. (Gardiner Collection).

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Ruwenzori”.

Distribution: Sudan (south), Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo (South Kivu, Lualaba), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia.

Specific localities:

Ethiopia – Ghibe-Tolley (male illustrated above).

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

Kenya – Kima (Larsen, 1991c); Suna (Larsen, 1991c); Kitale (Larsen, 1991c); Embu (Larsen, 1991c).

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

Tanzania – a hill near Mbuga Mission, east of Mafwemiru Forest in the Rubehos (Kielland, 1990d; common); Sibweza, Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); near Sumbawanga, Ufipa (Kielland, 1990d); Mwanihana in the Uzungwa Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Mufindi in the Uzungwa Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Iboma Forest near Njombe (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, pers. comm., 2019).

Zambia – Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Habitat: Open habitats (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania at altitudes between 800 and 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: A very localized and uncommon species in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

marginalis Aurivillius, 1924. *In*: Seitz, 1908-25 (as ab. of *Cupido telicanus*). *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13 Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter**: 470 (614 pp.). “Ruwenzori”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/t).

****Leptotes mayottensis* (Tite, 1958)**

Syntarucus mayottensis Tite, 1958. *Entomologist* **91**: 191 (189-191).

Leptotes mayottensis Tite, 1958. d'Abreu, 2009: 812.

Type locality: Comoro Islands: “Mayotte”.

Distribution: Comoro Islands.

Specific localities:

Comoro Islands – Mayotte Island (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

****Leptotes pirithous* (Linnaeus, 1767)#**

Common Zebra Blue



Common Zebra Blue (*Leptotes pirithous*) male upperside (left), male underside (centre) and female upperside (right)
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall (left and right) and Raimund Schutte (centre)

Papilio pirithous Linnaeus, 1767. *Systema Naturae* 1 (2), 12th edition: 790 (533-1328 pp.). Holmiae.

Lycaena telicanus Herbst. Trimen, 1866a. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]

Lycaena telicanus (Lang, 1789). Trimen & Bowker, 1887b. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]

Syntarucus telicanus Lang. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]

Syntarucus pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Kielland, 1990d.

Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 237.

Leptotes pirithous Linnaeus, 1767. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes pirithous pirithous. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.

Limpopo River, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 1 May 2011. M. Williams.

Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Leptotes pirithous pirithous. Female (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Cintsa East, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 23 December 2001. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Leptotes sp. Aberrant male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Lekgalameetse N.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa. 6 January 2017.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Greyling Collection.

Alternative common name: Common Blue (Lawrence, 2014).

Type locality: Algeria: “Algiriae”.

Diagnosis: In the male genitalia the entire distal (outer) portion of the valve is angled and narrows to a point (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa & Passos-de-Carvalho, 1987), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin (Femon *et al.*, 2001), Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Sao Tome & Principe (Principe), Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia (widespread), Angola (Snellen, 1882), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province), Swaziland. Also in Arabia (south-western Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman), Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles, Cape Verde Islands.

Extralimital in North Africa and Europe. First recorded from the Canary Islands by Wiemers *et al.*, 2013.

Habitat: Most biomes, except primary forest and desert. Altitudinally it is found from sea-level to high altitudes (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Habits: This is a very common butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). Larsen (1991c) notes that it sometimes joins mixed migrations in Kenya. The flight is normally weak and specimens are usually found in the vicinity of the larval foodplant, settling frequently on the leaves or flowers. They are usually noted flying around bushes and small trees (Davis & Barnes, 1991). Both sexes feed avidly from various flowers. Males are regularly seen drinking at damp patches, and occasionally on carrion (Larsen, 1991c). It is sometimes seen in numbers around *Plumbago* bushes, a major foodplant for the larva and source of nectar for the adult (Larsen, 2005a).

Flight period: All year in warmer areas (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Kirby, *in* De Villiers & Gueneé, 1835 [Europe] (*Tab. Synopt. Lep. d'Eur.*).

“Larva. Purplish-red, the narrow oblique lines and the dorsal streak darker.”

Jackson, 1937: 233 [as *Syntarucus telicanus plinius*; Mount Elgon, Kenya].

“The larva feeds on the flowers, seeds and young terminal shoots of the food-plants. **Egg.** White, circular, and flattened, with a deep central depression. Diameter about 0.5 mm. It is laid on the underside of the leaflets or in the nodes of the secondary shoots. **Larva.** Dark sepia-brown with lighter brown lateral striation; the skin is velvety. Along the dorsum is a broad, bluntly toothed double ridge, the segments being deeply incised and the space between the ridges broadening anteriorly. The latter is of the dark sepia ground-colour, while the points of the ridge are lighter. The collar is rather narrow, but moderately large, rounded in front with the margins slightly scalloped. The anal segments are almost triangular, with the tubercles carried about half-way along them and placed much closer to each other than is usual, being midway between the centre and the edges. They are comparatively very long, yellowish white structures, and carry the largest terminal rosettes of any lycaenid I have yet seen, consisting of spines of varying length, arranged perfectly symmetrically. The gland orifice appears as a small dark patch immediately above the tubercles. Length 15 mm. **Pupa.** Dull brown, speckled with black, with a black dorsal line and prominent black spots on either side in the depression between the thorax and abdominal segments. It is entirely normal in shape, narrow across the head-case, with slight thoracic shoulders, and from these gradually broadens to the centre of the abdominal segments. Length 10 mm. **Parasites.** The hymenopteran *Tetrastichus sculpturatus* Waterst. (Chalcidae) was bred.”

Clark & Dickson, 1952: 32 [as *Syntarucus telicanus*].

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64 [as *Syntarucus telicanus*; Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape].

“**Egg.** 0.5 mm diam. x 0.3 mm high. Laid singly on buds or stalks supporting the buds. Pale blue when laid, changing to white. The ribs are white, arranged in two reversed sets of 20-22 each, radiating in involute curves from the micropyle and extending diagonally down the sides where they are crossed by horizontal ribs. There are fairly deep indentations between the ribs on the upper surface. Eggs hatch after 6-7 days. The discarded shells are not eaten. **Larva.** 1st instar 0.8 mm, growing to 1.8 mm in 6 days; 2nd instar growing to 3-4 mm in 6 days; 3rd instar growing to 6 mm in 6 days; 4th instar growing to 11 mm in 9 days. The honey-gland is present in the 3rd and 4th instars. The tubercles are present in the 4th instar and are crowned with 30 pale yellow, barbed spines. Larvae feed on the flowers and developing seeds and by extending their necks they can reach the interior portion of the latter. The colour is very variable, especially in the final instar, in which the larvae may diverge from an almost plain green to markings of various colours of salmon, pink, brown and white on a pale green ground. The setae also vary in colour, thereby adding to or influencing the intensity of the apparent coloration of the larvae. Moulting takes place where the larva is feeding; it merely crawls out of the old skin and leaves an empty bag, which is not eaten. On *Plumbago* flowers, ants are not in evidence owing to the sticky nature of the calyx. Dead parasites adhering to the flowers show the degree of protection the flowers give. This sticky substance does not entrap the larvae. There is a succession of broods. **Pupa.** 8 mm. Secured to a leaf, twig or stalk in a secluded spot by the cremastral hooks and a girdle. The colour is pale watery green or brown spotted with darker brown. The imago emerges after some 20 days, but emergence can be earlier (after 10-11 days). **Parasites.** Egg attacked by very small chalcids, *Trichogramma* sp. Larva attacked by tachids, such as *Aplomyia distans* and *Cadurciella rufipalpis*; also by braconids – at least two species of *Apanteles*. Pupa attacked by ichneumonids, especially *Pimpla* sp. It was noticed on one occasion that a young larva (in the 2nd instar) was eating a pupa which had just passed into this stage.”

Martin, 1976.



Early stages of *Leptotes pirithous*. Left – egg. Right – final instar larva.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.



Early stages of *Leptotes pirithous*. Pupa.
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Larval food:

- Burkea africana* Hook. (Fabaceae) [Kroon, 1999].
Burkea species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64].
Cajanus cajan (L.) Millsp. (Fabaceae) [Davis & Barnes, 1991; Mauritius].
Crataegus species (Rosaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64].
Crotalaria agatiflora Schweinf. (Fabaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330].
Elephantorrhiza elephantina (Burch.) Skeels (Fabaceae) [Staude *in* CRG database, 2016; Magaliesburg, Gauteng].
Indigofera erecta (Fabaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 216].
Indigofera arrecta Hochst. ex A.Rich. (Fabaceae) [Jackson, 1937: 233; Kenya].
Indigofera gracilis Spreng. (Fabaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330; as *Indigofera erecta* Hochst.].
Indigofera subargentea De Wild. (Fabaceae) [Jackson, 1937: 233; Kenya].
Indigofera tinctoria L. (Fabaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330].
Lantana camara L. (Verbenaceae) [Davis & Barnes, 1991; Mauritius].
Lotus sp. (Fabaceae) [Tennent & Russell, 2019 (Cape Verde Islands)].
Lythrum salicaria L. (Lythraceae) (flowers of) [Kirby, *in* De Villiers & Gueneé, 183 (Europe); Benyamini, 2004 (Israel)].
Medicago sativa L. (Fabaceae) [Jackson, 1937: 233; Kenya].
Melilotus species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64].
Mundulea sericea (Willd.) A.Chev. (Fabaceae) [Kroon, 1999].
Mundulea species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64].
Phaseolus species (Fabaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].
Philenoptera sutherlandii (Harv.) Schrire (Fabaceae) [Kroon, 1999].
Pisum species (Fabaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 231].
Plumbago auriculata Lam. (Plumbaginaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64; as *Plumbago capensis*].
Plumbago zeylanica L. (Plumbaginaceae) [Larsen, 1991; Botswana].
Rhynchosia species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1952: 33].
Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr. (Fabaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330].
Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr. var. *sesban* (Fabaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 330; as *Sesbania aegyptiaca* Person].
Tecoma capensis (Thunb.) Lindl. [Kroon, 1999].
Tipuana tipu [Aguilar *et al.*, 2002; Madeira].
Triaspis glaucophylla Engl. (Malpighiaceae) [Ian Sharp, Mpumalanga Lowveld, pers. comm., 31 Dec. 2015; species of *Leptotes* not confirmed].
Vigna species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 64].
Vigna vexillata (L.) A.Rich. (Fabaceae) [Kroon, 1999].
Virgilia oroboides (P.J.Bergius) T.M.Salter (Fabaceae) [Kroon, 1999].

Relevant literature:

- Parker, 2008 [Established on Madeira Islands].
Hornemann, 2004b [New record from Gomera, Canary Islands].
Wakeham-Dawson & Aguilar, 2003 [Notes; Portugal].
Coutsis, 2001.
Hall & Russell, 2001.
Hall, 1998.

Leptotes pirithous pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767)#

Papilio pirithous Linnaeus, 1767. *Systema Naturae* 1 (2), 12th edition: 790 (533-1328 pp.). Holmiae.
Lycaena telicanus Herbst. Trimen, 1866a. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]
Lycaena telicanus (Lang, 1789). Trimen & Bowker, 1887b. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]
Syntarucus telicanus Lang. Swanepoel, 1953a. [Synonym of *Leptotes pirithous*]
Syntarucus pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Kielland, 1990d.
Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 237.
Leptotes pirithous Linnaeus, 1767. d'Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes pirithous pirithous. Male (Wingspan 25 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
 Limpopo River, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 1 May 2011. M. Williams.
 Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.



Leptotes pirithous pirithous. Female (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
 Cintsa East, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 23 December 2001. M. Williams.
 Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: Algeria: “Algiriae”.

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa & Passos-de-Carvalho, 1987), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Sao Tome & Principe (Principe), Gabon, Angola (Snellen, 1882), Central African Republic, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia (widespread), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, North West Province, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province, Western Cape Province, Northern Cape Province), Swaziland. Also in Arabia (south-western Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman), Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles, Cape Verde Islands.

Extralimital in North Africa and Europe. First recorded from the Canary Islands by Wiemers *et al.*, 2013.

Specific localities:

Cape Verde Islands – Brava Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Fogo Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Santiago Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Maio Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Boa Vista Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Sao Nicolau Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Santa Luzia Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Raso Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Sao Vicente Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Santo Antao Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019).

Gambia – Fajara, Bijilo, Pirang, Makasutu, Gunjur, Brufut, Tanji, Finto Minareg, Janjanbureh Island, Basse (Jon Baker, pers. comm, May 2020).

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

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

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – Noyau Central, Lama Forest (Fermon *et al.*, 2001); Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.* (2017).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea (Bioko) – Caldera de Luba, Bioko (Martin, 2015); Moraca (Martin & Cobos, 2016).

Gabon – Throughout (Vande weghe, 2010).

Central African Republic – Dzanga (Noss, 1998).

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

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

Kenya – Throughout (Larsen, 1991c).

Malawi – Mt Zomba (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Livingstone (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chisamba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kapiri Mposhi (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mfulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Europa Island (Aurivillius, 1909); Mount Chipirone (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013); Mt Yao [-12.4432 36.5114] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Botswana – Throughout (Larsen, 1991); Tuli Block (Larsen, 1991); Gaborone (Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Doorndraai Dam Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”); Highlands Wilderness (Bode & Bode, unpublished checklist); Soetdoring Farm [-24.561 28.233] (A. Mayer, pers comm. 2015); Bateleur Nature Reserve (Williams & Dobson, unpub., 2015).

Mpumalanga – Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Sterkspruit Nature Reserve (Williams); Buffelskloof Nature Reserve (Williams).

North West Province – Kgaswane Mountain Reserve (Williams); Utopia Resort (C. Dobson, 2006); Borakalalo Nature Reserve (J. Dobson, unpublished, 2009).

Gauteng – Witwatersrand Botanical Gardens (J. Dobson, unpublished checklist, 2001).

Free State Province – Cyferfontein [-30.3736 25.8131] (R. Griesel, unpublished).

KwaZulu-Natal – Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Ndumo Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002); Inanda (male illustrated above).

Eastern Cape Province – Port Elizabeth (Clark & Dickson, 1971); Cintsa East (female illustrated above).

Swaziland – Mlawula Nature Reserve (www.sntc.org.sz); Malolotja Nature Reserve (www.sntc.org.sz).

Mauritius – Widespread and very common, especially on the coast and in gardens (Davis & Barnes, 1991).

Seychelles – Mahe (Lawrence, 2014); Cerf Island (Lawrence, 2014); St. Anne (Lawrence, 2014); Silhouette (Lawrence, 2014); Praslin (Lawrence, 2014); La Digue (Lawrence, 2014); Cousin (Lawrence, 2014); Aride (Lawrence, 2014); Curieuse (Lawrence, 2014); Bird Island (Lawrence, 2014); Remire (Lawrence, 2014); St. Pierre (Lawrence, 2014); Aldabra (Lawrence, 2014); Assumption (Lawrence, 2014); Astove (Lawrence, 2014); Cosmoledo (Lawrence, 2014). Common in Seychelles (Lawrence, 2014).

telicanus Lang, 1789 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Verzeichniss seiner Schmetterlinge* (2nd edition): 47 (226 pp.). Augsburg. France: “Aus dem sudlichen Frankreich”.

plinius Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Ent. Syst.* 3 (1): 284.

insulana Aurivillius, 1909 (as f. of *Cupido telicanus*). *In*: Voeltzkow, A., *Reise in Ostafrika in den Jahren 1903-1905* 2: 324 (309-348). Stuttgart. Mozambique: “Insel Europa”. Treated as a subspecies of *Leptotes pirithous* by Ackery *et al.*, 1995: 644. Formally synonymised with *Leptotes pirithous* (Linnaeus, 1767) by Lees *et al.*, 2003. D’Abrera (2009: 812) gives *insulana* (as *insulanus*) as a valid subspecies, apparently not being aware of Lees *et al.*, 2003.

Leptotes pirithous capverti Libert, Baliteau & Baliteau, 2011

Leptotes pirithous capverti Libert, Baliteau & Baliteau, 2011. *Bulletin de la Societe Entomologique de France* **116** (1): 66 (63-67).

Type locality: Cape Verde Islands: Água das Caldeiras, Lombo de Figuerira, Porto Novo, Santo Antão.

Distribution: Cape Verde Islands.

Specific localities:

Cape Verde Islands – Santo Antao Island (TL); Brava Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Fogo Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Santiago Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Maio Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Boa Vista Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Sao Nicolau Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019); Sao Vicente Island (Tennent & Russell, 2019).

**Leptotes pulchra* (Murray, 1874)#

Sesbania Zebra Blue



Sesbania Zebra Blue (*Leptotes pulchra*) male underside
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Lycaena pulchra Murray, 1874. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1874**: 524 (523-529).

Syntarucus pulcher (Murray, 1874). Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulcher (Murray, 1874). Kielland, 1990d. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulcher (Murray, 1874). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulchra Murray, 1874. d'Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes pulchra pulchra. Male (Wingspan 22 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 18 June 2002. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Leptotes pulchra pulchra. Female (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Tembe, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 19 April 2003. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Alternative common name: Beautiful Zebra Blue.

Type locality: “West Africa”.

Diagnosis: Both sexes are relatively easily distinguished from those of other species in the genus by the paler and more iridescent blue colour on the upperside of the wings (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Taxonomy: The species name has often been misspelt as *pulcher*.

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia (widespread), Angola (Gardiner, 2004), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana (north), Namibia (Caprivi), South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

Habitat: Marshes and swampy areas, from dry savanna to wet forest (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania at altitudes between 780 and 1 100 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: May be common where it occurs, fluttering slowly around its red-flowered larval host-plant (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Flight period: All year (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr. (Fabaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 216].

Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr. var. *sesban* (Fabaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 233; as *Sesbania aegyptica*].

Sesbania sesban (L.) Merr. (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238].

Note: Nigerian populations of *Leptotes pulchra* may represent a distinct subspecies, or even species (Larsen, 2005a). Separated as subspecies *larseni* **ssp. n.** by Libert, 2011: 61.

Leptotes pulchra pulchra (Murray, 1874)#

Lycaena pulchra Murray, 1874. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1874**: 524 (523-529).

Syntarucus pulcher (Murray, 1874). Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulcher (Murray, 1874). Kielland, 1990d. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulcher (Murray, 1874). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 238. [misspelling of species name]

Leptotes pulchra Murray, 1874. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes pulchra pulchra. Male (Wingspan 22 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 18 June 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Leptotes pulchra pulchra. Female (Wingspan 26 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
 Tembe, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 19 April 2003. J. Dobson.
 Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: “West Africa”.

Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Benin (south, west), Niger, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia (widespread), Angola (Gardiner, 2004), Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana (north), Namibia (Caprivi), South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland (Duke *et al.*, 1999).

Specific localities:

Ghana – Nakpanduri (Maessen, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Weija Lagoon just west of Accra (C. Belcastro, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.* (2017).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kikisi River (Dufrane, 1953).

Kenya – Widespread (Larsen, 1991c); Garissa (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Marshy areas on shore of Lake Tanganyika – Karema and Ikola (Kielland, 1990d; common); lake at Sibweza (Kielland, 1990d); base of Image Mountain (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chirundu (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Maputo (Pennington); Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – on the banks of the Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls (Pennington); Vumba Mountains (Riley).

Botswana – Chobe (Larsen, 1991); Okavango (Larsen, 1991); Mababe Flats (Larsen, 1991); Kasane (Larsen, 1991); Kazungula (Larsen, 1991); 50 km south of Kasane (Larsen, 1991).

Namibia – Katima Mulilo (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Mashare.

KwaZulu-Natal – east side of Lake Merthley near Greytown (H. Cookson); south of the Enseleni River near Richards Bay (Swanepoel); Nibela Peninsula (27° 53.120'S; 32° 28.609'E, Alt. 7 m) (Justin & Yolande Bode, 28 April 2012).

Swaziland – Mlawula Nature Reserve (www.sntc.org.sz).

deficiens Dufrane, 1953 (as f. of *Tarucus pulchra*). *Bulletin et Annales de la Société Royale Entomologique de Belgique* **89**: 56 (41-57). [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “rivière Kikisi, zone minière sud de la Compagnie Minière des Grands Lacs Africains”.

Leptotes pulchra larseni Libert, 2011

Leptotes pulchra larseni Libert, 2011. *Lambillionea* **111** (1): 61 (53-66).

Type locality: Cameroon: “”.

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Kaduna (Larsen, 2005a); Zaria (Larsen, 2005a); Yelwa (Larsen, 2005a); Borgu (Larsen, 2005a); Kano (Larsen, 2005a); Gashaka-Gumpti (D. Knoop, 1995).

Cameroon –

****Leptotes pyrczi* Libert, 2011**

Leptotes pyrczi Libert, 2011. *Lambillionea* **111** (1): 64 (53-66).

Type locality: Sao Tome & Principe: “Principe”.
Distribution: Sao Tome & Principe (Island of Principe).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

****Leptotes rabefaner* (Mabille, 1877)**

Lycaena rabefaner Mabille, 1877. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* (5) **7**: 71 (71-73).
Leptotes rabefaner Mabille, 1877. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.



Leptotes rabefaner. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Isalo, Madagascar. 20 March 2016. J. Dobson.
Images M.C.Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: Madagascar: “Madagascar”.
Distribution: Madagascar.
Habitat: Forest and forest margins (Lees *et al.*, 2003).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

****Leptotes sanctithomae* (Sharpe, 1893)**

Syntarucus sanctithomae Sharpe, 1893. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1893**: 553-558.
Syntarucus terrenus Joicey & Talbot, 1926.
Leptotes terrenus Joicey & Talbot, 1926. d’Abrera, 2009: 812.
Leptotes sanctithomae (Sharpe, 1893). Libert, 2011: 64.

Type locality: Sao Tome & Principe: “St Thomas”.
Distribution: Sao Tome & Principe (Island of Sao Tome).
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food: Nothing published.

terrenus Joicey & Talbot, 1926 (as sp. of *Syntarucus*). *Entomologist* **59**: 224 (220-226). **Type locality:** Sao Tome & Principe: “Sao Thomé”. Synonymized with *sanctithomae* Sharpe, 1893 by Libert, 2011: 64 **syn. nov.**

****Leptotes socotranus* (Ogilvie-Grant, 1899)**

Tarucus socotranus Ogilvie-Grant, 1899. *Bulletin of the Liverpool Museums* 2: 10 (10-11).
Leptotes socotranus Ogilvie-Grant, 1899. d'Abreu, 2009: 812.

Type locality: Yemen: "Sokotra".

Distribution: Yemen (Island of Socotra).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.