

LATE WINTER
EDITION:
JULY / AUGUST
2018 - 4

THE
LEPIDOPTERISTS'
SOCIETY OF AFRICA

AFRICAN BUTTERFLY NEWS



LATEST NEWS

Welcome to the late winter edition of African Butterfly News!

This newsletter represents the second anniversary (12th edition) of ABN!
Refer to the back-page for links to all previous editions, or visit the LepSoc Africa website:
<http://lepsocafrika.org/>

Dave McDermott

(13 Mar 1951 - 04 June 2018)

Many of you will be aware that Dave McDermott, long-time member of LepSoc Africa and a former secretary of the society, passed away recently.

Dave was one of the first people I met when I joined LSA several years ago and he was invariably friendly and helpful to me and my son Christopher. I remember a long day-trip to Abel Erasmus Pass, with Dave: we didn't find much and had to listen to commentary of the Springboks being thrashed by the All Blacks at Loftus - despite this, I thoroughly enjoyed the day and Dave's company.

Dave had an active life outside of butterflies - his memorial at Old Parktonians Sports Club attracted a very large turnout, with an eulogy by Derek Watts.

Silvia Kirkman:

Dave was an enthusiastic participant of the SABCA project, both as provincial leader for Mpumalanga where he facilitated field surveys and as data contributor by allowing us to digitise and use distribution data from his private butterfly collection. He was always jolly and a pleasure to work with, and will be missed.

Andrew Mayer:

A gentleman - one of the really good guys...



Steve Woodhall:

The first time we met was at Horns Nek when I found Dave and (if I remember rightly) Phil McD unpacking nets at the bottom of the hill... I could not resist it... cue best Afrikaans accent... 'forrna en florra' - wat maak julle!!!?' and McD jumping out of his skin. Then I took them to the hallowed *hutchinsoni* spot where they got their specimens. An auspicious start. We did a lot of butterflying together after that.

One very sad day was the one when Dave had asked 'so how do we get to that *Erikssonia* thing up in the Waterberg?' After ascertaining that the newly formed Limpopo Nature Conservation dept hadn't a cookin' clue about the butterfly, off we went for a look. And then we discovered that it was gone. I know that Dave spent a lot of time looking for it after that. I only hope he got to see them at Bateleur.

As fellow wordsmiths we found we had a lot in common, although as a seasoned pro journalist he was way ahead of me. Dave had a way with words second to none. When watching sport together and seeing someone make an error, he had a way of saying 'stupid boy' that had me in stitches. And who could forget those Jack Russells and the Maltese Poodle who thought she was a Jack Russell... the 'snivellers' as Dave called them, and that 'tit of a dog', 'Bullie'? My wife still blames him for the fact that we too have a pigeon pair of Jackies... Bubble and Squeak. And yes, I call them 'snivellers' all the time. That will have a special poignancy now.



Dave McDermott flanked by his brother Phil on the right and Owen Garvie on the left - Zimbabwe – April 2013 (Owen Garvie)



Dave McDermott and, Graham Garvie (Owen's brother), resting in the Aberfoyle Forest, Eastern Zimbabwe - April 2013 (Owen Garvie)



Dave loved to cook up breakfast - 2011 (Owen Garvie)

And all those times we drank FAR too much Allesverloren and whisky. After we moved to Durban I used to bunk with Dave and Wendy in Fairlands a lot. The most amazing hospitality, great company and we used to sit up until the wee small hours yarning and nattering. And those afternoons in the 'Blue Goose', and evenings in 'Eat'.



Mathew and Dustin McDermott, Jeremy Dobson (centre), Dave McDermott (right) (Justin Bode)

Dave was always up for a long trip away, and one Zululand trip I will never forget. We used to stay at the Ndumu River Lodge when it was self-catering, and use this as a base to explore Zululand. There was one special night when David 'Scissorhands' McDermott was unveiled. We woke one morning after a long liquid evening to find the kitchen smeared everywhere with something brown. Turned out to be Bovril. Dave had got the midnight munchies and decided to make a sarmie. Unable to find the kitchen light switch he opened the fridge door for illumination. Finding an unsliced loaf of bread, some butter and a jar of Bovril, he set about making a Bovril sarmie.

Problem... no bread knife, but he did find a pair of scissors. No problem! Cut bread with scissors, spread butter and Bovril.. oh shit, dropped the Bovril. Lid off. No lights, but he did find the Bovril. Eventually, after getting it all over his hands and smearing it all over the place, sarmie was made, eaten, and off to bed.

What made Dave so charming was his way of telling a story like that with a humorous glint in his eye afterwards.



Dave McDermott and Steve Woodhall hiding in the grass... (Justin Bode)

We spent a lot of time in the field together whilst I was fine tuning the Field Guide. Dave used to tease me about my cry of 'Don't kill it!' when a butterfly turned up that I needed to photograph. He was always happy to let me get my shot before taking the specimen. But there was a certain day near Hlatikulu, looking for *Acraea satis*, when all we could find were males. Then a female flew over the car and landed on an *Acacia* bush next to the road. We all leapt out of the vehicle - all with nets except Woodhall, clutching his Nikon. As it turned out, I was closest to the insect and as I got it in focus, Dave said in my ear... 'If you f*ck this one up Woodhall you've ruined a friendship!' I didn't f*ck it up and that photo is on p.85 of the Field Guide, top right.



Party at The Dros, Roodepoort

Another memory is of the same trip when Dave surprised a black mamba sunning itself on a rock. It could have been serious, but all I can remember is Dave's cry of 'faaaaack' as he nimbly leapt backwards to avoid the angry reptile. I told him he could sing for the Drakensberg Boys' Choir with a falsetto like that...

Then there was the time I needed shots of Namaqualand butterflies - so off we went to Springbok and points west. 'Don't kill it!' was heard a lot. Dave and Phil were with me on this trip and became initiates of the hotel room studio shot, which I had adapted from Jo Joannou's teachings. Dave and I had forgotten our bush hats and ended up wearing a pair of 'schoolboy'- type caps Scott Bader had given me. Phil opined that we looked like two characters from 'Alice in Wonderland' - tweedledumb and tweedledumber. We racketed around Namaqualand and I ended up filling a lot of holes in the book, thanks to Dave and Phil. One day we were chasing *Thestor dryburghi* at Arkoep and Dave got something very nasty in his eye - we had to rush him to Garies hospital where the nurses looked after him. Phil kindly gave me his *dryburghi* specimen for photography. That one is on p.153, bottom right.



2005 SABCA Steering Committee



2008 SABCA Workshop

And right now. I have special memories of launching the field guide at Modderfontein Conservation Society in 2005. We'd moved to Durban by then so I was staying with Dave and Wendy. Dave was with me on what turned out to be one of the landmarks of my life. Whilst showing slides and launching the book to a bigger audience than I'd ever had before, my beloved Liverpool were playing in the UEFA Champions League final, and nearly losing. At the end of the function I saw all the messages from friends, and we were able to get back to Dave's place just in time to watch Liverpool win on penalties. And then celebrate afterwards.

I was thinking that this year was our year again, because we were in the final and later this year the second edition of the Field Guide is due to come out. So Dave was very much in my thoughts. We all know what happened in the final, so I was feeling sad about that. But nothing could have made me as sad as Andy Mayer's phone call this evening.

We have lost several LepSoc Africa stalwarts over recent years, but Dave's passing has hit me really hard.



Andy Mayer (left), Mathew, Dustin and Dave McDermott (Kevin Cockburn)



JP Niehaus, Dave McD, Steve Woodhall, Nolan Owen-Johnson, Kevin Cockburn (Kevin Cockburn)



Steve Woodhall, Andy Mayer, Dustin and Dave (right) (Kevin Cockburn)



Montage, compiled by Andrew Mayer, for Dave's memorial service

Mount Lico (Mark Williams)

Mark forwarded me a link to this article regarding Mount Lico ("Google" Mountain) in Mozambique, which may be of interest:

<https://www.techtimes.com/articles/231554/20180702/scientists-explore-secret-rainforest-hidden-in-volcanic-crater-in-africa.htm>

Yebo Gogga 2018

The annual Yebo Gogga exhibition was held at the Oppenheimer Life Sciences building, University of the Witwatersrand from Wednesday 9 May 2018 to Sunday 13 May.

Now in its 14th year, the exhibition of plants and animals attracts schools, young and old, nature enthusiasts and novices.

The exhibition aims to develop an appreciation for nature and allows visitors to engage with the specialists manning the exhibition stands, who are keen to share their knowledge of nature. This year's theme was "Deception", for which there are many examples in the field of Lepidoptera.

LepSoc Africa presented a stand, as we have done for several years.



Display tray compiled by Andre and Bennie Coetzer – one of the big attractions at Yebo Gogga 2018

The event was well supported and we managed to get volunteers to attend our exhibit for the duration of the expo.

Thanks to Andre and Bennie Coetzer, Jan Praet and Olivier Houe who helped out at various times and especially to Peter Webb who was the main driver on behalf of LSA.



Highveld Butterfly Club Meeting

The Highveld Butterfly Club (Gauteng, Free State and North West branch of LepSoc Africa), held a meeting at my place on Thursday 24 May.

Apart from the usual business, I presented a slide-show featuring April's Madagascar Workshop.

Butterfly Evening

The second Butterfly Evening of 2018 was held at the Roodepoort Country Club, Ruimsig on Thursday 10 May.

Hermann had a break from his "meet the family" talks: Andre and Bennie Coetzer led a group-discussion on the reasons for eye-spots on butterflies.

Stan Reynolds

Stan Reynolds was involved in a serious car accident recently. According to his wife, Chloë, he is recovering slowly, but the Reynolds will not be chasing after butterflies for some time. We wish Stan a full recovery and we hope to see him and Chloë again soon.

Middle East Conference (Jeremy Dobson)



Raimund Schutte and I attended the 3rd International Conference of Butterflies of the Middle East, held in Tel Aviv between 31 May and 2 June. The event had been organized by Dubi Benyamini and LepSoc Israel.

The Conference was well attended and interesting, with a multi-national list of speakers including Gerard Talavera (Spain), Steve Collins (Kenya), Reinart Feldman (Germany), Balint Zsolt (Hungary) and of course, a certain Jeremy Dobson from South Africa.

The first day was held at the newly-opened Steinhardt Museum at Tel Aviv University; delegates were shown around this superb facility by Prof. Tamar Dayan. The second day's venue was at the botanical gardens at Ramat HaNadiv, Zikhon Ya'akov, another really good location.

Unfortunately, the planned field-trip to Mt Hermon had to be cancelled due to poor weather. As an alternative, we took part in a butterfly-monitoring day on some coastal dunes near Hadera, between Tel Aviv and Haifa.



Levant Leopard (*Apharitis cilissa*)

LepSoc Israel had mobilized a fairly large group of volunteers to monitor and count specimens of Levant Leopard (*Apharitis cilissa*) a rare ant-associated Aphnaeinae butterfly that lives in this region.



Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv on a Thursday evening (equivalent to Friday night in SA) makes New York seem like Pietermaritzburg. The place has a good-natured and multicultural buzz - in addition it's got a pretty good beach.

Jerusalem

Our travel agent, Nurit Libchik, had put us up at the St Andrews guesthouse, which was a really good choice. The Celtic connection rather escaped me, but the accommodation was great and overlooked the 3000 year old city. Everything you see in Jerusalem strikes some part of your subconscious; the Wailing Wall, Mount of Olives, Gardens of Gethsemane...



Dead Sea

No trip to Israel would be complete without a visit to the Dead Sea. I was hoping to catch a couple of butterflies there, to see how Lepibase would react to -430m on the data labels, but unfortunately we didn't see many. Not too surprising, as this is one of the hottest and most arid places on earth. Raimund and I visited a relatively undisturbed area on the banks of the lake, before returning to the Kalia Beach resort, which was a good choice: plenty of curio shops and the lowest pub in the world - the mud on the bottom of the lake within the bay is supposed to have amazing youth-giving properties (it takes a while apparently).



Travel tip: don't splash the water in your eyes or attempt to taste it...



Guy Pe'er briefs the butterfly monitoring team at Hadera



Raimund Schutte and Josiane Goossens with the proprietor of an amazing cheese, wine and olive shop



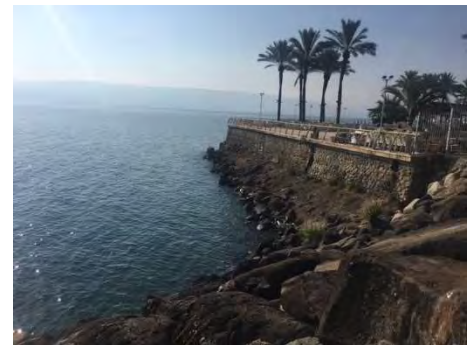
Walls of Jerusalem



Dubi took some of the delegates for dinner in Jaffa after the conference



Tel Aviv at night (Raimund Schutte)



Sea of Galilee at Tiberias

Some butterflies from Israel (Jeremy Dobson)



Levant Leopard
(*Apharitis cilissa*)
Hadera, Israel



Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*)
Nazareth, Israel
(Raimund Schutte)



Large Salmon Arab
(*Colotis fausta fausta*)
Tiberius, Israel



Bath White
(*Pontia daplidice*)
Hadera, Israel



Eastern Baton Blue
(*Pseudophilotes vicrama*)
Tiberius, Israel



Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*)
Hadera, Israel
(Raimund Schutte)



Large Wall Brown
(*Lasiommata maera*)
Jerusalem, Israel



Lesser-spotted Fritillary (*Melitaea trivia*)
Nazareth, Israel
(Raimund Schutte)



Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*)
Nazareth, Israel
(Raimund Schutte)



Little Tiger Blue
(*Taurucus balkanicus*)
Tiberius, Israel



Lesser Fiery Copper
(*Lycaena thersamon*)
Jerusalem, Israel



Southern Comma
(*Polygonia egea*)
Jerusalem, Israel

Visit to Mauritius in June 2018 (Peter Ward)

Or “How an early winter getaway from Johannesburg cold inadvertently turned into a butterfly trip”

During the 3rd African Lepidoptera Workshop in Madagascar in April, Ian Bampton kindly extended an invitation to Alison and me to visit him in Mauritius. It was a welcome suggestion, with a time limit, as Ian will only be in his grand abode until September this year. I liked the thought of a warm island getaway in the middle of Johannesburg winter and especially liked the idea as some measure of repayment for Alison for her ongoing and valued support of my Lepidoptery passion. Ian is a thoroughly agreeable person I am happy to spend time with, and I knew Alison would love his dry humour! I recall saying to Alison the fateful words that “It is primarily a chance to chill out and have a relaxed break, though I will take a butterfly net and see what’s flying”. Alison is always up for a good adventure and a pleasant beach getaway, so she jumped at the suggestion.



Peter Ward and Ian Bampton

We had to get the timing right to fit in with other family travels and before it got too chilly on the Island. Ian had said June was maybe getting too late for plentiful butterflies. But after all that was not the primary motivation, at least I don’t believe I thought it was. Still the earlier in June the better.

Ian asked me what butterflies I would like to target, and I said, “It’s not *per se* intended as a butterfly trip but I would like to get a *Papilio manlius* to complement the Swallowtails I had previously caught in Comoros and Madagascar”. He replied that we should be able to manage a male or two.



Common Tenrecs

So, we arrived on 5 June on a warm and sunny day, and quickly shed our Johannesburg winter woollies. Ian already had some treats in store. Waiting for me in his freezer were some beautiful *Erionota torus* (previously thought to be *E. thrax*) which he had bred out from an established colony in his banana trees in the garden. He had also netted, amongst others, some *Borbo borbonica zelleri*, *Catopsilia thauroma* and a *Leptomyrina phidias* in the garden for me in the preceding weeks before we arrived. This was a good start to a getaway that was not a butterfly collecting trip *per se* !

He also had another treat in store for us in the form of a couple of teenage Common Tenrecs that he fed each evening on his verandah. From this we quickly changed the terminology for our evening sundowner drinks time to: “Tenrec time”.

The following day was perfect weather and we arranged to meet some friends from Uganda for lunch at Frenchies café in Black River. Ali had discovered via Facebook after we landed, that they just happened to be on Mauritius for a getaway the same time as us.



Ian Bampton’s House at Le Morne, in the extreme South West of Mauritius



Ian started his role as a superb tour guide by taking us to see the local beaches on the way to lunch. As it turned out, this was the only time we would set foot on a beach during our beach holiday.

There were nets in the vehicle “just in case”, but as we walked down to the beach we spotted a *Euploea euphon* messing around under the coastal scrub and Ian quickly retrieved a net from the car so I could bag it!

Lunch at Frenchies was good fun, as it’s a very good relaxed venue which also showed me where the Black River Gorges access road was, as I had plans to swing a net there at some stage. We saw ANOTHER *Euploea euphon euphon* next to the restaurant, but I resisted the urge to make a spectacle out of myself in front of the other diners, so it survived the encounter.

We chilled around Ian’s sparkling pool the next day, while he fed us chilled coconut juice directly out of the coconut. Beautiful fresh bread with smoked marlin provided lunch. Not to mention his superb cooking skills and wonderful breakfast spreads including Black Pudding (which we are now hooked on!). Island life is hell!!!

In-between relaxing, I filled my boots with *Junonia rhadama* and the other species common around Ian’s house. Prior to our arrival Ian had arranged with Christine Griffiths that we could collect in and around the Ebony Forest Reserve above Chamarel. Ebony Forest Reserve is privately owned by Owen Griffiths (no relation to Christine) and he has embarked on a process of removing alien vegetation and replanting Ebony. Ian kept an eye out for the clouds at the ridge above Ebony Forest to time our visit for full sunshine.

The next day Ian and I set off for Ebony Forest, Ali having opted to stay home and relax when she heard there was a fair deal of scrambling up muddy paths involved in the visit. The Reception Centre is wonderful with a mini museum detailing what Mauritius used to be and a long list of species that no longer exist on the Island, the best known of which is the Dodo. There are various walks and the Ebony Forest Jeep leaves on the half-hour for various vantage points.

We took the Jeep to Sublime Point where Ian wanted to hang traps for *Charaxes cithaeron*, to see if this newcomer had reached this far on the island yet. The drive was quite an experience with about a dozen 3-point turns as the track wound up the mountainside. The view from Sublime point was....Sublime!



Location of Ian’s house at Le Morne, as viewed from Sublime Point

The first thing Ian netted as he went to hang a trap was *Pyrrhiades pansa* (previously known as *Coeliades ernesti*). Then *Eagris sabadius*. After hanging the trap, we proceeded along the steep and slippery path through the forest to Piton Canot some 140 metres higher up the path. Stopping to hang traps along the way we fell foul of swarms of mosquitoes. We also had good sightings of the Mauritian Paradise Flycatcher in the forested areas. The view at the top was spectacular, but somehow the peak was always in cloud shadow though all around us was sunny. In the one or two sunny spells over the next couple of hours of lurking balefully, we saw hilltopping *Papilio manlius* but, alas, they evaded capture. We clambered down and stopped at the Sublime Point snack bar for some delicious samoosas, before collecting the last trap (all empty except for *Heteropsis narcissus*) and walking back down to the Reception Centre where we had parked. Ian felt this was our best chance of capturing the endemic *Neptis frobena* and he was again proved to be right.

Next day Ian had some admin to do and Ali and I borrowed his vehicle to go to Black River as I wanted to try and find the spot where Tomasz Prycz had found *Hypolimnas anthedon drucei* in December 2016. As we were driving along I spotted 2 crossing the road. I also THOUGHT I saw a female *Charaxes cithaeron* but could not be sure as I was driving a vehicle I was not used to along an extremely narrow road. We found a place to turn and went back to the spot of the sightings and found a little track leading off toward the river that we could pull into. The first thing we caught was *Hypolimnas anthedon drucei*! After about an hour the weather closed in and Ali and I went back to Ian's house, not having a confirmed sighting of *Charaxes cithaeron*. We decided traps needed to be hung there to try and verify the sighting.



Charaxes cithaeron

So the next day we set traps on our way to visit some of Ian's friends at St Antoine (in the North of the Island). On the way back late that afternoon there was a female *Charaxes cithaeron* in one of the traps. We also sighted more *Hypolimnas anthedon drucei*.

The following week Ian had arranged for us to spend two nights at a hunting lodge on property owned by Owen Griffiths in the East of the island at Vallée de l'Est. It was a lovely trip and on the way, Ian took us to Owen's La Vanille Nature Park where he has 5ha of park with animals and a very successful breeding program for Aldabra tortoises.



Alison, Peter and friend



Ian and Aldabra Tortoise



The lodge from Mont Camizard

At the gate to Owen's property we had to wait for the gate to be unlocked, but spent the time looking for any butterflies that were on the wing. Not much, as the weather was cool, but we had a lovely sighting of the indigenous Echo Parakeet which was foraging on fruit. The Hunting lodge was spectacular with sweeping views of the ocean. We saw a *Papilio manlius* zooming overhead as we were unpacking the vehicle. But never saw it again... We did however have good sightings of the endangered Mauritian Kestrel and the spectacular White-tailed Tropicbird.

The property is also well-stocked with Java deer and we had several sightings of Wild Boar.

It was a little chillier than down at the coast which was a welcome relief from the humidity. The weather held nicely for our 2 days and we climbed Mont Camizard where we found several *Amauris phoedon* and *Vanesa cardui* (which is rare on Mauritius).

Ian is definitely missing his calling as a Tour Guide and Ambassador for Mauritius!!





Alison at Chamarel Falls

On our return to Le Morne, we spent more time at Chamarel where we visited the spectacular Chamarel Falls, the 7-Coloured Earths and hung traps at Black River and caught more *Charaxes cithaeron* and *Hypolimnas anthedon drucei*.

By this stage I had forgotten that butterflies were supposed to be a side-line on a tropical island getaway and embarked on keeping detailed lists of what we saw and caught at each location as well as the relative numbers of species seen at each location.

But that's a subject for a properly laid-out paper, as a follow-up to James Lawrence's report from October 2015 and Tomasz Prycz's survey from December 2016.

All too soon our Island sojourn came to an end (alas without netting *Papilio manlius*) and we are still trying to get over the shock of returning to Johannesburg winter.

As our plane took off on the way back Ali said to me: "Look out there; there are actually beaches on Mauritius....". With a shock it dawned on me that I had not earned the brownie points I had intended as our trip had become a fully-fledged butterfly survey.....

With Thanks:

- To Alison, my ever-understanding wife and always a good sport and support for my Butterfly obsession. You are the BEST!!
- To Ian, for being the best host, cook and guide ever and darn good company to boot! For putting up with our intrusion in his life and catering to all of our whims. The slow-cooked leg of Wild Boar and the Deer Sirloin will be remembered fondly.
- To Christine Griffiths, for arranging for us to collect at Ebony Forest and our stay and collecting at Vallée de l'Est.
- To Owen Griffiths, for permission to collect on his properties.

How to Write a Report (Alan Gardiner)

Alan - with some colleagues of his from the Southern African Wildlife College - has compiled a report outlining how to write reports in a clear and systematic way.

I believe the document would be of benefit to anyone who is unfamiliar with writing reports, but would probably be worthwhile reading for regular report-writers.

A link is attached here:

[How to Write a Report](#)

Italy (Jeremy Dobson)

Following the Middle East Conference, I met up with Colleen in Rome for an Italian holiday.

Rome and Florence

We did the usual tourist thing in Rome and Florence, visiting several sites including the Vatican Museum, Colosseum and Forum (Rome) and the Accademia Museum in Florence, which contains Michelangelo's statue of David. All washed down with generous helpings of Italian ice-cream (Gelato) and Prosecco.



Florence

Positano, Capri and Sentiero degli Dei

We stayed at a guesthouse in Montepertuso which was great, although the steps from our accommodation to the beach at Positano would have concerned an Olympic athlete.

There is a magnificent coastal path connecting Bomerano and Positano; the Sentiero degli Dei (Path of the Gods). There were loads of butterflies on this trail - nothing too special, although I saw several Ilex Hairstreaks (*Satyrium ilicis*), which were new to me. We took a boat trip along the Amalfi Coast and visited Capri, which is spectacular.



Positano



Capri



Ilex Hairstreak (*Satyrium ilicis*)

Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius

Pompeii is well worth a visit if you are in the Naples area. The size, layout and detail of the 2000 year old city is impressive; there are also some rather disturbing plaster-casts of human casualties, made from cavities located in the layer of ash that once covered the city.

Vesuvius, for all its faults, is a pretty good hill-top - I had my first sighting of the Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphichlides podalirius*) here. The volcano had its last eruption in 1944 and is overdue for another one, which, given that in excess of 3-million people live in the immediate area, would be catastrophic.

La Spezia and Sentiero Cinque Terre

Another fantastic coastal path is the Sentiero Cinque Terre, linking several towns on the Italian Riviera.

As for Positano, I don't remember seeing anything rare, although the lovely yellow and orange Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*) were common.



Cleopatra (*Gonepteryx cleopatra*)



Vernazza on the Sentiero Cinque Terre

American tourists were present in large numbers in both Israel and Italy, which is probably a positive reflection of the relative safety of both countries. Many Americans appear to recite - at high volume - every thought that enters their head. This can be a bit disconcerting, until one realizes that it is not conversation: the words are often random or without context; also, this thought-commentary is largely unaffected by anything you may say in reply. If, as I suspect, the condition is completely involuntary, it at least shows that Americans are, in the words of Douglas Adams, "mostly harmless".

Food

The food in Italy was generally great. Strangely, Italian waiters (throughout the country) have a tendency to become less attentive the longer the evening wears on. Getting a bill is often almost impossible. This represents a strong contrast, in my experience, to South African restaurants.

Dolomites

We spent a few days in the Dolomites, which contain some magnificent scenery.

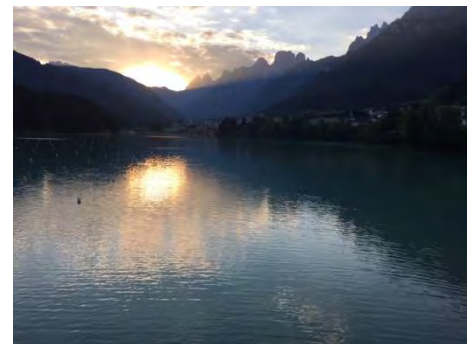
The justly famous (and very crowded) Tre Cime di Lavitano hike, is fantastic; the butterflies unfortunately weren't as impressive; a couple Greylings and large Clouded Yellows (that I couldn't get close to), otherwise common Alpine stuff, such as the Dewy Ringlet (*Erebia pandrose*). Another hike, to the extraordinary, turquoise Lago di Sorapis yielded sightings of Woodland Brown (*Lopinga achine*), White Admiral (*Limenitis camilla*), Titania's Fritillary (*Clossiana titania*), Pearly Heath (*Coenonympha arcania*) and Mountain Green-veined Whites (*Artogeia ergane*).



Tre Cime di Lavitano



Lago di Sorapis



Auronzo di Cadore

Venice and Verona

No butterflies, but a trip to Italy wouldn't be complete without a Gondola ride in Venice.

On the drive back to Rome, I took a detour south of Bologna and found a few nice butterflies in this area, such as the Great Banded Grayling (*Kanetisa circe*).



Some butterflies from Italy (Jeremy Dobson)



Mazarine Blue
(*Cyaniris semiargus*)
Auronzo di Cadore



Black-veined White
(*Aporia crataegi*)
Auronzo di Cadore



Clouded Yellow
(*Colias croceus*)
Auronzo di Cadore



Brown Argus
(*Aricia agestis*)
Bologna



Titiania's Fritillary
(*Clossiana titania*)
Lago di Sorapis



Silver Washed Fritillary
(*Argynnis paphia*)
Sentiero Cinque Terre



Alpine Heath
(*Coenonympha gardetta*)
Lago di Sorapis



Large Skipper
(*Ochlodes sylvanus*)
Auronzo di Cadore



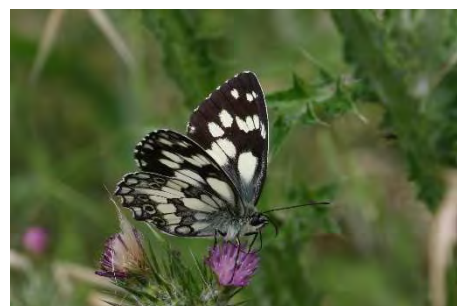
Heath Fritillary
(*Melitaea athalia*)
Auronzo di Cadore



Peacock
(*Inachis io*)
Bologna



Pearly Heath
(*Coenonympha arcania*)
Auronzo di Cadore



Marbled White
(*Melanargia galathea*)
Sentiero degli Dei

Permits

Peter Ward has been appointed as LepSoc Africa's Permit Officer, responsible for coordinating research permits nationally. LSA's long term aim is to acquire and administer research permits for all SA Provinces: LepSoc Africa members may then apply to LSA for permits within the areas they wish to visit.

We are still some way from achieving this goal, but as a further step Peter Ward and I visited Mpumalanga Parks in Nelspruit on 18 May. We set out our objectives and hopefully some progress is being made...

Madagascar (Thomas Baron)

LepSoc Africa hosted April's Afrotropical Lepidoptera Workshop in Madagascar.

The University of Antananarivo were our research partners and our research permit was conditional on a selection of lepidoptera specimens being lodged with the University.

Thomas Baron has forwarded this photo of him and Lukasz Przybylowicz presenting a tray to Fumiko Andrianaharison (centre).



Brenton Blue Trust (Dave Edge)

April's Brenton Blue newsletter can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qjcz2pmnl0tw5ss/2018.04.30%20Brenton%20Blue%20News.pdf?dl=0>

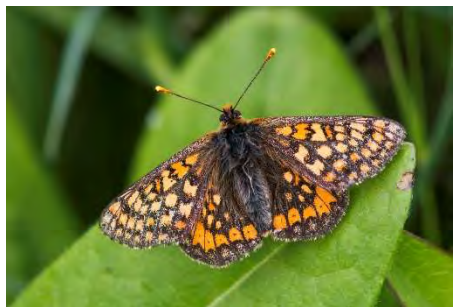
Despite regular searching by Hanna and Dave Edge, no *Orachrysops niobe* have been seen in 2018. The vegetation in the reserve appears to be recovering well, although none of the host ants, *Camponotus baynei* have been found since the fire.

England in June (Steve Woodhall)

Steve was in the UK in June. See some photos below:



Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*)
Lincolnshire, England
Steve Woodhall



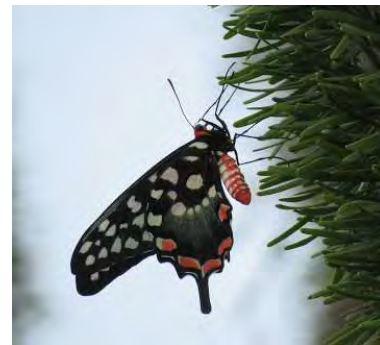
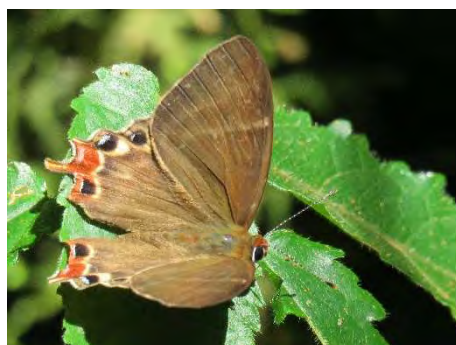
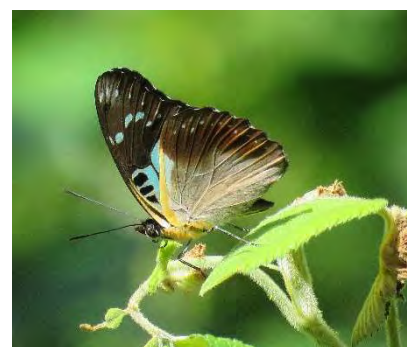
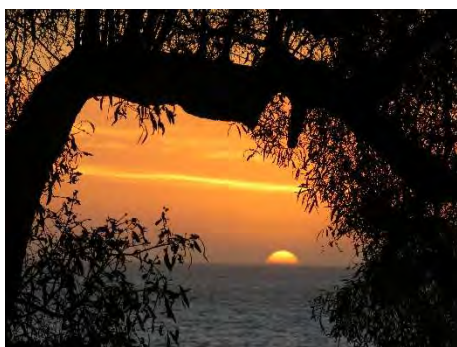
Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*)
Lincolnshire, England
Steve Woodhall



Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*)
Lincolnshire, England
Steve Woodhall

Madagascar photos (Ora Nativ)

Some more photos from the recent Madagascar Lepidoptera Workshop, submitted by Ora Nativ of LepSoc Israel.



Updated LepSoc Africa Website

A reminder that the Website of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa (<http://lepsocafrika.org/>) has been updated to include an online shopping-cart.

From the Home page, select the **Publications** tab at the top of the page.

Select **Shop** near the top-right of this page.

Select what you wish to purchase from the numerous books and back-issues of *Metamorphosis* contained on this page.

Select the **Cart and Checkout** tab at the top of the page.

Once you are happy press **Go to Checkout**, select the delivery method that you require and **Place Order!**

Thanks to Dave and Hanna for helping to set this up; it looks easy to use and a really useful and long overdue addition to the benefits available to LepSoc Africa members.

Margate Pipeline (Adrian Armstrong)

Report on a visit to Sea Slopes and Uplands at Margate to walk the water pipeline route and determine the areas along it which are especially sensitive to disturbance from a biodiversity perspective

By Adrian J. Armstrong, Animal Scientist (Herpetofauna & Invertebrates), Biodiversity Research and Assessment Division, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.

Animal Scientist (Herpetofauna & Invertebrates) Dr Adrian Armstrong met with Mr Nikhil Hurribunce and Mr Rajen Singh at the Sea Slopes and Uplands properties in Margate to discuss the water pipeline route in terms of which areas are especially sensitive to disturbance in that they are or potentially could be habitat of Endangered butterfly species. Nikhil and I walked the pipeline route that Rajen's staff were flagging with danger tape, and walked back along Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's second choice route (see the light purple line on Figure 1; the first choice route was along the boundary delimited by the tar roads). Only two especially sensitive areas were encountered along the water pipeline route permitted by the Environmental Authorisation, indicated roughly by the yellow and orange polygons, respectively (Figure 1).

The first sensitive area (yellow polygon) is a rocky ridge that has to be traversed by the pipeline. Here, rock will have to be broken up and termite mounds and bulbs disturbed or destroyed. However, this disturbance may be better than the other potentially feasible option of moving the alignment of the pipeline to the bottom end of the ridge (immediately north-east of the polygon). Here the rocky ridge seems more broken at the surface, but that area appears to be potentially suitable habitat for the Endangered White-blotched Ketsi Blue butterfly *Lepidochrysops ketsi leucomacula*.

The second sensitive area is where the route passes through the top end of the patch of gum trees (orange polygon). Here, boulders are situated that could become habitat for the Endangered Whitish Amakoza Rocksitter butterfly *Durbania amakosa albescens* after removal of the gum trees. The solution could be to move the pipeline alignment to the north-east to an alignment indicated roughly by the green line.

The walk back along the track from the tar road near the existing northern reservoir to the existing two reservoirs to the south-east indicated that this would be the best route for the pipeline in terms of cost and least disruption to important butterfly habitat.

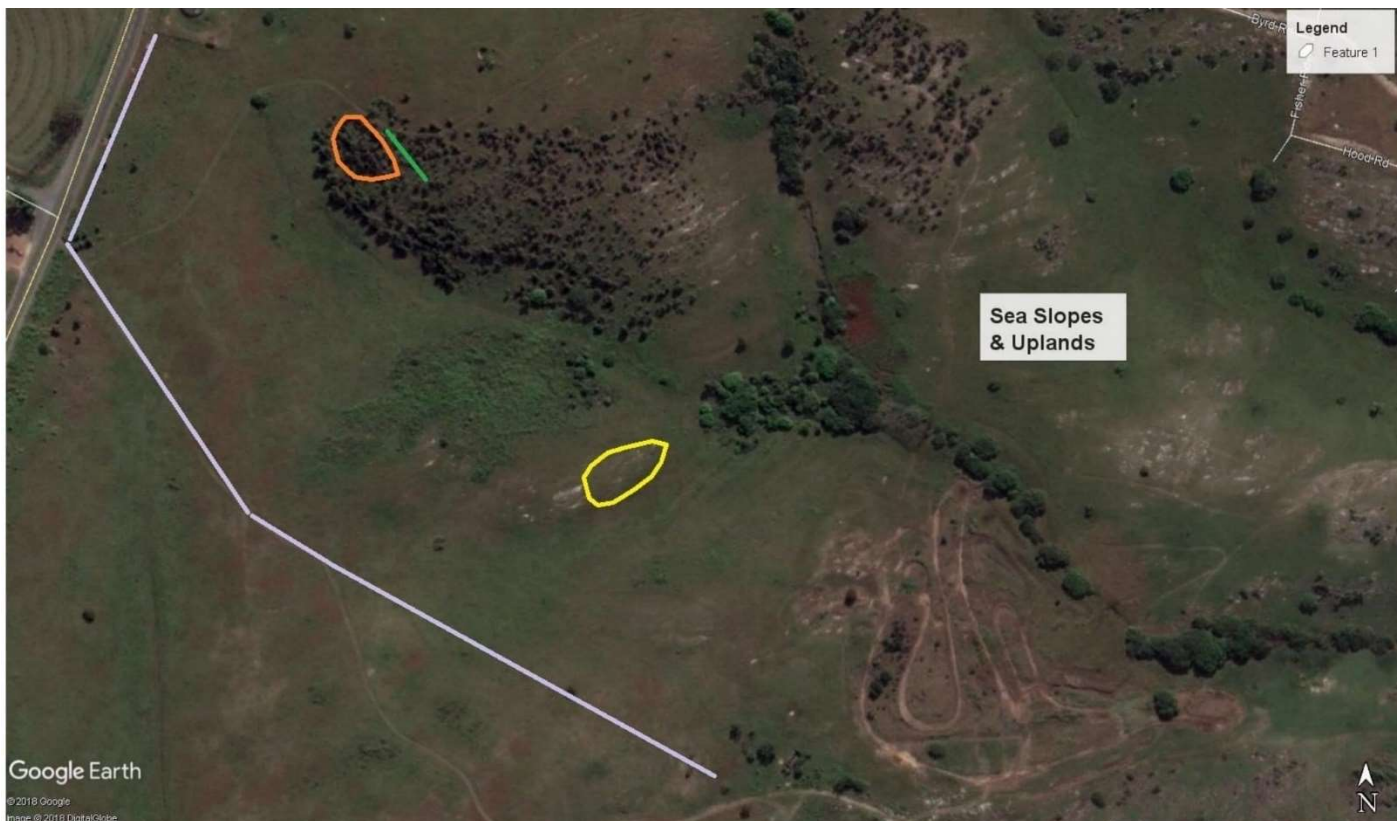


Figure 1

Sensitive areas along the water pipeline route as permitted by the Environmental Authorisation. The yellow polygon indicates the region of the rocky ridge through which the pipeline will probably have to pass. The orange polygon indicates the area of boulders under the gum trees that might become habitat for the Endangered Whitish *Amakoza Rocksitter* butterfly *Durbania amakosa albescens* after removal of the trees. The green line indicates approximately where realignment of the pipeline route could be done. The light purple line roughly indicates the probable best route for the alignment of the water pipe with regards to protecting important butterfly habitat and cost of laying the pipeline

Adrian has put together a provisional list of management actions for the area and would welcome comments or suggestions:

- 1) Fire management – rotational burning of a third to half the site to enable a mosaic of burnt and unburnt grassland (2 to 3 years old, to provide cover for Rocksitter larvae, etc.) to occur on the site every year. Burning should be done in mid to late winter when the larvae or pupae are protected (either in ants' nests or under rocks).
- 2) Alien plant control – *Chromolaena odorata* (biocontrol, foliar herbicide treatment with aquatic-friendly surfactant?); gums (cut stump herbicide treatment?)
- 3) Introduction of bulk grazers – zebra?
- 4) Introduction of selective grazers and mixed feeders – reedbuck, duiker, bushbuck?
- 5) Fencing of the boundary to keep dogs out and antelope in.
- 6) Walking trails?
- 7) Management committee – Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife?, LepSoc Africa?, KZN Conservancies?

Mkuze and Loding (Andre Coetzer)

Elmé and I visited Sodwana at the end of April for a diving trip. Just as well that it was for diving, because it rained so much that the only butterflies that were out were the butterfly fish! On the way back we stopped at Mkuze Game reserve. By then the weather had cleared a bit and the butterflies were out in full force. Nothing really rare was seen, but some species like the Topaz Arab (*Colotis calais*), Veined Arab (*Colotis vesta*) and Vine-leaf Vagrant (*Eronia cleodora*) were extremely common and gave quite a show.



Topaz Arab (*Colotis calais*)
Mkuze (Andre Coetzer)



Sooty Blue (*Zizeeria knysna*)
Loding (Andre Coetzer)

My dad and I went to Loding in mid-May, to search for the elusive (read non-existing) *Colotis celimene*. Unfortunately there were none to be found, but we still had an enjoyable day out in the field. Most of the tips were out in full force, and there were ample photographic opportunities.



Veined Arab (*Colotis vesta*)
Mkuze (Andre Coetzer)

Photos for "Moths of Africa" book (Dirk Stadie)

Dirk Stadie (whom those of you who attended the Madagascar Lepidoptera Workshop will remember) and Hermann Hacker are working on the first Volume of "Moths of Africa", which is in its final stages. Dirk urgently requires some good representative pictures of various habitats as follows:

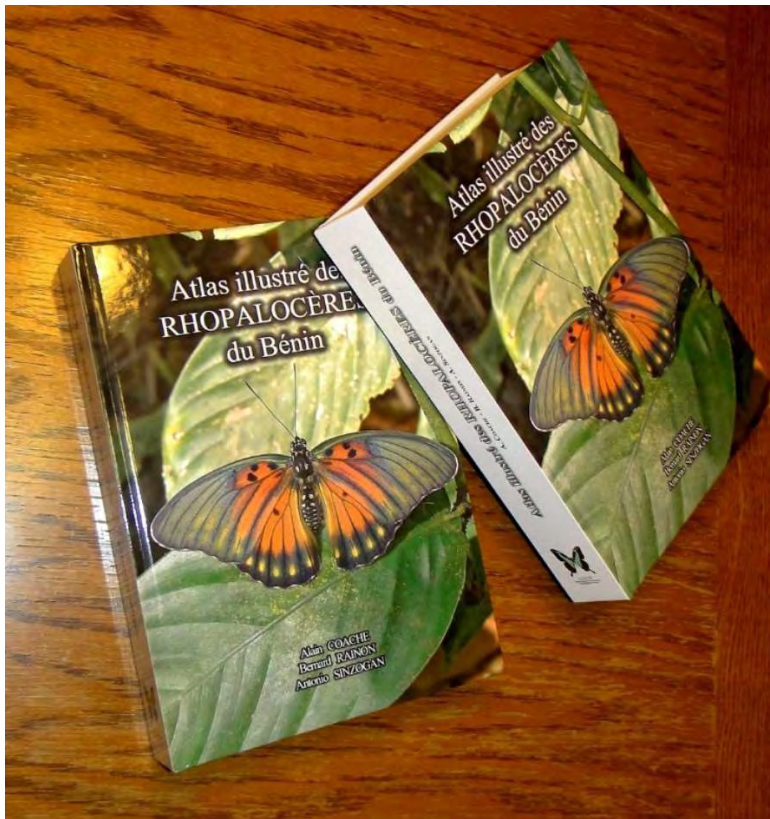
- 1/. Eastern Rift Forest and Alpine moorland zone
 - 1a. East African Montane Forests
 - 1b. East African Alpine Moorlands
 - 1c. Eastern Arc Forests
 - 1d. Southern Rift Montane Forest-Grassland Mosaic
- 2/. South-central African Miombo and Mopane Woodland Zone
 - 2a. Central Zambezian Miombo Woodlands (Itigi-Sumbu Thickets)
 - 2b. Eastern Miombo Woodlands
 - 2c. Angolan Miombo Woodlands
 - 2d. Southern Miombo Woodlands
 - 2e. Zambezian and Mopane Woodlands (Zambezi Flooded Grassland)
 - 2f. Western Zambezian Grasslands.

If you are able to assist, please contact Dirk at Dirk.Stadie@t-online.de

Any contributions will be acknowledged in the book.

BOOKS

Butterflies of Benin



As noted in March's edition of ABN, Alain Coache has produced an Atlas of the Butterflies of Benin.

The book, *Atlas illustré des Rhopalocères du Bénin*, was recently awarded a prize by SEF (Société Entomologique de France), for the best book on butterflies for 2017.

The book is dedicated to Torben B Larsen with forewords from Steve Collins and Szabolcs Sáfaián; it took ten years to produce and it weighs more than 3 kg!

All 470 Benin butterfly species are represented, with full size images of male and female upper sides and undersides, including detailed distribution maps.

This book is available from the author at:



alain.coache@gmail.com

Steve Woodhall's Butterfly App

A reminder that Steve Woodhall's Butterfly App "*Woodhall's Butterflies of South Africa*" is now available and can be purchased for R290.

An update has been released. PLEASE back up your lists before you update; save your lists as Excel files, using the "Export and Email My List" button.

The App can be bought from the following sources:

Google Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.mydigitalearth.butterfliesofsouthafrica>

iTunes:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/woodhalls-butterflies-rsa/id1293695330?mt=8>



UPCOMING EVENTS

LepSoc Africa Conference and AGM

The KZN branch of LSA are organizing this year's Conference, which will be held at Hermannsburg School, Greytown, on 22 and 23 September.

Please contact Kevin Cockburn (pidelta@gom.co.za) or Stella (stellacockburn@gmail.com) if you wish to attend, or are able to present a paper at the Conference. Kevin is trying to finalize accommodation and costs, so please get back to him as soon as possible.

Sunday 24 September is a holiday, so you might wish to add on a day or two to your trip and see a few of the special KZN Midlands butterflies that should be flying at this time.



LepSoc Conference 2018
Lepidopterists' Society of Africa
35 years of science and good fun!
<http://www.lepsocafrika.org/>
1983-2018 Leaders in Citizen Science - please book and confirm soon!

Venue:
Hermannsburg School
KZN Midlands
South Africa
hmb.school.co.za


Hermannsburg


LepSoc
AFRICA



Butterfly Evening

The next Butterfly evening will be held on Thursday 12 July; 18h30 for 19h00.

This will continue Hermann's "meet the family" program, introducing LepSoc Africa members to the amazing diversity of Butterflies (Lepidoptera).

The cost is R170 per person (the cost has risen as Hermann is no longer subsidizing the event), which includes dinner. Even at the new price, these evenings are great and should not be missed!

Butterfly Evenings are held at Ruimsig Country Club, Roodepoort, on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month – please diarize!

Highveld Butterfly Club (Jan Praet)

Jan has listed the remaining HBC activities for 2018 (below); Please note!

MONTH	DATE	EVENT	DETAILS
JULY	12 Jul 2018	Butterfly Evening	To be decided
	26 Jul 2018	Public Evening Talk 6	A collection of unique RSA Butterflies and their stories (collectors invited to make a unique tray of specimens for display)
AUGUST	TBC		
SEPTEMBER	TBC		
	13 Sep 2018	Highveld Butterfly Club Meeting	Conference planning
OCTOBER	TBC		
	22 - 23 Sep 2018	Annual Conference	Midlands
NOVEMBER	TBC		
DECEMBER	TBC		
	7 Dec 2018	Year close-off social event	Mandatory attendance for Martin, Andy and Johan

Verloren Valei (James van den Heever)

Guided butterfly field trip to Verloren Valei Nature Reserve



Warren's Blue (L) and Clark's Lost Widow (R), both Verloren Valei 'specials'

Jeremy Dobson, President of the Lepidopterists' Society of Africa, assisted by Andre Coetzer and Mark Williams, will be your guides on this trip in search of summer butterflies of Verloren Valei, north-east of Dullstroom in Mpumalanga.

Verloren Valei is an internationally important wetland and the source of four rivers. It is also renowned for its abundant wild orchid population, and is home to several high-altitude butterfly species. Of special note are two species that have only been recorded on this reserve: Warren's Blue and Clark's Lost Widow/ Verloren Valei Bergweduwee.

Other possible sightings might include the Transvaal Copper, Tite's Copper, Bush Scarlet, Lydenburg Opal, Common Meadow Blue, Henning's Black-Eye, Basuto Skolly, Table Mountain Beauty, Blue Pansy, Gaudy Commodore and Restless Blue, to name just a few.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity to visit this *closed* reserve, a pristine grassland environment of great beauty, in the company of experts.

Date: 8 December (09h00 until approximately 14h00, depending on weather)

Price: R200 per person (covers entrance to the reserve); R150 for Friends of Verloren Valei and Members of LepSoc Africa.

Booking is essential, and numbers are limited. Much of the day will be spent walking on uneven ground, so participants should be fairly fit and mobile—contact jamesh@tiscali.co.za to reserve your place.

COLLECTORS CORNER

I forgot to include contact details for **Owen Garvie** in May's newsletter:

Email owen.garvie@mweb.co.za

Mobile +27(0)83 262 3841

Landline +27(0)117946375

Owen will consider selling the entire collection for R100 000 (US\$8,300), as follows:

R50 000 for the butterfly specimens

R50 000 for the 11 cabinets.



This collection has been carefully accumulated over 40+ years and comprises a systematic collection of South African species, as well as, some specimens collected in Zimbabwe. Each specimen is labelled, providing information about the region, locality and date collected. This information, together with the co-ordinates of each specimen in the collection, has been catalogued and recorded in a LepiDops 4.04 (version 2009) software database for easy access and reference purposes. This database is an integral part of the collection and will be provided freely to the purchaser of the collection.

The collection is housed in 11 wooden cabinets with each cabinet having 8 or 9 glass-topped drawers, a total of 97 drawers. The glass top on each drawer is easy to remove, providing access to the butterfly specimens, yet allowing effective protection and curatorship.

Owen also has the following list of books for sale:

BUTTERFLY BOOKS FOR SALE	PRICE
South African Red Data Book- Butterflies. South African National Scientific Programmes Report No. 158. by Stephen F. Henning and Graham A. Henning (1989), 175pp	R300
Classification and Checklist of species of Lepidoptera recorded in Southern Africa. by L.Vari, D.M. Kroon (2002), 384pp	R250
South African Red Data Book- butterflies. SANBI Biodiversity Series 13. by G. A. Henning, R.F. Terblanche and J.B. Ball (Editors) (2009), 158pp.	R350
Conservation Assessment of Butterflies of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland: Red List and Atlas. Edited by: S. Mecenero, J.B. Ball, D.A. Edge, M.L. Hamer, G.A. Henning, M. Kruger, E.L. L. Pringle, R.F. Terblanche and M.C. Williams (2013) 676pp	R750

The above collection and books can be viewed by appointment at his home address - Unit 794 Quinta Do Lago, 8 Elnita Ave, Northwold, Randburg, Gauteng, South Africa.

Butterfly identification plates (Mark Williams)

Mark has prepared some plates from last November's Gabon trip...

SPECTACULAR GABONESE FORESTERS (Specimens – Jeremy Dobson. Images – Mark Williams)



Justicia Themis Forester (*Euphaedra justicia*). Male.



Limbourg's Forester (*Euphaedra limbourgi*). Male.



Hewitson's Pink Forester (*Euphaedra hewitsoni*). Female.



Equatorial Mimic Forester (*Euphaedra imitans*). Female.



Janetta Themis Forester (*Euphaedra janetta remota*). Female.



Widespread Forester (*Euphaedra medon celestis*). Male.



Pearl-edged Ceres Forester (*Euphaedra margaritifera*). Male.

Butterfly Index (Jeremy Dobson)

At the suggestion of Les Underhill (LepiMAP / ADU), LepSoc Africa has initiated a Butterfly Abundance Index, which commenced in January this year.

We will take species species-counts from various areas and relate this to an abundance factor; these factors will be adjusted depending on the biome within which the lists were taken: for example 30 species in lowveld savanna might have a similar rating to 5 species in the Karoo.

Steve Woodhall's Butterfly App is a great way of capturing lists while you are in the field.

Monthly provincial "scores" will be included in this newsletter and, after a bit of trial and error (and retrospective adjustments), I believe we will end up with a useful tool for measuring relative butterfly abundance country wide.

Please try and support this initiative! I believe that, in due course, we will have a very interesting picture regarding both monthly and annual butterfly abundances.

Biome	Factor
Lowveld Savanna or Forest (L.S.)	100%
Highveld Savanna (H.S.)	60%
Highveld Grassland (H.G.)	40%
Arid Savanna (A.S.)	20%
Karoo (K)	20%
Fynbos (F)	20%
Afromontane Forest (A.M.)	40%

ABUNDANCE INDEX		NUMBER OF SPECIES RECORDED FROM A SINGLE LOCALITY IN A SINGLE DAY						
		BIOME						
		Lowveld Savanna or Forest (L.S.)	Highveld Savanna (H.S.)	Highveld Grassland (H.G.)	Arid Savanna (A.S.)	Karoo (K)	Fynbos (F)	Afromontane Forest (A.F.)
5	Excellent	>80	>48	>32	>16	>16	>16	>32
4	Good	56 to 80	34 to 48	23 to 32	12 to 16	12 to 16	12 to 16	23 to 32
3	Average	31 to 55	19 to 33	13 to 22	7 to 11	7 to 11	7 to 11	13 to 22
2	Poor	6 to 30	4 to 18	3 to 12	2 to 6	2 to 6	2 to 6	3 to 12
1	Very Poor	≤5	≤3	≤2	≤1	≤1	≤1	≤2
0	No Data							

Methodology

1/. Each Province will receive a monthly rating between 1 and 5 (Lesotho and Swaziland are included as Provinces)

2/. The rating will be based on the highest recorded individual monthly species-count within the province under consideration. The numbers are based on representatives of the Papilionoidea superfamily (traditional butterflies); should lists of all Lepidoptera encountered at a locality be submitted, the number will be divided by 10.

3/. In instances where data is acquired from several biomes within a Province, the highest rating will be used. Annual prizes will be awarded to the most active provincial representatives!

Objectives

1/. To monitor long term trends in butterfly abundance throughout South Africa

2/. To compare seasonal and annual abundance indexes

Data – May and June:

PROVINCE	2018									
	MAY					JUN				
	Index	Score	Locality	Biome	Observer	Index	Score	Locality	Biome	Observer
Gauteng	3	13	Suikerbosrand	H.G.	Jeremy Dobson	2	10	St Stithians	H.G.	Jeremy Dobson
KwaZulu-Natal	3	55	Ilanda Wilds	L.S.	Steve Woodhall	4	63	Harold Johnson	L.S.	Steve Woodhall
Limpopo	0					0				
Mpumalanga	5	53	Loding	H.S.	Jeremy Dobson	0				
Western Cape	0					0				
Eastern Cape	0					0				
Northern Cape	0					0				
North West	0					0				
Free State	0					0				
Lesotho	0					0				
Swaziland	0					0				

Summarized Butterfly Index Data – 2018:

PROVINCE	2018 - SUMMARY											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Gauteng	2	2	2	3	3	2						
KwaZulu-Natal	2	3	2	3	3	4						
Limpopo	2	0	4	0	0	0						
Mpumalanga	2	3	5	0	5	0						
Western Cape	0	0	5	0	0	0						
Eastern Cape	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Northern Cape	0	0	2	0	0	0						
North West	0	0	4	0	0	0						
Free State	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Lesotho	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Swaziland	0	0	0	0	0	0						

TRAWLING THE ARCHIVES...

We reproduce historical pieces from Metamorphosis. I've included an article by Dave McDermott in this edition...

Langkawi Island: Haven for exotic butterflies and Russian bikinis ...

By Dave Mc Dermot

Having dismantled my net and made up a self-tapping screw-secured system of short poles that also fitted into my suitcase, along with a heap of shorts and light shirts, it was time to head for OR Tambo International Airport for a date with Malaysian Airways.

Destination? Langkawi, an archipelago of 104 islands lying on the north-western coast of Peninsular Malaysia where the Strait of Malacca meets the waters of the Andaman Sea. Long-suffering non-lepidopterist wife Wendy and good friend Carl van Zyl and his wife Stephanie made up the party and after 12 hours of flying we landed in paradise, having also been joined at Kuala Lumpur Airport by Wendy's brother Ian and his family from Perth, Australia.

Soon we were ensconced in air-conditioned luxury at the Holiday Villa Beach Resort & Spa near Pantai Cenang in the south-western portion of the island. Our rooms overlooked stunning gardens containing a huge variety of palms, multiple shades of bougainvillea and hibiscus, and numerous tropical plants with leaves of myriad hues.

Step outside away from the air conditioning and the heat and humidity were like walking into a brick wall. Despite the discomfort (shirt doesn't stay crisp and dry for long) I felt that I had a good chance of seeing stunning butterflies at various spots Johannesburg's local resident with excellent knowledge of Malaysian lepidoptera, Dave Haggett, had kindly described to me on the phone before we departed.

An instinct for self-preservation warned me that for the first three days at least, I would have to curb the desire to head off for the nearest patch of forest. Dutifully lying on the beach reading 'Spud' (a delightfully funny tale describing life at one of South Africa's premier private boarding schools for boys) my attention was occasionally distracted by the odd butterfly, among them various Crows (*Euploea*) some of them of really massive proportions, various Tigers (*Danaus* species) and the odd swordtail (*Graphium doson* and *sarpedon*).

A few reconnaissance forays through the tree-covered hillocks and bush near the hotel, including some swampy low-lying areas, proved very disappointing, revealing only the local *Belenois* equivalent, some *Junonias* that looked remarkably like the *lavinia* found in the US and the odd *Euploea*.

So I engineered a visit to the Gunung Mat Cincang, a massive, thickly forested mountain rising to 700m. A most efficient cable car system ferried one from the bottom over the forest canopy and presented most spectacular views of the archipelago and the main Island. There were a few butterflies at the top, far fewer than I expected. However, I was able to observe, but could not get close enough to photograph, a stunning, very large lycaenid whose wingspan was probably 6cm. A matt golden underside with darker brown markings and prominent tails and an upper side of the most stunning metallic green, very much like the green of *Lepidochrysops ruthica*! Dave Haggett had warned me about such large lycaenids yet its appearance still made a huge impact.

From the cable car we could see the Tulaga Tujuh (Seven Wells) waterfalls, a place that Dave told me was a must. I did not take a net with me on the walk (some 900 or so steep steps to the first well, where children slide down the rocks, had us sweating profusely). I left my companions cooling off in the pools of water and took the path to the right into the forest as instructed by Dave. It was most disappointing. Apart from a few of the common swallowtails I saw a pair of the totally

dimorphic *Lexias dirtea*, male somewhat stunning in livery of black with metallic blue band on the outer margin of the hindwings and the female in dark brown, covered with bright yellow spots and streaks. Apart from a few Giant Orange Tips (*Hebomoia glaucippe*), some members of the *Delias* genus of pierids with stunning red and orange marked undersides and a large swallowtail resembling *Papilio helenus*, not much was flying.

Near the car park at Seven Wells I did, however, find a strangely coloured Judy (*Abisara*), which possibly could be the Plum Judy, according to a book owned by Steve Woodhall. *Abisaras*, of course, also occur in parts of tropical Africa.

Back at the hotel, I found in the side gardens a number of strange members of the satyrine subfamily that I believe are *Elymnias hypermnestra*. The males and females are dimorphic, mimicking distasteful danaiids, the males looking similar to *Euploea mulciber* (Striped Blue Crow) and the females to various Tigers, including *Danaus genutia*.

A couple of days later, while wandering through the hotel gardens to the beach, I saw a huge very dark lycaenid which displayed a bright metallic blue upper side when it flew. At rest, the underside was dark black with metallic blue markings on the hindwing near the tails. Unfortunately, a bevy of truly statuesque Russian bathing beauties was also heading for the beach, and I don't think the butterfly liked the clashing colours of their bikinis as it immediately departed at speed and flew over the roof of the hotel never to be seen again. What a disappointment - one that not even the bikinis could atone for!

Ady (pronounced adee) was our taxi driver. He adopted us during our stay, arranged our tours and ferried us everywhere we wanted to go. I asked him about the butterfly scene and he said the problem was drought: Langkawi had experienced its driest Monsoon in many years. Actually, you could see this in the forests as many of leaves of the trees were brown and falling. Incongruous that at the time the southern Malaysian peninsula was experiencing severe floods... So I made a plan with Ady for him to take me to the Durian Perangin Waterfall, not very far from Seven Wells and a fairly easy ride from our hotel, on the Friday, and a slightly longer-term plan to go back to Seven Wells on the Saturday. Ady mentioned that he had taken a small party of Japanese lepidopterists to Durian Perangin the previous year and they had been delighted with what they found.

However, McDermott's luck struck back with a vengeance. On Thursday evening the weather did an about-face. Friday and Saturday were completely rained out and it remained wet and overcast until we left on the Monday. The womenfolk were delighted -- ideal conditions for retail therapy and there were plenty of upmarket duty-free shops in the Island capital, Kuah, keen to relieve them of their traveller's cheques!

I did bring back a small selection of specimens from Langkawi, including a magnificent male *Deudorix ith* a deep auburn-red upper side that was highlighted on the forewing by smudgy black veining, and a couple of the huge Crows. These I intend to place in small wall-mount displays, one for Carl's home and one for mine as mementoes of our visit. Then it was off to Kuala Lumpur. Much like many other large cities in SE Asia but much cleaner, well organised and fewer bad smells. While others indulged in retail therapy, I persuaded Carl and Wendy's brother Ian to join me on a day trip headed to KL Bird Park, Butterfly House and orchid gardens. What a paradise!

The Butterfly House is one of the best I've seen and is well stocked. I had noticed a door leading into what looked like a genuine rock facing into the flying area and making a closer inspection, I saw a one metre long, 12cm high gap in the "rockface". Through this opening a person inside the "rock" was very discreetly introducing freshly emerged specimens once their wings were sufficiently hardened. The front area of the was well covered with various types of flowering Impatiens and it was an excellent spot to lurk and observe a wide variety of fresh butterflies, including the birdwings, *Troides helena* and *Trogonoptera brookiana* (Rajah Brook's Birdwing). I

had birdwings crawling onto my hands, content to sip at my sweat (it was extremely warm and very humid, despite being overcast) and I much later returned to the hotel a happy man. One of these days, I promised myself, I will make it to other exotic island such as Papua New Guinea, the Moluccas, Java, Solomon, Bougainville and Bismarck to see the *Ornithopteras* in all their glory.

CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH

LepiMAP (Les Underhill)

Thanks to a concerted effort on behalf of Les, LepiMAP managed to achieve its goal of making June 2018 the best June so far...

LepiMAP is helping to build up-to-date distribution maps for the butterflies and moths of Africa. These maps are critically important for conservation management and priority setting. Without good distribution maps, species conservation is largely guesswork. You can make your photography count for conservation by uploading your photos into the Virtual Museum (<http://vmus.adu.org.za/>).

The RED line shows how LepiMAP has collected data so far this year, 2018. There is no doubt that the drought impacted butterflies and moths enormously, so it was really hard work finding them and taking photographs. The RED line shows that each month of 2018 has taken third place (apart from April 2018, which was in fourth place!).

Early on Sunday morning, 24 June, LepiMAP had 1816 records for June 2018. The target, set last year, is the June point on the ORANGE line, at 2175 records. That is 359 records, and seven days to get them! If you are in a warm part of Africa, please do some fieldwork and upload. If you are in the cold, please upload any backlog of records you have!



SALCA (Silvia Kirkman)

The final and edited assessments and Red listings were submitted to SANBI in mid-May. The Red List Index was submitted at the end of March and, on 01 June, the protection level analyses were forwarded to SANBI.

Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity (BED) (Jonathan Colville)

The Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity project (BED) is a three-year research enterprise led by SANBI. The BED project seeks to map patterns of evolutionary diversity for butterflies across South African landscapes. It aims, through collecting DNA samples of all South African butterfly species, to identify areas not only of high butterfly species richness and conservation concern, but also areas of high evolutionary importance. LepSoc Africa will be the main collecting agency for this project, which will also provide the phylogenetic analyses to enable us to resolve a number of taxonomic issues.

A key aim of the BED project is to obtain representatives of all genera found in South Africa. BED is also going to have an important role to play in the *Aloeides* Project.

Everyone can assist with this project: for further information, go to <http://www.lepsoc.org.za/projects/butterfly-evolutionary-diversity/>

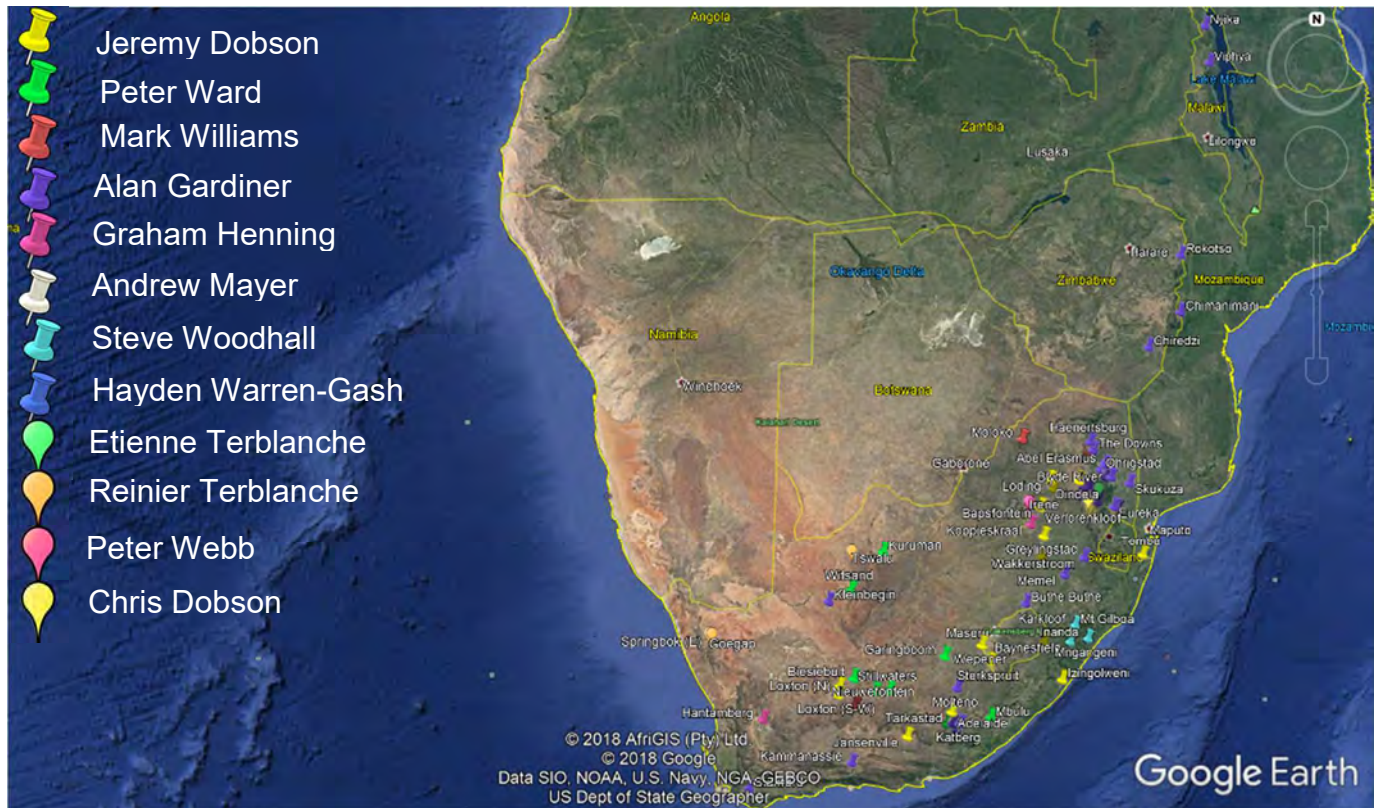
Samples have been sent to Berkley in California – sequencing is going well on that side. It is hoped to have a genus-level phylogeny for South African butterflies by the end of 2018 / early 2019; please try and get samples for the bulk of the “missing” 52 genera (below)!

Abantis; Acada; Acleros; Andronymus; Aphnaeus; Artitropa; Aslauga; Astictopterus; Baliochila; Brephidium; Caprona; Chloroselas; Coenyra; Coenyropsis; Colias; Cupidopsis; Cyrestis; Deloneura; Durbaniella; Durbaniopsis; Eagris; Erikssonina; Euphaedra; Euryphura; Fresna; Gnophodes; Hemiolaus; Lachnocnema; Lycaena; Melampias; Moltena; Myrina; Neita; Ornipholidotos; Parnara; Phasis; Physcaeneura; Pieris; Platylesches; Pontia; Pseudonacaduba; Pyrrhades; Stugeta; Teriomima; Tirumala; Torynesis; Trimenia; Tsitana; Uranothauma; Zenonia; Zophopetes

I have submitted samples (legs from set specimens) for all the genera listed above, but until DNA sequences have been successfully obtained, please focus on these.

Aloeides Project (Jeremy Dobson)

Additional samples have been forwarded to Jonathan Colville (BED Project). I have records for just over 50% of the currently recognized *Aloeides* taxa at this stage. A detailed update will be included in September's newsletter.



Google Earth image, indicating localities where samples have been obtained to date

<i>Aloeides trimeni trimeni</i>		1
Male, 25mm		
BED Number	JD-102	
Collector	Jeremy Dobson	
Locality information	SOUTH AFRICA Mpumalanga (North-East) KwaMuthus (DfN/N-NE), Kwaquluksini	
Coordinate (N-S)	Coordinate (E-W)	
-29.335067°	28.919187°	
Altitude	Date	
1340m	2017/06/25	
Comments	Specimens in Reference Collection. Legs submitted to BED. Rocky, sandy (lit) area, with <i>Heteromima</i> depression present. Small colony (about 500 square-meters), but occasional specimens over a much wider area. Host plant and host ant were not established.	
C01 Barcode	Upper	
	Under	
Genitalia	Habitat	DNA Sequences
		Aloeides Project

Example of a Data Sheet

The project is an attempt to create a high-resolution phylogeny of the *Aloeides* genus. While the initial program is two years (in parallel with Jonathan Colville's "Butterfly Evolutionary Diversity" (BED) project), it is anticipated that the initiative will continue indefinitely.

A database has been set up which generates specimen labels and A4 Data Sheets (one per record). The photographs are approximately to scale – twice wingspan / four times wing area.

Once the information is available, C01 Barcodes will be added to the database, along with a link to any other DNA information that is obtained.

To date, I've only processed about 200 records, with another 20 in the queue! We probably need to compile at least 500 records (including representatives of most currently described taxa), before we can construct a reasonable phylogeny of the *Aloeides*.

Once this is in place, coupled with the Data Sheets, we will be in a uniquely strong position to review the genus!

Please contact me at jchdobson@gmail.com or +27 82 783 8213 if you have any queries, or wish to participate. Kits of preservative, vials and plastic envelopes are available to anyone wishing to contribute.



Typical specimen label

Caterpillar Rearing Group (CRG) (Hermann Staude)

To date, caterpillars of 1624 species have been reared by the CRG; this includes 520 new life histories

Anybody wishing to join, please refer to the LepSoc website for details (<http://www.lepsoc.org.za/>) or visit the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/caterpillarrg/>).

Karoo BioGaps (Dave Edge)

All fieldwork is now complete: 83 visits were made to a total of 46 sites and 601 species records were obtained (262 DNA samples).

PUBLICATIONS

Metamorphosis (Mark Williams and Dave Edge)

To keep our base subscription down, we decided not to include a printed version of *Metamorphosis* in the LSA subscriptions - the journal can be ordered separately.

Metamorphosis Volume 28 Part 1 has been printed and is ready for mailing. The cost is R125 + R35.40 registered mail.

If you would like to order, please go to the LSA website www.lepsocafrika.org and click on the tab at the top "Publications" and on the next page click on "Shop".

You don't need to login.

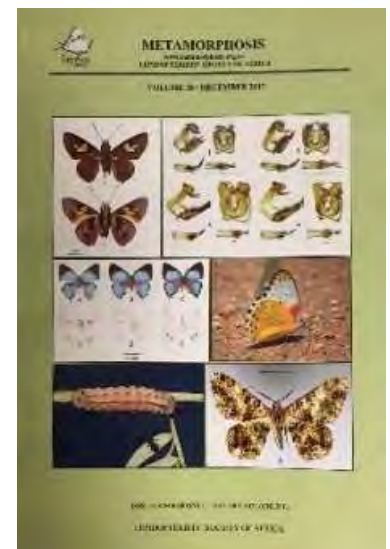
You can then select Volume 28 Part 1 by clicking "Add to cart".

Then click "View Cart" in the top right hand corner, and when the cart appears click "Go to Checkout".

On the next page you need to fill in your delivery details (you must fill in all fields) and click on "Place Order" at the bottom. This then takes you to the order page and if you are happy with the details you can click "Pay Online" at the bottom and proceed to payment by credit card. You can also pay by EFT if you prefer - using as the reference your name plus "Metamorphosis".

If you encounter any problems please contact Dave Edge (orachrysops@gmail.com) for assistance.

Dave is currently busy with a supplement to Volume 28, which will incorporate numerous life histories described by the ABRI group.



New articles in *Metamorphosis*:

- The butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidia) of Semuliki National Park, western Uganda

Scott Forbes

- *Dukearbela translucens* gen. nov., spec. nov. – a remarkable taxon from South Africa (Lepidoptera: Metarbelidae)

Wolfram Mey

- A new and unusual larval host plant for the Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya* (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Nymphalinae) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates – the ornamental petunia (Solanaceae: Petunioideae: Petunia)

Binish Roobas & Gary R. Feulner

- A new subspecies of *Cymothoe fumana* (Westwood, 1850) from Western Nigeria (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae: Limenitidinae)

Tomasz W. Pyrcz and Szabolcs Sáfian

- Blue-spotted Charaxes (*Charaxes cithaeron* Felder & Felder, 1859) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) – an addition to the butterfly fauna of Mauritius and the Malagasy Islands

Antony Moore & Szabolcs Sáfian

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Gauteng

Autumn and early winter has seen an increase in butterfly numbers, presumably a result of the above-average rains that the province has experienced during this period. There is not much diversity however and most of the butterflies seen are common species.

I visited Suikerbosrand on 20 May:

13 Species: Highveld Grassland - Abundance Index 3 (Average).



Leptotes pirithous pirithous
Suikerbosrand, Gauteng



Junonia hierta cebrene
Suikerbosrand, Gauteng



Actizera lucida
Suikerbosrand, Gauteng

Mpumalanga

Mark Williams, Raimund Schutte and I visited Loding on 12 May.

We recorded 53 species: Highveld Savanna - Abundance Index 5 (Excellent).

Tailed Black-eyes (*Leptomyrina hirundo*) and Drarf Blues (*Oraidium barberae*) were flying as well as a large selection of winter-form Tips (*Colotis* species).



Teracolus subfasciatus subfasciatus
Loding, Mpumalanga



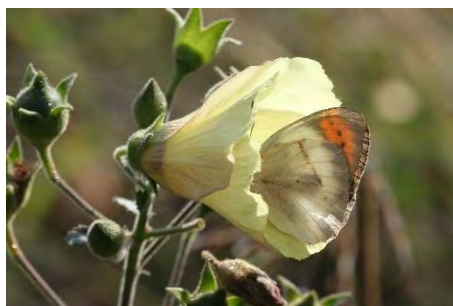
Leptomyrina hirundo
Loding, Mpumalanga



Colotis regina
Loding, Mpumalanga



Oraidium barberae
Loding, Mpumalanga



Colotis ione
Loding, Mpumalanga



Anthene amarah
Loding, Mpumalanga

Peter Ward and I briefly visited Kaapmuiden on 18 May.

We recorded 46 species: Lowveld Savanna - Abundance Index 3 (Average).



Neptis laeta
Kaapmuiden, Mpumalanga



Nepheronia argia variegata
Kaapmuiden, Mpumalanga



Mylothris agathina agathina
Kaapmuiden, Mpumalanga

KwaZulu-Natal

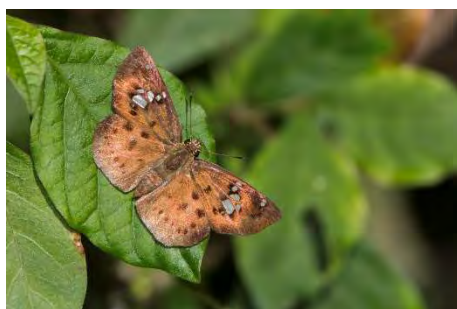
Steve Woodhall reports that butterfly emergences have been good recently, following late summer rains.

Forest Queen (*Charaxes wakefieldi*) and Boisduval's False Acraea (*Pseudacraea boisduvalii trimenii*) have been relatively common. Mark Liptrot added two new records to the list for the butterfly dome at Durban Botanical Gardens prepared by Americo Bonkewitz: Large Hairtail (*Anthene lemnos lemnos*) and Sulphur Small White (*Dixeia spilleri*).

Some photos from KZN below:



Phalanta phalantha aethiopica
Amatikulu, KZN
Steve Woodhall



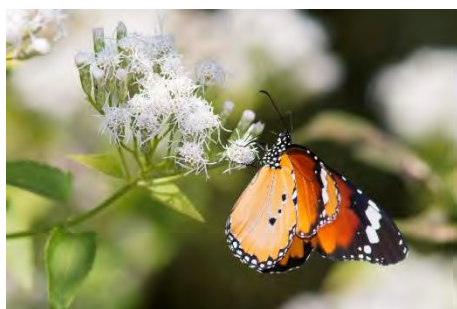
Eagris nottoana nottoana
Amatikulu, KZN
Steve Woodhall



Charaxes candiope
Harold Johnson, KZN
Steve Woodhall



Bicyclus anynana
Amatikulu, KZN
Steve Woodhall



Danaus chrysippus orientis
Amatikulu, KZN
Steve Woodhall



Melanitis leda
Amatikulu, KZN
Steve Woodhall



Steve Woodhall forwarded this amazing photo of the egg of a Rufous-winged Flat (*Eagris nottoana nottoana*).

This a stacked-image taken from the egg of a female found at Amatikulu on 30 June.

OTHER BUTTERFLIES

Johan Heyns has a large collection of photographs, which we will include as a regular feature in this newsletter.

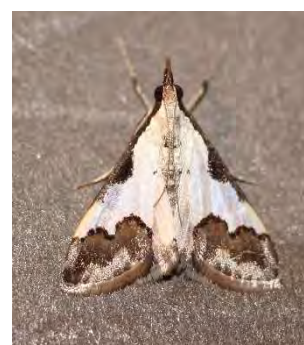
Let's kick off with a selection from the Crambidae family:



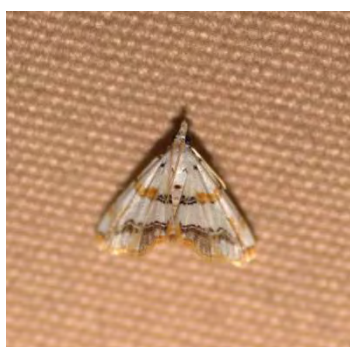
Notarcha quaternalis
Johan Heyns



Achyra coelatalis
Johan Heyns



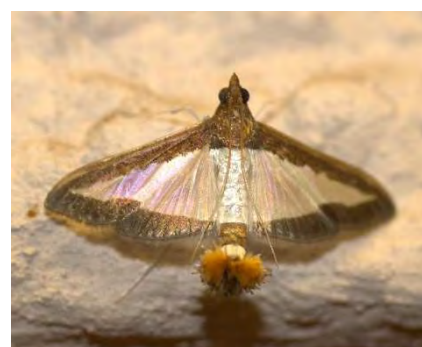
Autocharis jacobsalis
Johan Heyns



Trichophysetis flavimargo
Johan Heyns



Nausinoe geometralis
Johan Heyns



Diaphania indica
Johan Heyns

To see some great photos by Nick Dean, click on the link below:

[African Moths](#)

AFRICA DESK

Uganda (Rogers Muhwezi)

MY TRIP TO KIBALE AND SEMULIKI NATIONAL PARKS (2nd April - 7th April 2018)

On a Sunday evening, while others were celebrating Easter holidays, I was preparing for my trip to Kibale and Semuliki. On a Monday morning I left Mpanga Forest and went to catch my link bus to Kibale where Ambrose Twinomujuni was waiting for me. Warm welcome with smiles and hugs, a good bed and good food!

Before doing anything I requested Ambrose to take me to **Bigodi forest trails**. Wow, it was lovely, with many birds such as Weavers and Gonelck warblers, to mention just a few.



On 3 April I woke up early, under cloudy skies, to travel to Sunbird Hill near Kibale national park. This is a home to one of the world's greatest concentration of primates; the park is known for its 13 species of monkey and apes: Chimpanzee, Ugandan Mangabey, Ugandan Colobus monkey, L'Hoest's monkey and several other species. Sunbird hill consists of 40 acres of private land bordering Kibale forest, just off the Fort Portal - Kamwegye road. It is 3km from Kanyanchu tourist centre and approximately 3.5km from Kafred at Bigodi wetlands, with adorable accommodation, like the butterfly cottages and the Turaco tree house...

The site has some amazing birds and butterflies: a list of 34 butterfly species were recorded on day one, including the Small Striped Swordtail (*Graphium policeses*), Flame-bordered Charaxes (*Charaxes protoctea*), Green-veined Charaxes (*Charaxes candiope*), Green-banded Swallowtail (*Papilio nireus*) and many others.

I found a young man called Dillon who loves butterflies and his enthusiasm got my attention.



Thanks to Julia, Daina, Hope, Derrick, Robert and Sebastian, not forgetting Ambrose - I am coming back soon for more birds and butterflies.

I spent a few days with the guides at Kafred, who were interested in butterfly identification as well as birding. The other days were spent at Semuliki national park with one great guide: **Justus** is amazing, with a lot of information about the area; birds and butterflies as well as trees.



Team of guides from Sunbird Hill and Semuliki National Park

Semuliki was a good spot for me and the other group members that I was with, with nice sightings of Blue Mother-of-pearl (*Hypolimnas salmaccis*) and various Swordtails and Colotis species. I would say Semuliki made my trip, as I saw many more butterflies than I expected to see, possibly because of heavy rains the day before.



Several excursions have been made to Mpanga forest and one was held in preparation for the **Global Birding Day**.

Elections were held for the different guides clubs: the Butterfly Guides Club was recognized and elections were successful; the association falls under the USAGA (Uganda Safari Guides Association).

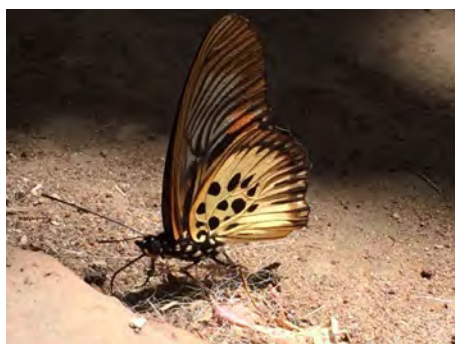
Rogers Muhwezi was elected as Chairman of the Butterfly Guides Club and Justus was made Vice Chairman. There are currently more than 15 members from Uganda and it is hoped that by the end of the year the number of members who are willing and able to learn more about butterfly identification will have increased significantly.



Compiled by:
Rogers Muhwezi
Mpanga Forest, Mpigi, Uganda
+256779804354
Easyrogers96@gmail.com



Euphaedra harpalyce spatiosa
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi



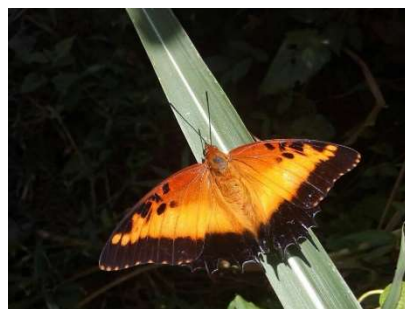
Pseudacraea clarkii
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi



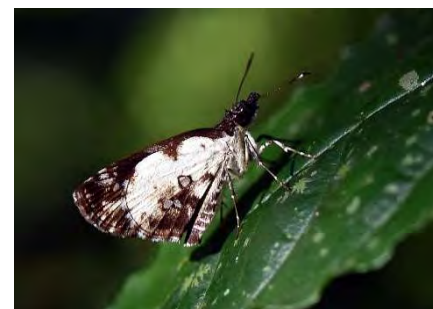
Euphaedra uganda
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi



Cymothoe lurida butleri
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi



Charaxes pollux pollux
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi



Gorgyra species
Mpanga, Uganda
Rogers Muhwezi

Rogers is trying to arrange customised butterfly-trips to Uganda: you will forward him your dates and the places that you wish to visit and he will submit a budget for your trip, including food, accommodation, transport and butterfly-guiding services.

More to follow shortly!

LEPSOC AFRICA COUNCIL

Elected Executive Councillors:

- Jeremy Dobson (Chairman)
- Justin Bode (Secretary)
- Dave Edge (Treasurer)

Co-opted Councillors

- Mark Williams (Editor of *Metamorphosis* in a caretaker capacity)
- Reinier Terblanche (Conservation and Research)
- Jan Praet (Marketing)
- Peter Ward (Permits)

Note that increases to annual subscriptions were approved at October's AGM; an updated schedule is attached below.

The price of *Metamorphosis* Volume 28 has been set at R125, excluding postage. Various postage options with different pricing are available.

Category	Annual subscription fee (current year i.e. 2018)		<i>Metamorphosis</i> printed copy (preceding year i.e. 2017)		Annual subscriptions, <u>plus</u> printed copy of <i>Metamorphosis</i>	
	South African	Inter-national	South African	Inter-national	South African	Inter-national
Sponsor	R 1 200	R 1 400	Included	Included	R 1 200	R 1 400
Ordinary	R 270	R 400	R 125	R 125	R 395	R 525
Pensioner (over 60 yrs)	R 200	R 280	R 125	R 125	R 325	R 405
Student (under 23 yrs)	R 150	R 250	R 125	R 125	R 275	R 375

FOCUS ON....

There will be no Focus on in this newsletter unfortunately; the feature will recommence in September's edition.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MONTH

Please forward any photographs that you would like to display in this Newsletter and they will be included if at all possible; any photographs accompanied with proof-of-payment to LepSoc Africa, to the amount of R50 per picture, will automatically be included!

There will be a Photograph of the Month (two in each episode); the decision, by the editor, is final and will be based on photographic merit, but may be swayed by donations to the Society.

Would any photographers out there please send any recent pictures that you would like to include, with your identification and the month that the photograph was taken, to jchdobson@gmail.com



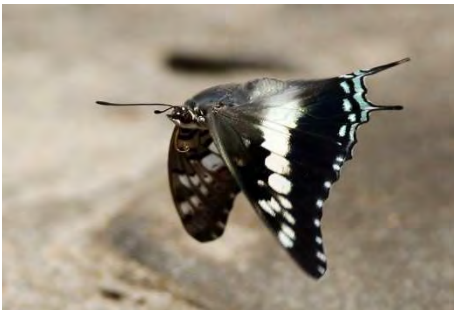
AUGUST 2017
Rogers Muhwezi
Euphaedra olivacea
(Mpanga, Uganda)



SEPTEMBER 2017
Peter Webb
Aloeides molomo molomo
(Irene, Gauteng)



OCTOBER 2017
Justin Bode
Orachrysops violescens
(Graskop, Mpumalanga)



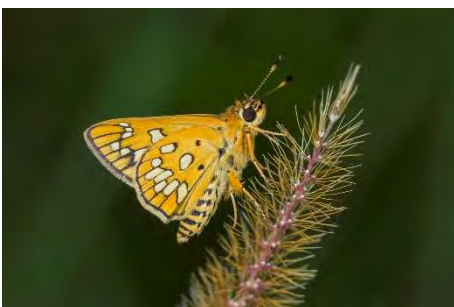
NOVEMBER 2017
Nick Dean
Charaxes achaemenes
(Chobe, Zambia)



DECEMBER 2017
Steve Woodhall
Euchromia amoena
(Cintsa East, Eastern Cape)



JANUARY 2018
Peter Alfrey
Bebearia phantasiella phantasina
(Ankasa, Ghana)



FEBRUARY 2018
Steve Woodhall
Kedestes callicles
(Kube Yini Hilltop, Hluhluwe, KZN)



MARCH 2018
Rogers Muhwezi
Cyrestis camillus camillus
(Mpanga, Uganda)



APRIL 2018
Inbal Sinai
Pharmacophagus antenor
(Ifaty, Madagascar)

Entries for May



Catacroptera cloanthe cloanthe
Jeremy Dobson
(Hennops River, Gauteng)



Euphaedra olivacae
Rogers Muhwezi
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Bebearia tentyris
Bill Berthet
(Ashanti, Ghana)



Euphaedra janetta janetta
Bill Berthet
(Ashanti, Ghana)



Euphaedra ceres
Bill Berthet
(Ashanti, Ghana)



Teracolus subfasciatus
Jeremy Dobson
(Loding, Mpumalanga)

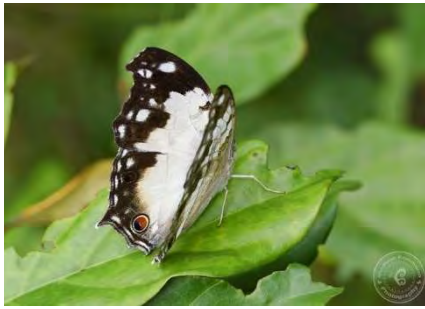


MAY

May's winner, with this extraordinary photo of the Incipient False Acraea (*Pseudacraea warburgi*), is Bill Berthet.

Bill, a resident of Jacksonville, Florida, USA took this picture at Kwabina Sam, Ashanti Region, Ghana.

Entries for June



Protogoniomorpha anacardii nebulosa
Sudheer Kommana
(Pugu Hills, Tanzania)



Euphaedra uganda uganda
Sudheer Kommana
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Pseudacraea clarkii
Rogers Muhwezi
(Mpanga, Uganda)



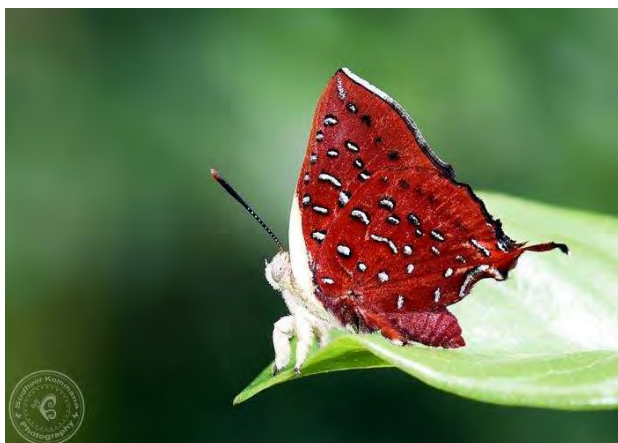
Mimeresia neavei
Sudheer Kommana
(Mpanga, Uganda)



Pseudacraea boisduvalii trimenii
Steve Woodhall
(Harold Johnson, KZN)



Eagris nottoana nottoana
Steve Woodhall
(Amatikulu, KZN)



JUNE

Sudheer Kommana is the winner for June, with this picture of a Rainforest Scarlet (*Axiocerses punicea punicea*) taken at Pugu Hills, Tanzania.

Sudheer lives in Dar es Salaam and is an avid butterfly photographer.

LIVES BEHIND THE LABELS...

Sir Guy Anstruther Knox Marshall



Guy Marshall was born in Amritsar, Punjab, son of Colonel Charles Marshall, then district judge, and Laura Pollock, daughter of Sir Frederick Pollock, First Baronet and Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Both his father and his uncle, Major-General George Marshall were naturalists and had published books on the birds and butterflies of India, Burma (Myanmar), and Ceylon (Sri Lanka). At an early age he was sent to a preparatory school in Margate where, encouraged by his headmaster, he collected butterflies. He switched to beetle collecting as a less conspicuous hobby when he entered Charterhouse. In 1891, after he failed the Indian Civil Service examinations, his father packed him off to Natal to earn a living at sheep farming. He worked at several different jobs before moving to Rhodesia, where eventually he became co-manager of the Salisbury District and Estates Company and part owner of a store and two farms, one of which was managed by C.F.M. Swynnerton before he became a game warden and tsetse researcher in East Africa.

By 1896 Marshall was exchanging letters with the well-known Darwinian, Professor Edward Poulton, Hope Professor of Zoology at Oxford and author of *The Colours of Animals* (1890), who encouraged him to study the significance of insect colours in mimicry and protective resemblance. It was in the course of this research that Marshall collected plant specimens in southern Africa. The results of this long series of pioneer experiments were published as a joint paper in *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* in 1902.

Professor Poulton was later instrumental in securing a curatorial appointment for his protégé at Sarawak Museum. Marshall, however, was prevented from taking up the post when he fell seriously ill, with a disease he had contracted in Africa, while stopping-over in London. After being released from hospital, he settled in the capital, where the publication of some scientific papers on weevils led to his appointment as scientific secretary to the Entomological Research Committee (Tropical Africa). Later renamed the Imperial Bureau of Entomology and then the Commonwealth Institute. The main function of this organisation was to act as a centre of information on insect pests. Under Marshall's direction it became a scientific body of major importance in the Commonwealth and a model for all the agricultural information services that were finally brought together as the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB).

He created the biological control service at Farnham House, which grew rapidly into a worldwide network of laboratories, and founded two important scientific publications: the *Bulletin of Entomological Research*, which was intended to make the work of entomologists working in the British colonies better known, and the *Review of Applied Entomology*, which provided much-needed summaries of current publications for an expanding field of research. His organisation later took on the onerous tasks of preparing the 'Insecta' section of the *Zoological Record* and of identifying insects sent in by Commonwealth entomologists.

In 1916 the University of Oxford conferred on him an honorary doctorate for his contribution to economic entomology. After the war he exerted even greater influence on the development of this field when he was made Adviser on Entomology to the Colonial Office. Nearing retirement he became interested in commercial entomology and founded one of the first pest control companies. He was elected to the Royal Society, the American Academy of Science, the Royal Society of New Zealand, the National Institute of Science of India, the Entomological Society of Belgium, the Entomological Society of Russia, and the Royal Entomological Society of London. He received the CMG in 1920, a knighthood in 1930, and, to mark his retirement, the KCMG in 1942. He also received l'Ordre de la Couronne from the Belgian Government.

After leaving Africa, Marshall engaged in no further experimental research, although he developed a broad knowledge of insect taxonomy through his identification work at the institute. The beetles of the family Curculionidae became his speciality only by accident, because they were the only group in his beetle collection that survived the passage to England on his leave in 1896. He described about 2,300 new species and wrote about 200 papers about them. After his retirement, the Natural History Museum in London provided him with a room in which to continue his systematic studies, which he did until a few weeks before his death.

Butterflies named after him:

Kedestes marshalli, *Mimacraea marshalli*, *Aslauga marshalli*, *Aphnaeus marshalli* and *Cacyreus marshalli*.

PENNINGTON'S 2
WIKIPEDIA

FOOTNOTE

This newsletter is compiled by Jeremy Dobson and is edited by Mark Williams, who endeavours to correct significant grammatical or taxonomic errors, while retaining the style and tone of the original article as submitted by the author.

This magazine relies on material from you, the members of LepSoc Africa. Please forward any news or photographs that might be of interest to jchdobson@gmail.com.

If anyone has any ideas regarding future format or content, please feel free to make suggestions.

PDF's of previous editions of African Butterfly News can be downloaded here:

EDITION	DATE	LINK
2016-5	Sep 2016	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1414/African%20Butterfly%20News%202016-5.pdf
2016-6	Nov 2016	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1415/African%20Butterfly%20News%202016-6.pdf
2017-1	Jan 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1416/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-1.pdf
2017-2	Mar 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1417/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-2.pdf
2017-3	May 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1418/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-3.pdf
2017-4	Jul 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1421/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-4.pdf
2017-5	Sep 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1423/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-5.pdf
2017-6	Nov 2017	http://metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1426/African%20Butterfly%20News%202017-6.pdf
2018-1	Jan 2018	http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1449/African%20Butterfly%20News%202018-1.pdf
2018-2	Mar 2018	http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1455/African%20Butterfly%20News%202018-2%20reduced.pdf
2018-3	May 2018	http://www.metamorphosis.org.za/articlesPDF/1458/African%20Butterfly%20News%202018-3.pdf