

Genus *Argemma* Grishin, 2019 Forest Sylphs

CONG. Q, ZHANG, J., SHEN, J. & GRISHIN, N.V. 2019. Fifty new genera of HesperIIDae (Lepidoptera). *Insecta Mundi* **0731**: 20 (1-56).

Type-species: *Apaustis argyrosticta* Plötz, 1879, by original designation.

The genus *Argemma* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Ceratrichiini Grishin, 2019. The other genera of the Tribe Ceratrichiini in the Afrotropical Region are *Ceratricula*, *Meza*, *Herila*, *Ceratrichia* and *Pardaleodes*.

Argemma (Forest Sylphs) is an Afrotropical genus of five species.

**Argemma argyrosticta* (Plötz, 1879) Pearl-spotted Forest Sylph



Pearl-spotted Forest Sylph (*Argemma argyrosticta*). Kwabina-sam, Ghana.
Image courtesy Pamela Sai.

Apaustus argyrosticta Plötz, 1879. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **40**: 358 (353-364).

Ceratrichia argyrosticta (Plötz, 1879). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma argyrosticta (Plötz, 1879). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Bibiani, western Ghana. January 2008. RV, SY. ABRI-2019-2400.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
 Suhin, Ghana. July 2007. RV. ABRI-2019-2401.
 Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Bei Aburi”.

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

Habitat: Forest of good quality (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: A scarce skipper, which is usually found unexpectedly as single specimens. It flies higher up than the yellow-winged species (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta (Plötz, 1879)

Apaustus argyrosticta Plötz, 1879. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **40**: 358 (353-364).

Ceratrachia argyrosticta argyrosticta (Plötz, 1879). Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta (Plötz, 1879). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
 Bibiani, western Ghana. January 2008. RV, SY. ABRI-2019-2400.
 Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma argyrosticta argyrosticta. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Suhin, Ghana. July 2007. RV. ABRI-2019-2401.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Bei Aburi”.

Distribution: Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

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

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

Ivory Coast – Tai National Park (Plowes family and H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Aburi (TL); Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a); Owabi (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Prah-Suhien (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Cameroon – Alen (Strand, 1913).

Gabon – Waka National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

argyrosbila Plötz, 1884 (as sp. of *Apaustus*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **45**: 156 (151-166).
Ghana: “Aburi”.

limbana Strand, 1913 (as ab. of *Ceratrachia guineensis*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 54 (30-84).
Cameroon: “Alen”.

Argemma argyrosticta enta (Evans, 1947)

Ceratrachia argyrosticta enta Evans, 1947. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **13**:645 (641-648).

Ceratrachia argyrosticta enta Evans, 1947. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma argyrosticta enta (Evans, 1947). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma argyrosticta enta. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 1 July 2015. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Argemma argyrosticta enta. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mabira Forest, Uganda. 1 July 2015. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Entebbe”.

Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo (east), Uganda.

Specific localities:

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

Uganda – Entebbe (TL).

Note: This subspecies may not be conspecific with *argyrosticta* and its status needs to be re-assessed (Larsen, 2005a).

* *Argemma aurea* (Druce, 1910)

Ceratrachia aurea Druce, 1910. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 377 (356-378).

Ceratrachia aurea Druce, 1910. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma aurea (Druce, 1910). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma aurea. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Bookoko, Central African Republic. January 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2402.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma aurea. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

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

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Alen (Strand, 1913).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upper Kasai district (TL); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018).

Uganda – Budongo Forest (Riley, 1925).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

guineensis Strand, 1913 (as sp. of *Ceratrachia*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 54 (30-84).
Cameroon: “Alen”.

ugandae Riley, 1925 (ssp. of *Ceratrachia aurea*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (9) **16**: 414
(405-416). Uganda: “Budongo Forest”.

* *Argemma bongae* (Evans, 1947)

Ceratrachia bongae Evans, 1947. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **13**: 645 (641-648).

Ceratrachia bongae Evans, 1947. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma bongae (Evans, 1947). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma bongae. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Amani, east Usambara, Tanzania. March 2001. CC *et al.* ABRI-2019-2404.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma bongae. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Amani, east Usambara, Tanzania. July 1982. J. Kielland. ABRI-2019-2405.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Amani, Usambara”.

Distribution: Tanzania (Usambara and Uluguru Mountains).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Amani in the Usambara Mountains (TL); Kimboza Forest at the foot of the Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: The flight is weak and low down (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

*** *Argemma maesseni* (Miller, 1971)**

Maessen's Forest Sylph

Ceratrachia maesseni Miller, 1971. *Bulletin of the Allyn Museum* (2): 5 (17 pp.).

Ceratrachia maesseni Miller, 1971. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma maesseni (Miller, 1971). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma maesseni. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Tinte, Ghana. November 2005. S. Yevu. ABRI-2019-2398.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma maesseni. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Tinte, Ghana. November 2005. S. Yevu. ABRI-2019-2398.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Konongo (Ashanti Forest Reserve)”.

Distribution: Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast (Warren-Gash, pers. comm., 2002), Ghana (Ashanti district).

Specific localities:

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

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

Ivory Coast – Yeale (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Konongo (TL); Bia National Park (Larsen, 2005a); Atewa Range (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum National Park (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Habitat: Forest of good quality (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: Even scarcer than the closely-related *ArgemmaForest in argyrosticta* (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

*** *Argemma mabirensis* (Riley, 1925)**

Mabira Forest Sylph

Ceratrachia mabirensis Riley, 1925. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (9) **16**: 407 (405-416).

Ceratrachia mabirensis Riley, 1925. Ackery *et al.*, 1995.

Argemma mabirensis (Riley, 1925). Cong *et al.*, 2019.



Argemma mabirensis. Male. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Kakamega Forest, Kenya. September 1998. SCC. ABRI-2019-2406.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Argemma mabirensis. Female. Left – upperside. Right – underside.
Kakamega Forest, Kenya. September 1998. SCC. ABRI-2019-2407.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Toro, Daro, or Durro Forest, 4000-4500 ft”.

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

Specific localities:

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

Uganda – Durro Forest (TL).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Minziro Forest (not uncommon) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: Flies very low down, along forest paths and in open places in the forest, settling on low vegetation (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

toroensis Riley, 1925. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (9) **16**: 414 (405-416). [*lapsus*: both *Ceratrachia mabirensis* and *Ceratrachia toroensis* were introduced by Riley (1925) for the same taxon;

Evans (1937), as first reviser, selected *mabirensis*]