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Metamorphosis, which is the official journal of the Society, publishes original scientific papers as well as articles of a less technical nature. Fees indicated below refer to surface postage, but if airmail is required, notify the Treasurer and - per issue – add R32.00 for Africa or US \$6.00 if Overseas.

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Front cover: Upperside of male *Anthene* sp., close to *Anthene lindae* Henning & Henning. Hobatere, Namibia, April 2002 (photo - Steve Braine).

Back cover: Underside of male *Anthene* sp., close to *Anthene lindae* Henning & Henning. Hobatere, Namibia, April 2002 (photo - Steve Braine).

Editorial

We all know how frustrating it is to continually have to learn about scientific name changes to Lepidoptera. and then to remember them. I do not think that dear Carl Linnaeus ever thought in his wildest dreams that his genera and species binomials would be so volatile. Taxonomy however is a science and science is about our conceptual attempts to produce an understanding that is ever closer to the truth (reality). Continued research will therefore inevitably result in nomenclatorial changes at all taxonomic levels. This has to be accepted as a *fait accompli*.

What we do not have to accept, however, are the *ad hoc* subjective informal taxonomic changes brought about by some authors, which are based on their 'considered opinion' - this amounts to 'taxonomic cowboyism'. Sometimes taxonomic changes are even made without explanation - this amounts to 'taxonomic hooliganism'.

The Zoological Code is there to promote order and some degree of stability to scientific names. One of the requirements of the Code is that name changes be formalized by suffixes such as '**sp. n.**' (new species), '**stat. rev.**' (status revised) and so forth. It is furthermore necessary (though not, as far as I know, a requirement of the Code) that such changes be brought to the attention of the compilers of the Zoological Record. The latter is a taxonomic data base dating back to the middle of the 19th Century. Scientific publications, especially those that include taxonomic papers are excerpted with specific attention being paid to taxonomic changes. Our Journal, *Metamorphosis*, for example, is sent to Zoo. Rec. for databasing.

What the Zoological Code and Record cannot do, unfortunately, is guarantee 'good science'. Official taxonomic changes can be, and are, made in publications that are not subject to peer review. While some of these are scientifically sound, others are not. Should one disagree with such changes, the only recourse is to publish a refutation (i.e. revise the status of the taxon). It should be remembered always that the scientific merits of the work of anyone that publishes will, like that of all scientists, be judged by his peers, today and in the future - once you are 'in print' you are there for posterity .

Mark C Williams (E-mail mark.williams@up.ac.za)

I thought I saw a butterfly - Ndumu River Lodge, June 2002.

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Gauteng Branch is becoming a bit of a creature of habit and we have fallen into the routine of going to Zululand every winter. This year we were a bit later than the last but I was not too bothered since I have found very good stuff there in previous midwinters. But this time. Alas, after we had paid the deposits, reports started coming in from Rob Kyle that there was a drought and the result was minimal butterflies. But rather than forfeit our payments we decided to go anyway, because it is always a good idea to escape Jo'burg at the coldest time of year ...

So it came to pass that Dave "scissorhands" McDermot, Johan "Trust me, I'm a Doctor" Greyling, Andrew "J&B" Mayer, J-P "Castle poisons me" Niehaus, Owen "Explorer" Garvie and his wife Wendy "that tar road is miles away", not forgetting my wife "Lady" Jayne Woodhall, found our way to Ndumu River Lodge. We were joined on Saturday by Peter Ward and Alison. Due to a problem with bookings. Graham Henning, Nolan Owen-Johnston, Peter Roos, Jeremy and Christopher Dobson all stayed at Lala Lapa in Manguzi. Apparently this was not too salubrious, and a few harsh words were spoken. Sorry guys, at least you had first crack at the swamp! As it turned out the people who beat us to the booking for the Long House we normally take cancelled at the last minute - but by then it was too late.

Jayne and I arrived at 2200hrs to find all asleep and snoring. We were up at sparrows the next morning cooking breakfast and trying to rouse the occupants of the other chalet, who had been carrying out oral toxicity tests on J&B the previous evening. Fed, we hied ourselves to Manguzi to hang traps and lurk balefully. And lurk was basically all we did. Both Manguzi forests were almost dead, and all the trees' leaves were drooping.

We trudged bravely around, and I was able to fish something out of the day by getting a great photograph of two Gold Banded Foresters (*Euphaedra neophron*) getting ready to mate. A single female Mottled green Nymph (*Euryphura achlys*) was found, and a few larvae of the Forest Queen (*Euxanthe wakefieldi*). Hardly anything came to the traps.

We congregated at the cars to find that Jeremy Dobson had done it again ... a perfect Zulu Buff (*Teriomima zuluana*) from the forests near Black Rock. J-P was a happy little soul as well, having found both the Black and Orange Playboy (*Deudorix dariaves*) and Orange Playboy (*D. dinomenes*) on the Dune Soapberry (*Deinbollia oblongifolia*) flowers at Manguzi North. The customary Niehaus screams of glee rent the air ..

Later, at the Lodge, it was Jayne's birthday party . She got various presents, including two bottles of champers (oh dear!) and a foot massage from our resident Doctor. Brutus the Landy was roped in as the Hi-Fi, and by midnight some of us were in showroom condition. Some of us found out a few eternal truths:

- 1) The Champagne is followed by the real pain. The hangover is just as bad as it ever was.
- 2) The bottom 1½ inches of a bottle of Boplaas Port is just as toxic the bottom 1½ inches of a bottle of Allesverloren Port.
- 3) Scissors are not a good tool for cutting bread at 0300hrs. when the midnight munchies call for a Bovril sandwich.

The next morning saw some sudden cases of flu, and it took a while to get the engines running... especially when we knew there would be very few butterflies about. Andy, Johan and Jayne announced they were going curio hunting. The rest of us hit the swamp to little avail – there were a few nice Marsh Commodores (*Precis ceryne*) about and the odd Jordan's Sailer (*Neptis jordani*) - and carried on trudging about. Graham Henning was happy, having found his *N. jordani*, as well as the Rusty Swift (*Borbo detecta*). Dave had seen a Ferrous Swift (*Borbo ferruginea dondo*), and was dead chuffed to get a pair of the Confusing Sandman (*Spialia confusa*) I was looking for the Marsh Hottentot Skipper, *Gegenes hottentota*, with no success. In the depths of the swamp, between the two Manguzi forest patches. I saw a small greenish skipper dogfighting with a Marsh Swift (*Borbo micans*). I ignored this rarity to concentrate on photographing what turned out to be another Common Hottentot

Skipper, *Gegenes niso*, drat him.

On the last day of the long weekend Owen and I set off to look for the elusive *Teriomima zuluana*. I am still being punished for the time I found a dozen or so of its Zimbabwe relation *T. puellaris*, all hanging in a catenary curve from a grass stem like little bells in a row. I netted them callously and failed to take a pic, and the gods of photography decreed I would never see the same sight again, especially in South Africa. The area south of Kosi Bay is beautiful; dune forest bordering grassy swamps with swamp forest on the other margin. Not many butterflies there, but I got some nice landscape pix. Unfortunately we found some of the area's commonest sights in the middle of this lovely swamp forest - slash and burn clearings. These are all too common. The famed Manguzi Swamp is no more, drained and most of its trees cut down, full of banana and *madumbi* plots. A determined stake-out saw Nolan succeed with *B. ferruginea dondo*.

Having said goodbye to the others, the Garvies, Jayne and I settled down to a few days' quiet time in the bush together. On the Tuesday the girls announced a lazy day in camp, so off Owen and I went to explore the Makathini Flats. This area was frighteningly dry. In 1995 Nolan and I had found Millar's Buff (*Deloneura millari*) in June, this time there was almost nothing apart from a singleton *Deudorix dinomenes*. Owen's first.

A few pierids flew desultorily about. Then Lady Jayne decided she would like after all to go sightseeing and got us to drive all the way back to pick the girls up. We stopped off at some flowering *Vernonia* bushes near the Ingwavuma T-junction and found a few little Hairtails that look like Talbot's Hairtail (*Anthene talboti*), then went and blew money on curios with the ladies. Wendy had been hunting the camp area and found a few small pierids and blues; Jayne simply parked off.

Wedne'sday saw us off on a safari we had planned for a long time. We let the tyres down and set off up the sand road along the western fence of Tembe Elephant Park. This was in surprisingly good condition, and the Garvies' 4x2 Hi-Lux had no trouble at all. Brutus was in his element. Sad to say the bit of bush nearest the tar road is busy being made into yet another African kraal, and we have probably seen the end of the vast butterfly hatches seen there. There was no sign of all the *D. dinomenes* we had seen the previous June. But it is not all bad news. The same bush stretches unspoilt for 20km along this fence, all

it means is an end to easy car access. At the border a flimsy double fence keeps Mozambique at bay, and there we noticed the weather starting to get a little unpleasant. As we drove west towards Ndumu it got cloudier and the bush more heavily populated. At Ndumu itself we turned south and found a nice bit of forest with a single *E. neophron* in residence, but generally far too many people. Eventually we got to the Makane's Drift road and used my new toy, a portable compressor, to re-inflate the tyres whilst Wendy haunted the *Vernonia* bushes.

As the sun was shining fitfully we decided what the heck, let's have a look. I remembered finding the Liodes Hairtail (*Anthene liodes*) there a few years ago. At the drift itself, a little blue fluttered past Wendy. I said "catch that - it's bright enough to be a *liodes*" even though it was flying more like an *Azanus*. She missed it and it landed next to me, and I got a look at the underside ... strange thing, brownish with white bands and lines, a bit like a cross between a *Leptotes* and an *Orachrysops*. Slowly it dawned upon me that I was at long last looking at a Sesbania Blue (*Leptotes pulcher*). After all the fruitless tramping about, Primary Experience! The upperside of this butterfly is truly lovely, the male a much bluer blue than the other mutually indistinguishable *Leptotes*, with a dusting of white on the hindwing tornus. The female is just as distinctive. I left the others to hunt around the riverside and set off along the edge of the bush where I could see a veritable forest of *Sesbania sesban*, the River Bean. I was rewarded by the special experience of dozens of these little gems all over the place. Having sated my lust for specimens I decided to go back and get the camera out only to hear Brutus' horn blow. I hurried back to the river to find the ladies were worried about some suspicious looking young men who were showing interest in the cars and their contents. So off back to camp went the girls, leaving Owen and I to look for photographic specimens on our own - but the weather came down again. Later we found that Wendy had excelled herself by finding a *Neptis jordani*.

The next day it was barely sunny but we went back to the drift and managed to get our photos before going off exploring again. This time we took Jayne and Wendy along a road that led south from a point east of the normal Makathini Flats collecting spot. This was a little dirt road and not too far down it we found some nice virgin forest. No butterflies, as the weather by this time

was awful. Where we went wrong was in trying to carry on south to the Mkuze River and find the road to Hluhluwe. Miles and miles of confusingly similar sand roads, through increasingly heavily populated areas, had the ladies bored and tetchy. Jayne asked Owen to tell her when we hit the tar, so she could kiss it! Just after Wendy had despaired of ever seeing a tar road again my map reading skills came to the fore and we found the Hluhluwe road. The rest of the day was spent having a leisurely pub lunch and giving the Hluhluwe Zulu Craft village a good sales day. Retail therapy mollified the ladies somewhat and we got back to camp after dark.

Friday dawned clear and sunny, if cool, and Owen went off to fish (the fish were even more elusive than the Lepidoptera ...) and the rest of us watched England get kicked out of the World Cup. After this, Owen and I went off to Manguzi again to see if the rain had coaxed any butterflies out. There were a few, including more *E. neophron*, and we found lots of little green *Deudorix* larvae on the *Deinbollia* seed heads. Andy Mayer had found one earlier, pronounced it a *D. dariaves*, and had given it to Owen. I hope that's what they are, having bred out a lot of Brown Playboys (*D. antalus*) from similar caterpillars ... It was amazing to see, after only a few hours of rain, how all the plants had perked up and stopped drooping.

On our last day we went off to Kosi Bay to see if we could find a Flame Bordered Charaxes (*Charaxes protoclea azota*) for Owen. The Kyle Family were unfortunately not at home but they had kindly given us permission to look around the garden. Apart from the stunning view (there are now three more people who live in envy of the Kyles!) there was nothing much flying. A few very freshly emerged specimens were about, including a Satyr Emperor (*Charaxes ethalion*) female ovipositing on Natal Flat-crown (*Albizia adianthifolia*). So we went back to Manguzi, where we found a few fresh butterflies around, and I got a few more nice pictures, this time of a Friar (*Amauris niavius dominicanus*), which is not as easy to photograph in the wild as you might think ...

As we drove back to frozen Gauteng, I reflected on a trip sparse in butterflies but with some bright highlights. Jayne managed to get through a week without touching a cooking utensil so she was happy. Funnily enough although butterflies were scarce, I have never seen so many birds at Manguzi. The normally rare Yellow Spotted Nicator was quite common, and Burchell's Coucals were also abundant - I even took my first ever bird photograph!

But I am worried about the area. All the time at Manguzi we could hear the constant “chop, chop, chop” of pangas from the forest, and the swamp along the stream has almost gone. Paradise, your days may be numbered.

A full list of species seen was captured in Lepibase and is available through Lepsoc.

Lepidopterist wins “Best Young Scientist” award.

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Vaughan Jessnitz, a standard 9 pupil at the Postmasburg High School in the Northern Cape, has shown a keen interest in lepidoptery. Over the past three years he has put together an impressive collection of butterflies, moths, beetles and other insects from the dry arid areas of the Northern Cape Province. He has been guided and mentored by other lepidopterists, such as, Reinier Terblanche, Ernest Pringle and the author, when visiting the Witsand Nature Reserve in search of *Anthene lindae*, *Tuxentius melaena griqua* and *Acraea trimeni*.

Vaughan compiled a scientific project entitled “Butterflies as indicators of biodiversity” with colour posters and specimens to illustrate his findings. This project was judged the best presentation from all the schools in the Northern Cape. Having competed in the provincial competition, Vaughan was chosen to represent his province at the National Scientific Expo held in Pretoria on 3-4 October 2002. On 2nd October, Vaughan and his science teacher Mrs van Zyl carefully packed and secured his butterfly cabinet in the trailer, but during the trip from Witsand via Postmasberg to Pretoria, the glass-topped drawers, containing the butterfly specimens, rattled loose and his entire collection was destroyed. Having learnt of the disaster, several members of the Lepidopterists’ Society in Gauteng, rallied around to support Vaughan in his moment of despair. Martin Krüger, in particular, is thanked for saving the day and coming to Vaughan’s assistance. With Martin’s encouragement, and the loan of some specimens, Vaughan was able to put his scientific presentation together in time to compete in the National Scientific Expo the next day.

Following the judging of all the projects by three different judges, Vaughan’s project was judged as the best. As a result he has been chosen as the best young scientist in South Africa, and will represent South Africa in Sweden in December 2002. On hearing the good news, both Steve Woodhall and Dave McDermott commented that this was the third time that LEPSOC

had assisted young scientists in winning the National Scientific Expo.

Congratulations and well done to Vaughan Jessnitz for doing so well, and I am confident he will do us proud when he represents South Africa in Sweden in December 2002. One lesson he has learnt from this experience is – “Don't put all your butterflies in one trailer”.

Kalahari Clips - more on the little hairtail from the Kalahari.

Vaughan Jessnitz

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Abstract: The rediscovery of *Anthene lindae* (Henning & Henning, 1994) from Witsand Nature Reserve in the Northern Cape, South Africa.

I wish to start off where R.F. Terblanche ended his article on this little wonder in the December 1994 edition of *Metamorphosis* (Vol 5 No. 4) as that was the last we read about the insect. In September 2001 I was fortunate enough to collect the first specimens of *Anthene lindae* since December 1990! What impressed me the most was that they were flying in the kloofs of the Langberg Mountain range - thus extending their known range by several kilometres.

Since then I've collected specimens from many different localities along the mountain range covering a distance of about 20 km and watched and studied many more than I collected to try and uncover its unique habits. It seems to be that this butterfly does in fact have a very close relationship with *Acacia erioloba* as most of the individuals would not move off their specific trees, fluttering around in an extremely weak manner and resting on a favourite twig for hours on end. All of this was happening on the canopies of medium to smallish trees. I have reason to believe that the same happens on the bigger trees but it would be near impossible to observe something so small (the specimens collected are about the same size as *Brephidium metophis*). That is probably the reason why this insect has been overlooked by previous collectors.

I'm still in need of funds to travel to other possible places where I believe there could be more unknown localities for this butterfly, of which so much is still to be learned. As a start we now know that *Anthene lindae* is no longer threatened and confined to any single locality as is the unfortunate case of some of our other rare butterflies in South Africa.

Many thanks to Northern Cape Nature Conservation for issuing permits.

A big thanks to all the lepidopterists who have assisted and encouraged me

in the two years since I took up this hobby, which quickly turned into a raging passion (without you I'd still be bird watching!!).

The final instar larva and the pupa of *Deloneura millari millari* Trimen (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae).

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Background

Although the peculiar habits of the imagos of *Deloneura millari millari* Trimen have been documented over many years, nothing is known about the early stages of this butterfly, and very little has been documented about the life cycle of any members of this genus. The final instar larva and pupa of *Deloneura sheppardi* Stevenson was recorded by Clark and Dickson in their work "Life Histories of the South African Lycaenid Butterflies", but no biological information is given. T.B. Larsen gives scant particulars of the egg and larva of *D. ochrascens* Neave in "The Butterflies of Kenya", but again says nothing about its biology.

During September 2002, Robert Kyle succeeded in finding the pupa of *Deloneura millari millari* under loose bark at the base of a Natal Mahogany tree (*Trichilia emetica* Yahl). The pupae were associated with a black *Crematogaster* ant, which was also tending the coccids on which the imagos were feeding. A month later, Kyle and the author succeeded in finding and subsequently rearing larvae of the species.

Biology

The larvae were found to feed on an unidentified species of tree lichen, in association with the same black *Crematogaster* ant. They were always closely associated with these ants, moving within their pheromone trails, although, as was correctly noted by Larsen, the relationship is not an obligate one. The larvae are exceptionally mobile for a lycaenid, and any disturbance quickly causes them to disappear into holes or fissures in the tree. These holes are probably made initially by the larvae of longhorn beetles, and are then utilized as nesting sites by the ants. Frequently, too, the larvae would find shelter

the larvae would find shelter within cracks in the bark of the tree, or under loose bark itself. They are definitely photophobic, feeding only at night, although larvae were found resting in the open during overcast days, or late in the afternoon. Exposure to strong light normally made the larvae restless, causing them to move rapidly to dark sheltered areas, such as under loose bark; once these had been reached they normally settled down and became immobile once more. The larva is very similar in appearance to that of certain lymantrid moths, which have stinging hairs, and may be a mimic of them.

Final Instar Larva: Length 20mm. Ground-colour bluish grey on upperside and underside, with yellowish prolegs. Head blackish brown, surrounded by pale yellow setae. Neck-shield bluish grey, with four black vertical lines. The rear of each segment has a pronounced black stripe running horizontally between the yellow spiracles; another less pronounced parallel stripe runs across the front of each segment. An indistinct black dorsal stripe runs the whole length of the larva. Segments 6 to 9 are noticeably darker, with dark markings covering the ground-colour, except along the dorsum of segments 7, 8 and part of 9, where the dorsal stripe is replaced by a broad pale pinkish marking. There are four fleshy protuberances on each segment, two below the spiracles, and one on either side of the dorsum. Numerous setae protrude from these: the two dorsolateral protuberances each containing nine short pale straight setae and six long dark setae (approximately 10mm in length), which curve downwards; the lower two each containing at least 30 long pale setae, also approximately 10mm in length, and curving downwards. In addition, there are a number of pale short setae emanating from the body above the spiracles. The rear segment contains four such fleshy protuberances facing backwards, each containing at least thirty very long dark setae (also approximately 10mm in length): the neck-shield is similarly endowed, except that these face forward. There is no evidence of either honey-gland or tubercles, but four short, black, club-like structures on the neck-shield appear to emit attractive secretions, as apparently also do the short pale setae above the spiracles. A comparison with Clark's illustration of *D. sheppardi* reveals that, aside from differences in colouration and markings, the dorsal protuberances of *sheppardi* lack the long dark setae, and the lateral setae of *millari* are longer, and of more even length.

Pupa: Length 12mm. Head and thorax grey with black markings, and pink patches around the eyes and on the very pronounced dorsal hump. Abdomen pinkish white, with a pronounced black patch on the dorsum of the first second and fourth abdominal segments, and small irregular black markings scattered over the dorsal and lateral surfaces. A lateral series of six fleshy protuberances runs from the thorax to the fourth abdominal segment; each contains a number of black and pinkish setae, approximately 1mm in length. There is a similar mixture of black and pink setae behind the eyes, and numerous black setae of the same length along the whole dorsum. The old larval skin, with its very numerous long setae, is only partially shed, and covers the anal end and ventral surface of the abdomen.

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Lepsoc., Gauteng Branch – Graskop trip, 21 to 24 September 2002.

Jeremy Dobson

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Attended by: Steve Woodhall, Dave McDermott, JP Niehaus, Jeremy and Chris Dobson and Johan Greyling (Monday only).

The main party departed on Saturday morning and regrouped in Belfast (JP had to work and only joined us later on Saturday afternoon).

Our first stop was at the top of Robber 's Pass (S 24°52.49' E 30°41.59' 1690m), where *Aloeides nubilus* and *Chrysoritis aethon* were to be found in some numbers. A few *Pseudonympha poetula* were about and Dave found a single *Kedestes barberae* by the stream, but no *Dingana angusta* were seen.

Our next destination, the *Lepidochrysops irvingi* locality at MacMac Pools, initially yielded nothing (the area did not appear to have been burnt during the winter months and was overgrown). Steve and Dave had noticed more promising looking veld a few hundred metres further north and we back-tracked to this spot (S25°00.25' E30°49.38' 1210m). Here, *irvingi* were flying everywhere and much activity ensued. A few *Orachrysops violescens* were found, but these were scarce. A brief visit to The Bonnet (S24°56.27' E30°48.14' 1760m) rounded off a memorable day's outing.

Accommodation had been booked in at Perry's View (self-catering chalets near Hazyview), which was very comfortable and good value at R150 per night. After a hard day in the field, the group was understandably thirsty - this state of affairs was, however, thoroughly dealt with.

The following day (Sunday), after a breakfast that included Dave's renowned scrambled eggs, we returned to Mac-Mac Pools as J P had missed out on the previous day 's action (on the way, traps were set at Perry's View and at Kowyn's Pass, where Chris caught a couple of *Antanartia hippomene*). *Lepidochrysops irvingi* were not as abundant as they had been on the Saturday, but were still plentiful enough.

Next on the agenda was Panorama Gorge (S24°56.51' E30°50.95' 1360m). Here, *Tarucus bowkeri*, more *Chrysoritis aethon* and *Dingana angusta* were to be found. Steve told us that he had seen *Chrysoritis phosphor* at the locality - a few unidentified flying orange objects were spotted, but no definite sightings or captures of *phosphor*. Another good day was had by all, although the traps proved fruitless. Dave was led a merry dance by the *aethon*. One female posed happily for Steve, who was very pleased with the photographs he got of her. As soon as he gave the word to Dave to bag her, she divined his lepidopterical intent and headed for the hills. I'm afraid a couple of naughty words were said.

The following two days were spent revisiting the above localities. Jeremy and Chris had to return on the Monday afternoon and in the morning climbed to the top of the peak behind The Bonnet, a fairly steep climb of about 500m. At the top they found a couple of *Lepidochrysops variabilis* and a few *Capys alpheus*. Johan Greyling had heard of the hordes of *Lepidochrysops irvingi* and arranged to drive down from Polokwane just for the day. He was not disappointed.

All in all, a very successful trip with fantastic weather, lots of butterflies and great company - till the next one!

My first butterfly collecting trip - Graskop, Mpumalanga, 20 October 2002.

Matthew John Niehaus
153 Linmeyer Gardens
The Hill

My Daddy had promised for so long to take me on one of his special trips. I was so excited when he asked me to go with him. Each day I counted down how many sleeps I had left until finally the big day arrived. We drove for four hours and I asked my Daddy a million questions. I also had a sip of his "V-Power" or something drink so that we could both keep awake. That night we stayed at a place called Itaba lodge.

The next morning I excitedly woke my Daddy up. He groaned that it was only half past five or something. I could not understand this. The sun was up and so were the butterflies. My Daddy was hoping to catch a butterfly called *Papilio euphranor*. He had been trying to catch it for seven years. I told him that he must not worry because I would catch it for him.

At the first place we had to climb a big mountain to set some traps. It is called The Bonnet. The second place, called Panorama, was much flatter. But we walked a long way and I had to rest four or five times. We set some more traps and soon lots of large *Charaxes xiphares druceanus* and *candiope* visited them. One time I thought I saw a *euphranor* and screamed to my Daddy to come quickly. Then for a moment I was sure there were a herd of elephants living in the forest. A very loud sound came crashing towards me. I was very scared at first but then I saw that it was my Daddy. I pointed to a large black and yellow

tailed butterfly feeding on some flowers high above me. The sad voice of my Daddy confirmed that it was just a *P. ophidicephalus*.

Suddenly a huge brown thing bounced past over my head.

Daddy squealed to me to *Dingana angusta* or something. After the 23rd swipe and running after it for a very, very long time I caught my first brown butterfly.

I also went on to catch *Pseudonympha magus*, *Acraea horta* and even a *Chrysoritis aethon*.

“Not bad for a five year old boy” my Daddy said proudly.

On our way home I kept my Daddy awake by chattering about everything we did.

We didn't need the V-Power but we had some anyway.

I told my Daddy that this was the best day of my life.

Another *lindae*? And checklist of butterflies from the Hobatere Concession Area, Namibia.

Steve Braine
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The Hobatere concession is an area of 32 000ha, bordering on the western boundary of the renowned Etosha National Park in the north-west of Namibia.

The area comprises predominantly Mopane woodland and scrub in rocky, hilly country. Granite hills and outcrops feature dominantly with many dry river washes. The latter only flow during periods of good rainfall, normally between February and April. The larger dry river beds are characterized by having fairly large trees, such as the Ana Tree (*Faidherbia albida*), Ironwood (*Combretum imberbe*), Mopane (*Colophospermum mopane*) with occasional Camelthorn Trees (*Acacia erioloba*). There are also several linear ridges of quartz and dolomite; these are characterized by False Umbrella Thorn (*Acacia reficiens*), Mopane scrub, with occasional Shepherd's Trees (*Boscia albitrunca*) and Ringwood (*Maerua schinzii*). Most higher lying areas also have a lot of Red Bush Willow (*Combretum apiculatum*) while the isolated granite outcrops are characterised by Large-leaved and African Star Chestnuts (*Sterculia quinquiloba* and *S. africana*).

The East or berg winds which blow from the interior from April into August have, in the past, delivered some unusual butterfly species, such as *Amauris niavius niavius* (Linnaeus), *Acraea zetes zetes* f. *menippe* (Drury) and *Deudorix dinochares* Grose-Smith. The most interesting species have been collected in April/May. The more recent being two species of *Anthene* one of which could possibly be another *Anthene lindae* S. & G. Henning. Even if this specimen turns out to be *Anthene minima* (Trimen) the nearest recorded locality would still be over a thousand kilometers away.

Having read the article in *Metamorphosis* Vol 11 no. 3 (September, 2000) on Witsand by Terblanche and Taylor, it appears that the habitat types are vastly different. All the other specimens (from Witsand) were taken in September and November, whereas this single Namibian specimen was collected on the 16th April 2002. As mentioned previously, many unusual butterflies are blown in by the east winds from April through to August. This could well have been the case with this single specimen. The habitat on the edges of the pans in Etosha, where the vegetation comprises short stunted *Safsola* scrub with Water Thom (*Acacia nebrownii*) and scattered Camel Thorn trees would possibly compare with that at Witsand. This area is about 170 km from Hobatere, as the crow flies. More searching in this area could possibly yield more specimens in the future. The specimen was collected at 11h00 and was found sucking on damp soil within the Lodge gardens.

Although Ficq collected a perfect specimen of *Amauris niavius niavius* at Namutoni, no date given, a very tattered specimen was also collected at Hobatere on 12th April 2000. Another two interesting specimens, one of which was captured by B. Brell in the garden at Hobatere, was a perfect *Acraea zetes zetes* f. *menippe*. These also arrived in April after the first strong east winds of the season. Two perfect *Deudorix dinochares* were also collected in April, the nearest larval food plant being *Combretum zeyheri* about 200 km to the north, close to the Kunene River. Prior to 2001 only four individual *Acraea atolmis* were recorded over a period of twelve years, then suddenly in August-September 2001, they were extremely common. The same applies to *Hyalites eponina* of which only a single specimen was seen and caught prior to 2000.

A total of 76 species from 10 subfamilies have been observed or collected over the past 10 years at Hobatere.

The following checklist of butterflies recorded is presented below in Tables 1-4. The months, as well as the year, of capture are also given. The rainfall for the past ten years is given in Table 5. Unfortunately wind direction and speed were not recorded during this period. The strength and continuity correlated to rainfall in the north and east would no doubt present some interesting relationships.

Unfortunately, during the photographing of the butterfly it was badly damaged - losing the head during the process, The photograph,

nevertheless, gives both upper- and underside views (illustrated on the front and back covers of this issue of *Metamorphosis*).

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- TERBLANCHE, R.F., & TAYLOR, J.C. 2000. Notes on the butterflies of Witsand - a unique terrestrial island in the Northern Cape Province, with special reference to two Red Data Book butterfly species. *Metamorphosis* **11**(3): 122-131.

TABLE 1 - FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE

SPECIES	MONTHS RECORDED	YEARS RECORDED
<i>Danaus chrysippus aegyptius</i> (von Schreber) f. <i>alcippus</i>	Jan-Dec	1991-2002
<i>Amauris niavius niavius</i> (Linnaeus)	Apr	2000
<i>Melanitis leda africana</i> (Westwood)	Apr-May	1991, 1992, 2000
<i>Coenyropsis</i> sp. close to <i>natalii</i> (de Boisduval)	Feb-Apr	1991-2002
<i>Acraea neobule neobule</i> Doubleday	Jan-Dec	1991-2002
<i>Acraea stenobea</i> Wallengren	Apr-Aug	1991-2002
<i>Acraea lvgus</i> Druce	Apr-Aug	1991-2002
<i>Acraea atolmis</i> Westwood	Aug-Sep	1999, 2000, 2002
<i>Acraea zetes zetes</i> (Linnaeus) f. <i>menippe</i>	Apr	1993
<i>Acraea acara melanophanes</i> Le Cerf	Apr-May	1993-2002
<i>Acraea ella</i> Eltringham	Apr-Sep	1992-2002
<i>Hyalitils eponina</i> (Cramer)	Mar-Apr	2001-2002
<i>Charaxes jasius saturnus</i> Butler	Jan-Dec	1991-2002
<i>Charaxes achaemenes achaemenes</i> C & R Felder	Jun	1992
<i>Bvblia ilithyia</i> (Drury)	Dec-May	1991-2002
<i>Hamanumida daedalus</i> (Fabricius)	Sep-Jan	1991-2002
<i>Hvoolimnas misippus</i> (Linnaeus)	Sep-Jun	1991-2002
<i>Junonia hierta cebrene</i> Trimen	Jan-Dec	1991-2002
<i>Junonia oenone oenone</i> (Linnaeus)	Apr	1999, 2000, 2001
<i>Junonia orithya madagascariensis</i> Guenée	Apr-May	1991, 1992, 2000-2002

<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (Linnaeus)	Sep-May	1991-2002
<i>Phalanta phalantha aethiopica</i> (Rothschild & Jordan)	Oct & May	1991, 2002

TABLE 2- FAMILY LYCAENIDAE

SPECIES	MONTHS RECORDED	YEARS RECORDED
<i>Iolus subinfuscata subinfuscata</i> (Grünberg)	Apr-May	2000
<i>Iolus mimosae pamela</i> (Dickson)	May	2002
<i>Hypolycaena philippus philippus</i> (Fabricius)	Aug-Oct	1991-2002
<i>Deudorix antalus</i> (Hopffer)	Jan-Dec	1991-2002
<i>Deudorix dinochares</i> Grose-Smith	May	1996, 2002
<i>Cigaritis ella</i> (Hewitson)	Apr-May	1999, 2002
<i>Myrina silenus suzannae</i> Larsen & Plowes	Jun	1997
<i>Axiocerses tjoane tjoane</i> (Wallengren)	Sep-Apr	1991-2002
<i>Aloeides damarensis damarensis</i> Trimen	Oct-Apr	1991-2002
<i>Anthene</i> sp. (possibly sp. nov.)	Sep-Oct	2001, 2002
<i>Anthene</i> sp. close to <i>lindae</i> Henning & Henning	April	2002
<i>Zintha hintza krooni</i> (Dickson)	Oct-Mar	1996-2002
<i>Tarucus sybaris linearis</i> (Aurivillius)	Sep-May	1991-2002
<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus)	Sep-May	1991-2002
<i>Leptotes habaulti</i> (Stempffer)	Sep-Oct	2000-2002
<i>Pseudonacaduba sichela sichela</i> (Wallengren)	Sep-Apr	1991-2002
<i>Chilades trochylus</i> (Freyer)	Sep-Apr	1991-2002
<i>Azonus ubaldus</i> (Stoll)	Sep-May	1991-2002
<i>Azonus jesous jesous</i> (Guérin-Méneville)	Sep-Oct	1999-2002
<i>Cupidopsis jobates jobates</i> (Hopffer)	Apr-May	1999-2002
<i>Zizula hylax</i> (Fabricius)	Mar-May	1991-2002

TABLE 3 – HESPERIIDAE

SPECIES	MONTHS RECORDED	YEARS RECORDED
<i>Spialia spio</i> (Linnaeus)	Apr	2001
<i>Gomalia elma elma</i> (Trimen)	Aug, Sep, Nov, Apr	1996, 2000-2002
<i>Coeliades forestan forestan</i> (Stoll)	Feb-May	1991-2002

YEAR	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02
Jul										
Aug										
Sep	40			4			3			
Oct	4	9	4			19				
Nov	4	24	19	19	2	3		66		
Dec		31	10		19	83	5	129	65	
TOTAL		244	139	320	131	42	117	403	302	384

Letter to the Editor.

Colin Congdon (E-mail: TCECongdon@aol.com) and Ivan Bampton write as follows regarding **“Hunting for *Erikssonia alaponoxa* Henning and Henning 2001”**:

“We were at a loose end, with nothing much doing before Christmas. So why not go down to Zambia and see if we can find the new *Erikssonia*?

The drive down from the Southern Highlands of Tanzania to Livingstone was no problem, but at over 2 000 km it took us a leisurely three days, the high point being an overnight stay with Mike and Patricia Bingham in Lusaka.

North west from Livingstone on the Sesheke road the first 60 or 70 km were no problem, but once the road dropped down into the Zambesi flood plain the situation changed quickly. Reality soon abandoned the comfortable fiction that this was a tarred road. Some stretches retained just enough tar to put sharp edges on the potholes, but soon even this was a memory. Before long we came to a series of deep, black, mud-filled ruts, the liberal addition of sticks bearing witness that others had been less successful than ourselves in getting through. Console yourself that it is only another 90 km to the turnoff. But did you know that 90 km can go on forever? Or so it seemed.

At last the turning (north east) towards the Mulobezi sawmill. Another 90 km, but altogether different. This had all the familiar feel of a bush road in Africa. It follows an old railway line, long abandoned, with trees growing up between the tracks. Some stretches very good, some soft sand, some a succession of puddles few of which were appreciably over knee deep, and all with a hard bottom. There were a few causeways over areas of impeded drainage, and when the bridges in the causeways had collapsed the road made an impromptu by-pass. We had no trouble with the deep, black ruts, but later in the rains these will surely be impossible for anything not equipped with webbed feet. Or wings.

Turn off left before the sawmill for the last stretch of 120 km towards Luampa. This is much better, and in particular the 70 km beyond the last hut is straight, level and firm. 30 km beyond a sign to ‘Roos Carriers’, cross a valley with red earth approaches, and look out for rusting wreckage off the road on

the right hand side. This is the spot, 8 hours and 370 km from Livingstone. It is the place where the railway used to cross the road, short of Kataba. The wreckage consists of rusted and cannibalised railway buses and wagons, and old station buildings. The bush has reclaimed the area now. In the night we heard ground hornbills, and a distant leopard. There were elephant trails heading towards a patch of forest.

If you are considering a visit to this spot, carry emergency spares. Traffic on the road is not heavy. In the day and a half (two nights) we were there the road was used by a barefoot family of three, two people in sandals, and a bicycle. Not much help if you have a flat battery!

Of course we were too early in the season. 18th December. The morning mist had burnt off by 8 o'clock, and we spent the rest of the day pounding the burning sand in search of *Eriksonia*. Ivan found a small colony and netted seven males, freshly emerged, and flying in the manner of *Aloeides*. I only found one male, and a female. Somehow the journey back to Livingstone seemed shorter and easier”

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