

## Genus *Pyrrhochalcia* Mabille, 1904 Policemen

*In*: Wytsman, P.A.G. *Genera Insectorum* 17: 85, 89 (210pp.).

Type-species: *Papilio iphis* Drury, by subsequent designation (Lindsey, 1925. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 18: 99 (75-106).).

The genus *Pyrrhochalcia* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Coeliadinae Evans, 1937. Other genera of the Subfamily Coeliadinae in the Afrotropical Region are *Coeliades*, *Pyrrhiades* and *Tekliades*.

*Pyrrhochalcia* (**Policemen**) is a monobasic Afrotropical genus, with a single large species.

### \**Pyrrhochalcia iphis* (Drury, 1773) Giant Policeman

*Papilio iphis* Drury, 1773. *Illustrations of Natural History* 2: index et 26 (90pp.).



*Pyrrhochalcia iphis iphis*. Male (Wingspan 68 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Aburi Botanical Garden, Ghana. 26 November 2011. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Pyrrhochalcia iphis iphis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Banco Forest, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. 9 October 1997.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** Senegal [false locality]; Gambia [false locality]; Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”; Nigeria: “Bite of Benin”; Ghana: “Anamaboe”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Records from Senegal and Gambia are erroneous (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habitat:** Forest, especially dry coastal forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** May be common where it occurs. The flight is slow and buzzing. Specimens usually rest on leaves about a metre and a half above the ground. Both sexes are fond of flowers, such as coral creeper, and males are attracted to bird droppings. Males are also known to mud-puddle (Larsen, 2005a). Females seeking host-plants land briefly to test plants, apparently randomly (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:**

Schroeder, 1975 [larva].

Carcasson, 1981 [larva and pupa].

Sourakov & Emmel, 1997 [larva; Ghana].

Cock, 2010 [larva; Ivory Coast].

**Larval food:**

*Acridocarpus longifolius* (= *smeathmannii* (DC.) Guill. & Perr. (Malpigiaceae) [Vauttoux, 1999: Ivory Coast].

*Anacardium* (Anacardiaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].

*Ancistrophyllum* species (Arecaceae) [Bampton *et al.*, 1991 (Congo); Larsen (2005a) is doubtful about this record].

*Baphia nitida* (Fabaceae) [Forsyth, 1966; Ghana].

*Cocos nucifera* [Patterson, 1922; Ghana; requires confirmation].

*Dissotis* (Melastomataceae) [Larsen, 2005a].

*Psychotria calva* Hiern (Rubiaceae) [Sourakov & Emmel, 1997; Ghana].

*Tarrietia utilis* (Sprague) Sprague (Malvaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2017; as sp. of *Heritiera*].

## *Pyrrhocalcia iphis iphis* (Drury, 1773)

Giant Policeman

*Papilio iphis* Drury, 1773. *Illustrations of Natural History* 2: index et 26 (90pp.).



*Pyrrhocalcia iphis iphis*. Male (Wingspan 68 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.

Aburi Botanical Garden, Ghana. 26 November 2011. J. Dobson.

Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Pyrrhocalcia iphis iphis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Banco Forest, Abidjan, Ivory Coast. 9 October 1997.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** Senegal [false locality]; Gambia [false locality]; Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon”; Nigeria: “Bite of Benin”; Ghana: “Anamaboe”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko).

Records from Senegal and Gambia are erroneous (Larsen, 2005a).

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Anamaboe (Drury, 1773); Cape Coast (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Lagos (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea – Caldera de Luba, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

*phidias* Cramer, 1779 *in* Cramer, [1779-80] (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa en America* 3: 85 (176 pp.). [West Africa]: “Chine, Bengale [false localities], et sur la Côte d’Afrique, à la Sierra Leona”.

*jupiter* Fabricius, 1787 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Mantissa Insectorum* 2: 87 (382pp.) Hafniae. Sierra Leone: “Sierra Leon Africae”.

*Pyrrhocalcia iphis dejongi* Collins & Larsen, 2008  
**Blue Giant Policeman**

*Pyrrhocalcia iphis dejongi* Collins & Larsen, 2008. *Metamorphosis* 19 (2): 86 (42-113).



*Pyrrhocalcia iphis dejongi* male holotype upperside

**Type locality:** Democratic Republic of Congo: “DRC, Equateur, Kuluboko, 60 km from Mbandaka (00°01’N 18°20’E), 1996 (Ph. Oremans leg., coll. ABRI).” Holotype male in African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi.

**Diagnosis:** The upperside of the male in the nominate subspecies is velvety black, whereas the males of subspecies *dejongi* have a metallic blue sheen (Collins & Larsen, 2008). There are, apparently, no

differences in the male genitalia of the two taxa (De Jong, *vide* Collins & Congdon, 2008).

**Etymology:** The subspecies is named for Rienk de Jong, recently retired from employment at the National Museum of Natural History in Leiden, Netherlands (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

**Distribution:** Gabon, Congo, Angola, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo (west).

**Specific localities:**

Gabon – Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Mondah (Vande weghe, 2010); Iguela (Vande weghe, 2010); Evaro (Vande weghe, 2010); Inkogou (Vande weghe, 2010); Mpivie (Vande weghe, 2010); Fernan Vaz (Vande weghe, 2010); Franceville (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Alen Nkoma (Vande weghe, 2010); Akaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Lope (Vande weghe, 2010).

Congo – Etoumbi (Collins & Larsen, 2008).

Angola – Cabinda Province; Kwanza Norte Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kuluboko (TL); Mayoumbe (Collins & Larsen, 2008).