

## Genus *Acada* Evans, 1937 Axeheads

*A catalogue of the African Hesperiiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 108 (212 pp.).

Type-species: *Pamphila biseriata* Mabille, by original designation.

The genus *Acada* belongs to the Family Hesperiiidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperiiinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Astictopterini Swinhoe, 1912; Subtribe Cupithina Grishin, 2023.

*Acada* (**Axeheads**) is an Afrotropical genus of two species.

### *Acada annulifer* (Holland, 1892) Dark Axehead

*Oxypalpus annulifer* Holland, 1892. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (6) **10**: 293 (284-294).



*Acada annulifer*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lolodorf, south-western Cameroon. October 2010. PA. ABRI-2019-2435.  
Images M.C. Willisms ex ABRI Collection.



*Acada annulifer*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kisangani, Democratic Republic of Congo. September 2013. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2436.  
Images M.C. Willisms ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality**: Gabon: “Ogové Valley”.

**Distribution**: Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Recorded, in error, from Ivory Coast by Ackery *et al.*, 1995 (Larsen, 2005a).

**Specific localities:**

Nigeria – Gambari (Larsen, 2005a); Olokemeji (Larsen, 2005a); Omo (Larsen, 2005a); Benin (Larsen, 2005a); Aba (Larsen, 2005a); Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a); Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ogove Valley (TL); Talaguga (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

**Habitat:** Forest.

**Habits:** Usually met with singly while resting on a leaf. Patches of flowers on the forest edge may attract small aggregations (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*Acada biseriata* (Mabille, 1893)#

Axehead Orange



Male Axehead Skipper, Coutada 12, Sofala, Mozambique.  
Image courtesy Bart Wursten.

*Pamphila biseriata* Mabille, 1893. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* 37: 54 (50-65).

*Acada biseriatus* (Mabille, 1893). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

*Acada biseriatus* (Mabille, 1893). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 328.



*Acada biseriata*. Male (Wingspan 28 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Gundani, Limpopo Province, South Africa. 30 April 2006. J. Greyling.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Greyling Collection.



**Alternative common name:** Axehead Skipper; Bylkop-oranjetjie (Afrikaans).

**Type locality:** [Tanzania]: “Zanzibar”.

**Distribution:** Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Uganda (Davenport, 1996), Kenya (coast), Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, South Africa (Limpopo Province).

In South Africa its distribution covers 2 quarter degree squares (31 records) [see <http://vmus.adu.org.za>]. It is regarded as extremely localized.

**Specific localities:**

Angola – Benguela Province; Bie Province; Huambo Province; Huila Province; Kuando-Kubango Province; Kwanza Norte Province; Kwanza Sul Province; Moxico Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Kenya – Kibwezi (Larsen, 1991c); Teita Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Ukambani (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Zanzibar (TL); wherever *Brachystegia* woodland occurs (Kielland, 1990d); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al.*, 2006).

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

Zambia – Ikelenge (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chingola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mufulira (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kitwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Chisamba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lusaka (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Pemba (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mkushi River (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Luangwa Valley (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Misamfu River (= Kasama) (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Mount Chipirone (Timberlake *et al.*, 2007); Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mount Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mount Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mount Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mecula [-12.0772 37.6297] (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).

Zimbabwe – Mineni Valley (Trimen, 1894); Victoria Falls (Pinhey); Laurenceville, Vumba (male specimen illustrated above).

Botswana – 50 km south of Kasane (Larsen, 1991).

Limpopo Province – Gundani.

**Habitat:** *Brachystegia* woodland. In Tanzania, from near sea-level to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** A very common species, usually flying together with *Teniorhinus harona* (Kielland, 1990d). Specimens prefer to fly in shady spots, resting on grass stems in the shade of trees (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). Specimens also rest on the ground or on rocks in the shade of trees (Williams, unpublished). The flight is fast and both sexes feed from flowers, large numbers sometimes being attracted to those of *Tridax* (Larsen, 1991c).

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

**Early stages:**

Cock & Congdon, 2013: 20 [larva and pupa]

**Larval food:**

*Brachystegia* species (Fabaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1974, 1975; Kenya].

*Brachystegia spiciformis* Benth. (Fabaceae) [Paré, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 328].

**Conservation status:** Classified as regionally Critically Endangered for South Africa by Mecenero *et al.*, 2013.

*zimbazo* Trimen, 1894 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1894**: 74 (14-82). [Zimbabwe]: “Mineni Valley”.

*icteriana* Strand, 1921 (as f. of *Parosmodes icteria*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **86** (A.7.): 156 (113-171). “Nyassa, Brit. Ost-Afrika”.