

Genus *Artitropa* Holland, 1896

Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London **1896**: 92 (2-107).

Type-species: *Pamphila erinnys* Trimen, by original designation.

An Afrotropical genus of ten species.

**Artitropa alaostrana* Oberthür, 1916

Artitropa alaostrana Oberthür, 1916. *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* **11**: 244 (177-244).

Type locality: Madagascar: “Bord du lac Alaotra”.

Distribution: Madagascar (Antsianaka district).

Specific localities:

Madagascar – Lake Alaotra (TL).

Habitat: Forest (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

**Artitropa boseae* (Saalmüller, 1880)

Hesperia boseae Saalmüller, 1880. *Bericht über die Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft* **1880**: 259 (258-310).

Type locality: Madagascar: “Nossi-Bé [Nosy Be]”.

Distribution: Madagascar (north and east).

Specific localities:

Madagascar – Nosy Be (TL); Antakares (Oberthür, 1916).

Habitat: Forest margins and anthropogenic environments (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

aaron Oberthür, 1916 (as sp. of *Proteides*). *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* **11**: 241 (177-244).
Madagascar: “Antakares”.

**Artitropa cama* Evans, 1937

Artitropa cama Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 147 (212 pp.).



Artitropa cama. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 49mm. Djaf, S. Cameroon. 9/96. S. Collins.
(African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).



Artitropa cama. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 49mm. Yakoli, RCA. 9/1998.
(African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).

Type locality: Cameroon: “Cameroons (Bitje)”.

Distribution: Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Tanzania (west), Zambia.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Bitje (TL); Djaf (male illustrated above).

Central African Republic – Yakoli (female illustrated above).

Tanzania – Kemfu Forest (Kielland, 1990d; two specimens). This forest has been destroyed so the species may be extinct in Tanzania (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Lisombu River (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Habitat: Forest (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Noted on bushes in semi-shade along a forest stream (Kielland, 1990d).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena species near *afromontana* Mildbr. (Dracaenaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 17].

****Artitropa comus* (Stoll, 1782)**

Western Nightfighter

Papilio comus Stoll, 1782. *In*: Stoll, [1780-2]. *Die Uitlandsche Kapellen voorkomende in de drie waerreldeelen Asia, Africa en America* 4 [part]: 212 (29-252). Amsteldam & Utrecht.

Artitropa comus (Cramer, 1782). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330. [misattribution of authorship]



Artitropa comus. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 46mm. Lisombo Stream, Mwinilunga, N.W. Zambia. April/May '00.
TCEC/IB.MR/PW. (African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).

Type locality: [West Africa]: “Suriname”. [False locality.]

Distribution: Senegal, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia.

Specific localities:

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Nigeria – Omo Forest (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ogove Valley (Holland, 1890).

Zambia – Hillwood (Ikelenge) (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Lisombo Stream, Mwinilunga (male illustrated above).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: Rarely seen in nature because of its crepuscular habits. Individuals were once seen coming to feed on pawpaw flowers at dusk (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena fragrans Ker Gawl. (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324; as *Dracaena uganda*].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 197; as *Dracaena usambarensis*].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330; as *Dracaena reflexa* Lam. var. *nitens* (Welw. ex Bak.) Bak.].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; as *Dracaena perrottetii*; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

Dracaena species near *afromontana* Mildbr. (Dracaenaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 17].

Dracaena steudneri Engl. (Dracaenaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330].

helops Drury, 1782 (as sp. of *Papilio*). *Illustrations of Natural History* 3: index et 45 (76 pp.). London. [West Africa]: “The Brazils”. [False locality.]

enni Fabricius, 1793 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Entomologia Systematica emendata et aucta* 3 (1): 337 (488 pp.). [West Africa]: “in Indiis”. [False locality.]

margaritata Holland, 1890 (as sp. of *Proteides*). *Entomological News* 1: 155 (155-156). Gabon: “Valley of the Ogove”.

****Artitropa erinnys* (Trimen, 1862)#**

Bush Nightfighter



A male of the Bush Nightfighter (*Artitropa erinnys*)
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Pamphila erinnys Trimen, 1862. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) 1: 290 (279-291).

Pamphila erinnys Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.

Pamphila erinnys Trimen, 1861. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

Artitropa erinnys Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Artitropa erinnys (Trimen, 1862). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Artitropa erinnys (Trimen, 1862). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330.



Artitropa erinnys erinnys. Male (Wingspan 55 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Lekgalameetse N.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa.
M.C. Williams Collection.



Artitropa erinnys erinnys. Female (Wingspan 61 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sabie, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Port Natal”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.

Distribution: Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Swaziland, Comoro Islands.

Recorded for Zambia by Kielland (1990d) but not recorded for Zambia by Heath *et al.*, 2002.

Habitat: Forest, often in deep shade near stream banks. In Tanzania subspecies *ehlersi* occurs at altitudes between 900 and 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: This species flies at dusk, but also on overcast days. Specimens often visit flowers (Pringle *et al.*, 1994). During the day it rests in the deep shade, among ferns or on tree trunks. Males defend territories near the host plants, perching on tree trunks.

Flight period: All year but more abundant from August to May (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Early stages:

Murray, 1932: 584 [*South African Journal of Science* **29**: 584].

Clark, in Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 264; plate 30 [as *Artitropa erinnys erinnys*; near East London, Eastern Cape].

“*Egg:* Laid singly on leaves of the foodplant and whitish at first, later assuming a light salmon-brown tone; 2.0 mm diameter by 1.2 mm high. There are some 50 longitudinal ribs, composed of small moles, and reaching three-quarters of the way up the side, then breaking into a hexagonal pattern. The larva hatches after 12 to 18 days. The shell is generally eaten. *Larva:* 1st instar 3 growing to 7 mm in 8 days; 2nd instar 7 growing to 10 mm in 14 days; 3rd instar 10 growing to 13 mm in 18 to 21 days; 4th instar 13 growing to 18 mm in 15 to 19 days; 5th instar 18 growing to 27 mm in 13 to 17 days; 6th instar 27 growing to 50 mm in 19 to 24 days. The duration of the instars is very variable. The larva folds over the edge of a leaf to form a shelter for itself, eating a slot out of the leaf before making the fold. Pupation eventually takes place within the shelter that the larva had used. *Pupa:* 31 mm. Emergence occurs after 23 to 26 days. *Parasite:* The Diptera *Thecocarcelia incedens*, ex pupa, has been recorded. The parasite fly has been found to emerge 26 days after the maggot itself has pupated. Recorded from eggs and larvae from Leach’s Bay, near East London.”

M.J.W. Cock, vide Larsen, 1991c.

Cock has observed females laying eggs in the late afternoon.

Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 171 [photograph of final instar larva and pupa].



Artitropa erinnys. Egg and final instar larva.

Images (from left to right) courtesy Steve Woodhall, Jeremy Dobson & Mark Williams

Larval food:

Dracaena afromontana Mildbr. (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324].

Dracaena aletiformis (Haw.) Bos (Dracaenaceae) [Swanepoel, 1953: 281; South Africa; as *D. hookeriana* K. Koch].

Dracaena angustifolia (Dracaenaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 171].

Dracaena fragrans Ker Gawl. (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324].

Dracaena manni Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324; as *Dracaena nitens* Bak.].

Dracaena manni Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 324; as *Dracaena reflexa* Bak.].

Dracaena steudneri Engl. (Dracaenaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 197].

***Artitropa erinnys erinnys* (Trimen, 1862)#**

Pamphila erinnys Trimen, 1862. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) **1**: 290 (279-291).

Pamphila erinnys Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.

Pamphila erinnys Trimen, 1861. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.

Artitropa erinnys Trimen. Swanepoel, 1953a.

Artitropa erinnys erinnys (Trimen, 1862). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Artitropa erinnys erinnys (Trimen, 1862). Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330.



Artitropa erinnys erinnys. Male (Wingspan 55 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Lekgalameetse N.R., Limpopo Province, South Africa.
M.C. Williams Collection.



Artitropa erinnys erinnys. Female (Wingspan 61 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sabie, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: “Port Natal”. Holotype (male) in the Natural History Museum, London.
Distribution: Mozambique (south), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Swaziland.

Specific localities:

Limpopo Province – Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (“Malta Forest”) (Swanepoel, 1953; male illustrated above).

Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953); Marieps Kop (Swanepoel, 1953).

KwaZulu-Natal – Durban (TL); Umkomaas (Swanepoel, 1953); Pietermaritzburg (Swanepoel, 1953); Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953).

Eastern Cape Province – East London (Swanepoel, 1953); Grahamstown (Swanepoel, 1953); Bashee River (Swanepoel, 1953); Port St Johns (Swanepoel, 1953); Van Staden’s Pass (Clarke).

Artitropa erinnys comorarum Oberthür, 1916

Artitropa erinnys comorarum Oberthür, 1916. *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* **11**: 242 (177-244).

Type locality: Comoro Islands: “Grande Comore”.

Distribution: Comoro Islands (Grand Comore, Anjouan).

Artitropa erinnys ehlersi Karsch, 1896

Artitropa ehlersi Karsch, 1896. *Entomologische Nachrichten. Berlin* **22**: 376 (372-378).

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Kilimandjaro; Nord Usambara, Umgegend von Mlalo”.

Distribution: Tanzania (coast – inland to Arusha).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Kilimanjaro (TL); North Usambara (Karsch, 1896); near Mlalo (Karsch, 1896); Kibonto (Aurivillius, 1910); Mount Meru (Kielland, 1990d); Nguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d); Usambara Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

unifasciata Aurivillius, 1910 (as var. of *Artitropa erinnys*). *In*: Sjöstedt, B. Y., *Wissenschaftliche Ergebnisse der Schweidischen zoologischen Expedition nach dem Kilimandjaro, dem Meru und den umgebenen Massaisteppen Deutsch-OstAfrikas 1905-1906*. 2 (9): 15 (56 pp.). Stockholm. [Tanzania]: “Kilimandjaro; Kibonto in der Kulturzone”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/e).

Artitropa erinnys nyasae Riley, 1925

Artitropa erinnys nyasae Riley, 1925. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1925**: 284 (281-288).

Artitropa erinnys nyasae Riley, 1925. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Artitropa erinnys nyasae Riley, 1925. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330.

Type locality: [Malawi]: “Nyasaland; Mt Mlanje”.

Diagnosis: Subspecies *nyasae* has the underside hindwing markings distinctly white and well developed (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Distribution: Tanzania (south-west), Malawi (south), Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Near Tukuyu (Congdon, *vide* Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Mount Mlanje (TL); Zomba Mountain (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Mozambique – Mt Inago (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Namuli (Congdon *et al.*, 2010); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – Vumba Mountains (Pringle *et al.*, 1994); Chirinda Forest (Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

Artitropa erinnys radiata Riley, 1925

Artitropa erinnys radiata Riley, 1925. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1925**: 285 (281-288).

Type locality: [Kenya]: “Sagalla Mt”.

Distribution: Kenya (south-east).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Mount Sagala (TL); Teita Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Chyulu Hills (Larsen, 1991c).

Note: Larsen, 1991c considers *radiata* Riley, 1925 to be a synonym of *ehlersi* Karsch, 1896 but does not officially change its status.

Artitropa erinnys vansommereni Riley, 1925

Artitropa erinnys vansommereni [sic] Riley, 1925. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1925**: 284 (281-288).

Type locality: Kenya: “Nairobi”.

Distribution: Kenya (central).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Nairobi (TL); Meru (Larsen, 1991c); Ngong (Larsen, 1991c).

Note: The incorrect spelling of van Someren’s name in the original publication is repeated by Evans (1937), Peters (1952), and Larsen (1991c).

****Artitropa hollandi* Oberthür, 1916**

Artitropa hollandi Oberthür, 1916. *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* **11**: 243 (177-244).

Type locality: Madagascar: “Antsianaka”.

Distribution: Madagascar (north and east).

Specific localities:

Madagascar – Antsianaka (TL).

Habitat: Unknown (Lees *et al.*, 2003).

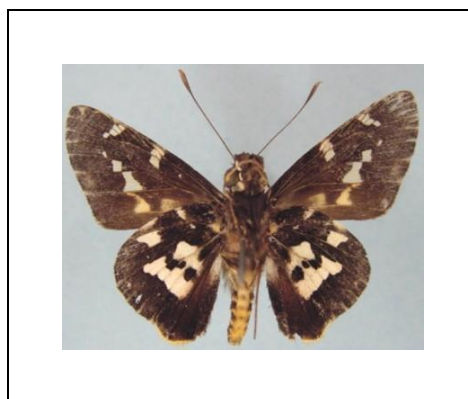
Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

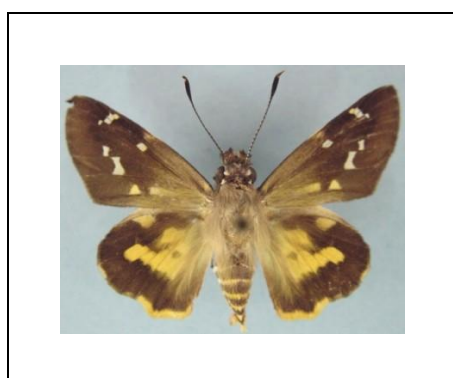
****Artitropa milleri* Riley, 1925**

Miller's Nightfighter

Artitropa milleri Riley, 1925. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1925**: 282 (281-288).



Artitropa milleri ssp A. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 44mm. Chisanga Falls, Malawi/Zambia border, Nyika, Malawi, 6000 ft. 2/1983.
S.C. Collins. (African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).



Artitropa milleri ssp B. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 42mm. Kashiba, Zambia. 8:VIII:76. A. Heath.
(African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Tanganyika Territory; Tukuyu, 5,000 feet”.

Distribution: Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Zambia.

Recorded, in error, from Zimbabwe by Larsen, 1991c.

Habitat: Forest, including riverine forest (Kielland, 1990d). In Tanzania the nominate subspecies occurs at altitudes from 1 400 to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: Greatly attracted to flowering bushes and herbs growing along stream banks (Kielland, 1990d). Larsen (1991) found that individuals of subspecies *coryndon* were strongly attracted to the flowers of papaya at dusk.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena laxissima Engl. (Dracaenaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 248].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 16].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Van Someren, 1974: 325; as *Dracaena usambarensis* Engler].

Dracaena steudneri Engl. (Dracaenaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 427; Nairobi, Kenya].

Note: The taxonomy of this species apparently requires attention (see illustrated specimens, above) (MCW).

Artitropa milleri milleri Riley, 1925

Artitropa milleri Riley, 1925. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1925**: 282 (281-288).

Type locality: [Tanzania]: “Tanganyika Territory; Tukuyu, 5,000 feet”.

Distribution: Uganda (west), Tanzania, Democratic Republic of Congo (Shaba), Malawi, Zambia.

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Tukuyu (TL); Sandstone Ridge in Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d); Uzungwa Range (Kielland, 1990d); Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Malawi – Chisanga Falls (male illustrated above).

Zambia – Ndola (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Mpongwe (Heath *et al.*, 2002); Kashiba (female illustrated above).

Artitropa milleri coryndon Evans, 1937

Artitropa milleri coryndon Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 146 (212 pp.).

Type locality: [Kenya]: “Nairobi”.

Distribution: Kenya (central and eastern highlands).

Specific localities:

Kenya – Nairobi (TL).

**Artitropa principetome* Collins & Larsen, 2013

Artitropa pricipetome Collins & Larsen, 2013. *Metamorphosis* **24**: (20-24).

Type locality: São Tomé & Príncipe: “Island of Príncipe, Bombom (S.C. Collins)”. Holotype (male) in the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi.

Distribution: São Tomé & Príncipe.

Specific localities:

São Tomé & Príncipe – Bombom (TL).

Habitat:

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena arborea (Dracaenaceae) [Collins & Larsen, 2013].

**Artitropa reducta* Aurivillius, 1925

Artitropa comus var. *reducta* Aurivillius, 1925. *Ergebnisse der Zweiten Deutschen Zentral-Afrika-Expedition* **1** (18): 1245 (1243-1359).

Artitropa comus reducta Aurivillius, 1925. Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Artitropa comus reducta Aurivillius, 1925. Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330.



Artitropa reducta. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 47mm. Vumba, S. Rhodesia. 14.3.1960. B.D. Barnes.
(Transvaal Museum – TM2851).

Type locality: [Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Belg. Kongo; Kimuenza”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/c).

Distribution: Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia (south), Uganda, Kenya (south-east), Tanzania (coast), Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east).

Specific localities:

Gabon – Ekouyi, Bateke Plateau (van de Weghe, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Kimuenza (TL).

Kenya – Shimba Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Teita Hills (Larsen, 1991c); Mount Sagala (Larsen, 1991c).

Tanzania – Sanje River at the foot of the Uzungwa scarp, 500 m (Kielland, 1990d); Kasoge Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Kemfu Forest (Kielland, 1990d); Rondo (Congdon & Bampton, unpublished).

Malawi – Mt Mulanje (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zambia – Samfya (a single specimen recorded by Dening) (Heath *et al.*, 2002).

Mozambique – Buzi River, near Espungabera (Hull); Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al.*, 2010).

Zimbabwe – Vumba Mountains (Barnes; male illustrated above); Mount Selinda (Pennington).

Habitat: Forest. In Tanzania at altitudes from 500 to 900 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: A rare and local skipper (Kielland, 1990d). The flight is very swift. Both sexes feed from flowers at dusk; at Mount Selinda they have been seen feeding from the flowers of *Brunfelsia* (Pennington, *vide* Pringle *et al.*, 1994).

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

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Congdon & Bampton, unpublished 2003; Rondo, Tanzania].

Dracaena mannii Baker (Dracaenaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330; as *Dracaena reflexa* Lam. var. *nitens* (Welw. ex Bak.)].

Dracaena species (Dracaenaceae) [Kielland, 1990d: 248].

Dracaena steudneri Engl. (Dracaenaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 330].

**Artitropa usambarae* Congdon, Kielland, & Collins, 1998

Artitropa usambarae Congdon, Kielland, & Collins, 1998. *In*: *Supplement to Kielland's butterflies of Tanzania*: 23 (143 pp.) ABRI and Lambillionea.

Type locality: Tanzania: “West Usambara Mts., Ambangulu, 3 500 ft., 11.v.93, S.C. Collins.”
Holotype (male) in African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi. Known only from the holotype (male).

Distribution: Tanzania (north-east).

Specific localities:

Tanzania – Ambangulu, West Usambara Mountains (single male *ex ova*) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:

Dracaena species (Dracaenaceae) [Congdon & Collins, 1998: 23].