Updated 06 November 2026. THOMAS DESLOGES (atb.editor@lepsocafrica.org).
ANDREW NOSS (Copy Editor)

Genus *Borbo* Evans, 1949
Swifts

A catalogue of the Hesperiidae from Europe, Asia and Australia in the British Museum (Natural History): 44, 436 (502 pp.). London.
Type-species: *Hesperia borbonica* Boisduval, by original designation.

The genus *Borbo* belongs to the Family Hesperiidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperiinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Baorini Doherty, 1886. Other genera in the Tribe Baorini are *Brusa*, *Zenonia*, *Gegenes*, *Parnara*, and *Pelopidas*.

*Borbo (*Swifts) is a predominantly Afrotropical genus containing 10 species, one of which (*borbonica*) extends extralimitally. There are a further four extralimital species.

Afrotropical species in the genus *Borbo* Evans, 1949

B. borbonica
B. ratek
B. fatuellus
B. lugens
B. gemella
B. ferruginea
B. binga
B. chagwa
B. liana
B. kaka

**Borbo borbonica* (Boisduval, 1833)
Olive-haired Swift (#)



Borbo borbonica. Male feeding on a Lantana flower.
Image courtesy Raimund Schutte.

Hesperia borbonica Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 213 (149-270).
Pamphila borbonica Boisduval. Trimen, 1866a.
Pamphila borbonica (Boisduval, 1833). Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Pelopidas borbonica. Evans, 1937.
Pelopidas borbonica Boisduval, 1833. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Borbo borbonica (Boisduval, 1833). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Borbo borbonica (De Boisduval, 1833). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 335.



Borbo borbonica borbonica. Male (Wingspan 42 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Grand Baie, Mauritius. 15 April 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo borbonica borbonica. Female (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Umtamvuna River, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 27 April 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: [Reunion]: "Bourbon"; [Mauritius]: "Maurice".
Note: Genitalic differences between some populations indicate that there may be other taxa subsumed under *borbonica* (Larsen, 1991c: 435).
Diagnosis: There are three dark-ringed white spots on the olivaceous-yellow hindwing underside; the forewings are very elongated (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau (Bacelar, 1949), Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Madagascar, Reunion, Rodrigues, Mauritius, Seychelles, Cape Verde Islands. Extralimitally in the Palaearctic (Morocco, Spain, Egypt, Gibralter, Lebanon).
Habitat: Dry savanna, moist woodland and coastal bush. In Madagascar in forest margins, transformed grasslands and croplands (Lees *et al*., 2003). Larsen (2005a) notes that it even colonizes disturbed forest. In Tanzania at altitudes from about 500 m up to 2 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: This is a fairly common skipper (Larsen, 2005a). The flight is fast and low down. The species is known to show migratory behaviour. Specimens flying over the sea from the direction of Madagascar were observed arriving on Mauritius in March, 1986 (Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 199). Specimens are occasionally seen feeding from flowers; Larsen (2005a) records them on the flowers of *Tridax*. Males establish territories anywhere within the species habitat. Within these territories males perch on the ground, rocks, grass stems, or shrubs. Specimens have been collected at light at night by several collectors on the Kenyan coast (Larsen, 1991c).
Flight period: All year. October and April are, apparently, the months in which it is most abundant (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:
Cock & Congdon, 2012: 19 [ovum, larva & pupa]
Larval food:
Cenchrus (= *Pennisetum* species) (Poaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 435].
Cenchrus purpureus (Schumach.) Morrone (= *Pennisetum purpureum* Schumach) [Guillermet, 2011; Lawrence, 2014: 34].
Ehrharta species (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 200].
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Kroon, 1999].
Leersia hexandra Sw. (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; Nairobi].
Oryza sativa L. (Poaceae) [Frappa, 1937; Madagascar].

Panicum species (Poaceae) [Davis & Barnes, 1991; Mauritius].
Megathyrsus maximus (Jacq.) B.K. Simon & S.W.L. Jacobs (= *Panicum maximum* Jacq.) (Poaceae) [Lawrence, 2014: 34].
Saccharum officinarum L. (Poaceae) (sugar-cane) [Williams, 1989; Mauritius].
Sorghum species (Poaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].
Stenotaphrum dimidiatum (L.) Brongn. (Poaceae) [Lawrence, 2014: 33; for ssp. *morella*].
Zea mays L. (Poaceae) [Hargreaves, 1932; Uganda; requires confirmation (Cock & Congdon, 2012)].

Borbo borbonica borbonica (Boisduval, 1833)

Olive-haired Swift (#)

Hesperia borbonica Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 213 (149-270).



Borbo borbonica borbonica. Male (Wingspan 42 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Grand Baie, Mauritius. 15 April 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo borbonica borbonica. Female (Wingspan 44 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Umtamvuna River, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 27 April 2005. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: [Reunion]: "Bourbon"; [Mauritius]: "Maurice".
Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Mauritania, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (north), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, Gauteng, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Eswatini, Madagascar, Reunion, Rodrigues, Mauritius, Seychelles, Cape Verde Islands.
Extralimitally in the Palaearctic (Morocco, Spain, Egypt, Gibralter, Lebanon).
Specific localities:
Cape Verde Islands – 7 localities (Tennent & Russell, 2019).
Gambia – Fajara, Abuko, Bijilo, Keneba, Sanyang, Basse (Baker).
Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al*., 2020).
Burkina Faso – W National Park – North (Jamonneau *et al.*, 2026).
Ghana – Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a).
Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016). 11 localities (Coache *et al*., 2017).
Nigeria – Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).
Gabon – 9 localities (Vande weghe, 2010).

Angola – Cabinda Province; Huila Province; Kwanza Sul Province; Luanda Province; Malanje Province; Namibe Province (Mendes *et al*., 2013).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest; Semuliki Valley; Central Forest Block; Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Kenya – Chyulu Hills (van Someren, 1939). Makardara Forest (Sevastopulo, 1974). Ngong Forest (Larsen, 1991c). Muguga (Cock & Congdon, 2012).
Tanzania – Widespread (Kielland, 1990d). Mkatta (Strand, 1912); Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al*., 2006).
Malawi – Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, 2019).
Zambia – 11 localities (Heath *et al*., 2002).
Mozambique – Njesi Plateau (Congdon *et al*., 2010). Mt Yao (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).
Botswana – 8 localities (Larsen, 1991l).
Namibia – Kavango River; Kombat; Brandberg (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
South Africa –
Limpopo Province – Polokwane; Mokeetsi; Vivo (Swanepoel, 1953).
Mpumalanga – Lydenburg district. Gauteng – Pretoria (Swanepoel, 1953).
Free State Province – Bloemfontein (Swanepoel, 1953).
KwaZulu-Natal – Durban; Pinetown; Stanger; Richard's Bay; Eshowe (Swanepoel, 1953). Umkomaas (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).
Eastern Cape Province – Port Elizabeth (Swanepoel, 1953).
Mauritius – Widespread and common (Davis & Barnes, 1991). Grand Gaube (Lawrence, 2016).
Seychelles – Mahe; Silhouette; Praslin (Lawrence, 2014).

senegalensis Klug, 1842 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Doubletten-Verzeichness von Senegallensischen Insecten (ohne Titel) mit Diagnosen neuer Arten von Klug und Erichson* : 13 (15 pp.), Berlin. Senegal.

zelleri Lederer, 1855 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Verhandlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Vereins in Wien* **5**: 194 (177-234). Lebanon: "Bierut". Synonymized with the nominate subspecies by Tennent, 1996 (**syn. nov.**).

holii Oberthür, 1910 *in* Oberthür, 1909-10 (as ssp. of *Pamphila borbonica*). *Études de Lépidoptérologie Comparée* 364 (**3**: 101-415; **4**: 1-691). Algeria: "Hussein-Dey".

continentalis Strand, 1912 (as var. of *Parnara borbonica*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.1.): 80 (67-92). [Tanzania]: "Mkatta".

Borbo borbonica morella (de Joannis, 1893)
Seychelles Olive-haired Swift

Pamphila morella de Joannis, 1893. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France* **62**: 52 (50-53).
Pelopidas borbonica morella (de Joannis, 1893). Evans, 1937.

Type data: Seychelles: "Mahé".
Distribution: Seychelles (including Aldabra Island).
Specific localities:
Seychelles – Mahe (TL). St Anne; Silhouette; Cousine; Aldabra Atoll (Lawrence, 2014).
Habitat: Forest edges above 250 m a.s.l. (Lawrence, 2014).
Habits: Males are territorial (Lawrence, 2014).
Flight period: Mainly from November to March **.**

**Borbo ratek* (Boisduval, 1833)

Malagasy Dark Swift

Thymele ratek Boisduval, 1833. *Nouvelles Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris* **2**: 209 (149-270).
Baoris ratek (Boisduval, 1833), Evans, 1937.



Borbo ratek. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
La Mandraka, Madagascar. December 2002. ABRI Coll. Bred. ABRI-2019-2672.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Borbo ratek. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ranamofana, Madagascar. October 2018. ABRI Team. ABRI-2019-2673.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: Madagascar.
Distribution: Madagascar (north and east).
Specific localities:
Madagascar – Nose Be (Saalmüller, 1884).
Habitat: Forest (Lees *et al*., 2003).
Larval food:
Setaria sp. (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; La Mandraka, Madagascar].

sinnis Mabille, 1878 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Petites Nouvelles Entomologiques* **2**: 285 (285). Madagascar.

weymeri Saalmüller, 1884 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Abhandungen hrsg. Von der Senskenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft* **17**: 107 (1-246). Madagascar: "N.-B.".

**Borbo fatuellus* (Hopffer, 1855)

Long-horned Swift (#)




Borbo fatuellus. Males.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall

Pamphila fatuellus Hopffer, 1855. *Berichte über die zur Bekanntmachung geeigneten Verhandlungen der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin* **1855**: 643 (639-643).
Pamphila fatuellus Hopffer, 1855. Trimen & Bowker, 1889.
Baoris fatuellus (Hopffer, 1855)). Evans, 1937.
Baoris fatuellus Hopffer. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Borbo fatuellus (Hopffer, 1855). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Borbo fatuellus (Hopffer, 1855). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 334.



Borbo fatuellus fatuellus. Male (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Black Rock, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 15 June 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo fatuellus fatuellus. Female (Wingspan 41 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 16 June 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: Mozambique: "Mossambique".
Diagnosis: The underside of the hindwing usually has spots in spaces 2, 3 and 6 (Pringle *et al*., 1994). In the wet season form the hindwing underside is uniformly dark but in dry season specimens the central part of the hindwing underside is dusted with white scales (Kielland, 1990d).
Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Eswatini, Yemen, Comoro Islands, São Tomé & Principé.

Habitat: Wet forest, moist woodland, and coastal bush. Common in *Brachystegia* woodland. In Tanzania from sea-level to 2 100 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A common and widespread skipper (Larsen, 1991c). One of the commonest hesperiids in West Africa (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens settle low down, on shrubs or grass stems, on the edge of the bush (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Both sexes feed from flowers and males mud-puddle. Males establish territories in open places or on the edge of the bush.
Flight period: All year but commonest from June to August and in the midsummer months (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:
Clark, *in* Dickson & Kroon, 1978: p. 276; plates 35 and 36 [as *Borbo fatuellus*; Durban and Umhlanga Rocks, KwaZulu-Natal].
Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 193 (photograph of final instar larva).
Cock & Congdon, 2012: 22 [larva & pupa].



Borbo fatuellus. Left: Egg. Right: 1st instar larva.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.



Borbo fatuellus. Left: 5th instar larva. Right: pupa.
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Larval food:
Cenchrus purpureus (Schumach.) Morrone (= *Pennisetum purpureum* Schumach) (Poaceae) [Le Pelley, 1959; Uganda]
Digitaria atrofusca (Hack.) A. Camus (= *Digitaria seminuda* Stapf) species (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Côte d'Ivoire].
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959].
Imperata cylindrica (L.) Raeusch. (Poaceae) [Larsen, 2005a; Obudu Town, Nigeria; oviposition only].
Megathyrsus maximus (Jacq.) B.K. Simon & S.W.L. Jacobs (= *Panicum maximum* Jacq.) (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012].
Oryza (Poaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 433].
Panicum trichocladum Hack. Ex K. Schum. (Poaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1975].
Paspalum sp. (Poaceae) [Forsyth, 1966; Ghana].
Setaria barbata (Lam.) Kunth (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Côte d'Ivoire].
Setaria megaphylla (Steud.) T.Durand & Schinz (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Côte d'Ivoire].
Setaria sulcata Raddi (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 199].
Zea mays L. (Poaceae) [Forsyth, 1966; Ghana].

Borbo fatuellus fatuellus (Hopffer, 1855)

Long-horned Swift (#)

Pamphila fatuellus Hopffer, 1855. *Berichte über die zur Bekanntmachung geeigneten Verhandlungen der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin* **1855**: 643 (639-643).



Borbo fatuellus fatuellus. Male (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Black Rock, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 15 June 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo fatuellus fatuellus. Female (Wingspan 41 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 16 June 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: Mozambique: "Mossambique".
Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Togo, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (north), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Eswatini, Yemen.
Specific localities:
Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).
Gambia – Fajara; Basse; Walikunda; Janjanbureh Island (Baker).
Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al*., 2020).
Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al*., 2020).
Burkina Faso – W National Park – TRLP; Bobo-Dioulasso (Jamonneau *et al.*, 2026).
Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al*., 2007). Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al*., 2009).
Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016). 15 localities (Coache *et al*., 2017).
Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).
Angola – Cabinda Province; Huambo Province; Kwanza Norte Province; Huila Province; Malanje Province; Moxico Province (Mendes *et al*., 2013).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest; Semuliki Valley; Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Kenya – Chyulu Hills (van Someren, 1939). Makardara Forest (Sevastopulo, 1974).
Tanzania – Throughout (Kielland, 1990d). Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al*., 2006).
Zambia – 16 localities (Heath *et al*., 2002).
Mozambique – Amatongas; Mt Namuli; Mt Mabu (Congdon *et al*., 2010). Mt Mecula; Mt Yao (Congdon & Bayliss, 2013).
Botswana – Kasane (E. Pinhey, 1968-74).

South Africa –
Limpopo Province – 7 localities (Swanepoel, 1953).
Mpumalanga – Barberton (Swanepoel, 1953).
KwaZulu-Natal – 7 localities (Swanepoel, 1953). Umhlanga Rocks (Dickson & Kroon, 1978). Kosi Bay Nature Reserve; Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).
Eastern Cape Province – East London; Bashee River; Port St Johns (Swanepoel, 1953).
Eswatini – Malolotja N. R. (www.sntc.org.sz).

caffraria Plötz, 1883 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **44**: 43 (26-64, 195-233). [South Africa]: "Cafferland".

cinerea Mabille; Holland, 1896 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 66 (2-107). [Invalid; manuscript name introduced in synonymy.]

Borbo fatuellus dolens (Mabille, 1898)
Comoro Long-horned Swift

Pamphila dolens Mabille, 1898. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* **66**: 214 (182-231).
Baoris fatuellus dolens (Mabille, 1898). Evans, 1937.

Type data: Comoro Islands: "Comores".
Distribution: Comoro Islands (widespread).
Note: This taxon differs little from the nominate subspecies and may not deserve subspecific status (Larsen, 2005a).

Borbo fatuellus thomea (Evans, 1937)
São Tomé Long-horned Swift

Baoris fatuellus thomea Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 177 (212 pp.).

Type data: São Tomé & Principé: "Sao Thomé".
Distribution: São Tomé & Principé (both islands).
Note: This taxon differs little from the nominate subspecies and may not deserve subspecific status (Larsen, 2005a).

**Borbo lugens* (Hopffer, 1855)
Lesser-horned Swift (#)



Borbo lugens. Male resting.
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall.

Pamphila lugens Hopffer, 1855. *Berichte über die zur Bekanntmachung geeigneten Verhandlungen der Königl. Preuss. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin 1855: 643 (639-643). Pamphila lugens Hoppfer, 1855. Trimen & Bowker, 1889. Baoris lugens (Hopffer, 1855), Evans, 1937. Baoris lugens Hopffer. Swanepoel, 1953a.*
Borbo lugens. Dickson & Kroon, 1978. Borbo lugens (Hopffer, 1855). Pringle et al., 1994: 333.



Borbo lugens. Male (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kosi Bay, KwaZulu-Natal. 26 February 2010. M. Williams.
Images M.C. Williams ex Williams Collection.



Borbo lugens. Female (Wingspan 37 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 16 June 2007. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type data: Mozambique: "Mossambique".
Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – north coast).
Specific localities:
Democratic Republic of Congo – Semuliki Valley; Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Kenya – Muthambi River, Ndya (Butler, 1900). Makardara Forest (Sevastopulo, 1974).
Tanzania – Widespread (Kielland, 1990d).
South Africa –
KwaZulu-Natal – Umhlanga Rocks; St Lucia Bay (Swanepoel, 1953). Durban (Dickson & Kroon, 1978). Kosi Bay Nature Reserve; Tembe Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).
Habitat: Grassy clearings in dense woodland and forest. In Tanzania from sea-level to 2 000 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A relatively common skipper (Larsen, 1991c). Mostly seen early in the morning, on the edges of the bush or in glades, and is seldom observed after midday. It is also often found near water courses. Specimens are often observed settled on low vegetation or feeding from flowers. Males establish territories on forest edges and perch on low vegetation or grass stems. Perches are often in places where there is dappled sunlight (Pringle et al., 1994).
Flight period: All year (Pringle et al., 1994).
Early stages: Clark, in Dickson & Kroon, 1978: p.270; plate 33 [as Borbo lugens; Durban, KwaZulu- Natal]. Cock & Congdon, 2012: 24 [ovum, larva & pupa]. Larval food:
Cenchrus purpureus (Schumach.) Morrone (= *Pennisetum purpureum* Schumach) [Sevastopulo, 1975].
Cenchrus trachyphyllus (Pilg.) Morrone (= *Pennisetum trachyphyllum* Pilg.) (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; in captivity].
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959; South Africa].
Megathyrsus maximus (Jacq.) B.K. Simon & S.W.L. Jacobs (= *Panicum maximum* Jacq.) (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012].
Panicum deustum Thunb. (Poaceae) [Henning, Henning, Joannou & Woodhall, 1997: 191].
Panicum trichocladum Hack. Ex K. Schum. (Poaceae) [Le Pelley, 1959; Uganda].
Pennisetum species (Poaceae) [Larsen, 1991c: 433].
Setaria megaphylla (Steud.) T.Durand & Schinz (=*Setaria sulcata* Raddi) (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959; South Africa].
Stipa sp. (Poaceae) [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 199].

xylos Mabille, 1890 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France* (6) **10**: 31 (17-51). No locality given.

maranga Butler, 1900 (as sp. of *Baoris*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1899**: 975 (962-975). [Kenya]: "Muthambi River, 4500 feet, Ndya".

plana Swinhoe, 1915 (as sp. of *Suastus*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (8) **16**: 176 (170- 186). [Africa]: "Humboldt Bay, New Guinea". [False locality.]

**Borbo gemella* (Mabille, 1884)

Twin Swift (#)

Pamphila gemella Mabille, 1884. *Annales de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **28**: 187 (184-191).
Pelopidas gemella (Mabille, 1884). Evans, 1937.
Pelopidas gemella Mabille. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Borbo gemella (Mabille, 1884). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Borbo gemella (Mabille, 1884). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 335.
Larsenia gemella (Mabille, 1884). Fan *et al*., 2016: 10.
Torbenlarsenia gemella (Mabille, 1884), **comb. nov.** Kemal & Koçak, 2020: 3
Borbo gemella (Mabille, 1884), **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a.



Borbo gemella. Male (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 22 May 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo gemella. Female (Wingspan 41 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Strijdom Tunnel, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 16 June 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: Madagascar.
Diagnosis: The underside of the hindwing has three rather indistinct white spots. Similar to *Borbo borbonica* but the apex of the forewing is less pointed and the underside of the hindwing is rather greyish brown. This species and *Torbenlarsenia holtzi* have palps which are grey on their ventral surface (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Distribution: Sub-Saharan Africa, including Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin (throughout), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia (north), South Africa (Limpopo Province, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Eswatini, Saudi Arabia (south-west), Yemen, Madagascar, Comoro Islands, Seychelles.

Specific localities:
Gambia – 14 localities (Baker).
Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al*., 2020).
Côte d'Ivoire – Abidjan (Larsen, 2005a).
Ghana – Debiso, Bia National Park; Accra (Larsen, 2005a). Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al*., 2009).
Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016). 13 localities (Coache *et al*., 2017).
Nigeria – Ekonganuka, Oban Hills; Lagos (Larsen, 2005a).
Angola – Bengo Province; Huambo Province; Luanda Province; Malanje Province; Namibe Province (Mendes *et al*., 2013).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Semuliki Valley; Mt Blue (Ducarme, 2018).
Kenya – Nairobi (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Throughout (Kielland, 1990d). Katavi National Park (Fitzherbert *et al*., 2006).
Malawi – Mt Mulanje; Zomba Mountain (Congdon *et al*., 2010). Nyika N.P. (J. Timberlake, 2019).
Zambia – Victoria Falls; Mpata (Heath *et al*., 2002).
Mozambique – Maputo Special Reserve (Miles & Mulvaney, 2022).
Botswana – Okavango Delta (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Kasane (Pinhey). 8 localities (Larsen, 1991l).
South Africa –
Limpopo Province – 9 localities (Swanepoel, 1953). Percy Fyfe Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990). Punda Milia (Williams).
Mpumalanga – Barberton; Lydenburg district (Swanepoel, 1953).
KwaZulu-Natal – Durban; Eshowe; St Lucia Bay (Swanepoel, 1953). Kosi Bay Nature Reserve; Tembe Nature Reserve; Ndumo Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).
Eastern Cape Province – Port St Johns (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Seychelles – 10 localities (Lawrence, 2014).
Habitat: Frost-free savanna and forest (Pringle *et al*., 1994). In West Africa in Guinea and Sudan savanna (Larsen, 2005a). In Madagascar in transformed grasslands, croplands and anthropogenic environments (Lees *et al*., 2003). In Tanzania from sea-level to 2 150 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: Generally a common butterfly (Larsen, 1991c). The flight is low and fast. Settles often, on the ground, stones or grass stems. Flowers are visited and males mud-puddle. Males hilltop, often from as early as 07:00 (Dickson & Kroon, 1978). In forest and dense bush, paths and clearings are selected as territorial sites.
Flight period: All year, with peak emergence in March and April (Pringle *et al*., 1994). In Seychelles most common from November to January (Lawrence, 2014).
Early stages:
Hargreaves, 1939.
Cock & Congdon, 2012 [larva] [as *Borbo gemella*]
Larval food:
Digitaria atrofusca (Hack.) A. Camus (= *Digitaria seminuda* Stapf) species (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Côte d'Ivoire]
Ehrharta erecta Lam. (Poaceae) [Murray, 1959].
Ehrharta species [Dickson & Kroon, 1978: 200; in captivity].
Saccharum officinarum L. (sugar cane) [Hargreaves, 1939; Uganda].
Setaria sp. (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Côte d'Ivoire].
Stenotaphrum dimdiatum (Poaceae) [Lawrence, 2014: 35].
Triticum aestivum L. (= *Triticum sativum* Lam.) (wheat) (Poaceae) [Le Pelley; Kenya].
Zea mays L. (Poaceae) [Hargreaves, 1939; Uganda].

**Borbo ferruginea* (Aurivillius, [1925])

Ferrous Swift (#)

Parnara ferruginea Aurivillius, [1925] *in* Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 536 (614 pp.).
Pelopidas ferruginea (Aurivillius, 1925). Evans, 1937.
Borbo ferruginea (Aurivillius, 1925). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 334.



Borbo ferruginea ferruginea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Shimba Hills, Kenya. July 1999. SCC. ABRI-2019-2668.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Borbo ferruginea ferruginea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Shimba Hills, Kenya. June 1995. SCC. ABRI-2019-2669.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: [Tanzania]: "Eastern Africa: Daressalaam".
Distribution: Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, South Africa.
Recorded, in error, from Zimbabwe?
Habitat: Coastal forest. In Tanzania from sea-level to 600 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: A rather rare species (Larsen, 1991c). Probably spends most of the day in the forest canopy from which it descends in the early morning or late afternoon (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Both sexes frequently feed from flowers. Males establish territories in forest glades and defend them vigorously from perches low down (Larsen, 1991c; Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: Probably all year but commonest from October to May (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Larval food:
Grasses (Poaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1974].

Borbo ferruginea ferruginea (Aurivillius, [1925])

Ferrous Swift

Parnara ferruginea Aurivillius, [1925] *in* Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 536 (614 pp.).



Borbo ferruginea ferruginea. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Shimba Hills, Kenya. July 1999. SCC. ABRI-2019-2668.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Borbo ferruginea ferruginea. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Shimba Hills, Kenya. June 1995. SCC. ABRI-2019-2669.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: [Tanzania]: "Eastern Africa: Daressalaam".
Distribution: Kenya (coast), Tanzania (north-east).
Specific localities:
Kenya – Shimba Hills; Tana River mouth (Larsen, 1991c).
Tanzania – Dar-es-Salaam (TL). Dendene Forest; Gonja Forest at foot of South Pare Mountains; Mwuha Forest, Uluguru Mountains; Kimboza Forest, Uluguru Mountains (Kielland, 1990d).

Borbo ferruginea dondo Evans, 1956

Southern Ferrous Swift (#)

Borbo ferruginea dondo Evans, 1956. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (12) **8**: 885 (881-885).
Borbo ferruginea dondo Evans, 1955. Dickson & Kroon, 1978. [date of authorship erroneous].
Borbo ferruginea dondo Evans, 1955. Pringle *et al*., 1994: 334. [date of authorship erroneous].



Borbo ferruginea dondo. Male (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 22 May 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.



Borbo ferruginea dondo. Female (Wingspan 43 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Manguzi Forest, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 22 May 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex J. Dobson Collection.

Type data: [Mozambique]: "Dondo Forest, 20 miles from Beira, Portugese East Africa". Holotype male in the Natural History Museum, London.
Distribution: Tanzania (south-east), Mozambique, South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal – north).
Specific localities:
Tanzania – Rondo Plateau, inland from Lindi (Kielland, 1990d; single male).
Mozambique – Dondo Forest (TL; Pennington and the Cooksons); Amatongas Forest (Pinhey).
South Africa –
KwaZulu-Natal – Enseleni Forest, near Richards Bay (Swanepoel). Dukuduku Forest (N. Duke). Cape Vidal (E. Pringle). Emanguzi Forest (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Kosi Bay Nature Reserve (Pringle & Kyle, 2002).

Borbo binga (Evans, 1937)
Dark Swift

Baoris binga Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 178 (212 pp.).



Borbo binga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ekombe, north-west Democratic Republic of Congo. December 2014. LB. ABRI-2019-2666.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: Côte d'Ivoire.
Distribution: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo.
Specific localities:
Côte d'Ivoire – Banco; Lamto (Larsen, 2005a).
Ghana – Assin Foso; Atewa Range; Kakum National Park (Larsen, 2005a).
Nigeria – Ojo near Lagos (Larsen, 2005a).
Democratic Republic of Congo – Luali, Mayoumbe district (Ackery *et al*., 1995).
Habitat: Forest (Larsen, 2005a).
Habits: A scarce skipper (Larsen, 2005a).

Borbo chagwa (Evans, 1937)
Ochre-palp Swift

Pelopidas chagwa Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 183 (212 pp.).
Borbo chagwa (Evans, 1937). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Borbo chagwa (Evans, 1937). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 335.



Borbo chagwa. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mount Selinda, Zimbabwe. April 1986. R.D. Pare. ABRI-2019-2664.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Borbo chagwa. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mufindi, Tanzania. February 2000. CC. Bred. ABRI-2019-2665.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: [Uganda]: "Mabira Forest, Chagwé, 3,500 ft".
Diagnosis: Similar to *Borbo ferruginea*, from which it differs on the hindwing underside in that the ground-colour is pale brown (not ferruginous) and the spots are more suffused. Can be differentiated from *Larsenia gemella* and *Borbo holstii* by the ochreous colouring on the underside of the palps (grey in the other two species) (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Distribution: Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe (east).
Specific localities:
Uganda – Mabira Forest, Chagwe (TL).
Tanzania – Chemera; Kitambi in Kilwa District (Evans, 1937). Amani; Usambara (Evans, 1947). Iboma Forest, about 10 km south of Njombe, >2 000 m; Lindi (Kielland, 1990d). Near Dar es Salaam (Cock & Congdon, 2012).
Mozambique – Dondo Forest (Pennington).
Zimbabwe – Vumba Mountains (Barnes and Cox).
Habitat: Forest.
Habits: Males defend territories from perches high up (as high as six metres) on the leaves of trees (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: Has been caught in both the spring and autumn months (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Larval food:
Unidentified species of grass (Poaceae) [Cock & Congdon, 2012; Mufundi, Tanzania].

kilwa Evans, 1937 (as sp. of *Pelopidas*). *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum* : 183 (212 pp.). [Tanzania]: "Chemera and Kitambi, Kilwa district".

guttana Evans, 1947 (as sp. of *Parnara*). *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **13**: 648 (641- 648). [Tanzania]: "Amani, Usambara".

**Borbo liana* (Evans, 1937)
Sierra Leone Swift

Pelopidas liana Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 183 (212 pp.).



Borbo liana. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Popodara, Labe, Guinea. August 2001. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2667.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type data: Sierra Leone.
Distribution: Sierra Leone. Known, with certainty, only from the unique holotype.

Borbo kaka (Evans, 1938)
Kakamega Swift

Baoris kaka Evans, 1938. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **1**: 314 (312-315).



Borbo kaka. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 13 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



Borbo kaka. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpanga Forest, Uganda. 13 June 2009. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type data: [Kenya]: "Kakamega".
Distribution: Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania (west).
Specific localities:
Democratic Republic of Congo – Semuliki Valley; Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).
Uganda – Katera; Kayonza (Larsen, 1991c).
Kenya – Kakamega Forest (TL).
Tanzania – Lumtampa Forest; Ntakatta Forest; Lukandamira Forest; Kasoge Forest; Kemfu Forest (Kielland, 1990d);
Kasye Forest (Kielland, 1990d).
Habitat: Forest. In Tanzania from 900 to 1 700 m (Kielland, 1990d).
Habits: This is a scarce species, usually met with in ones and twos. Most often encountered along forest roads (Larsen, 1991c). Both sexes may be seen visiting the flowers of small bushes (Kielland, 1990d).