

## Genus *Caenides* Holland, 1896 Recluses

*Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 85 (2-107).

Type-species: *Hesperia daceia* Hewitson, by subsequent designation (Lindsey, 1925. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* **18**: 81 (75-106).).

The genus *Caenides* belongs to the Family HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily HesperIIDae Latreille, 1809, Tribe Astictopterini, Swinhoe, 1912, Subtribe Hypoleucina, Huang *et al.*, 2024.

*Caenides* (**Recluses**) is an Afrotropical genus of 11 species.

### \**Caenides soritia* (Hewitson, 1876) Well-spotted Recluse

*Hesperia soritia* Hewitson, 1876. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **18**: 453 (449-457).

*Caenides sorita* (Hewitson, 1876). Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides soritia*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Djoum, southern Cameroon. October 1994. SCCI. ABRI-2019-2621.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides soritia*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ebogo, Cameroon. December 1997. SCC. ABRI-2019-2622.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Gabon: “Gaboou”.

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2018), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Malawi? (Evans, 1937).

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ghana – Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Benin – Niaouli Forest (Tchiboza *et al.*, 2018).

Nigeria – Lagos (Larsen, 2005a); Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Kongou (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Evengue (Vande weghe, 2010).

**Habitat:** Forest in good condition (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** An uncommon skipper with skulking habits (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:**

Sevastopulo, teste Cock *et al.*, 2016: 225

**Larval food:**

*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq. (Arecaceae) (oil palm) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; erroneous according to Cock *et al.*, 2016: 226].

*Zingiber* species (Zingiberaceae) [Larsen, 2005a].

Zingiberaceae [Sevastopulo, teste Cock *et al.*, 2016; Uganda].

*xantho* Mabille, 1891 (as sp. of *Proteides*). *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 111 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187). Cameroon: “Cameroons”.

**\**Caenides lukolela* Larsen & Collins, 2014**  
**Congo Recluse**

*Caenides lukolela* Larsen & Collins, 2014. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 73 (60-76).



*Caenides lukolela*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ekombe, north-west Democratic Republic of Congo. September 2014. LB. ABRI-2019-2617.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides lukolela*. Female (Holotype). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lukolela, north-west Democratic Republic of Congo. June 2013. BL. ABRI-2019-2618.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Democratic Republic of Congo: Equateur Province, Lukolela River. Holotype in the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi. Known only from the holotype (Larsen &

Collins, 2014).

**Distribution:** Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Specific localities:**

Democratic Republic of Congo – Lukolela River (TL).

**Habitat:** Nothing published.

**Habits:** Nothing published.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\**Caenides kangvensis* Holland, 1896**  
**Yellow-spotted Recluse**

*Caenides kangvensis* Holland, 1896. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 87 (2-107).

*Caenides kangvensis* Holland, 1896. Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides kangvensis*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kyabobo, eastern Ghana. December 2008. R. Vorgas. ABRI-2019-2623.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides kangvensis*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Libreville, Gabon. 17 November 2017. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.



*Caenides kangvensis*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. November 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2624.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Gabon: “Valley of the Ovové [sic]”.

**Distribution:** Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

**Specific localities:**

Ivory Coast – Abidjan (Larsen, 2005a); Nimba area (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Atewa Range (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Nigeria – Agege (Larsen, 2005a); Benin (Larsen, 2005a); Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ogove Valley (TL); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010). Mount Belinga (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Evengue (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

Tanzania – MIII, in Minziro Forest (single female) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

**Habitat:** Forest and mature secondary growth (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** An uncommon butterfly (Larsen, 2005a). Spends most of the day perched on leaves, low down (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Gloriosa superba* L. (Colchicaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

*Thalia geniculata* L. (= *welwitschii* Ridl. (Marantaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

### **\**Caenides xychus* (Mabille, 1891)**

**Unbranded Recluse**

*Proteides xychus* Mabille, 1891. *Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de Belgique* **35**: 111 (59-88, 106-121, 168-187).  
*Caenides xychus* (Mabille, 1891). Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides xychus*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Yakoli, Central African Republic. August 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2625.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.





*Caenides xychnus*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Yakoli, Central African Republic. August 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2625.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Sierra Leone.

**Distribution:** Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

**Specific localities:**

Ghana – Kumasi (Larsen, 2005a); Konongo (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Cameroon – Alen (Strand, 1913).

Gabon – Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Semuliki Valley (Ducarme, 2018); Central Forest Block (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

**Habitat:** Dense forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** A scarce butterfly (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

*feminina* Strand, 1913 (as ab. of *Caenides kanguensis*). *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* **78** (A.12.): 55 (30-84). Cameroon: “Alen”.

**\**Caenides benga* (Holland, 1891)**  
**Yellow-patch Recluse**

*Proteides benga* Holland, 1891. *Entomological News* **2**: 4 (3-6).  
*Caenides benga* (Holland, 1891). Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides benga*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kibi, Ghana. May 2012. RV, SY. ABRI-2019-2619.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides benga*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. October 2006. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2620.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Gabon: “Ogove Valley, Benita”.

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

**Specific localities:**

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Sierra Leone – Tiwai Island (C. Belcastro, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Liberia – Harbel (Fox, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Issia (Watulege, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Bereby (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Banco (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Tai (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Mount Peko (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kukurantumi near Kibi (Maessen, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Nigeria – Gambari (Riley & Cornes, 1970, 1971); Mamu Forest (Larsen, 2005a); Awka (Larsen, 2005a); Ikom (Larsen, 2005a); Calabar (Larsen, 2005a); Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a); Okomu (Larsen, 2005a); Okwangwo (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea – Biapa (Conception), Bioko (Martin, 2015).

Gabon – Benita, Ogove Valley (TL); Safala (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

**Habitat:** Mainly in tall secondary forest with a closed canopy (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** Very rare west of the Dahomey Gap and scarce in Nigeria (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

### \**Caenides otilia* Belcastro, 1990

Twin-spot Recluse

*Caenides otilia* Belcastro, 1990. *Problemi Attuali di Scienza e di Cultura* Quaderno 265: 69 (69-78).  
*Caenides otilia* Belcastro, 1990. Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides otilia*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bolomi-Bomi, western Liberia. January 2018. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019-2611.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides otilia*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Nyazanga, southern Cameroon. September 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019-2612.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Ghana: “Eastern Region, Valley below Begoro waterfalls, m 200”.

**Distribution:** Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon (south).

**Specific localities:**

Sierra Leone – Banta (Larsen, 2005a); Tiwai Island (Larsen, 2005a).

Ivory Coast – Banco (Larsen, 2005a); Azagny (Larsen, 2005a); Tai National Park (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Begoro waterfalls (TL); Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a); Konongo (Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – 15 m N of Lagos (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Campo (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habitat:** Dense, dark forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** A very scarce skipper (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**Note:** Evans treated this species under the manuscript name *banta*, which was never published. It has also been referred to under the Berger manuscript name *evansi*.

**\**Caenides dacenilla* Aurivillius, [1925]**  
**No-spot Recluse**

*Caenides dacenilla* Aurivillius, [1925] *in* Seitz, [1908-25]. *Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde*, Stuttgart (2) **13** *Die Afrikanischen Tagfalter*: 517 (614 pp.).

*Caenides dacenilla* Aurivillius, 1925. Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides dacenilla*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. October 2001. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2615.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides dacenilla*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Lukolela, Democratic Republic of Congo. June 2013. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2616.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/c](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/c)).

**Distribution:** Ivory Coast (Warren-Gash, pers. comm., 2002), Ghana, Benin (south), Nigeria (Cross River loop), Cameroon, Gabon.

**Specific localities:**

Ivory Coast – Azagny (H. Warren-Gash, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Ankasa (Larsen, 2005a).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Old Ekuri (E. Bebiem, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Evengue (Vande weghe, 2010).

**Habitat:** Dense forest.

**Habits:** This is one of the rarest Afrotropical skippers (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\**Caenides dacela* (Hewitson, 1876)**  
**Common Recluse**

*Hesperia dacela* Hewitson, 1876. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **18**: 451 (449-457).  
*Caenides dacela* (Hewitson, 1876). Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides dacela*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kibale Forest, Uganda. 22 October 2014. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.





*Caenides dacela*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kibale Forest, Uganda. 22 October 2014. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

**Type locality:** [Equatorial Guinea]: “Fernando Po”.

**Distribution:** Senegal, Gambia (Emms & Barnett, 2006), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea (Bioko), Gabon, Angola, Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan (south), Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya (west), Tanzania (west), Zambia (north).

Reported, in error, from Gambia by Gillies (1982) according to Larsen (2005a) but recorded from this country by Emms & Barnett (2006).

**Specific localities:**

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ghana – Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Equatorial Guinea – Bioko (TL).

Gabon – Mondah (Vande weghe, 2010); Cape Esterias (Vande weghe, 2010); Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka (Vande weghe, 2010); Iguela (Vande weghe, 2010); Akaka (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Kebiri (Vande weghe, 2010); Ekouyi and Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Angola – Uige Province (Mendes *et al.*, 2013).

Central African Republic – Yakoli.

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

Uganda – Semuliki N.P. (Davenport & Howard, 1996).

Kenya – Kakamega Forest (Cock *et al.*, 2014).

Tanzania – Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d).

Zambia – Mwinilunga (Heath *et al.*, 2002; female illustrated above).

**Habitat:** Forest, including degraded forest habitat (Larsen, 2005a). In Tanzania from 800 to 1 300 m (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habits:** By far the commonest of the large forest skippers (Larsen, 2005a). They are usually noted when they are flushed from their resting places on low vegetation along forest paths. After being disturbed they will usually settle again within ten metres or so. They are, nevertheless, quite wary (Larsen, 2005a). Known to visit flowering herbs and bushes growing in semi-shade (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:**

Cock *et al.*, 2014: 53 [ovum, larva & pupa].

**Larval food:**

*Eremospatha* sp. (Arecaceae) [Congdon, *vide* Cock *et al.*, 2014; Zambia].

*Phoenix dactylifera* L. (Arecaceae) [Le Pelley, 1959; Uganda].

*Phoenix reclinata* Jacq. (Arecaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2014; Kakamega, Kenya].

*Raphia* species (Arecaceae) [Heath *et al.*, 2002: 18; this record was discounted by Cock *et al.*, 2014].

*nydia* Plötz, 1879 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **40**: 353 (353-364). “Eningo”.

**\**Caenides hidaroides* Aurivillius, 1896**

**Shady Recluse**

*Caenides hidaroides* Aurivillius, 1896. *Entomologisk Tidskrift* **17**: 289 (279-291).

*Caenides hidarioides* Aurivillius, 1896. Kielland, 1990d. Misspelling of species name.

*Caenides hidaroides* Aurivillius, 1896. Larsen, 2005a.



*Caenides hidaroides*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Suhin, Ghana. January 2009. RV. ABRI-2019-2627.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides hidaroides*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ebogo, Cameroon. August 2002. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019-2628.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Ekundu”. Holotype in the Swedish Natural History Museum (images available at [www2.nrm.se/en/lep\\_nrm/h](http://www2.nrm.se/en/lep_nrm/h)).

**Distribution:** Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania (west).

**Specific localities:**

Liberia – Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

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

Nigeria – Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Ekundu (TL); Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Democratic Republic of Congo – Upper Kasai district (Druce, 1910); Ituri Forest (Ducarme, 2018); Mt Mitumba (Ducarme, 2018).

Tanzania – Mukuyu Forest in Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Kasye Forest in Kigoma (Kielland, 1990d); Ntakatta Forest in Mpanda (Kielland, 1990d).

**Habitat:** Forest of good quality (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** A scarce skipper (Larsen, 2005a). Keeps to shady places in the forest (Kielland, 1990d).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**Note:** Based on the structure of the male genitalia, this species may more properly belong to the genus *Meza*

(Larsen, 2005a: 532).

*artopta* Druce, 1910 (as ?). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1910**: 377 (356-378).  
[Democratic Republic of Congo]: “Upper Kasai district, Congo Free State”.

**\**Caenides dacenova* Larsen & Collins, 2011**  
**Ebogo Recluse**

*Caenides dacenova* Larsen & Collins, 2011. *Tropical Lepidoptera Research* **21** (2): 63 (62-65).



*Caenides dacenova*. Male (Holotype). Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. May 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019-2613.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



*Caenides dacenova*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Djoum, southern Cameroon. October 1994. SCC. ABRI-2019-2614.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

**Type locality:** Cameroon: “Cameroun, Ebogo, v.1996 (04°21'N, 11°25'E)”. Holotype in the African Butterfly Research Institute (ABRI), Nairobi.

**Distribution:** Cameroon.

**Specific localities:**

Cameroon – Ebogo (TL).

**Habitat:** Nothing published.

**Habits:** Nothing published.

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:** Nothing published.

**\**Caenides sophia* (Evans, 1937)**  
**Scarce Recluse**

*Hypoleucis sophia* Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 124 (212 pp.).

*Caenides sophia* (Evans, 1937). Zhang *et al.*, 2022: 41.



*Caenides sophia*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, Ghana. 18 October 2014.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



*Caenides sophia*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Putu Range, Liberia. January 2011. Saf. & Zakar. ABRI-2019-2486.  
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI collection.

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

**Distribution:** Ivory Coast, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

**Specific localities:**

Ivory Coast – Issia (Larsen, 2005a); Sipilou (Larsen, 2005a); Yapo (Larsen, 2005a); Lamto (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Atewa Range (Larsen, 2005a); Boi-Tano Forest (Larsen, 2005a); Bia (Larsen, 2005a); Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Tano Ofin (Larsen, 2005a).

Nigeria – Aba (Larsen, 2005a); Mkpot, Oban Hills (Larsen, 2005a).

Cameroon – Bitje (TL).

**Habitat:** Wetter forest in good condition (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** This is a very rare skipper (Larsen, 2005a). Specimens, on the rare occasions that they are encountered, are often found feeding from flowers (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Sorghum arundinaceum* (Desv.) Stapf (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].