

Genus *Gretna* Evans, 1937 Crepuscular Skippers

A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 7, 149 (212 pp.).

Type species: *Hesperia cylinda* Hewitson, by original designation.

The genus *Gretna* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Gretnini Grishin, 2019.

Gretna (Twilight Skippers) is an Afrotropical genus of nine species of very large forest-dwelling hesperiids, split into two subgenera – the nominotypical one and a new subgenus *Zarida* Grishin, 2023 containing two species – *lacida* and *zaremba*.

Subgenus *Gretna* Grishin, 2023a Crepuscular Skippers

A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum: 7, 149 (212 pp.).

Type species: *Hesperia cylinda* Hewitson, by original designation.

Placed as a subgenus of *Gretna* by Grishin, 2023a: Zhang *et al.* 2023a. Butterfly classification and species discovery using genomics. *The taxonomic report of the international Lepidoptera survey* **11**(3): 79.

Gretna (Gretna) bugoma Evans, 1947 Bugoma Crepuscular Skipper

Gretna waga bugoma Evans, 1947. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (11) **13**: 647 (641-648).

Gretna bugoma Evans, 1947.

Gretna (Gretna) bugoma Evans, 1947, **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna bugoma. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
40 km north of Brazzaville, Congo. January 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2580.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna bugoma. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. June 1997. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2581.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Uganda: “Bugoma”.

Distribution: Cameroon (Vande weghe, 2010); Equatorial Guinea, Gabon (Vande weghe, 2010), Uganda (west).

Specific localities:

Equatorial Guinea – Santa Isabel, Bioko (Martin, 2015).

Gabon – Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Uganda – Bugoma Forest (TL).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Gretna (Gretna) carmen Evans, 1937

Violet Crepuscular Skipper

Gretna carmen Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 150 (212 pp.).

Gretna (Gretna) carmen Evans, 1937, **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna (Gretna) carmen Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Cantine, Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2012. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019- 2588.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna (Gretna) carmen Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kihansi Gorge, Tanzania. April 2007. CC et al. ABRI-2019- 2589.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

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

Distribution: Guinea, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana (Larsen *et al.*, 2007), Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia.

Habitat: Dense forest (Kielland, 1990d). In western Tanzania it occurs at altitudes from 800 to 1 500 m (Kielland, 1990d).

Habits: This is a fairly scarce, large, secretive, crepuscular skipper (Larsen, 1991c). Specimens are often found resting on tree trunks, the underside blending well with the tree-bark (Larsen, 1991c). They are also noted when visiting flowers (Larsen, 1991c). Sometimes it comes to lights at night (Larsen, 1991c).

Early stages:

Cock et al., 2014: 35 [ovum, larva and pupa; ssp. *capra*].

Larval food:

Borassus species (Arecaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1975; requires confirmation according to Cock *et al.*, 2014].

Cocos nucifera L. (Arecaceae) [Cock, *vide* Larsen, 1991c: 427; Kenya; Cock *et al.*, 2014; Kenya coast; ssp. *capra*].

Elaeis guineensis Jacq. (Arecaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2014; Tanzania; ssp. *capra*].

Phoenix species (Arecaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1975; requires confirmation according to Cock *et al.*, 2014].

Raphia species (Arecaceae) [Sevastopulo, 1975].

Raphia farinifera (Gaertn.) Hyl. (Arecaceae) [Cock *et al.*, 2014; Tanzania & Zambia; ssp. *capra*].

?*Roystonea* sp. (Arecaceae) (exotic) [Cock *et al.*, 2014; Diani Beach, Kenya; ssp. *capra*].

***Gretna (Gretna) capra* Evans, 1937**

Violet Crepuscular Skipper

Gretna carmen capra Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 150 (212 pp.).

Gretna (Gretna) capra Evans, 1937, **stat. rev.** Grishin, 2023a: 80.



Gretna (Gretna) capra. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 41mm. Saiwa, Ngandu, Zambia. 21/8/78.
Ivan Bampton. Bred. (Henning collection – H56).



Gretna (Gretna) capra. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wingspan: 40mm. Shiwa Ngandu, N.C. Zambia, 1400m.
Em. August 2001. IB/TCEC. (African Butterfly Research Institute, Nairobi).

Type locality: [Kenya]: “Rabai-Mombasa”.

Distribution: Kenya (coast), Tanzania (coast to eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika), Zambia.

Specific localities:

Kenya – Rabai-Mombasa (TL).

Zambia – Shiwa Ngandu (Heath *et al.*, 2002; male and female illustrated above).

***Gretna (Gretna) cylinda* (Hewitson, 1876)**
Lesser Crepuscular Skipper

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

Gretna (Gretna) cylinda (Hewitson, 1876), *stat. rev.* Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna (Gretna) cylinda. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ebogo, Cameroon. July 2007. ABRI Leg. ABRI-2019- 2578.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna (Gretna) cylinda. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Mpigi, Uganda. April 2001. ABRI Coll. ABRI-2019- 2579.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Angola.

Distribution: Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Congo, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan (south), Uganda, Tanzania (north-west).

Specific localities:

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

Sierra Leone – Fula Wusu (Larsen, 2005a).

Liberia – Ganta (Larsen, 2005a); Tchien (Larsen, 2005a); Wologizi (Safian *et al.*, 2020).

Ivory Coast – Tiassale (Larsen, 2005a); Bossematie (Larsen, 2005a).

Ghana – Kakum (Larsen, 2005a); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen, 2005a); Likpe (Maessen, *vide* Larsen, 2005a); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

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

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

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

Tanzania – Munene Forest (uncommon); Kere Hill, in Minziro Forest (rare) (Congdon & Collins, 1998).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: An uncommon species (Larsen, 2005a). Larsen (2005a) took a male in broad daylight on the

flowers of *Clerodendron splendens* in Boabeng-Fiema, Ghana.

Early stages:

Cock *et al.*, 2016: 232

Larval food:

Marantochloa cuspidata (Roscoe) Milne-Redh. (Marantaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; as *Gretna cylindrica*].

Thalia welwitschii Ridl. (Marantaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; as *Gretna cylindrica*].

Trachypphrynium braunianum (K.Schum.) Baker (Marantaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast; as *Gretna cylindrica*].

ruralis Mabilbe; Holland, 1896 (as sp. of *Proteides*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 89 (2-107). [Invalid; manuscript name introduced in synonymy.]

Gretna (Gretna) dargei Larsen & Collins, 2014

Gretna dargei Larsen & Collins, 2014. *Metamorphosis* **25**: 72 (60-76).

Gretna (Gretna) dargei Larsen & Collins, 2014, **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna dargei. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Ebogo, Cameroon.

Images ex Larsen HesperIIDae manuscript.

Type locality: Cameroon: Obiang, near Yaounde (Ph. Darge) (ca 03.30N 11.25E) (male genitalia MRAC H.1424/tbl). Holotype (male) in the Musee Royal de l’Afrique Centrale (MRAC), Tervuren, Belgium.

Distribution: Liberia, Benin (south, central), Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Liberia – Nimba area (Larsen & Collins, 2014).

Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Cameroon – Obiang (TL); Mt Mbalmayo (Larsen & Collins, 2014); Bitje (Larsen & Collins, 2014); Ebogo area (Nkol Nlong) (Larsen & Collins, 2014); Ebogo (Larsen & Collins, 2014); Bidou (Larsen & Collins, 2014).

Habitat: Lowland forest.

Habits: Nothing published.

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Gretna (Gretna) leakeyi Collins & Larsen, 1995

Leakey’s Crepuscular Skipper

Gretna leakeyi Collins & Larsen, 1995. *Lambillionea* **95** (4) (Tome II): 561 (561-562).

Gretna (Gretna) leakeyi Collins & Larsen, 1995, **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna (Gretna) leakeyi. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nyong River, Ebogo, Cameroon. February 2004. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2584.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Cameroon: “South Cameroun, Djoum (near Sangmelina), 1.X.1994 (S.C. Collins).” Holotype in the Natural History Museum, London. Known only from the male. The male is illustrated in colour and the male genitalia are also illustrated by Larsen & Collins, 2014: 73.

Distribution: Cameroon.

Specific localities:

Cameroon – Djoum, near Sangmelina (TL); Ebogo (Larsen & Collins, 2014). **Habitat:** Riverine vegetation in rainforest country (Larsen & Collins, 2014). **Early stages:** Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

Gretna (Gretna) waga (Plötz, 1886) Common Crepuscular Skipper

Telesto waga Plötz, 1886. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **47**: 108 (83-117).
Gretna waga (Plötz, 1886).
Gretna (Gretna) waga (Plötz, 1886), comb. nov. Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna (Gretna) waga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary, Ghana. 18 April 2014.
Images M.C. Williams ex Gardiner Collection.



Gretna (Gretna) waga. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Quartier Malepe, Beni 0 29 N, 29 28 E, DRC. 10 October 2015. T. Desloges.
Images Thomas Desloges.



Gretna (Gretna) waga. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Nyazanga, southern Cameroon. September 1993. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2587.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Ghana: “Aburi”.

Distribution: Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau (Bivar-de-Sousa *et al.*, 2016), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, central), Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

Specific localities:

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

Gambia – Fajara, Sanyang, Sukuta, Yundum, Abuko, Brufut, Tintinto (Jon Baker, pers. comm., May 2020).

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

Benin – Houeyogbe Forest (Coache & Rainon, 2016); see Coache *et al.*, 2017. Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Gabon – Ekouyi, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

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

Habitat: Forest, as well as open areas in the forest zone (Larsen, 2005a).

Habits: This is by far the commonest species of *Gretna* (Larsen, 2005a). Both sexes rest on the trunks of trees, including host-plant palms, when they are well camouflaged (Larsen, 2005a). They are crepuscular and often visit dump sites and washing places early in the morning (06:30 to 08:30). In these situations they fly around rapidly, only alighting for a few seconds at a time (Larsen, 2005a). They will also sometimes settle on persons and frequently come to bright lights (Larsen, 2005a). Gillies (1982) found them feeding from asclepiad flowers at dusk.

Early stages:

Mariau *et al.*, 1981.

Cock *et al.*, 2014: 39 [pupal case].

Larval food:

Cocos nucifer L. (Arecaceae) [Mariau *et al.*, 1981].

Elaeis guineense Jacq. (Arecaceae) (oil palm) [Mariau *et al.*, 1981; Vuattoux, 1999; Lamto, Ivory Coast].

ilderda Möscher, 1887 (as sp. of *Hesperia*). *Abhandlungen hrsg. Von der Senckenbergischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft* **15**: 65 (49-100). Ghana: “Aburi”.

Subgenus *Zarida* Grishin, 2023a Crepuscular Skippers

Subgen. nov. of *Gretna* Grishin, 2023a. Zhang *et al.* 2023a. Butterfly classification and species discovery using genomics. *The taxonomic report of the international Lepidoptera survey* **11**(3): 79.

Type species: *Hesperia lacida* Hewitson, 1876, by original designation.

***Gretna (Zarida) lacida* (Hewitson, 1876)**
Scarce Crepuscular Skipper

Hesperia lacida Hewitson, 1876. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **18**: 453 (449-457).
Gretna (Zarida) lacida (Hewitson, 1876), **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a: 79.



Gretna (Zarida) lacida. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Oyem, southern Cameroon. September 1994. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2585.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna (Zarida) lacida. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Oyem, southern Cameroon. September 1994. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2586.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Gabon: “Gaboön”.

Distribution: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast (Warren-Gash, pers. comm., 2002), ?Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo (central).

Specific localities:

Guinea – Ziama (Safian *et al.*, 2020). Sierra Leone – Moyamba (Larsen, 2005a).

Liberia – Harbel (Larsen, 2005a); Monrovia (Larsen, 2005a). Ivory Coast – Azagny (S. Collins, *vide* Larsen, 2005a).

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: An exceedingly scarce species throughout its range (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

***Gretna (Zarida) zaremba* (Plötz, 1884)**
Variegated Crepuscular Skipper

Telesto zaremba Plötz, 1884. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **45**: 377 (376-384).

Gretna zaremba (Plötz, 1884).

Gretna (Zarida) zaremba (Plötz, 1884), **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a.



Gretna (Zarida) zaremba. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bangui, Central African Republic. January 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2582.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna (Zarida) zaremba. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Congo. March 1953. ABRI-2019- 2583.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Alt-Calabar”.

Distribution: Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic, Uganda.

Habitat: Forest.

Habits: An extremely scarce skipper (Larsen, 2005a).

Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food: Nothing published.

***Gretna (Zarida) zaremba zaremba* (Plötz, 1884)**

Telesto zaremba Plötz, 1884. *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **45**: 377 (376-384).

Gretna (Zarida) zaremba zaremba (Plötz, 1884), **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a.



Gretna (Gretna) zaremba zaremba. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bangui, Central African Republic. January 1996. SCC. ABRI-2019- 2582.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.



Gretna (Gretna) zaremba zaremba. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Congo. March 1953. ABRI-2019- 2583.
Images M.C. Williams ex ABRI Collection.

Type locality: Nigeria: “Alt-Calabar”.

Distribution: Nigeria (Cross River loop), Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Central African Republic.

Specific localities:

Nigeria – Old Calabar (TL).

Gabon – Camp PPG, Bateke Plateau (Vande weghe, 2010).

Gretna (Zarida) zaremba jacksoni Evans, 1937

Gretna zaremba jacksoni Evans, 1937. *A catalogue of the African Hesperiiidae indicating the classification and nomenclature adopted in the British Museum*: 150 (212 pp.).

Gretna (Zarida) zaremba jacksoni Evans, 1937, **comb. nov.** Grishin, 2023a.

Type locality: [Uganda]: “Kamengo, Kampale”.

Distribution: Uganda.

Specific localities:

Uganda – Kamengo Forest (TL); Bwamba Forest (Ackery *et al.*, 1995); Budongo Forest (Ackery *et al.*, 1995).

Note: This taxon is almost certainly a species distinct from *Gretna zaremba* (Larsen, 2005a: 524).