

## Genus *Meza* Hemming, 1939

### Missiles

*Proceedings of the Royal Entomological Society of London (B)* **8**: 39 (39).

Type-species: *Hesperia meza* Hewitson, by original designation.

= *Gastrochaeta* Holland, 1893. *Entomological News* **5**: 28 (26-31). Type-species: *Gastrochaeta mabiliei* Holland, by monotypy. [Invalid: junior homonym of *Gastrochaeta* Dujardin, 1841.]

The genus *Meza* belongs to the Family Hesperidae Latreille, 1809; Subfamily Hesperinae Latreille, 1809; Tribe Ceratrichiini Grishin, 2019. The other genera of the Tribe Ceratrichiini in the Afrotropical Region are *Ceratrichia*, *Herila*, *Argemma* and *Pardaleodes*.

*Meza* is a monobasic Afrotropical genus, with all other species that previously belonged to the genus transferred to genus *Paronymus* and the subgenus *Mesna* Grishin, 2023a of genus *Fresna* Evans, 1937.

## *Meza meza* (Hewitson, 1877)

### Common Missile

*Hesperia meza* Hewitson, 1877. *Annals and Magazine of Natural History* (4) **19**: 79 (76-85).

*Meza meza* (Hewitson, 1877).



*Meza meza*. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Ipasa, Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 17 June 2016. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson collection.



*Meza meza*. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.  
Kongu, Ivindo N.P., Gabon. 23 November 2017. J. Dobson.  
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson collection.

**Type locality:** Angola.

**Distribution:** Senegal, Guinea-Bissau (Aurivillius, 1910), Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin (south, north-west) Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda.

**Specific localities:**

Senegal – Basse Casamance (Larsen, 2005a).

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

Ivory Coast – Lamto (Vuattoux, 1999).

Ghana – Aburi (Ploetz, 1879); Bobiri Butterfly Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2007); Boabeng-Fiema Monkey Sanctuary (Larsen *et al.*, 2009).

Togo – Bismarckburg (Karsch, 1893).

Benin – see Coache *et al.*, 2017.

Nigeria – Anambara Creek (Lathy, 1903).

Cameroon – Korup (Larsen, 2005a).

Equatorial Guinea – Rebola, Bioko (Martin, 2015); Biapa (Martin, 2015); Basile (Martin, 2015).

Gabon – Probably throughout (Vande weghe, 2010); Nyonie (Vande weghe, 2010); Pointe Pongara (Vande weghe, 2010); Malibe (Vande weghe, 2010); Alen Nkoma (Vande weghe, 2010); Kinguele (Vande weghe, 2010); Tchimbele (Vande weghe, 2010); Ndougou (Vande weghe, 2010); Akaka, Loango National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Rabi (Vande weghe, 2010); Mboumie (Vande weghe, 2010); Waka National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Nioye (Vande weghe, 2010); Mikongo, Lope National Park (Vande weghe, 2010); Bitam (Vande weghe, 2010); Nouna (Vande weghe, 2010); Loa-loa (Vande weghe, 2010); Bakouaka (Vande weghe, 2010).

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

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

**Habitat:** Disturbed and successional forest; rare in wetter forest (Larsen, 2005a).

**Habits:** This is a common species that is regularly encountered. Both sexes come to flowers readily and are active both in the early morning and late afternoon (Larsen, 2005a).

**Early stages:** Nothing published.

**Larval food:**

*Paspalum conjugatum* P.J.Bergius (Poaceae) [Vuattoux, 1999; Ivory Coast].

*batea* Plötz, 1879 (as sp. of *Apaustus*). *Stettiner Entomologische Zeitung* **40**: 359 (353-364). Ghana: “Aburae”.

*bubovi* Karsch, 1893 (as sp. of *Pamphila*). *Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift* **38**: 251 (1-266). Togo: “Bismarckburg”.

*varia* Mabille; Holland, 1896 (as sp. of *Gastrochaeta*). *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1896**: 38 (2-107). [Invalid; manuscript name introduced in synonymy.]

*ogrugana* Lathy, 1903 (as sp. of *Baoris*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1903**: 204 (183-206). Nigeria: “Anambara Creek”.