FLUTTERING BEAUTY WITH BENEFITS

THE BUTTERFLIES OF TAITA HILLS

A FIELD GUIDE

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Supported by the National Museums of Kenya and the JRS Biodiversity Foundation

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Dedication

In fond memory of Prof. Thomas R. Odhiambo and Torben B. Larsen

Prof. T. R. Odhiambo's contribution to insect studies in Africa laid a concrete footing for many of today's and future entomologists.

Torben Larsen's contribution to the study of butterflies in Kenya and their natural history laid a firm foundation for the current and future butterfly researchers, enthusiasts and rearers.

National Museums of Kenya's mission is to collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present cultural and natural heritage. This is for the purposes of enhancing knowledge, appreciation, respect and sustainable utilization of these resources for the benefit of Kenya and the world, for now and posterity.

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FOREWORD

The Taita Hills are particularly diverse but equally endangered. These unique cloud forests are outstandingly species rich and are also centres of endemism. The human population growth, intensive agricultural practices, changes in land use, pesticide use, alien invasive species, diseases, pests, and climate change are among the drivers of the Taita Hills biodiversity and habitat loss. To conserve biodiversity and achieve sustainability, it is of major importance to understand species diversity and ecosystem processes within these unique habitats of the Taita Hills. Records of species diversity are much needed and especially for Kenya's great wealth of the small beautiful rarely acknowledged insects like the butterflies. Butterflies provide pollination services for both farm crops and wild flora ensuring a sustainable environment.

It is my great pleasure to introduce this first field guide on the fluttering beauty with benefits, the butterflies of Taita Hills. It brings out great details on the butterflies of Taita Hills, their identification, habitats and larval food plants. The fascination springing from the rich diversity of the Taita Hills butterflies in this guide and beautiful pictures is a useful instrument not just for the communities living adjacent to these forests but also to researchers, students and amateurs interested in butterflies. Some communities in Taita Hills have initiated butterfly farming for commercial purposes. Forest adjacent communities are generally familiar to butterflies but they need guidance in the identification of the species. The butterfly market dynamics dictate that farmers are able to identify and farm the species that are in demand for varying markets needs. This field guide is well illustrated with photographs of butterfly species and it will help in supporting the identification of the target Taita Hills butterfly species.

The JRS Biodiversity Foundation supported the project on "Assessment of Lepidoptera Pollinator Species Diversity Data in East Africa" under which this guide was developed. The National Museums of Kenya's management acknowledges this support and the commitment of JRS Biodiversity Foundation in investing in the people and institutions who share biodiversity knowledge for Africa. As an institution, we are committed to sharing knowledge based information with the greater public in order to build a sustainable society. I am delighted by what the project has achieved so far which is commendable in setting a stage for sharing butterfly information. This field guide is a step in the right direction towards empowering communities, biodiversity managers, students, researchers and butterfly enthusiasts in the identification, conservation and sustainable utilization of a unique and under-utilized natural resource, the butterflies.

Mzalendo N. Kibunjia, PhD, EBS

Director General
National Museums of Kenya

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INTRODUCTION

BUTTERFLIES

Butterflies and moths belong to an insect order known as Lepidoptera and are easily told apart from other insects by their scaly wings. The scales with different colours give these insects unique patterns on their wings. There are about 19,000 described butterfly species in 1,820 genera in the world. In the Afrotropical region, there are 4,325 species (about 23% of the world total) in 318 genera (about 17% of the world total). In Kenya, there are five butterfly families that include; Papilionidae (Swallowtails), Pieridae (The Whites and Yellows), Nymphalidae (Brush-footed butterflies), Hesperiidae (Skippers) and Lycaenidae (Blues and Coppers) and 903 species, about 4.8% of world total and about 20.9% of the Afrotropical butterflies. Taita Hills recorded 211 butterfly species in the five families as follows: Papilionidae (Swallowtails) 13, Pieridae (Whites) 32, Nymphalidae (Brush-footed butterflies) 73, Lycaenidae (Blues and Coppers) 46 and Hesperiidae (Skippers) 47. The locality record for the 211 species within five forests in Taita Hills (Chawia, Kasigau, Modagache, Ngangao and Sagalla) are outlined in Annex 1.

BUTTERFLY ANATOMY

The adult butterfly body consists of three parts, the head, the thorax and the abdomen (Figure 1, 2 and 3).

Head: The head has the sensory organs including, two large compound eyes, one on each side of the head, which are good at detecting colour such as for the flowers from which they get nectar. The butterfly colour vision covers the whole range visible to the human eye and in addition, a large band of the ultraviolet that is not visible to humans. Two antennae arise from between the two compound eyes, they are also called feelers which have compound sensory functions, as the organs of smell and organs of hearing. The antennae of butterflies are always provided at the end with a club-shaped enlargement and vary in length. Butterflies have a sucking mouth part in form of a tube, known as proboscis which can be uncoiled when in use and coiled up spirally when not in use. The adult butterflies feed on liquids like nectar, fruit juice, fluids from excrement and flesh and exudates from plants among others.

Thorax: The thorax of a butterfly bears the organs for movement, the legs and wings. Three pairs of legs originate from the thorax, but in the family Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies), the first pair of legs is reduced in size, and held pressed against the thorax and not used for walking. The legs also have other functions, the feet of butterflies also contain part of the sensory systems and discern tastes and chemical compounds in the food plants for their caterpillars. The wings are membranous, with veins that form cells. Wings are overlaid with scales that make varied colour patterns. Butterflies use the

colour patterns for defense, camouflage, communication and aggression. The shape of the wings varies among different butterflies.

Abdomen: The abdomen contains many of the vital organs, digestive, respiratory and reproductive. Most of a butterfly's digestive tract is housed inside the abdomen. This is where the butterfly processes foods and any waste excreted through the genital system. For respiration, butterflies get oxygen through small holes called spiracles on each segment of the abdomen. The oxygen is carried in the body by small tubes called tracheae. The external organs of reproduction are located at the ventral surface near the tip of the abdomen. Some males have specialized structures (brush-pencils) that they push out from their abdomen to release sex pheromones for attracting females.

BUTTERFLY LIFE CYCLE

Butterflies undergo a complete metamorphosis with four distinctive stages: egg, larva or caterpillar, pupa and the adult (Figure 4).

Egg: The eggs of butterflies have a shell containing the fluid food for the maintaining the growing caterpillar until the hatching stage. The eggshell may be smooth or patterned and has holes called micropyles that admit the sperm that fertilizes the egg. Microscopic holes called aeropyles in the shell allow gas exchange. The egg forms vary, spherical, angled, cylindrical among other shapes. The colour also varies with some white, brown, blue, green, red, yellow among various tints when freshly laid but they usually darken before hatching. Depending on the species, eggs are laid singly, small clusters and sometimes in a mass on the food plants for the caterpillars. The female glues the eggs to a leaf, or branch of the host plant, and depending on her health, the number of eggs laid may vary from just a few to over 200. The egg stage generally lasts about six days, with the egg darkening as the embryo in the egg develops and matures ready to hatch.

Larva (caterpillar): The larval form is called a caterpillar (caterpillar is from Latin, *catta pilosa* meaning "hairy cat" but some caterpillars have hairs that are modified for defense, known as urticating hairs from the Latin, *urtica* meaning "nettle". The small caterpillar from the egg may eat the eggshell first before starting to feed on its food plant. Initially, it prefers young tender leaves and switches to tougher leaves as it grows. Caterpillars have long, worm-like bodies variously ornamented. Some are smooth, others have horny projections, spines and prominences on the skin. Most are green in colour to blend with the green vegetation for protection. Others are brown blending with the colour of twigs and branches on which they rest when not feeding. The caterpillar stage is mainly for feeding and growth. As they grow, they outgrow their skin and undergo molting, the shedding off of the old skin, a process which takes place at regular intervals. During molting, the caterpillar stops feeding, attaches itself firmly on a surface and the skin splits along the back middle line from the head to the last abdominal segment. The caterpillar

crawls from the old skin which is left behind. The skin of the head sometimes remains attached to the head for a time before falling off. The newly formed skin, which lies beneath the old one stretches and hardens and the caterpillar continues to feed and grow. The time between the molts is called instar and normally four molts take place. The newly hatched caterpillar is called the first instar larva and most caterpillars undergo five instars before changing into the next stage, the pupa or chrysalis. The caterpillar stage usually lasts for two to three weeks, with warmer temperatures generally inducing faster development. Diet also affects development time with those that feed on flowers or leaves developing faster than caterpillars that feed primarily on stems and roots.

Pupa: When the caterpillar has reached full growth, it stops feeding, seeks a protected place and attaches to a surface by a pad of silk by the terminal abdominal hook called a cremaster and transforms into a pupa by molting the last time into a physically inactive stage called the pupa. The pupa forms vary depending on the butterfly species. During this stage, the caterpillar features are transformed to adult butterfly structures. The pupal phase may last from a few weeks to several months depending on the species and environmental conditions.

Adult: The adult butterfly emerges from the pupa by breaking through the pupal skin and crawling out. The emerging butterfly has wet shriveled wings that must hang to expand and dry properly. It finds support on a twig or other surfaces and pumps haemolymph (equivalent of blood in insects) into the wings. The expansion and hardening of the wings may take several hours then the adult butterfly can start flying. Life span of the adult butterfly depends on the size, the species, where it lives, and what time of year it becomes an adult. Predators, diseases, accidents and bad weather conditions kill most butterflies. Larger butterflies tend to live longer than smaller butterflies. The average lifespan of a butterfly is about one to four weeks.

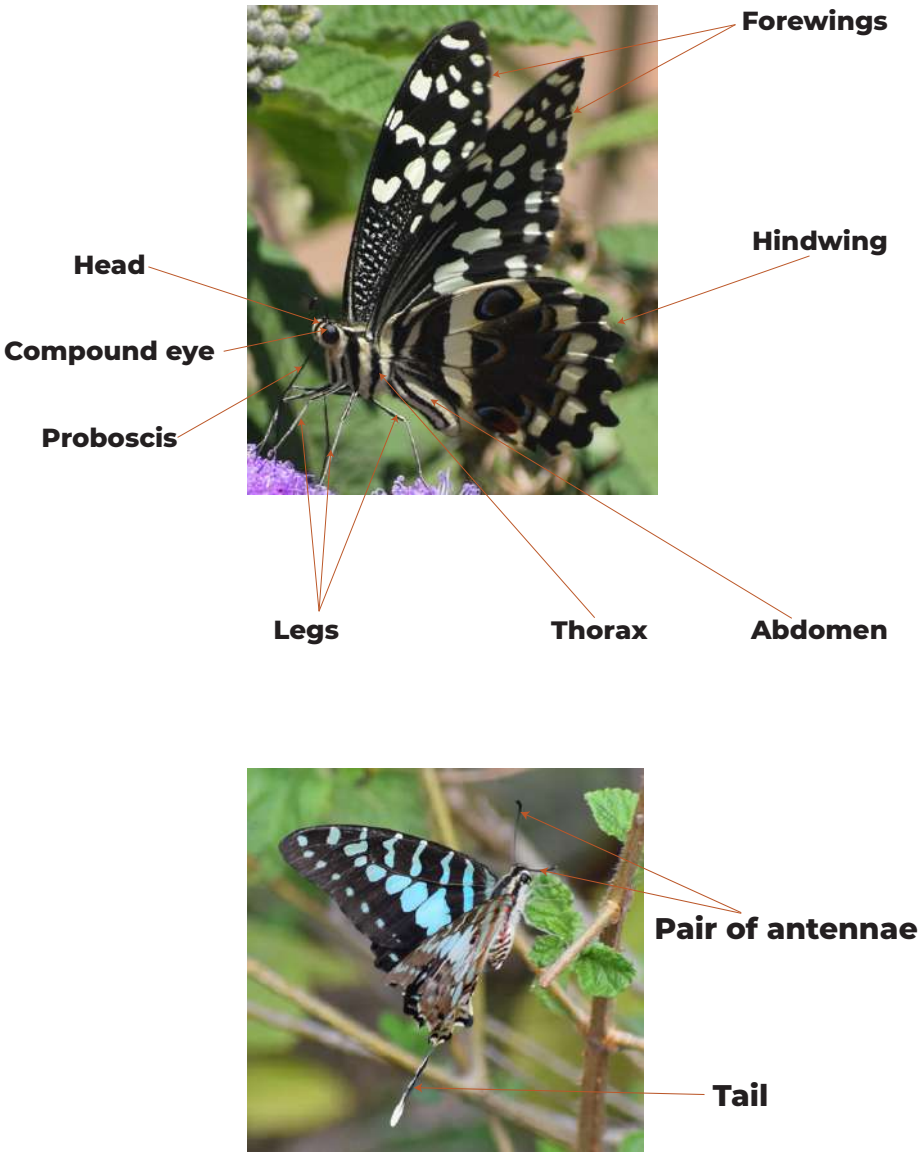


Figure 1: The general structure of the adult butterfly

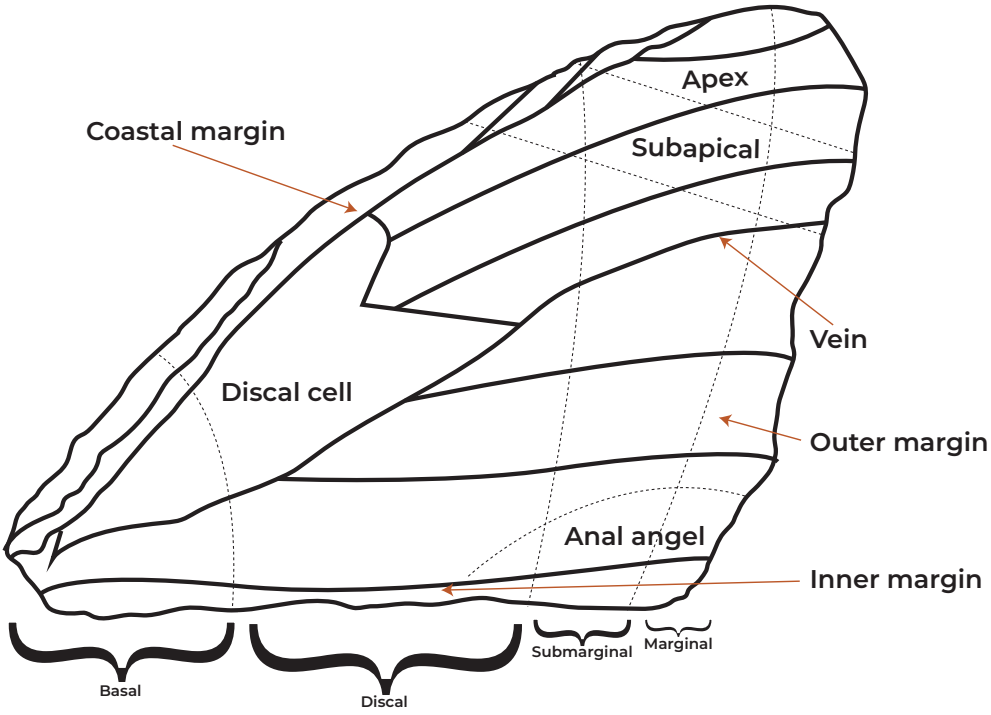


Figure 2: Parts of a butterfly wing

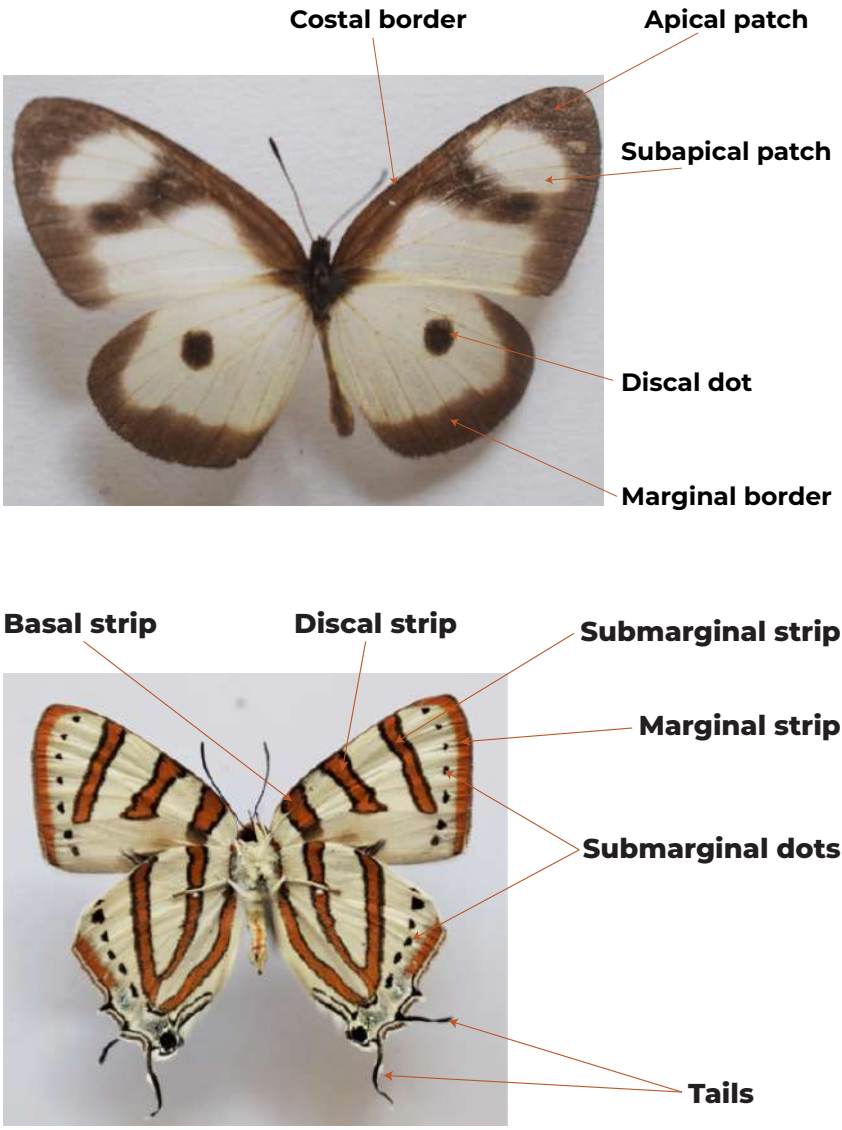


Figure 3: Some patterns on butterfly wings

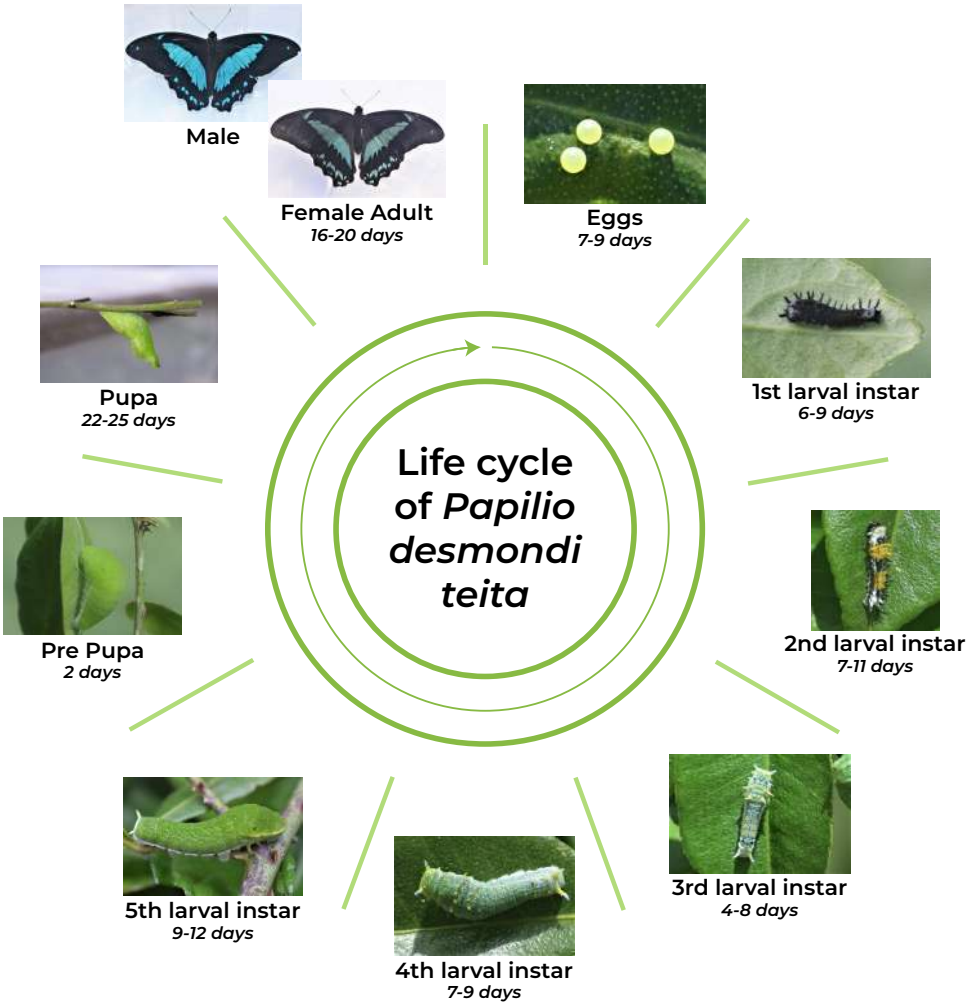


Figure 4: The life cycle of *Papilio desmondi teita* based on data from indoor rearing in Ngangao, Taita Hills.

BUTTERFLY FOOD

During the caterpillar stage, the food consists of different plant species. A few butterfly species have caterpillars that feed on scale insects and related insects of the insect order Hemiptera. The larvae of species of *Lachnocnema* and *Spalgis* feed on Hemiptera rather than plants and the adults ingest honeydew substances secreted by these insects. Most adult butterflies feed primarily on flower nectar, though some butterfly species specialize in getting their nutrients from tree sap, rotting fruit, tears, sweat, bird and animal droppings and even carrion. Nectar provides energy and experiments have shown that nectar carbohydrate availability will extend the butterfly longevity. Some butterflies gather for mud puddling to suck salts at damp patches such as sand patches, riverbanks and areas where animals have urinated.

TAITA HILLS

The Taita Hills (also known as Teita Hills) are a range of hills that lie in the South-Eastern part of Kenya in Taita-Taveta County, approximately 150km from the Indian Ocean. Taita Hills consists of the main block Dawida and the three isolates of Mbololo, Sagalla and Kasigau. The Dawida block lies 25km in the North-West of Voi, is the largest and tallest block composed of several forest fragments including the Ngangao and Vuria high peaks with 2,149m and 2,228m, respectively. Mbololo massif with a peak at 2,209m lies North-West of Voi. Sagalla, in the southern side of Voi town has a peak at 1,450m while Kasigau with a peak at 1, 600m is in the south near the border of Kenya and Tanzania. Taita Hills are known for their moist cloud forests whose vegetation is influenced by Eastern Arc and Kenyan highlands.

The Taita Hills form part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, a biodiversity hotspot stretching from the Taita Hills in Kenya to the Udzungwa Mountains in south-central Tanzania. The mountains have a very diverse flora and fauna with a great deal of endemism, and together with the East African coastal forests, have been placed as one of the 25 biodiversity hotspots globally. Hotspots are areas hosting exceptional concentrations of endemic species and experiencing exceptional loss of habitat. The hills support incredible high number of endemics and unique flora and fauna reflecting the forests' long isolation. There is an endemic snake *Amblyodipsas teitana*, an endemic caecilian *Boulengerula taitana* and an endemic toad *Bufo teitensis*. Three butterflies, *Cymothoe teita* (Teita glider), *Charaxes xiphares desmondi* (King forest charaxes) and *Papilio desmondi teita* (Desmond's green-banded swallowtail) are endemic to these forests and their fringes. At least nine plant species are endemic, including the trees *Coffea fadenii, Psychotria crassipetala, Memecylon teitense* and *Zimmermania ovata* and an undescribed *Psychotria* may already be extinct. The African violet, *Saintpaulia taitensis* has a global range of about 0.5 ha on Mbololo and more than 20 endemic species of African violets occur exclusively in that region. Known endemic bird species are the *Turdus helleri* (Taita thrush) and the *Apalis fuscigularis* (Taita apalis).

The Taita Hills ecosystem has diminished at an alarming rate due to extensive agricultural development. This has resulted in loss and fragmentation of habitat for the 211 or so butterfly species which are now under threat towards decline. Strategies on restoration of the Taita Hills habitat and indigenous plants to enhance and sustain beneficial arthropod populations including pollinators, predators and parasitoids are needed.

BUTTERFLY ENDEMISM IN TAITA HILLS

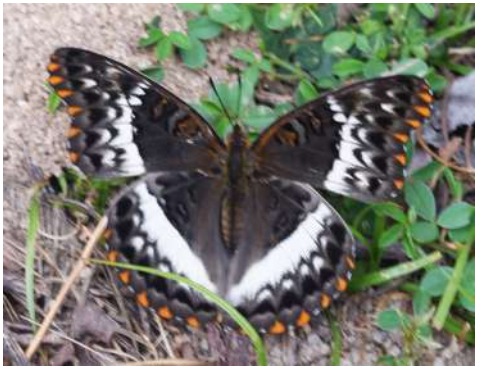
Three butterfly species are known to be found only in Taita Hills and not found anywhere else in the world. These species are *Papilio desmondi teita* (Desmond's Green-Banded Swallowtail), Papilionidae, *Cymothoe teita* (Teita Glider), Nymphalidae and *Charaxes xiphares desmondi* (King Forest Charaxes) Nymphalidae.

Desmond's Green-Banded Swallowtail (male upper and under side)

Desmond's Green-Banded Swallowtail (Female Upperside)

Forest King Charaxes (Upperside female)

Forest King Charaxes (Upperside male)



Teita Glider (Female upperside)

Teita Glider (Male upperside)

BENEFITS OF BUTTERFLIES

i. They provide ecosystem service as pollinators and in so doing they:

   a. Improve our diets by providing micronutrient-rich foods as many of the very nutritious, micronutrient-rich foods, like fruits, some vegetables, seeds, nuts and oils, would disappear without pollinators.

   b. They make our foods taste better as well-pollinated plants produce larger, more uniform, tastier fruits and vegetables.

   c. They increase food production and food security as insect pollinators including butterflies are improving the food production, helping to ensure food security for people.

   d. They maintain biodiversity. Pollination sustains forest ecosystems through the regeneration of trees and other plants which in turn helps to conserve forest biodiversity.

v. Butterflies are reared by communities as a nature based enterprises for livelihood support. The enterprise encourages the community to participate in the conservation of the larval food plants and nectar plants for the adults. The best example is the Kipepeo project, initiated in 1993, it is a community based enterprise that supports livelihoods of people living around Arabuko Sokoke Forest at the Kenyan coast. Butterfly pupae raised by the local communities are exported to be displayed in insect parks around the world providing income to the rearer. The participation in butterfly farming has been shown to result in increased participation in conservation behaviors among project participants because farmers perceive a link between earnings from butterfly farming and forest conservation. Additionally, it provides opportunities for public environmental education, outreach and ecotourism.

vi. Butterflies form part of the food-chain as they are eaten by birds and lizards.

vii. Butterflies are beautiful, images of freedom and colour. Many people around the world look at these beautiful flying insects with deep reverence and use them as a symbol for many life concepts as a representation of change, renewal, hope, endurance and courage to embrace the transformation to make life better.

viii. Butterfly watching is increasing and promoting eco-tourism. In Kenya, the Mombasa butterfly house next to Fort Jesus is an attraction to the public.

ix. Butterflies are used in research and education.

x. Butterflies are becoming an important item for festive release during weddings, replacing other items like rice. Business are now open trading in Wedding Butterfly Release Packages.

xi. Butterflies are good bio-geographical and ecological indicators as they are specific to each of the geographical sub-regions and different ecological conditions. Butterflies are indicators of changes within an ecosystem for example increasing habitat destruction will lead to disappearance of some species from the disturbed site.

CONSERVATION STATUS OF BUTTERFLIES

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) assessment methodology and threat categories have only been applied to a few butterfly species in Kenya. For the Taita Hills 211 butterfly species recorded so far, one of them, *Papilio desmondi teita* is categorised as endangered and listed in the IUCN Red List of swallowtail butterflies of the world, 79 species are categorized as of least concern and 131 species are in the not yet evaluated category.

Worldwide research and surveys have shown that the butterflies alongside other insect pollinators are facing threats that need to be addressed. Decline in the population of pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, are mainly due to intensive agricultural practices, changes in land use, pesticides, alien invasive species, diseases, pests, and climate change. Some immediate actions are needed to save the butterflies and other insect pollinators. Some conservation measures include:

i. Providing resources for both the larval and adult stages by growing diverse indigenous plants that will offer food for caterpillars and nectar for the adults.

ii. Avoiding use of pesticides, fungicides or herbicides and instead enhancing use of integrated pest management strategies. Pesticides can kill pollinators directly or through poisoning the larval food plants and the nectar sources for the adult butterflies.

iii. Creating and maintaining good habitats for butterflies and other insect pollinators in order to ensure pollination. Leaving some areas of the farm as a natural habitat and creating hedgerows with indigenous plants that flower at different times during the year and planting attractive crops like fruit trees such as custard apple and citrus. Some of these are known butterfly larval food plants like the custard apple (tomoko), which is a food plant for caterpillars of the genus *Graphium*. While the citrus are food plants for the genus *Papilio*. The fruits of the custard apple and citrus are known for their nutritional and economic values further adding farmers income.

iv. Creating awareness about butterflies and their role in the environment. By understanding butterflies, people will appreciate them, respect them, and learn to live peacefully with them. This involves popularizing butterflies, especially through use of iconic species, through more media coverage, and more inclusive education.

v. Undertaking research as insufficient understanding of butterflies shams a bottleneck in terms of resource utilisation, creating impediments in resource conservation. Research is needed to monitor and to address gaps in knowledge, including information on the status and trends of butterfly pollinators, pollination value and their habitats.

vi. Promoting best practices for climate-resilient agriculture with benefits for pollinators. It has been recorded that butterfly species richness decreased with land-use intensity and is positively related to the cover of semi-natural habitats and both butterfly species richness and abundance declines sharply with forest distance. Forest remnants and high cover of semi-natural habitats are thus important for conservation of butterflies.

vii. Having more expansive sustainable agriculture and forestry, improved regulation and prevention of environmental risks, and greater recognition of protected areas alongside agro-ecology in novel landscapes.

TAITA HILLS BUTTERFLY FAMILIES AND SPECIES DETAILS

Family Papilionidae: The Swallowtails

These are large butterflies, mostly with wings with combination of black, yellow or blue markings and hindwings usually have “tails”. All visit flowers for nectar and when landing on flowers, they continue beating their wings. *Papilio* species have a fast and weaving flight while *Graphium* species have a rapid and direct flight. The eggs are round. Larvae when young resemble bird droppings but develop other camouflage colours in later instars. Mature larvae are smooth. Swallowtail larvae have a Y–shaped gland, the osmeterium just behind their head that they can inflate when alarmed to produce a pungent smell to repel predators. Pupae are suspended with a silken girdle around the thorax as well as by the tail and are often dimorphic with green and brown forms. Some 27 species of swallowtails occur in Kenya, and 13 species have been recorded in Taita Hills. All the 13 species visit flowers for nectar.

Scientific Name: *Papilio ophidicephalus*

Common Name: Emperor Swallowtail

Wingspan: 90-110 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is among the largest swallowtail butterflies in Kenya. The dark forewings have a chain of large yellow spots at the middle and a chain of little yellow spots at the edge. The hindwings have tails. The sexes are similar. The species distribution covers the coastal forest and inland to Meru. Larval food plants are Rutaceae family, *Citrus, Clausena anisata, Teclea* and *Toddalia*.

Upperside/Underside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Papilio demodocus*

Common Name: Christmas Butterfly (Citrus butterfly or Orange dog)

Wingspan: 90-110 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a common and readily recognized swallowtail butterfly. It has dark brown and pale yellow checkerboard pattern on all its wings. The hindwings have no tails. The species is a familiar garden butterfly, also observed on forest edges pausing to feed from flowers. The sexes are similar. The butterfly is found everywhere south of the Sahara. The species larval stage feeds on cultivated citrus trees including oranges and lemons and on wild Rutaceae including *Clausena*, *Teclea* and *Toddalia*.

Upper/underside

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Papilio nireus*

Common Name: Narrow Green Banded Swallowtail or Narrow Blue Banded Swallowtail

Wingspan: 75-95 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The basic colour of *Papilio nireus* is black with narrow green-blue bands on both wings. The females differ from their males by being lighter and lacking white marginal hindwing spots present in the males. It is common in forests but it is also found in woodlands and disturbed areas. The species is common and distributed throughout Africa. The species larval stage feeds on cultivated citrus and any wild Rutaceae including *Clausena*, *Teclea* and *Toddalia*.

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Papilio desmondi teita*

Common Name: Desmond's Green Banded Swallowtail

Wingspan: 90-94 mm

IUCN Status: Endangered (E)

Notes: This is a montane species which is similar to *Papilio nireus* but the green band on the upper side of the wings is distinctively broader and blue. The females have lighter undersides than the males and lack marginal white spots on the margin of the hindwings. It prefers forest habitats but can be observed in farmlands. *Papilio desmondi teita* is endemic to Taita Hills. The larval host plants are the Rutaceae (*Clausena, Citrus, Teclea, Fagar, Caledendron*).

Male underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Papilio dardanus*

Common Name: Flying Handkerchief or Mocker Swallowtail

Wingspan: 75-110 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a large butterfly with highly pronounced sexual dimorphism. The males are cream white in colour with tails while the females have different forms without tails. The Flying Handkerchief is a master of batesian mimicry where an edible animal is protected by its resemblance to one avoided by predators. The females imitate some toxic species of butterflies like *Danaus chrysippus, Amauris niavius, Amauris echeria* and *Acraea poggei*. The basic habitat is evergreen forest but sometimes it can penetrate into woodlands, secondary forests and gardens. The species is widely spread within Africa. The early stage host plants are the Rutaceae (*Clausena, Citrus, Teclea, Fagar, Caledendron*).

Male underside

Male upperside

Female upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Papilio constantinus*

Common Name: Constantine's Swallowtail

Wingspan: 80-90 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The butterfly is dull black with cream bands and spots on both wings and has prominent tails. The sexes are more or less similar but the males have well-developed androconial patches along the veins of the upper forewing. The species is common in coastal forests. The preferred habitat is forest with the males flying along forest trails and roads often visiting flowers for nectar. The females mostly remain in the forest seeking out for food plants. It is essentially an East African Species. The larvae of this butterfly mainly feed on *Clausena* and *Teclea*.

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Papilio echerioides*

Common Name: White-Banded Swallowtail

Wingspan: 65-75 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is a medium sized black swallowtail. The males have white bands across both wings with white spots at the edge of the hind. The females are different from the males and they are mimics of *Amauris* spp. The species is common in forested areas and visits flowers. The males are seen more often than the females. Caterpillars feed on Rutaceae including *Clausena, Toddalia, Vepris and Fagara*.

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Graphium policenes*

Common Name: Small Striped Swordtail

Wingspan: 55-65 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is the most common of all the swordtails and easy to spot along forest edges. The species is black with blue-green or green stripes on the wings. It has tiny red patches on the inner hindwings. This species has distinctive long, narrow tails that extend from the hindwing. Both sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on custard apple family (Annonaceae), *Artabortys, Annona* and *Uvaria*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Graphium leonidas*

Common Name: Veined Swordtail

Wingspan: 75-85 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a large dark brown butterfly with blue patches on both the fore and hindwings. Hindwings have no tails. This species resembles toxic Danaid *Tirumala petiverana* which often flies in the same habitats. Both sexes are similar. The main habitat is the transition zone between forest and savannah. The caterpillars of this species feed on *Annona, Monanthotaxis, Uvaria* (Annonaceae) and *Landolphia* (Apocynaceae).

Underside

Upperside/Underside

Scientific Name: *Graphium philonoe*

Common Name: Eastern White Lady or White-Dappled Swallowtail

Wingspan: 55-65 cm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A black butterfly with elegant white spots and patches dominating the wings. The underside of the wings has red patches at the base. Hindwings have no tails. Sexes are similar. Both sexes are attracted to flowers. Its habitat consists of coastal and riparian forests. The caterpillars feed on family Annonaceae including *Artabotrys* and *Uvaria*.

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Graphium antheus*

Common Name: Large Striped Swordtail

Wingspan: 68-73 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A large stripped swordtail. This butterfly is easily distinguished from other members of the genus by the S-shaped bars and the green bands on the forewings. Sexes are similar. The species is common in Kenya coast habiting savanna and forest margins. The species does not survive much above 1500m. Flowers are often visited and males mud puddle, sometimes in very large groups. Caterpillars of this species feed on Annonaceae (*Artabotrys monteiroae, Uvaria caffra* and Custard apple, *Annona reticulata*).

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Graphium colonna*

Common Name: Black Swordtail or Mamba Swordtail

Wingspan: 60-65 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: An elegant swordtail butterfly with the hindwings mainly black. The forewings have relatively narrow bars and bands. The white tips of the long tails are notable in flight. Sexes are similar, both visiting flowers for nectar and males mud puddle. The species inhabit coastal forest and heavy woodland. The larvae of this species feed on the genus *Annona, Artabotrys and Uvaria* (Annonaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Graphium angolanus*

Common Name: Angola White Lady

Wingspan: 65-75 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant butterfly, recognized by the multiple white dots on the upperside of both the fore and hindwings. The underside the wings have a brick red colouration. The species is essentially a savanna and open woodland butterfly and is widely distributed in Kenya. Both sexes are similar and feed from flowers. Males mud-puddle often in large aggregations. Sometimes migrates, either on its own or as part of mixed migrations. The larval stage of this species feed on *Annona senegalensis* (Annonaceae), *Sphedamnocarpus pruriens* (Malpighiaceae) and *Uvaria species* (Annonaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Family Pieridae: The Whites and Yellows

These are small to medium butterflies. The predominant colours are white and yellow, with most species having some black marking. Species in the genus *Colotis* have orange, red or purple wing-tips. The eggs are normally elongated with vertical ridges. Their caterpillars are cylindrical tapering towards the tail end and the body is covered by tiny hairs. Their pupae are suspended from the tail with a silken girdle around the thorax. Some 88 species occur in Kenya, and 32 species have been recorded in Taita Hills. The 32 species visit flowers for nectar.

Scientific Name: *Catopsilia florella*

Common Name: African Migrant

Wingspan: 55-60 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males are greenish-white in colour while the females are variable, from dull white to bright yellow. The wings of this species have a characteristic spot on the underside. Its flight is fast frequently visiting flowers. Migrations of the species can be observed often in the company of other species. The larval food plant is *Sesbania and Cassia*.

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colias electo*

Common Name: African Clouded Yellow

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Males have orange ground colour with broad black wing margins. Females are variable with orange spots in the black margin and occur in white form. The underside of the wings is pale yellow and light orange with faint spots. This is a montane species found at altitudes between about 1800-3000m. The species flies very fast and is very active, often stopping to visit flowers. Caterpillars feed mainly on Leguminosae including Lucerne, vetches and clovers.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Eurema hecabe*

Common Name: Common Grass Yellow

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A stunning elegant butterfly with bright yellow wings with black marginal markings. The black markings are inwardly dentate, differentiating it with other similar looking species. The outer margin of the forewing is slightly evenly rounded. Sexes are similar. The species is present in bush, grassland, and savanna habitats. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of legume plants including *Hypericum, Albizia, Cassia* and *Sesbania*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurema senegalensis*

Common Name: Forest Grass Yellow

Wingspan: 40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is larger than Common Grass Yellow and its colour is light tone of yellow. The outer margin is straight with the edge of the wings slightly undulating instead of being even. Both sexes are similar. The butterfly is common in forests. Caterpillars mainly feed on *Cassia* (Leguminosae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurema desjardinsi*

Common Name: Angled Grass Yellow

Wingspan: 15-20 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a pretty butterfly unmistakable with bright yellow, black edged fore and hindwings. The hindwings are distinctly angled. Both sexes are quite similar with the females being slightly larger. The species is present in bush, grassland, and savanna habitats. The larval host plants include many legumes like *Cassia* and *Sesbania*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurema regularis*

Common Name: Regular Grass Yellow

Wingspan: 37 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly closely similar to other members in the genus. It can be differentiated from the others by having evenly rounded hindwings. The inside margin of the black markings on the forewing upper side is evenly rounded. The black margin at the hindwing is complete. Both sexes are quite similar. The species prefers grassland and savanna habitats. The larval host plants include many legumes like *Cassia* and *Sesbania*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurema brigitta*

Common Name: Small Grass Yellow

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Elegant and unmistakable butterfly with broad, regular black outer margin on the upper surface of its forewing. Its underside is dusted with scattered black scales. The species has strong seasonal variation, with wet and dry season forms. The butterfly flies in open grassy areas near the ground, vising flowers and often settling on grass blades. Both sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Hypericum aethiopicum* and species of *Cassia*.

Underside

Underside

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Pinacopteryx eriphia*

Common Name: Zebra White

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Unmistakable butterfly with black and cream stripes resembling a zebra. It is a widely distributed savanna species. It also occurs in dense vegetation. It flies low, visiting flowers for nectar. Sexes are similar. The caterpillars feed on *Maerua* and *Cadaba* (Capparidaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Nepheronia thalassina*

Common Name: Blue or Cambridge Vagrant

Wingspan: 50-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The unmistakable males of this species has a characteristic light blue colour. Females are usually white or white and yellow but may have bright orange patches at the base of the forewing. Sometimes, the whole forewing may be light orange. In both sexes, the underside has a nacreous sheen. The species is common in forests, extending into the dry zone along riverine vegetation. Both sexes visit flowers for nectar in forest clearings. Caterpillars of this species feed on *Hippocratea obtusifolia* (Celastraceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis amata*

Common Name: Small Salmon Arab

Wingspan: 30-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A striking and distinctive butterfly with males having salmon-ground colour. Females are larger with less black markings than the male and sometimes white. Underside of wings is pale yellow. The species habitat is dry land and arid habitats in coastal areas and Northern Kenya. Caterpillars feed on *Salvadora persica* (Salvadoraceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Colotis chrysonome*

Common Name: Golden Arab

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This species has golden yellow wings, black veins and dusting of variable amounts of grey in the male. The females lack grey patch. The hindwings lack a black discal band. The species is common in dry areas. Caterpillars feed on species of *Maerua* (Capparaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Colotis aurigineus*

Common Name: African Golden Arab

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The butterfly has distinctive orange-golden colour. The forewings of the males have a small silvery grey basal patch. The species is widespread in savanna, clearings of forests as high as 3000 m, grasslands and dry zones. The larvae feed on *Maerua* species.

Underside

Underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis regina*

Common Name: Queen or Regal Purple Tip

Wingspan: 45-62 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males have white wings, the forewing with large purple apical patch inwardly bordered by black. The females are larger with darker markings and spotted forewings. In Kenya, the species is found in coastal region mainly in woodland areas. Larval food plants are mainly *Capparis* and *Boscia* (Capparaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis hetaera*

Common Name: Coast Purple Tip

Wingspan: 45-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The males have bright brick reddish-purple colour at the tip of the forewing. The inner margin of the apical patch is not bordered by black. The extend of fine black underlining of the veins is roughly equal on both the fore and hindwings. Females are variant sometimes with reddish dots and black tipped forewings. The species is present in dry land bush, savanna and woodland. Have fast flight and visits flowers. Caterpillars feed on Capparaceae (*Maerua, Boscia, Capparis and Cadaba*).

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis danae*

Common Name: Scarlet Tip

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Males have white wings with bright scarlet wing tips. Females are darker with variable blackish markings on the wings. The species has seasonal variation with dry season form being reddish brown below instead of white. The species can be found in large numbers in flowering bushes. Caterpillars feed on Capparaceae (*Maerua, Boscia, Capparis* and *Cadaba*).

Female upperside

Male underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis eucharis*

Common Name: Sulphur Orange Tip

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Males are light yellow in colour with large orange wing tip and less black markings. The females sometimes lack the orange wing tip and have more black markings. Seasonal variation is exhibited; male wet season form being immaculate underside and dry season form being variegated with brown. The habitat consists of savanna and shrubland. The species is observed in large numbers in flowering bushes. Larval food plants are Capparaceae (*Maerua, Boscia, Capparis* and *Cadaba*).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis auxo*

Common Name: Yellow Orange Tip

Wingspan: 45-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a pretty and attractive butterfly resembling the above one in both habitat and pattern. The species is larger and has bright yellow colour. Has strong seasonal variation. It likes wetter conditions and it's observed in large numbers circling round a flowering *Cadaba* or *Maerua*. Caterpillars feed on genera Capparaceae (*Cadaba*).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis euippe*

Common Name: Round Winged Orange Tip

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A common elegant and beautiful butterfly with wings more rounded than other Orange tipped members. The inner margin of the orange patch is curved evenly. Males have white and black wings with red-orange wing tips edged with black. Females are darker and more heavily marked. This species has a widespread range of habitats, including bush, savanna and forest. Larvae have been recorded on Capparaceae (*Maerua, Boscia, Capparis* and *Cadaba*).

Female upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Colotis daira*

Common Name: Black-Marked Orange Tip

Wingspan: 30-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The inner margin of the orange tip is curved evenly and not straight. The males have black shading along the inner margin of the forewing and a black margin at the hindwing. Females are variable in ground colour. It is a common savanna species. The species tend to settle on bare ground. Caterpillars feed on *Capparis* and *Cadaba* (Capparaceae).

Male upperside/underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis evagore*

Common Name: Tiny Orange Tip

Wingspan: 25-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is the smallest and delicate of the orange-tipped species. The male has large orange patches and black edges on their forewings. Females are extremely variable, with more black and grey markings on their wings. This species is common in grasslands and savanna. Larvae feed on *Capparis, Maerua* and *Cadaba* (Capparaceae).

Female underside/upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Colotis eris*

Common Name: Banded Gold Tip

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is a distinctive unmistakable butterfly with black band along the forewing inner margin in both sexes. The male has golden markings in the light areas of the black apical band. Females have forewing apex in white. Dry season form has reduced black markings. It is attracted to flowers. The species is present in dry areas and in dense savanna. Caterpillars feed on *Capparis*, *Maerua* and *Cadaba* (Capparaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Belenois aurota*

Common Name: Brown-Veined White

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This butterfly has white wings with veins of the hindwing underlined in black. It has slight sexual dimorphism with females having more black markings and light yellow ground colour. Common species of savanna, also colonizing open areas of forest zone. They are involved in migration in large numbers. Caterpillars feed on *Capparis* and *Maerua*.

Male underside/upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Belenois creona*

Common Name: African Caper or Common White

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The species has a broader black borders compared to the Brown-Veined White with few white markings in the black border. The underside veins not underlined with black. Females may be creamy yellow and extensive black markings. The species prefers savanna habitat and involved in migratory tendencies. Caterpillars feed on several species of Capparaceae including *Maerua* and *Capparis*.

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Belenois margaritacea*

Common Name: Margarita's Caper White

Wingspan: 46-53 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is unmistakable butterfly in the family with hindwings underside wholly black and a yellow spot at the coastal area. The base of hindwings and forewings underside has yellow patches. The forewings are white at the base with black tips. Both sexes are similar. The species occurs in forest regions flying swiftly along forest paths and trails. Caterpillars feed on family Capparidaceae (*Capparis*, *Maerua*, *Ritchiea*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Belenois zochalia*

Common Name: Forest Caper White

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A common pretty butterfly with upper side ground colour shinny white. Males have a black spot at the end of the forewing cell linked to the costa by a black streak. The females sometimes have cream or yellow hindwings. This species is common in savanna and lighter forests and is involved in occasional large-scale migrations. The larvae feed on *Capparis species, Maerua cafra* and *Maerua racemulosa*.

Male upperside

Female upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Pontia helice*

Common Name: Meadow White

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Distinctive butterfly with white wings with dotted black tips on the forewings. Veins clearly outlined in black, grey, and patches of yellow on the underside of the wings. Sexes are similar. This species is common in highland grassland habitats and is known to sometimes migrate in large numbers. Larvae feed on different plant species of Brassicaceae family including *Sinapis, Sisymbrium, Lepidum capens*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Dixeia spilleri*

Common Name: Spiller's Yellow

Wingspan: 33-42 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This butterfly closely resembles members of the genus *Eurema*. The butterfly is recognized by the yellow ground colour and the relatively fast flight. The females are varied, from yellow to cream and white. This butterfly is native to the coastal forests occasionally going inland. Population explosions sometimes occur with large numbers observed swarming around trees along forest edges. Caterpillars of this butterfly feed on the genus *Capparis* (Capparidaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Appias sabina*

Common Name: Sabine Albatross

Wingspan: 44-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty butterfly with very pointed wings. Sexual dimorphism is very strong. Males are white with inwardly irregular black apical band. The females have yellow basal markings on the forewing and the inner margin of the apical black band is sagittate. Widespread forest species, occasionally found in savanna habitats. Caterpillars feed on *Drypetes*, *Phyllanthus* (Euphorbiaceae) as well as *Ritchiea* and *Boscia* (Capparidaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Leptosia alcesta*

Common Name: African Wood White

Wingspan: 30-42 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A distinctive butterfly with delicate greenish white rounded wings. The underside of the hindwing has a delicate green irroration. The species has a well-defined black discal spot on the forewings and apical markings. The species is widely spread mainly occurring in areas with some tree cover and not too dry. Sexes are similar and their flight is very weak, patrolling forest edges and paths. The larval food plants include forest species of Capparidaceae family.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Mylothris sagala*

Common Name: Dusky Dotted Border

Wingspan: 45-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is common and familiar butterfly with white and black forewings and yellow hindwings. Both sexes have yellow hindwings but females have richer yellow. The species is highland forest and montane specialist. Caterpillars feed on species of parasitic Loranthaceae (Mistletoes).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Mylothris agathina*

Common Name: Eastern Dotted Border

Wingspan: 45-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A stunning common butterfly with pronounced sexual dimorphism. Males are white above with a small black apical patch and not orange markings at the base of the forewing. The underside of the forewing has a large orange basal patch and the hindwing underside is yellow. The female is usually beautiful pinkish-orange. Common in parks, gardens, woodland and forest areas. Caterpillars feed on Mistletoes (Loranthaceae) and Sandalwood (*Osyris*).

Female underside

Female underside

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Mylothris rueppellii*

Common Name: Ruppell's Dotted Border

Wingspan: 48-56 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The species is distinctive by having a large deep-orange basal area on the forewings. The males have a restricted black apical area. Exhibits slight sexual dimorphism, females having more orange and black markings than the males. The underside of the hindwings is light cream. The species is common in all forests in Kenya, sometimes occurring in open woodlands and selected savanna tracts. Caterpillars feed on plant species in the family Loranthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Family Nymphalidae: The Brush-Footed Butterflies

The brushfooted butterflies are the most diverse butterfly family in Kenya. They are medium to large size with black, brown and orange as the prominent colours. Eyespots are commonly found on the wings. The single character common to all brushfoots is their greatly reduced forelegs, leaving them with only two pairs of legs for walking. Females are able to use the reduced forelegs to search for host plants. Some adults specialize in feeding on tree sap, rotting fruit, and animal dung. Non-nectar feeding butterflies often have relatively short proboscises. Females lay eggs singly or in batches. The caterpillars are often covered with complex spines. Some 340 species occur in Kenya, and 73 species have been recorded in Taita Hills. Out of the 73 species, 48 (66%) visit flowers for nectar.

Scientific Name: *Libythea labdaca*

Common Name: African Snout

Wingspan: 40-46 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This butterfly is distinct by the shape of the forewings which have pronounced tips and the extremely elongated palps. The ground colour is dark with orange spots in all four wings. The ground colour of the underside is dark brown and leaf-like. Sexes are similar. This butterfly roosts in dry twigs, usually head down. The larvae feed on plants in the genus *Celtis* (Ulmaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Danaus chrysippus*

Common Name: African Queen or African Monarch

Wingspan: 65-75 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Beautiful distinctive butterfly with deep orange ground colour on all the wings with a broad black apical patch enclosing white spots. The species is polymorphic, occurring in several forms, in combination of orange, black and white. The species is toxic, making it unpalatable to predators. The species colouration is mimicked by other butterfly species to avoid predators. The species is found in a range of habitats, including gardens, open woodland, savanna and bush. Caterpillars primarily consume plants in the genus *Asclepias*, commonly known as milkweed containing toxic compounds.

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Tirumala formosa*

Common Name: Beautiful Tiger

Wingspan: 80-85 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The largest butterfly in the group characterized by dark brownish black ground colour and light white markings on the wings. There is a variable chestnut patch at the base of the wings. Sexes are similar. Localized butterfly in semi-montane forests, rarely found below 1500m. The species is found in agricultural areas too. Caterpillars feed on different milkweed species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Amauris niavius*

Common Name: Friar

Wingspan: 75-82 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Unmistakable large butterfly with characteristic white hindwing underside and white markings on the forewing. Mimicked by a number of species including females of the Flying Handkerchief and forms of *Hypolimnas*. Both sexes are similar. The butterfly is mainly forest species but can survive in cultivated areas and gardens. It flies slowly along forest roads, pausing to visit flowers. Sexes are similar. Larval food plants are milkweeds (Asclepiadaceae) including *Secamone, Tylophora, Gymnema, Marsdemia* and *Cynanchum*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Amauris albimaculata*

Common Name: Layman

Wingspan: 50-70 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a beautiful butterfly whose forewings are black, with luminous white spots. Hindwings are black-brown with a yellow band and spots. Sexes are similar. Occurs in forest and woodland areas and can also be found in gardens. Caterpillars feed on members of the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae) including *Secamone, Tylophora, Gymnema, Marsdemia* and *Cynanchum*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Melanitis leda*

Common Name: Common Evening Brown

Wingspan: 58-75 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is unmistakable, easily recognized butterfly with points on both the fore and hindwings. The upper sides are brown with a large orange patch surrounding a black spot with white dots. The undersides display leaf-like camouflage. The patterns on the wing shapes vary seasonally. Sexes are similar. Shy species remaining hidden in the undergrowth and leaf litter. Mostly active at dusk. Caterpillars feed on various grasses including *Setaria* species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Bicyclus campina*

Common Name: Chirinda Bush Brown

Wingspan: 48-56 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Variable species with half of the basal underside of the wings very dark and the other half is distinctly lighter. Sexes are similar. This is a species of the denser savanna and open forest habitats. Relatively common in coastal forests, Taita and Sagalla Hills. Caterpillars feed on various grasses belonging to family Poaceae.

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Bicyclus safitza*

Common Name: Common Bush Brown

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Medium sized, easily recognizable butterfly with characteristic large eyespot on the underside of the wings. There is combination of small and large eyespot on the forewing upper side, and light small apical markings. Edges of the hindwings are slightly wavy. One of the most common butterflies in Kenya, mainly a savanna species also colonizes open places and roads in forests. Sexes ares similar. Larvae feed on various species of grasses (Poaceae).

Underside

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Heteropsis perspicua* (Synonymn; *Henotesia perspicua*)

Common Name: Swamp Patroller

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Medium sized beautiful brown butterfly. The forewing has two eyespots, small and large sized. Hindwing upper side has a series of small eyespots. The underside cryptically patterned with a pale line. Sexes are similar. Widespread in open habitats. Often found in sheltered spots in bush among rocks and tall grasses. Caterpillars feed on various grasses (Poaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Ypthima asterope*

Common Name: Common Three-Ring

Wingspan: 30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium sized butterfly, grey in ground colour. Has a prominent eyespot near the tip of the forewing with two white dots. The eyespot is a surrounded by pale area. The undersides are marked with a pattern of intricate fine lines and the eyespot visible. Species of dry areas including open bush and savanna. Sexes are similar and fly slowly close to the ground, visiting flowers and basking in the sun with wings partly open. Caterpillars feed on *Cynodon* (Poaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Physcaeneura leda*

Wingspan: 34-42 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A delightful butterfly, not easily mistaken with black and white upperside. The underside is striated with complete series of cinnamon ocelli on all four wings. The female is larger and has more dark striation than the male. The species is common in coastal forests with habitat including dense woodland, forest margins and grassy forest clearings and edges from sea-level to 1,850 meters. The species does not visit flowers. Both sexes rest on green leaves. The caterpillars of this species feed on Poaceae species.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Neocoenyra duplex*

Common Name: Sepia Ringlet

Wingspan: 15-20 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Small butterfly with small eyes at the tip of the forewing upper side surrounded by red-rust patches. They have striking eyespots on the hindwings. The body is thin and dark, with small eyes and fine antennae. Widespread in grassland and savanna. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on grasses.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Neocoenyra gregorii*

Common Name: Eyed Ringlet

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly with rounded wings. The upper side is brown with a prominent apical eyespot on each forewing and two marginal eyespots on each hindwings. Both sexes are similar. Widespread butterfly in grasslands flying weakly among long grass. It extends in mountains as high as 3000m. Caterpillars feed on grasses (Poaceae).

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes varanes*

Common Name: Pearl Charaxes

Wingspan: 65-90 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A distinctive large butterfly with luminous white wings with broad orange-brown bands with golden orange spots. The hindwings have a single tail. Sexes are similar. Widely spread species in range of habitats including forest, savanna, bush and woodland. The flight is fast, moving up and down a regular path. Perches on trees and visits fermenting sap sites. Caterpillars feed on Sapindaceae (*Allophyllus, Schmidelia and Cardiospermum*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes candiope*

Common Name: Green-Veined Charaxes

Wingspan: 70-80 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is unmistakable butterfly with characteristic green colour of veins and costa of the base of the forewing underside. The green veins visible when the butterfly is at rest with wings folded. Upper side of the wings are yellow, orange or brown. Most common of all *Charaxes*, occurring in gardens, forests and woodlands. Adults feed on dung or fermenting sap on trees. Sexes are similar. Larvae food plants are crotons (Euphorbiaceae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes saturnus*

Common Name: Foxy Charaxes

Wingspan: 60-65 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Pretty butterfly with dark brown wings with a broad orange band traversing all wings. Orange marginal lunules on all the four wings. Hindwings have bluish marginal markings. The hindwing has two sharply pointed tails. Both sexes are similar. Widespread species occurring in woodland, savanna, bush and dry lands. Adults feed on dung or fermenting sap on trees. Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants including Malvaceae (*Hibiscus*), Euphorbiaceae (*Croton*) and Leguminoceae (*Bauhimia, Alfzelia*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes brutus*

Common Name: White-Barred Charaxes

Wingspan: 75-85 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Powerfully built butterfly readily recognized by black pointed wings with white discal band crossing both pairs of wings. The white band breaks into spots on the forewing. Female bands are broader than those of the males. Common and widespread species in forest, woodland and gardens. Flies quite high and fast settling on fermenting tree sap.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes pollux*

Common Name: Black-Bordered Charaxes

Wingspan: 60-65 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Beautiful butterfly with brown and orange upper side. The species has broad black margins on all the four wings. The edges are serrated. Underside is relatively narrow discal band, cream in colour. Sexes are similar. The butterfly is a forest and woodland species. Flies high in the canopy visiting sap on fermenting forest trees. Caterpillars feed on *Bersama* (Melianthaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes druceanus*

Common Name: Silver-Barred Charaxes

Wingspan: 60-65 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Beautiful butterfly with black wings with orange bands and dark orange-brown spots on the margin. The silvery white discal band on the underside distinguishes it from *C.pollux*. It has two tails on each hindwing. Sexes are similar though females are slightly larger and lighter in colour. Evergreen forest butterfly mainly occurring in localized colonies. Found on fermenting sap on forest trees. Larvae feed on family Myrtaceae including *Syzygium* and *Eugenia*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes cithaeron*

Common Name: Blue-Spotted Charaxes

Wingspan: 70-80 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant blue charaxes with pronounced sexual dimorphism. Males are brilliant with deep cobalt wings with greenish-blue spots and gold markings on the edges of the hindwings. Females have continuous white apical band on the forewing upper side and a wide diffuse band on the hindwings. Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants including Leguminosae (*Albizia, Afzelia, Acacia*), Ulmaceae (*Hippocratea*) Linaceae (*Hugonia*).

Male upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes xiphares desmondi*

Common Name: Forest-King Charaxes

Wingspan: 70-80 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The species closely resembles the *Charaxes cithaeron*, also with sexual dimorphism. Males have a blue band on the upper side of the hindwing clearly defined. The females have discontinuous white apical band on the forewing. The species inhabits semi-montane forests between 1000m to 3000m and only found in Taita Hills. The larvae feed on Euphorbiceae (*Drypetes*).

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes jahlusa*

Common Name: Pearl-Spotted Charaxes

Wingspan: 43-62 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small beautiful unmistakable *Charaxes*. The upper side of the species is foxy-red with black markings. The species has tails. Sexual dimorphism is slight. The Spp *kenyensis* is coastal extending to Voi and Taita Hills. The species prefers open *Acacia* forest and *Brachysegia* woodland. Caterpillars feed mainly on Sapindaceae (*Haplocoelum*, *Pappea*).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes baumanni*

Common Name: Baumann's Charaxes

Wingspan: 60-70 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The males have distinctive broad blue sub marginal band on the hindwing upper side. The females have a broad white band across the discal area of all the wings both on upper side and underside. The species is common in semi-montane forests usually in clearings and more open parts of the forest. Both sexes are attracted to fermenting fruit and to animal feacal waste. Caterpillars feed on Leguminosae (*Acacia*, *Pterolobium* and *Caesalpinia*).

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes aubyni*

Common Name: Aubyn's Charaxes

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The males of this species are deep black in colour with greenish sheen. The females have yellow-ochre spots on the forewings and a blue-white band on the hindwings. The undersides are grey-brown, with fine lines. This is a butterfly of semi-montane and montane evergreen forest and riverine forests. The males' ground colour is deep black with a greenish sheen. Larvae feed on *Albizia gummifera* (Fabaceae).

Female upperside

Male uppeside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Charaxes zoolina*

Common Name: Club-Tailed Charaxes

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium sized *Charaxes* with strongly falcate wing shape. The male has one long club shaped tail on the hindwings while the females have two such tails. Both sexes are seasonally polymorphic (Wet and dry season forms). Dry season form is reddish-brown embellished with light brown. Wet season form is cream in colour. Occurs in drier areas, in savanna and *Acacia* bush land and in the coastal forests. Caterpillars feed on Acacia including *Acacia brevispica and Acacia schweinfurthi*.

Male dry season form

Male wet season form

Female dry season form

Female wet season form

Scientific Name: *Euxanthe wakefieldi*

Common Name: Forest Queen

Wingspan: 65-90 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful, large black butterfly covered with light blue markings. The species is distinguished from closely looking members by the distinct band of light markings on the forewing. Sexual dimorphism is exhibited. Males have small white patch at the base of hindwings while in females, the patch is enlarged resembling members of the genus *Amauris*. This butterfly occurs in coastal forests, Shimba Hills, along Tana River and Taita Hills. The flight is slow. Males establish territories along forest edges and forest clearings. The caterpillar feed on Sapidaceae (*Sapindus, Deinbollia, Blighia*) and Leguminoceae (*Afzelia*).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Euphaedra neophron*

Common Name: Gold-Banded Forester

Wingspan: 55-78 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Elegant, unmistakable butterfly with shiny blue-purple ground colour and broad yellow band across the subapical area of the forewings. The colour on the wings is at times faded. The species is common in dense forests and outside of undisturbed forests with closed canopy. The flight is normally close to the ground, sometimes perching on leaves. This butterfly is fond of rotting fruits. Sexes are similar. The caterpillars feed on various species from *Sapindaceae* genus (*Allophylus, Blighia, Deinbollia, Pauillinia, Phialodiscus).*

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

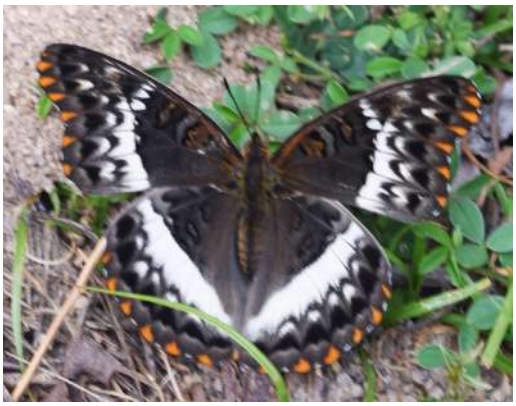
Scientific Name: *Cymothoe teita*

Common Name: Teita Glider

Wingspan: 40-70 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is an elegant butterfly with half of the male forewing having greenish-yellow tinge and the rest being black with lunules of the ground colour. The base of the forewing is dark. The female is dark brown with a narrow white band running across all four wings. This butterfly is limited to montane forests of the Taita Hills. The male is high flying while the female stays inside the forest. Caterpillars of this species feed on *Dasylepis integra* (Flacourtiaceae).



Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Neptis saclava*

Common Name: Small-Spotted Sailer

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful medium-sized butterfly with characteristic black and white wings. Distinguished by the light markings at the base of the hindwing underside. Both sexes are similar. Common and widely distributed butterfly in Kenya. Found in forests, woodland and frequents of riverine habitats. Flies in characteristic sailing motion, pausing to bask on leaves. Larval host plants varied, including species in families Euphorbiaceae, Combretaceae and Urticaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Neptis penningtoni*

Common Name: Pennington's Sailer

Wingspan: 40-52 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This butterfly is medium to large with pure white ground colour. The veins less interrupt the narrow white marginal lines. The four white sub-marginal lines at the underside of the wings, rather than the usual three distinguish the butterfly. Both sexes are similar. This species is widely distributed in forest and dense savanna. The larvae feed on *Julbernardia globiflora*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Neptis aurivillii*

Common Name: Aurivillius' Sailer

Wingspan: 45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium elegant butterfly with characteristic black and white wings. Can be distinguished from similar species by lack of sub-marginal bands and markings giving it a very distinctive appearance compared to other *Neptis*. Sexes are similar. It is a montane species, limited to Taita Hills in Kenya and other populations are in Tanzania. Common in the remaining indigenous forests in Taita Hills. The larvae feed on *Macaranga* species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Cyrestis camillus*

Common Name: African Map Butterfly

Wingspan: 40-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A characteristically distinct butterfly, white in colour with orange and black transverse lines. The species has a tail and a lobe at the hindwing. No sexual dimorphism exhibited by the species. It settles with wings held flat when visiting flowers or roosting under leaves. The caterpillars feed on Moraceae (*Morus, Ficus*) and Rhamnaceae (*Zizyphus*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Byblia ilithyia*

Common Name: Joker

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly whose wings are patterned in orange and black spots, with the underside of the wings having silvery markings. The sub-marginal dark line continues to the apex on the underside of the forewing and has a full line of round discal spots across the upperside of the hindwings. The sexes are similar. A common species encountered in a wide range of habitats but mostly in dry bush and savanna regions. Caterpillars feed on Euphorbiaceae including *Tragia, Dalechampia* and *Ricinus*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Neptidopsis ophione*

Common Name: Scalloped Sailor

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A fragile butterfly similar in pattern to the genus *Neptis* but distinguished from the latter by more erratic pattern at the underside. The wings are dark brown with white markings and the wing edges are wavy. Sexes are similar. The base of the forewing veins is swollen. The larvae feed on Euphorbiaceae (*Tragia*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurytela dryope*

Common Name: Golden Piper

Wingspan: 40-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A distinctive butterfly with brown streamlined wings. The broad sub-marginal bands on all four wings distinguish it from any other butterfly. Both sexes are similar. Common and wide spread butterfly in forests and savanna areas. Caterpillars feed on *Tragia* (Euphorbiaceae) and on castor oil plants (*Ricinus*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eurytela hiarbas*

Common Name: Pied Piper

Wingspan: 45-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The wings are a deep black with a white band running in an unbroken line from the outer part of the forewing into the hindwing. Edges of the wings are wavy. Common and wide spread species in a range of habitats including forest, woodland, riverine areas and moist bush. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Tragia* and *Dalechampia* (Euphorbiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Hypolimnas misippus*

Common Name: Diadem

Wingspan: 50-60 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males have bold white spots edged with luminous purple on a deep jet-black background on the wings. The females are orange with varying amounts of black and white markings. They have more pronounced veins and a wavy margin to the wing edges. The female is a perfect mimic of the common African Queen, which they are often confused. The species is found nearly anywhere but prefers mainly open formations and disturbed habitats. Caterpillars feed on a range of plants including *Portulaca* spp (Portulacaceae), *Asystasia, Justicia, Blepharis* and *Ruellia* (Acanthaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Hypolimnas anthedon*

Common Name: Variable Eggfly

Wingspan: 75-90 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The species has black ground colour with large white spots on the forewings. The hindwing has white base bordered by wide black margin, at times, form variation is found. It is a perfect mimic of *Amauris* spp. It is a forest species. Sexes are similar. Larvae feed on *Fleurya, Urera, Urtica,* (Urticaceae) and *Berkheya* (Asteraceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Protogoniomorpha parhassus (Synonymn: Salamis parhassus)*

Common Name: Forest Mother-of-Pearl

Wingspan: 80-95 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful large butterfly that is easily recognizable. The base colour of the upper surface of the wings is greenish white with a violet sheen in the wet-season form, and pearly white in the dry-season form. The forewing has a black-tipped, hooked apex. The wings have a few red eyespots that are ringed with black. There are black spots near the margins of both the forewings and hindwings. The underside of the wings has a greenish-white base colour, with eyespots corresponding to those on the upper surface. The species is common in forest and woodland habitats. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on various species of Acanthaceae.

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Protogoniomorpha anacardii (Synonymn: Salamis anacardii)*

Common Name: Clouded Mother-of-Pearl

Wingspan: 60-70 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: An elegant butterfly similar to Forest Mother-of-Pearl but can be distinguished by being smaller with more black apical and marginal markings. The forewings are less falcate. The species is common in dense savanna and deciduous forest. Sexes are similar. The larval food plants are Acanthaceae (*Iopsis, Asystasia, Justicia, Brillantaisia*).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Salamis cacta*

Common Name: Lilac Beauty

Wingspan: 50-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly with a large orange patch on the median area of the forewing. The butterfly has hints of purple when viewed at an angle. The underside pattern is a fine example of a leaf camouflage. The habitat is deep forest, and it does not display itself in the open and must be searched for in interior of the forest. In the morning, it is found sunning itself at the forest paths and clearings. Sexes are similar. Larvae of this species feed on *Urera* (Urticaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Junonia oenone*

Common Name: Dark Blue Pansy

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A common medium-sized butterfly that is easily recognizable. The wings have dark velvet-black ground colour and shiny blue patches on the hindwings. Sexes exhibit slight sexual dimorphism. The females are less dark and the blue spots may be obscured. It has eyespots and variable white markings on the edges and tips of the wings. One of the most common and well known butterflies normally found in gardens, parks and natural habitats. Caterpillars feed on many species of Acanthaceae.

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Junonia hierta*

Common Name: Yellow Pansy

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly with straw-yellow ground colour and a prominent blue coastal spots on the hindwings. The females have more dark markings than the male and the blue spots may be obscured. At rest, with wings folded, the butterfly appears leaf-like and is superbly camouflaged. Common and widespread in grasslands, savanna and bush. Often seen visiting flowers. Caterpillars feed on many different species of Acanthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Junonia sophia*

Common Name: Little Commodore or Little Pansy

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The wings are usually orange-yellow with dark transverse lines in the forewing. All the four wings have a broad dark brown boarder. The ground colour is sometimes white. Females are more round-winged than the males. Species found in degraded forest habitats and along roads and gardens. The sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on many different species of Acanthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Junonia natalica*

Common Name: Natal Pansy

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty medium sized butterfly. Easily recognized by the four white spots on the sub apical area of the forewing upper side. The upper sides of the wings are brown with pale orange and grey markings. The underside of the wings is brown and leaf-like. The species is common in forest and woodland areas. Common along roads in forests. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on various species of Acanthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Junonia terea*

Common Name: Soldier Commodore

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A delicate medium-sized butterfly. The wings are blackish brown with a very broad yellow discal band crossing all four wings. It has few tiny white apical spots at the apex of forewings. Sexes are similar. Common butterfly in gardens, cultivated areas, bush and woodland habitats. Caterpillars feed on various Acanthaceae (*Asystasia, Barleria, Hygrophila, Justicia, Ruellia*).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Precis antilope*

Common Name: Darker Commodore

Wingspan: 40-60 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful medium sized butterfly exhibiting seasonal dimorphism. The wet-season form is bright orange on both upper side and underside with black margins. In the dry-season form, the wings are more falcate and the black upper side markings washed out. The species is widely distributed but it is common in wetter areas. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on Lamiaceae (*Coleus* and *Plastostema*).

Upperside (Dry season form)

Underside (Dry season form)

Upperside (Wet season form)

Underside (Wet season form)

Scientific Name: *Precis archesia*

Common Name: Garden Commodore

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant medium-sized butterfly, the species has a characteristic light orange band running on the fore and hindwings. The wings have a series of spots and markings. The species has wet and dry-season forms with the band on the wing ranging from yellow to brick red. Sexes are similar. Widespread species in savanna habitats. Often found basking on rocks. Caterpillars feed on *Coleus*, *Plectranthus*, *Pycnostachys*, and other Lamiaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Precis limnoria*

Common Name: White-Spotted Commodore

Wingspan: 40-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The butterfly has a complete set of white post-discal spots. The species easily distinguished by the presence of narrower red bands without white band on the underside. Sexes are similar. The species is widely spread in savanna areas. Caterpillars feed on various species of Acanthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Precis tugela*

Common Name: Eared Commodore

Wingspan: 50-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant large commodore butterfly. The wings are broad with hooked tips and an orange-pink-violet band. The colour of the band is variable sometimes yellow-orange, depending on season. The species is widespread in Kenya, being common in forest and woodland as well as in cultivated areas in highlands. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Plectranthus, Pycnostachys*, and other Lamiaceae.

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Catacroptera cloanthe*

Common Name: Pirate

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant and beautiful butterfly with orange-brown wings. The species has characteristic dark brown markings and a series of marginal eyespots on the upper side of the hindwings. Each eyespot centered by light blue colour. The underside of the wings has camouflage patterns of leaf-like appearance. Main habitat is grassland, savanna and bush areas. Sexes are similar. Larval host plants include *Justicia, Ruellia* and *Barleria* (Acanthaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Vanessa cardui*

Common Name: Painted Lady

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The wings are pink-orange with darker bases. Forewing has black apex patch and white spots. The hindwing has sub marginal row of 5 small black spots. Found almost everywhere, especially in open or disturbed areas including gardens, old fields and roadsides. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on various plants including thistles (Asteraceae), hollyhock and mallow (Malvaceae), and various legumes.

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Vanessa dimorphica* ***(Synonymn; Antanartia dimorphica)***

Common Name: Dimorphic Admiral

Wingspan: 45-48 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The wings are brownish-black with yellow-orange bands on the forewings and leading edges of the hindwings. Wings are sharp with irregular outlines and tails. Montane species, occurring in highlands. Found visiting flowers and attracted to plant sap. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Carduus* (Asteraceae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Antanartia schaeneia*

Common Name: Long Tail Admiral

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized elegant butterfly with bright markings. The wings are brownish-black with yellow-orange bands on the forewings and leading edges of the hindwings. Both sexes have tails on the hindwings. Semi-montane species, occurring in highlands, often found at forest edges. They are avid seekers of flowers and occasionally attracted to plant sap. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on family Urticaceae (*Australina, Boehmeria, Pouzolzia, Urtica*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Phalanta phalantha*

Common Name: Common Leopard Fritillary

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Wings are orange in colour with fine lines and spots. The species can be distinguished from its related species by more spots in the discal area of all four wings. The underside of the wings is paler, like a dry leaf. Common and widespread species often involved in migrations. It is mainly a butterfly of open formations, but also found in dense forests. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars are gregarious and feed on a wide range of plants families including Flacourtiaceae, Celastraceae, Euphorbiaceae, Rubiaceae, Salicaceae and *Dovyalis* (Kei Apple).

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Acraea baxteri*

Common Name: Baxter's Acraea

Wingspan: 49 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A distinctive butterfly with the forewing outer half smoky-grey in colour and the basal part bright orange. The hindwing has a large solid-black basal patch which does not reach costal area. Sexes are similar. Generally rare species mainly occurring in montane forests but the forests does not have to be dense. The larvae feed on *Urera* species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea encedon*

Common Name: Encedon Acraea

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Most variable butterfly in the genus. The ground colour ranges from off-white to yellow to various shades of brown. The most common form is light orange/brown with no sub apical white markings. The broad forewing apical band may be white or of the ground colour. The edges of the wings are outlined in black. Common butterfly in grassland, gardens and savanna habitats. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Commelina* species (Commelinaceae).

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Acraea esebria*

Common Name: Dusky Acraea

Wingspan: 20-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A stunning medium-sized butterfly highly variable. The ground colour ranges from yellow to orange with some white patches. The head and thorax have white spots and the abdomen spotted with pale orange dots. Sexes are similar. This species is common and widespread in forest, woodland and agricultural areas. Caterpillars feed on several genera of Urticaceae (*Fleurya, Pouzolzia, Urera*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea lycoa*

Common Name: Lycoa Acraea

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly that appears to be a mimic of the *Amauris* spp butterflies. The wings are blackish with pale yellow spots on the forewings and a yellow patch on the hindwings. The outer edge of the patch is evenly rounded. The species is common in forests and highlands. Sexes are similar though the females are slightly larger. Caterpillars feed on Urticaceae (*Fleurya, Pouzolzia, Urera*) and on Commelinaceae (*Aneilema*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea johnstoni*

Common Name: Johnston's Acraea

Wingspan: 59 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The species is distinguished by the quadrate light basal area of the hindwing. The females are polymorphic, some similar to the males and others mimicking other members in the genus. In Taita Hills, the males are deep orange, retaining the usual pattern. A forest-dwelling butterfly but sometimes found open country. Caterpillars feed on Urticaceae (*Fleurya, Pouzolzia, Urera*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea eponina*

Common Name: Orange Acraea

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small sized butterfly, very familiar in the region. All the four wings are bright orange with black markings on the borders. Distinguished by combination of marginal lunules on the hindwing upper side and on the underside of all four wings and the isolated apical orange patch. The abdomen is spotted with yellow. Essentially a species of savanna. Sexes are similar and fond of visiting flowers. Larvae feed on a wide range of plants, including Malvaceae (*Hibiscus, Sida*), Solanaceae (*Nicotiana*), among other plants.

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea cabira*

Common Name: Yellow Banded Acraea

Wingspan: 38-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium sized, beautiful butterfly with black wings and orange patches on the upper sides. The forewings have a band of pale yellow. The underside of the wings is orange with black spots. The basal black markings on the forewing directed outwards towards the inner margin. Found in forests, open woodland and riverine vegetation. The sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants, including Malvaceae (*Hibiscus, Sida*), and Tiliaceae (*Triumfetta*).

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Acraea braesia*

Wingspan: 56-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized elegant butterfly, variable in form. The male is pinkish red with a transparent area at the apex of the forewing. The female is highly variable with brown or greyish-white ground colour and the forewing may be strongly transparent. The abdomen is white. Common species in savanna habitats. The larvae feed on *Vernonia* (Asteraceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea equatorialis*

Wingspan: 50-58 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small sized butterfly similar to *A. braesia* without the pinkish tinge. The forewings are less transparent than in *A. braesia*. The two species often fly together in savanna areas. Sexes are similar. The species prefers open formations. The larvae feed on *Passiflora* species and *Malva verticillata*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea zetes*

Common Name: Large Spotted Acraea

Wingspan: 55-72 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A striking butterfly similar to *Chilo acraea* with orange ground colour. Distinguished by forewings strongly marked with black. Forewings upper side has lighter orange spots along the margin not extending to the apex. The hindwing has large and continuous basal black spots. Hindwing has orange spots enclosed in black margin. Sexes are similar. Widespread lowland savanna and open deciduous forests butterfly. The flight is fast and swooping with both sexes visiting flowers. Caterpillars feed on Passifloraceae including *Barteria*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea chilo*

Common Name: Chilo Acraea

Wingspan: 63 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A large butterfly similar to Large spotted Acraea. Males easily distinguished by the complete set of orange marginal lunules on the forewing upper side reaching the apex. Females are usually almost transparent and may have traces of the marginal lunules. Black spots at base of the hindwing are less developed and are almost separate. Better adapted to arid conditions occurring in wider range of savanna habitats. Has powerful flight, frequents riverbeds and visits flowers. Caterpillars feed on Passifloraceae including *Barteria*.

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Acraea anemosa*

Common Name: Broad Bordered Acraea

Wingspan: 50-64 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly easily distinguished from the underside of the hindwings. There is broad black border with bright white spots. A narrow orange band fringes the black border. The discal area is pink with no black spots. The basal area is black with a profusion of white spots. A butterfly of savanna and open forests. Sexes are similar. Larvae feed on Passifloraceae (*Modecca*, *Adenia*) and Vitidaceae (*Vitis*).

Upperside

Underside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea boopis*

Common Name: Rainforest Acraea

Wingspan: 42-58 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant medium-sized butterfly with outer half of the forewing almost transparent. Distinguished from other similar species by having a well-developed black marginal band enclosing orange lunules on the hindwing upper side. Slight sexual dimorphism where females are duller and sometimes the ground colour is white. A forest dwelling species, and not found in savanna habitats. Flight is few meters from the ground visiting flowers and sometimes tree-top level. The larvae feed on Celastraceae species, including (*Cassine*, *Maytenus*) and Achariaceae (*Rawsonia*).

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Acraea quirina*

Common Name: Common Glassy Acraea

Wingspan: 44 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small pretty butterfly with nearly glassy forewings and the hindwing border broadly glassy as well. The base of all the four wings is orange in colour. The hindwings basal orange is fringed with black spots. Common species in forests and highlands of eastern Kenya. Sexes are similar. The larvae have been recorded from *Drypetes* (Euphorbiaceae) and *Rinorea* (Violaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea insignis*

Common Name: Distant

Wingspan: 51 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty and distinctive butterfly with slight sexual dimorphism. The forewings are divided into a basal orange half and a smoky-grey distal half. The hindwings have a basal black area and an orange costa. Both upper side and underside of the hindwings have a well-defined black border without marginal lunules. Sexes are similar. Common forest and highland butterfly. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants including *Gossypium* (Malvaceae), *Adenia* (Passifloraceae), *Thea* (Theaceae) and *Vitis* (Vitidaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea neobule*

Common Name: Wandering Donkey

Wingspan: 40-44 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant, medium-sized butterfly. The forewings are orange with a broad semi-transparent silvery tip. The hindwings are orange with narrow black border and spots. The underside of the wings is silvery in the forewings and a narrow black border and spots in the hindwing. Common and widespread species inhabiting open and disturbed habitats including gardens, cultivated areas, grasslands, bush and savanna. Sexes are similar. Larvae feed on *Adenia, Passiflora* (Passifloraceae) and *Hybanthus* (Violaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea matuapa*

Wingspan: 64-74 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly closely identical to Wandering Donkey but slightly bigger with larger black spots. The ground colour is paler and hindwing margin is broader with the lunules obscured or absent. The male abdomen ringed with white on the last segments. The habitat consists of grassy areas in and around coastal forests. The species is endemic to the Kenyan coast. Larval host plant not known.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acraea aganice*

Common Name: Wanderer

Wingspan: 50-55 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The male has a narrow, irregular orange brown discal band on the forewing and the hindwings have a defined orange-brown discal band. In females, the bands are white. A common species in eastern forests and woodland. Both sexes feed from flowers. Larvae have been recorded on *Passiflora, Adenia* and *Tryphostemma* (Passifloraceae).

Female upperside

Male upperside

Family Lycaenidae: The Blues and Coppers

These are some of the smallest Kenyan butterflies which usually perch with their wings closed. The antennae are dark with conspicuous rings around the shafts, a trait shared with the family Nymphalidae. The egg has a button shape and is usually laid singly. The larvae are slug shaped with a thick, tough skin. Some of the larvae form symbiotic relationships with ants. Some 293 species occur in Kenya, and 46 species have been recorded in Taita Hills. Out of the 46 species, 44 (96%) visit flowers for nectar while 2 (4%) feed on secretions from insects.

Scientific Name: *Alaena johanna*

Common Name: Johanna's Zulu

Wingspan: 32-36 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small sized butterfly, dark grey and white in colour. The species has a profuse white spotting on the underside. The main habitat for the species is rocky hillsides of savanna country of south eastern Kenya. The butterfly rests on rocks among lichens. Sexes are similar. Larvae of this butterfly feed on lichens growing on rocks.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Alaena picata*

Wingspan: 38-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A little butterfly resembling a small *Acraea*. The species exhibits sexual dimorphism with the male being black and orange and the females black and white. On the underside there are broad black marginal bands on all four wings with white spots of irregular shape. The habitat includes rocky stream beds in forest and on forest margins. Occurs in localized colonies, which may contain numerous individuals. The larvae of this butterfly possibly feed on tree lichens.

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Pentila tropicalis*

Common Name: Tropical Pentila

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A delicately small and pretty butterfly. The wings are pale orange, covered with small black dots. The four wings are rounded. The upper side of the four wings are black bordered at the margins. Underside of the wings marked with fine black spots. Forest butterfly that is mainly coastal, sometimes extending inlands. Can be locally common visiting flowering plants. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on lichens.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Ornipholidotos peucetia*

Common Name: Large Glasswing or White Mimic

Wingspan: 35-37 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful small butterfly. Wings are translucent white with dark markings. The white colour of the forewings is divided into main area and an apical patch by a black post-discal bar. Hindwings have a black spot on the white basal patch. Mainly a coastal species but going in land. Mainly occupies shade parts of the forest. Sexes are similar. The larvae feed on lichens growing on tree trunks.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Baliochila hildegarda*

Common Name: Hildegard's Buff

Wingspan: 28 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small sized butterfly, the male has a broadly black costa and a broad margin on both the fore and hindwings. Females usually have black borders on the hindwing, and if not present, there are dark radial markings along the veins at the hindwing margin. Relatively common forest and open woodland species recorded in coastal region but it goes inland. It often settles on fresh shoots or dry twigs frequently opening and closing their wings. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on tree lichens.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spalgis lemolea*

Common Name: African Apefly

Wingspan: 30-34 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful, unmistakable butterfly. The ground colour of the wings is white with the margins and costa being black. The underside is marked with an irroration of fine black striae. Found in forest and dense woodland. This butterfly rarely visits flowers. Sexes are similar. The larvae are wood-louse shaped, resembling coccids and are carnivorous, feeding on Coccids (*Dactylopius*) and Pseudococcids (*Pseudococcus, Phenacoccus, Phanococcoides, Ferrisiana, Planococcus*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Lachnocnema bibulus*

Common Name: Woolly Legs

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A pretty, medium-sized butterfly with legs covered with dense layer of wool. Males are brown with greyish-brown underside of the wings. The main discal band on hindwing underside is straight, becoming wider towards the costa. Females are slightly larger with brown and white wings. It is common and widespread in a wide range of habitats including gardens, bush, savanna, forest and woodland. Caterpillars are carnivorous, feeding on other insects mainly plant feeding Hemiptera (True Bugs). Ants may feed them.

Underside

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Lachnocnema durbani*

Common Name: D'Urban's Woolly Legs

Wingspan: 24-30 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized closely similar to the Woolly Legs. The ground colour is duller greyish-brown. The main band on the hindwing underside is broken up into spots that are disposed in an irregular fashion. The wings are more rounded than the *Lachnocnema bibulus* species. Sexes are similar. The species is widespread with preferable habitats being open country including forest roads and clearings. Caterpillars are carnivorous, feeding on other insects mainly plant feeding Hemiptera (True Bugs). Ants may feed them.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Axiocerses harpax*

Common Name: Common Scarlet

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This species can be easily confused with the similar looking Eastern Scarlet. The wings pattern is variable, always with a combination of bright, red and black. The undersides have a purple tinge to orange. The species can be common in woodland, savanna and bush. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants including *Acacia*, other legumes and *Ximenia*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Axiocerses tjoane*

Common Name: Eastern Scarlet

Wingspan: 24-34 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly closely related to Common Scarlet. The species is generally larger with broader wings and with an orange patch on the forewing upper side which is relatively larger. The underside of Eastern Scarlet is always orange. Both sexes are similar. More common species than the previous in woodland, savanna and bush. Larvae feed on species of *Acacia* and *Brachystegia* (Leguminosae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Iolaus diametra*

Common Name: Yellow-Banded Sapphire

Wingspan: 26-29 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: An elegant butterfly with well defined deep orange bands bordered by narrow black lines on the underside, including an orange margin to all four wings and characteristic black sub-marginal dots. The habitat for the species includes savanna, coastal scrub and forest. Both sexes are very fond of flowers. The larval stages of this butterfly feed on *Loranthus* (Loranthaceae).

Male upperside

Underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Iolaus yalae*

Common Name: Yala Sapphire

Wingspan: 34-36 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant small-sized light blue butterfly with a large black apical patch. A large silvery area surrounds the androconial patch on the hindwing costa. The female is much lighter. There is a full complement of narrow lines on the underside. The habitat consists of forests. Adults spend most of their time high up, in the forest canopy. Caterpillars feed on species of *Loranthus* (Loranthaceae).

Underside

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Iolaus maritimus*

Common Name: Coastal Sapphire

Wingspan: 40-48 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The male upperside is brilliant blue with black markings and a large androconial spot on the costa. The female has a white discal area on the forewing, black submarginal spots on the hindwings and an extensive red tonal area. The female have a series of marginal dots on the hindwing upperside. The species differs from other close members by the underside having the post-discal bands on all the four wings placed further from the margin. This butterfly is rare in the coastal forests. Caterpillars of this species feed on different species of Loranthaceae (*Phragmanthera, Oedina, Loranthus* species).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Hypolycaena philippus*

Common Name: Common Hairstreak

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Males have bluish-violet upper side with underside grey with fine brown lines. The females are light brown, with white patches on the hindwings. Both sexes have tails with spots at the base. The habitat consists of dry savanna to forest. Flowers are fervently visited by both sexes. The larvae which are usually attended by ants feed on various food plants including *Allophylus* species (Sapindaceae), *Punica granatum* (Puniaceae), *Ximenia americana* (Olacaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Hypolycaena pachalica*

Common Name: Eastern or Coastal Hairstreak

Wingspan: 26 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A beautiful butterfly, dark brown and blue sheen on all the four wings upper side. Underside markings are broad and the orange anal angle spot on the hindwing upper side well developed. The discal and sub marginal lines on forewing underside are parallel. Hindwings have tails. The habitat consists of savanna and open forests. Adults are attracted to flowers and males occasionally come to damp patches. Caterpillars feed on *Combretum* (Combretaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Leptomyrina gorgias*

Common Name: Common Black-eye

Wingspan: 24-27 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The male of this butterfly is dark in ground colour on the upperside. The species has characteristic well-defined black spots on the forewing upperside and underside. The males have light silvery scaling while the females have vestigial silver scaling. The main habitat is savanna, arid bush but also in open rocky places in montane forest. This butterfly occurs as scattered, small colonies, associated with clumps of the larval food plants. The larvae feed on *Crassula* species (Crassulaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Deudorix antalus*

Common Name: Brown Playboy

Wingspan: 28-32 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males of this species are dark brown on the upperside with a slight coppery sheen. The females are variable, and not easily told apart from other members of the group. The species has widespread distribution with wide range of habitats, including open forest, savanna, grassland. Males defend territories from perches, on hilltops and on the flats. The flight is very fast. Both sexes feed from flowers and the males occasionally mud-puddle. Their larvae are polyphagous feeding on a number of plant species including; *Albizia, Burkea, Crotalaria, Dolichos, Cajanus* (Fabaceae), *Combretum* (Combretaceae) and *Eriobotrya* (Rosaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Deudorix dinochares*

Common Name: Apricot Playboy

Wingspan: 24-32 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Males have metallic orange wings with varying amounts of black markings. The costa, apex and forewing margin are dark brown. The hindwings are red with no black border. Females are varied and difficult to differentiate. Common species throughout the savanna areas and disturbed areas up to 2000m. Visits flowers and males sometimes visit damp patches. The larvae feed on a wide range of plants such as: *Combretum* (Cambretaceae) *Burkea, Acacia, Dolichos, Lablab* (Leguminosae), *Syzygium* (Myrtaceae), *Macadamia* (Proteaceae) and others.

Female upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Anthene indefinita*

Wingspan: 28-34 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A robust species whose male upper side is deep violet. The female has a light patch on the upperside of the forewing. The underside is greyish-brown with orderly and less contrasting patterns. The species has some light striations in the hindwing cell which is absent in other closely related species. Widespread species in forest and dense savanna areas. Caterpillars feed on *Coffea* (Rubiaceae) and *Erythrococca* (Euphorbiaceae).

Female upperside

Underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Anthene princeps*

Common Name: Lebombo Hairtail

Wingspan: 22-29 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Males have light purple ground colour with a bronze sheen. Females are light greyish. Both sexes can be distinguished by the presence of two well-defined black coastal spots on the hindwing underside. The underside of the wings is greyish-brown. Widely distributed savanna and open woodland species but rarely numerous. Normally found in ones and twos circling trees or at flowers. The larvae feed on *Entada abyssinica* and species of *Millettia* (Leguminosae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Anthene amarah*

Common Name: Leaden Ciliate Blue

Wingspan: 22-25 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty, small-sized butterfly with lustrous coppery colour on the upper side of the wings. On the underside, wings have black markings at the base. The habitat consists of savanna and occasionally open areas in the forest zone. Individuals usually found circling on *Acacia*. The larvae feed on *Acacia* and *Dichrostachys* (Legumnosae). They are associated with a number of ants.

Male underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Cupidopsis jobates*

Common Name: Tailed Meadow Blue

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: Dark brown in colour, with greyish brown wing tips and an orange patch with black spots on the hindwings. The species has small tails at the hindwings. The habitat for this butterfly is grassland and savanna, including *Brachystegia* woodland. Both sexes are often found feeding from flowers. Males regularly mud-puddle. Caterpillars of this species feed on *Eriosema* species and *Rhynchosia puberula* (Fabaceae).

Female upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Pseudonacaduba sichela*

Common Name: African Line Blue or Dusky Blue

Wingspan: 25-28 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A tiny, distinctive butterfly, the genus differing from all African Coppers and Blues on the underside pattern. The upper side is blue-violet. The brown underside is crossed by a pattern of parallel, fine white striae. The females are lighter in ground colour than the males and have brown borders. Widely distributed species, found in both forest and savanna habitats. Flies high up in the trees, and found also on flowering *Acacia*. The caterpillars feed on *Mundulea suberosa* (Leguminosae).

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Lampides boeticus*

Common Name: Pea Blue

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The upper side of the wings is pure light powdery blue. The underside has brown streaks and a larger white sub-marginal streak. Both sexes have a thin, long tail in the hindwings and two black spots in the anal angle. Hindwings underside has a pair of small black eye-spots beside each tail, with an orange marginal spots at the anal angle. A common and widespread species. Involved in migrations. The flight is fast often visiting flowers. The larvae feed on a number of Leguminosae including cultivated peas and beans.

Underside

Female upperside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Uranothauma nubifer*

Common Name: Black heart

Wingspan: 27-30 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small butterfly with the males being deep purple with large round velvety black spot in the forewings. The underside of the wings is marked with brown, silvery white and black lines. The females lack the large black spot on the forewings. A common and widespread butterfly. The caterpillars feed on species of *Acacia* and *Albizia* (Leguminosae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Uranothauma falkensteini*

Common Name: Lowland Branded Blue

Wingspan: 26-27 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small butterfly, which is darker than the closely related species. The upper side of the wings is dark and the underside has a brownish tinge. The hindwings have tails. The species is widespread and it is found all through the forest belt. Adult males are attracted to damp patches. Both sexes are similar and attracted to flowers. The caterpillars feed on species of *Acacia* and *Albizia* (Leguminosae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Uranothauma heritsia*

Common Name: Light Branded Blue

Wingspan: 26-34 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is readily recognizable and most distinctive species in the genus. The male forewings are blue and the hindwings are white with a dark brown border. The female is all white with broad brown borders on all four wings. A widely distributed forest-dwelling butterfly species. Males are attracted to damp patches and both sexes are attracted to flowers. The larvae have been recorded on *Bridelia* (Euphorbiaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Cacyreus lingeus*

Common Name: Common Bush Blue

Wingspan: 22-25 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small, pretty butterfly closely similar to the Eastern Bush Blue detailed below. Distinguished by the shape of the brown costal spot on the hindwing underside, which is triangular, pointing to the tornal area in this species. The males have a slight sheen to their blue-purple wings. Females are brown with light blue and white markings. The undersides patterned with brown and white lines and scribbles. Common and widespread species in dry lands, savanna, bush and grasslands. Can be found in damp patches and visiting flowers. Caterpillars feed on flowers of Lamiaceae (*Coleus, Salvia, Calamintha, Mentha, Lavendula*).

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Cacyreus virilis*

Common Name: Eastern Bush Blue

Wingspan: 24-27 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A butterfly closely similar to *C. lingeus*. The males have a slight sheen to their blue-purple wings. Females are brown with light blue and white markings. The undersides patterned with brown and white lines and marks. The shape of the brown costal spot is in-turned, pointing towards the abdomen. The female does not have light spots in the brown margins of the forewings. The species is found in drier habitats, usually in dry grassy areas, frequently coming to flowers. The larvae feed on many genera of Lamiaceae (*Coleus, Salvia, Calamintha, Mentha, Lavendula*).

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Cacyreus tespis (Synonym: Cacyreus palemon)*

Common Name: Water Geranium Blue

Wingspan: 15-25 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: The male is coppery-brown on the upper side. The female upper side is brown but lacks the sheen. The underside markings of this species are more regular. The species has slight sexual dimorphism. The butterfly species occurs in an altitude above 2000m. It is mainly found in moist grass places including water courses in montane grasslands. The larval food plants are *Geranium* and *Pelargonium* (Geranaceae).

Underside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Leptotes pirithous*

Common Name: Common Zebra Blue

Wingspan: 30 cm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Males are more uniformly blue on the upper side with tiny tails and a black spot on the hindwings. Females have blue and white patterning on the upper side and intricately mottled brown and white on the underside. Very common and widespread in a wide range of habitats including gardens and cultivated land. Dense forests are normally avoided. The larvae feed on a number of plants in Leguminosae including *Vigna, Indigofera, Medicago, Sesbania, Pisum, Burkea* and others.

Underside

Underside

Male upperside

Female upperside

Scientific Name: *Tuxentius melaena*

Common Name: Dark Pied Pierrot

Wingspan: 19-25 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small sized butterfly with white discal markings on the forewing upperside not reaching the inner margin. The white markings are entirely enclosed by black markings. This butterfly has more widely separated central costal spots on the underside of the hindwing. The main habitat is savanna and coastal bushes. The butterfly is found in the vicinity of their larval food plants (trees belonging to the genus *Ziziphus*), frequently settling on the leaves or flowers. Both sexes are similar and very fond of flowers. Males are avid mud-puddlers. The larval host plants include *Ziziphus* species (Rhamnaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Tarucus grammicus*

Common Name: Black Pierrot

Wingspan: 15-20 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small, an elegant butterfly. This species differs with other closely related by having a black ground colour with white sub-marginal markings on the hindwing. The underside of the wings is a crisp white with black lines or spots. The species occurs in most of open country in northern and eastern Kenya. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Zizyphus* (Rhamnaceae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Zizeeria knysna*

Common Name: African Grass Blue

Wingspan: 20-22 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A tiny, delicate build butterfly. The upper side of the wings is deep blue with wide dark borders. The underside is grey with speckling of white-edged black spots. The underside has a black spot near the costa. One of the most numerous butterflies, found in all habitats including urban lawns and gardens. It flies close to the ground and pauses to visit flowers. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants including *Amaranthus* (Amaranthaceae), *Oxalis* (Oxalidaceae) and many Leguminosae including *Desmodium* and *Medicago*.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Zizula hylax*

Common Name: Tiny Grass Blue

Wingspan: 15-17 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A tiny, delicate and pretty butterfly. The species has characteristic black spot at the center of forewing underside. The male upper side of the wings is a soft blue and grey with a broad black margin. Females are normally dark brown, sometimes with blue markings. The undersides of the wings are grey, with black, white-ringed dots. The costal black spot in the cell of the forewing underside is characteristic of this species. Highly common butterfly in a wide range of habitats including lawns and cultivated gardens. Flowers are visited by both sexes. Larval food plants are varied, and include Acanthaceae, Zygophyllaceae and Oxalidaceae among others.

Underside

Male upperside

Scientific Name: *Actizera lucida*

Common Name: Rayed Blue

Wingspan: 20-22 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A tiny, pretty butterfly with rounded wings. The underside of the hindwing has a prominent white radial stripe that crosses it. The upper side of the wings is soft blue with a hint of violet. The underside has a distinctive pattern of grey with white-edged, black dots. Widespread butterfly found mostly in highland areas and wetter habitats. Fond of visiting flowers. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants, including clovers (Fabaceae) and legumes.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Azanus jesous*

Common Name: African Babul Blue

Wingspan: 23-25 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The male is silky-blue with a violet tinge without a black border to the margin of the wings. The underside is grey, with brown lines and white-edged black spots. Females are milky brown, bluish at the base of the wings. Female underside is slightly paler, but the markings very similar to those in the male. Common and widespread, found in wide range of habitats. Usually found circling around *Acacia*. Fond of flowering trees especially *Acacia*. Caterpillars feed on *Acacia, Entada, Dichrostachys* and other legumes.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Azanus moriqua*

Common Name: Black-Bordered Babul Blue

Wingspan: 22-24 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males have a well developed black marginal bands on the upperside of both wings. The females have varying blue scaling. The habitat is mainly savanna. It is a fairly common butterfly. Both sexes are sometimes seen flying around the crowns of flowering acacias in numbers. Males often mud-puddle. It usually roosts on the bare twigs of acacia trees. The larval stages of this species feed on species of *Acacia*.

Male upperside

Female underside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Azanus natalensis*

Common Name: Natal Babul Blue

Wingspan: 25-28 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is the largest and the lightest of the babul blues. It is easily recognized by the very light upperside, which is translucent that the underside patterns show through. The main habitat is moist savanna. This is probably the least common species of the genus. Both sexes feed from flowers, especially those of acacias. Males' mud-puddle. The larval stages of this species feed on species of *Acacia* and *Vachellia* species (Fabaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eicochrysops hippocrates*

Common Name: White-Tipped Blue

Wingspan: 18-24 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The males of this little butterfly have sooty ground colour with prominent white tips at the forewings. Females' upperside of the four wings have a white part bordered by the sooty colour. The underside of the four wings is chalky with fine black markings. The habitat is marshy places and stream banks in a range of vegetation types, from forest to relatively dry savanna. Males are territorial, usually defending their territory from a perch on a twig or green leaf. Both sexes are strongly attracted to flowers and males occasionally mud-puddle. The larval host plants include *Polygonum* and *Rumex* species (Polygonaceae).

Male upperside

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Eicochrysops masai*

Common Name: Masai Cupid

Wingspan: 22-26 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty and distinctive little butterfly. The male is brilliant violet-blue, tailed and usually with a small orange tornal spot on the hindwings. The female has an extensive dark-blue scaling. Their habitat consists of grassy savanna. The flight is weak and fluttering low down. Both sexes visit flowers. Larval food plants are unknown.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Euchrysops subpallida*

Common Name: Ashen Smoky Blue

Wingspan: 25-27 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: An elegant butterfly with slightly rounded wings. Males have blue-violet wings and a spot near the edge of the hindwing. Females are greyer with dusting of blue. The underside ground-colour is lighter, and the spots on the underside are darker and more clearly encircled with white. Mainly occurs in rocky areas in parkland savannah, in discrete colonies. Both sexes feed from flowers and males mud-puddle. Females found laying eggs on the flower heads of *Ocimum* (Lamiaceae). The species is associated with ants.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Euchrysops malathana*

Common Name: Smoky Bean Cupid

Wingspan: 27-30 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Elegant, robust build butterfly. Males are smoky grey-brown with wings suffused with light blue-violet. Females have grey wings, with blue patches on the forewings and white markings on the hindwings. The lower edges of the hindwings have prominent eyespots. Common and widespread butterfly, found in wide range of habitats including woodland, grassland, savanna and bush. Caterpillars feed on legumes including cultivated beans. The species is associated with ants.

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Euchrysops osiris*

Common Name: African Cupid

Wingspan: 25-27 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The male this species is violet above with a pinkish sheen. Usually have two orange lunules in the anal angle of the hindwing. There are two back spots crowned by the orange. Females have grey wings, with blue patches. It occurs in a variety of habitats, particularly coastal bush and savanna, but excluding dense forest. Males known to show hill-topping behaviour and mud-puddle. The larvae recorded on Leguminosae (*Vigna*) and Lamiceae (*Bacium*).

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Lepidochrysops lukenia*

Common Name: Lukenia Giant Cupid

Wingspan: 40-50 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a large, comparatively dark species having greyish mauve colour with a strong light bluish-green sheen. The green tinge is quite distinctive in fresh specimens. The species has traces of lighter marginal lunules on the hindwings. The females have broader borders compared to the male. The species is endemic to Kenya and Tanzania. The habitat includes areas with short grass, deciduous woodland, and partial to stony hillsides. The females being found in grassy, lamiate-rich pockets while the males are seen flying from pocket to pocket. Males show incessant patrolling behavior. The females oviposit on Lamiaceae.

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Chilades trochylus (Synonymn; Freyeria trochylus)*

Common Name: Grass Jewel

Wingspan: 20 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A tiny, beautiful, readily recognizable butterfly. The upper side of both sexes is uniformly brown with a prominent red patch at the anal angle of the hindwing. The underside of the wings is speckled with white-edged back and brown spots. The underside black dots in the red spot at the anal angle contain prominent bright green metallic scales. Common butterfly species in range of habitats including savanna and grassland. Flutters weakly around food plants, fond of feeding on tiny flowers on the ground. Larvae feed on *Indigofera* (Leguminosae) and *Heliotropium* (Boraginaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Family Hesperiidae: The Skippers

Skippers are usually small to medium sized brown butterflies with stout bodies. Some resemble moths, but unlike moths, skippers have clubbed antennae tipped with distinct hooks. Most skippers have long proboscises enabling them to feed at a wide variety of flowers. Due to their large muscle mass to wing area ratio, skippers tend to be strong flyers. Larvae and pupae protect themselves in a shelter nest or "refugium" made by folding over a leaf of their food plant. Some 155 species occur in Kenya, and 47 species have been recorded in Taita Hills. The 47 species visit flowers for nectar.

Scientific Name: *Pyrrhiades anchises (Synonymn; Coeliades Anchises).*

Common Name: One Pip Policeman

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A robust, butterfly, with strong and elegant brown wings. Readily recognized by a single black spot in the well-developed white band on the hindwing underside. The forewings are long and pointed. The hindwing upper side is not lighter in the discal area as is the case in the other species in the genus. Widely distributed in forest, savanna and woodland habitats. The flight is fast, pausing to rest on flowers. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of plants including *Marsdenia* (Asclepiadaceae), *Ficus* (Moraceae), *Acridocarpus and Triapsis* (Malphigiaceae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Coeliades forestan*

Common Name: Striped Policeman

Wingspan: 40-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful, robust butterfly, with strong, streamlined wings. Wings are brown with a broad white stripe on the underside. There is no black spot on the white band. The antennae have a tapering club. The body is thick, with tufts of orange fur, also on the legs. Widely distributed from bush to forest. Sexes are similar and flies fast and somewhat erratically, moving rapidly between patches of flowers. Caterpillars feed on a variety of plants including legumes, wild hibiscus, *Indigofera* (Fabaceae), *Combretum* and *Terminalia* (Combretaceae).

Underside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Coeliades pisistratus*

Common Name: Two Pip Policeman

Wingspan: 50-55 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A large, robust butterfly with strong streamlined wings. The wings are brown with a broad white band. The underside of the wings has a large, oblique black spot and two smaller round spots on the white band. The white band and the spots clearly visible when the butterfly is at rest. Most common and widely distributed butterfly. Found practically anywhere, including the coast. Both sexes are similar and visit flowers or damp patches. The larvae feed on a variety of plants including legumes, wild hibiscus, *Indigofera* (Fabaceae), *Combretum* and *Terminalia* (Combretaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Coeliades sejuncta*

Common Name: Coast Policeman

Wingspan: 54-58 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A robust, powerful butterfly with streamlined wings. The wings are brown with a cream coloured band instead of pure white like the previous species. The species has two black spots edging the band and red markings on the underside of hindwings. Common butterfly species in coastal forests and dense bush areas. Sexes are similar and fond of flowers. The caterpillars have been recorded on *Acridocarpus* (Malpighiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Celaenorrhinus galenus*

Common Name: Orange Sprite

Wingspan: 35-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This butterfly is dark brown with yellow markings, powdered with orange scales. The body is thick and covered with fur. The hindwing has a large yellow patch, not broken into smaller spots. The antennae are long with tapered clubs. Common and widespread forest butterfly. Sexes are similar. The larvae have been recorded on *Justicia* and *Hypolestes*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Celaenorrhinus ovalis*

Common Name: Evans' Orange Sprite

Wingspan: 38-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This medium-sized butterfly is dark brown with yellow markings, powdered with orange scales. Readily distinguished by the markings on the underside of the hindwings where the largest yellow spots on hindwing underside do not extend unbroken from the margin to the post-discal area. Mainly a forest butterfly, often found in darker parts of the forest. Sexes are similar. The larval host plants are unknown.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Tagiades flesus*

Common Name: Clouded Flat

Wingspan: 35-50 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A large and characteristic skipper that settles with the wings held flat. The upperside of the wings is grey with translucent spots near the apex of the forewings. Boths sexes are quite similar but spots are larger in females than males. The underside of the hindwings is white with semicircle of irregular black spots. The species is not common and inhabits forests and woodlands. Both sexes visit flowers. The caterpillars feed on *Grewia* (Tiliaceae) and *Dioscorea* (Dioscoreaceae).

Female Upperside

Female Underside

Scientific Name: *Eagris sabadius*

Common Name: Orange Flat

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A pretty, medium-sized butterfly with light appearance. The upper sides of the wings are brown, tinged with yellow ochre. The forewing upper side has a series of hyaline markings. The undersides have more extensive yellow colouration with dark brown edges. Common and widespread in forest and woodland habitats. Males perch with the wings held flat on the leaves. Sexes are similar. The larvae feed on a variety of plants, including *Hibiscus* (Malvaceae), *Grewia* (Tiliaceae), *Prunus* (Rosaceae) and *Allophylus* (Sapindaceae).

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Eagris nottoana*

Common Name: Rufous-Winged Flat

Wingspan: 35-43 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly, males being almost black upper side. The males have no discal hyaline spots on the forewings. Females are much lighter and have many large hyaline spots on the forewings. The hindwing underside is largely white. The species has strong sexual dimorphism. This butterfly is mainly a forest species. Caterpillars feed on *Grewia* (Tiliaceae), *Scutia* (Rhamnaceae) and *Dombeya cymosa* (Sterculiaceae).

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Eretis umbra*

Common Name: Small Marbled Elf

Wingspan: 30-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized, compact butterfly with feathered wing edges. The upper side of the wings is dark blackish brown. The hindwing underside is rich and dark reddish orange markings. The male forelegs are white. Sexes are similar. Common and widespread in grasslands and grass bush lands. Flies low-down, often settling with the wings held flat. Caterpillars feed on many plants including species of Acanthaceae.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Sarangesa phidyle*

Common Name: Orange Flat or Small Elfin

Wingspan: 30-35 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized, compact skipper. The underside is more ochreous, with numerous dark markings. The hyaline marks are reduced, almost absent in dry-season specimens. The eyes are blackish and bright. Sexes are similar. Common butterfly in open formations, from grassland to arid areas. Flowers are freely visited, sometimes even towards dusk. The larvae feed on Acanthaceae (*Barleria, Peristrophe*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Sarangesa seineri*

Common Name: Dusted Elfin

Wingspan: 36-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly, closely similar to Small Elfin. This butterfly has much more strongly developed hyaline markings than the Small Elfin. The underside of the wings is orange in colour. The species has two small hyaline spots below the center spot on the forewing. Sexes are similar. This butterfly is mainly found in savanna habitats. The larvae feed on *Peristrophe hensii*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Sarangesa motozi*

Common Name: Elfin Skipper

Wingspan: 36-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized, distinctive skipper. The wings are brown with hyaline markings. The species is easily recognized from closely similar species by the presence of a prominent hyaline spot on the hindwing. The spot may be reduced in dry season, but visible. Both sexes are similar. Common butterfly species in savanna and open forests. Stays low-down, but when males are fighting, they may rise higher. Their caterpillars feed on *Barleria, Justicia, Peristrophe* (Acanthaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Sarangesa maculata*

Wingspan: 36-38 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A highly distinctive butterfly, quite different from the previous members in the same genus. The hindwing underside is white in both sexes. The hyaline forewing spots are relatively small. Exhibits slight sexual dimorphism. Widespread butterfly species in a wide range of habitats, including savanna and woodlands. The larvae feed on *Asystasia gangetica*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Caprona pillaana*

Common Name: Ragged Skipper

Wingspan: 30-44 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized distinctive skipper. This species is light brown in ground colour. The hindwing costal area has orange-brown margin. The butterfly is found in savanna habitats. Sexes are similar with a rapid flight, seen mainly when they are visiting flowers. Males found on damp patches. The larval food plants are *Dombeya* (Sterculiaceae) and *Grewia* (Tiliaceae).

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Abantis tettensis*

Common Name: Spotted Velvet Skipper

Wingspan: 35-45 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small sized butterfly, with wings looking much as in the genus *Acraea*. The hindwing margin in both sexes is black with white spots. The forewing upper side is dark light with white markings. The underside of hindwing and base of the forewings is light orange. Hindwings have black spots. A rare species, found in savanna zones. Both sexes are similar. The larvae feed on *Grewia* species including *Grewia flava* and *Grewia monticola*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia kituina*

Common Name: Kitui Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 20-24 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A tiny skipper butterfly easily recognized under close observation. Forewing upper side is marked with white spots. The species has a characteristic Y-shaped white band on the hindwing underside. The white band on the hindwing upperside is more prominent. A widespread but uncommon Kenyan endemic. Sexes are similar. The main habitat for this species is dense savanna and dry forest. Caterpillars feed on *Hermannia* and *Sida* (Malvaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia spio*

Common Name: Spio Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 22-31 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A delicately, small pretty skipper. Distinguished by the large, well-defined and clear white markings on the upper side. On the upper side of the wings there is an additional spot between the median and sub marginal series along the inner margin. There is also a white spot at the base of the forewing costa. The discal band on the hindwing underside is broken. Occurs in a wide range of habitats, from clearings in forest to savanna woodland and grassland. Specimens rest and bask on low vegetation, or on the ground, with the wings held three-quarters open. Sexes are similar. Larval food plants include; *Hermannia* (Sterculiaceae), *Hibiscus, Lavatera, Sida, Pavonia* (Malvaceae) and *Triumfetta* (Tiliaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia diomus*

Common Name: Diomus Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 15-20 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small beautiful butterfly with blackish wings with bright white spots. The two main discal white spots on the forewing upper side distinguish the species. The hindwing underside, the discal band is curved and unbroken. Antennae are short and clubbed. Widespread species in open formations, usually avoiding dense forests. Males are attracted to foul matter. They are also known to mud-puddle. Sexes are similar. Larval host plants include; *Hibiscus, Sida, Pavonia* (Malvaceae) and *Hermannia* (Sterculiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia doris*

Common Name: Desert Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 22-26 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small-sized skipper with blackish wings, marked with white spots. The species recognized from hindwing underside band, which is strongly broken up. The hindwings underside light spots are not well defined. Its habitat comprises of dry water courses and rocky ground in semi-desert areas. Both sexes are similar and are attracted to flowers. Caterpillars feed on *Convolvulus, Ipomoea* (Convolvulaceae) and *Corchorus* (Tiliaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia mafa*

Common Name: Mafa Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 22-26 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small-sized skipper, difficult to tell apart from the *S. doris* . The white spots are gleaming white, lacking the creamy texture in *S. doris.* The underside is cinnamon brown. The upper side ground colour is more black than in *S. doris.* The species mainly inhabits savanna and grassland areas. It flies close to the ground, in short grass, and frequently visits flowers. Sexes are similar. Larval host plants include; *Hibiscus, Sida, Pavonia* (Malvaceae) and *Hermannia* (Sterculiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia colotes*

Common Name: Transvaal Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 21-28 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small-sized skipper similar to other members in the genus. The forewings are pointed. Median band of hindwing underside composed of separate spots. The spots in the hindwings are not uniformly aligned. Relatively common in dry and moist savanna. Also, found in forest clearings. Both sexes are similar and fond of flowers. Caterpillars feed on *Hibiscus* and *Pavonia* (Malvaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia confusa*

Common Name: Confusing Sandman

Wingspan: 19-25 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small-sized skipper, closely similar to the previous species. The species is distinguished by discal band of the hindwing underside regular in shape. The sub-marginal white spots on the upper side are vestigial. Rather scarce butterfly inhabiting moist savanna, coastal bush and forest. Flowers are often visited. Males establish territories in open places, frequently bare, sandy spots. Sexes are similar. The larval host plants are *Melhania* (sterculiaceae) and *Triumfetta* (Tiliaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia wrefordi*

Common Name: Wreford's Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 20-26 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant, small-sized skipper, readily identifiable. The species is readily distinguished by the greater extent of white makings than other species. The species has a long basal streak in the forewing. Known to inhabit dry savanna country. Sexes are similar. The larval food plants are unknown.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia dromus*

Common Name: Dromus Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 23-32 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A small-sized, beautiful skipper closely resembling Diomus Grizzled Skipper. Distinguished by separate spots on the forewing, that do not form continuous band. The median band on the underside of the hindwing complete and characteristically curved. The species inhabits mainly forest clearings and margins, to a lesser extent moist savanna and occasionally in grassland. Sexes are similar. Flowers and damp places are often visited. The larval host plants include; *Melhania, Waltheria* (sterculiaceae) and *Triumfetta* (Tiliaceae).

Upperside

Upperside

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Spialia depauperata*

Common Name: Deprived Grizzled Skipper

Wingspan: 23-33 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: Very similar to Diomus Grizzled Skipper. Distinguished on the upper side of both wings by the absence of basal cell spots. The forewing upper side has one outer median spot. The underside of the hindwing has a series of sub-marginal spots. The main habitat is dry savanna especially *Acacia* dominated vegetation. Sexes are similar. The species has been bred on *Melhania* (Sterculiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Gomalia elma*

Common Name: African Mallow Skipper

Wingspan: 26-36 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A beautiful, small-sized butterfly connected to the genus *Spialia*. The wings ground colour is dark with patches of black. The forewings have characteristic white spots. The hindwing has a white discal streak. Less common, mainly found in thicker types of savanna, forest and drier parts of the country. The flight is fast and low, highly visiting flowers. Sexes are similar. The larvae feed on various species of Malvaceae including *Abutilon*.

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Metisella orientalis*

Common Name: Eastern Sylph

Wingspan: 30-32 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly with dark black ground colour with lighter golden orange spots on all four wings. Forewing upper side, the basal costal streak reduced. The underside of the wings has faint yellow spots. Fridges of the hindwing are blackish, turning yellow towards the anal angle. Common and widespread butterfly inhabiting forested areas. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on a wide range of species in family Poaceae including, *Cenchrus, Festuca, Panicum, Pennisetum*.

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Kedestes rogersi*

Common Name: Roger's Ranger

Wingspan: 28-34 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: An elegant medium sized skipper with dark ground colour on the upperside. The species can be distinguished by orange marginal, inter-neural radial streaks on all four wings. The females have larger orange spots compared to the males. The main habitat is open savanna and it is not very common. The larval food plants are mainly grasses (Poaceae).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Kedestes callicles*

Common Name: Pale Ranger

Wingspan: 28-32 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A highly distinctive skipper butterfly bearing yellow spots on the upperside. The underside of all the four wings has large cream spots which are bordered with black. The species is limited to the coast and the savanna area between the coast and the central highlands. Both sexes are similar and flowers are visited occasionally. The larvae feed on grasses (Poaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Gorgyra bibulus*

Wingspan: 26mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a small skipper with pointed wings and a dark ground colour. The forewings have minute hyaline spots, but much reduced compared to similar looking species. The underside is dark and unmarked. Scarce but widely distributed species, mainly in forest habitats. Sexes are similar. The larvae have been recorded from *Drypetes* (Euphorbiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Gorgyra diva*

Wingspan: 21 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small skipper with dark ground colour and pointed forewings. The species has minute hyaline spots on the forewings but lacking in the hindwing. The wings underside is dark and unmarked except for the forewing spots. Male abdomen tipped with white. Very rare coastal butterfly. The habitat consists of forests, forest margins and heavy woodlands at altitudes up to 1,500 meters. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on *Rourea orientalis*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acleros mackenii*

Common Name: Macken's Skipper

Wingspan: 20-23 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: An elegant, small skipper, dark in ground colour. The species is closely similar to Ploetz's Skipper illustrated next. The forewings have white spots formed by scales. The forewing underside is uniformly dark with defined discal spots. The hindwing underside uniformly overlaid with light scales. Widespread, relatively common forest and deciduous woodland butterfly. Mostly frequents forest edges and clearings. Both sexes are similar and feed from flowers in the undergrowth. The larvae feed on a variety of plants including *Rhus* (Anacardiaceae), *Vigna* (Fabaceae) and *Acridocarpus* (Malpighiaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Acleros ploetzi*

Common Name: Ploetz's Skipper

Wingspan: 26 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small, pretty butterfly easily confused with Macken's Skipper. Distinguished by broadly pale inner margin of the forewing underside. The hindwing underside clearly divided into a light basal and darker outer part. Relatively scarce species, found mainly in forests. Both sexes are similar and feed from flowers in the undergrowth. Caterpillars feed on *Vigna unguiculata* (Fabaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Andronymus neander*

Common Name: Common Dart or Nomad Dart

Wingspan: 38-48 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A relatively large, compact, stocky skipper. The wings are dark in colour with characteristic hyaline spots on both fore and hindwings. The hindwing's underside lacks the clearly defined brown borders of the white discal area as in other related species. This species is strongly migratory. Occurs in moist woodland, forest margins and riparian vegetation. Both sexes are similar and fond of visiting flowers. Caterpillars have been recorded on *Brachystegia* (Leguminosae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Zophopetes nobilior*

Common Name: Noble Nightfighter

Wingspan: 56-60 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: This is a large skipper with wing upper side cinnamon-brown. The underside is lighter and the hindwings have black flecks. The males have a special scent scales (brand), on the forewing upper side. The hyaline spots are yellow-orange in tone. In Kenya, the species is limited to coastal zone. Flies mainly at dusk, occasionally coming to bright lights. In flight, it makes a curious humming sound. Caterpillars feed on Aracaceae (*Raphia, Cocos, Phoenix*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Monza alberti*

Common Name: Black Grass Skipper

Wingspan: 20-36 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A charcoal blackish skipper. It has hyaline spots on the forewing, subapical area. The underside is similar to the upperside. The main habitat is forest mostly found along shady forest paths with grass. Often encountered feeding from the flowers. Sexes are similar. The larval host plants include *Pennisetum* species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Zenonia zeno*

Common Name: Orange Spotted Skipper

Wingspan: 15 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: This is a beautiful butterfly with longer forewings. The wings are dark brown with rich orange markings. The markings are inclined very differently. The species is among the most common skippers, occurring in open evergreen forests, woodland and riverine forests. Both sexes are similar and fond of visiting flowers. Larvae have been reported on various grasses (Poaceae), including cultivated maize and sorghum.

Upperside

Upperside

Scientific Name: *Pelopidas mathias*

Common Name: Black Branded Swift

Wingspan: 32-36 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized, pretty skipper easily recognizable. The wings are dark brown with a series of hyaline spots. The male forewing upper side has characteristic, prominent linear scent of scales (brand). The brand is black in this species. Hindwing underside has a series of prominent white spots making a circle shape. The females lack the scent of scales on the forewings. Common butterfly species, occurring in most types of habitat. They visit flowers. Caterpillars feed on Poaceae (*Ehrharta, Zea, Andropogon, Panicum*).

Male upperside

Male underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo fatuellus*

Common Name: Long Horned Swift

Wingspan: 33-43 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A large and dark species with hyaline spots on the forewings. There are no hyaline spots on the cell and on the hindwings. Males have small hyaline spots on the forewings while the females' hyaline spots are larger and may have small hyaline spots on the hindwing. It is a widespread and common skipper found in wet forests, moist woodland and coastal bush. The larvae feed on *Ehrharta erecta Setaria sulcate, Setaria megaphylla, Pennisetum, Panicum* and *Digitaria* species.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo lugens*

Common Name: Lesser Horned Swift

Wingspan: 38mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A dark butterfly with more rounded wings than other members in the genus. The male is uniformly coloured without markings on the upper and lower surfaces. The females have small hyaline but less distinctive. A relatively widespread butterfly occurring in grassy clearings in dense woodland and forests. The larval food plants are species of Poaceae family (*Ehrharta, Oryza, Zea, Pennisetum, Panicum*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo fallax*

Common Name: False Swift

Wingspan: 36-44 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized skipper with dark brown wings and a series of hyaline spots. The species has two well-developed hyaline spots at the center of the forewing. The hindwing underside has a row of hyaline spots, irregularly arranged. Widespread butterfly occurring in coastal bush and moist savanna. Sexes are similar and fond of visiting flowers. The caterpillars feed on various grasses (Poaceae), including *Saccharum* and *Ehrharta*.

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo borbonica*

Common Name: Olive Haired Swift

Wingspan: 25-30 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: A medium-sized butterfly, not easily confused with any other. The wings are soft darkish brown. The forewings are very pointed. The species has only one hyaline spot at the center of the forewing. The underside of the wings is ochreous, with three clearly defined discal spots. Common and widespread butterfly, primarily in grasslands but can be found in arid areas. Rests with the hindwings expanded out and the forewings folded back. Sexes are similar. Caterpillars feed on different species of grass (Poaceae), including cultivated rice (*Oryza*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo holtzii*

Common Name: Variable Swift

Wingspan: 37-40 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A medium-sized skipper butterfly with dark brown ground colour. The male upper side has very reduced hyaline spots. Both sexes are similar and lack hyaline spot in the center of the forewing. The hindwing underside is grey with a row of dark or white spots, and a spot at the center. This is a savanna and woodland species. The larval food plants are various grasses (Poaceae).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Borbo gemella*

Common Name: Twin Swift

Wingspan: 36-40 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The species closely similar to Borbo borbonica but smaller in size with a single or two spots on the forewing. The hindwing underside has three well-defined spots. This is a widely distributed species in most habitats. Both sexes are similar. The larvae feed on many Poaceae (*Ehrharta, Triticum, Saccharum, Zea*).

Upperside

Underside

Scientific Name: *Gegenes hottentota*

Common Name: Hottentot Skipper

Wingspan: 20-25 mm

IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC)

Notes: The forewings are narrow, with slightly pointed tips. Hindwings are short and rounded. Male upper side is ochre with a blackish patch on the forewings. The female is brown, with some lighter spots, which are not hyaline. The underside is ochre with slight black markings. Common and widespread butterfly, flying in grasslands and forest clearings. Caterpillars feed on grasses, including *Ehrharta, Themeda* and *Pennisetum*.

Male upperside

Female upperside

Female underside

Scientific Name: *Gegenes niso*

Common Name: Plain Hottentot

Wingspan: 29-35 mm

IUCN Status: Not Evaluated (NE)

Notes: A small skipper butterfly with a compact, stocky build. The male is brown with a silky golden sheen. Lacks the black patch on forewing of the previous species. The underside is yellow, with slight larger yellow spots with slight dark markings. Females have slightly larger yellow spots on the upper side. This species is common and widespread, found in a wide range of habitats, including savanna, grassland and open patches in forests. The flight is fast pausing on flowers. Larvae feed on grasses (Poaceae), including *Ehrharta, Zea, Pennisetum*.

Male underside

Male upperside

Annex 1: Summary on Butterfly Species Occurrence in Taita Hills

Butterfly species occurrence in sites within the Taita Hills: April 2017-January 2021 ("+" = recorded; "-" =not recorded). The project focused on Papilionidae, Hesperiidae and Lycaenidae. Nymphalidae and Pieridae were non-targets and not exhaustively sampled.

FAMILY PAPILIONIDAE (SWALLOWTAILS)						
No.	SPECIES	LOCALITY IN TAITA HILLS				
		NGANGAO	CHAWIA	SAGALLA	MODANGACHE	KASIGAU
1	*Graphium angolanus*	-	-	-	-	+
2	*Graphium antheus*	-	-	-	-	+
3	*Graphium colonna*	-	-	-	-	+
4	*Graphium leonidas*	+	-	-	-	+
5	*Graphium philonoe*	-	-	+	-	+
6	*Graphium policenes*	+	-	-	-	-
7	*Papilio constantinus*	-	-	+	-	+
8	*Papilio dardanus*	+	+	-	+	+
9	*Papilio demodocus*	+	+	+	+	+
10	*Papilio desmondi teita*	+	+	-	-	-
11	*Papilio echerioides*	+	+	-	+	-
12	*Papilio nireus*	+	+	+	+	+
13	*Papilio ophidicephalus*	+	+	-	+	-
FAMILY PIERIDAE (WHITES AND YELLOWS)						
	SPECIES	LOCALITY IN TAITA HILLS				
		NGANGAO	CHAWIA	SAGALLA	MODANGACHE	KASIGAU
14	*Appias sabina*	+	-	-	-	-
15	*Belenois aurota*	+	-	+	-	-
16	*Belenois creona*	+	-	+	-	-
17	*Belenois margaritacea*	+	-	-	-	-
18	*Belenois zochalia*	+	-	+	-	-
19	*Catopsilia florella*	+	-	+	-	-
20	*Colias electo*	+	-	-	-	-
21	*Colotis amatus*	+	-	-	-	-
22	*Colotis aurigineus*	+	-	+	-	-
23	*Colotis auxo*	+	-	+	-	-
24	*Colotis chrysonome*	-	-	+	-	-
25	*Colotis daira*	+	-	+	-	-
26	*Colotis danae*	+	-	+	-	-
27	*Colotis eris*	+	-	-	-	-
28	*Colotis eucharis*	+	-	-	-	-
29	*Colotis euippe*	+	-	+	-	-
30	*Colotis evagore*	+	-	+	-	-

31	*Colotis hetaera*	+	-	+	-	-
32	*Colotis regina*	+	-	-	-	-
33	*Dixeia spilleri*	-	-	-	-	+
34	*Eurema brigitta*	+	-	-	-	-
35	*Eurema desjardinsi*	+	-	-	-	-
36	*Eurema hecabe*	+	-	-	-	-
37	*Eurema regularis*	+	-	-	-	-
38	*Eurema senegalensis*	+	-	-	-	-
39	*Leptosia alcesta*	-	+	-	-	-
40	*Mylothris agathina*	+	-	-	-	-
41	*Mylothris rueppelli*	+	-	-	-	-
42	*Mylothris sagala*	+	-	-	-	-
43	*Nepheronia thalassina*	-	-	-	-	+
44	*Pinacopteryx eriphia*	+	-	+	-	-
45	*Pontia helice*	+	-	-	-	-

FAMILY NYMPHALIDAE (BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES)

	SPECIES	LOCALITY IN TAITA HILLS				
		NGANGAO	CHAWIA	SAGALLA	MODANGACHE	KASIGAU
46	*Acraea aganice*	+	-	-	-	-
47	*Acraea anemosa*	-	-	+	-	-
48	*Acraea baxteri*	+	-	-	-	-
49	*Acraea boopis*	+	-	-	-	-
50	*Acraea braesia*	+	-	+	-	-
51	*Acraea cabira*	+	-	-	-	-
52	*Acraea chilo*	+	-	-	-	-
53	*Acraea encedon*	+	-	-	-	-
54	*Acraea eponina*	+	-	-	-	-
55	*Acraea equatorialis*	+	-	-	-	-
56	*Acraea esebria*	+	-	+	-	-
57	*Acraea insignis*	+	-	-	-	-
58	*Acraea johnstoni*	+	-	-	-	-
59	*Acraea lycoa*	+	-	-	-	-
60	*Acraea matuapa*	-	-	+	-	-
61	*Acraea neobule*	+	-	+	-	-
62	*Acraea quirina*	+	-	-	-	-
63	*Acraea zetes*	+	-	-	-	-
64	*Amauris albimaculata*	+	-	-	-	-
65	*Amauris niavius*	+	-	-	-	-

66	*Antanartia schaeneia*	+	-	-	-	-
67	*Bicyclus campa*	+	-	-	-	-
68	*Bicyclus safitza*	+	-	+	-	-
69	*Byblia ilithyia*	+	-	+	-	-
70	*Catacroptera cloanthe*	+	-	-	-	-
71	*Charaxes aubyni*	+	-	-	-	-
72	*Charaxes baumanni*	+	-	-	-	-
73	*Charaxes brutus*	+	-	-	-	-
74	*Charaxes candiope*	+	-	-	-	-
75	*Charaxes cithaeron*	+	-	-	-	-
76	*Charaxes druceanus*	+	-	-	-	-
77	*Charaxes jahlusa*	-	-	+	-	-
78	*Charaxes pollux*	+	-	-	-	-
79	*Charaxes saturnus*	+	-	-	-	-
80	*Charaxes varanes*	+	-	+	-	-
81	*Charaxes xiphares desmondi*	+	-	-	-	-
82	*Charaxes zoolina*	+	-	+	-	-
83	*Cymothoe teita*	+	-	-	-	-
84	*Cyrestis camillus*	-	-	-	+	-
85	*Danaus chrysippus*	+	-	+	-	-
86	*Euphaedra neophron*	-	+	-	-	-
87	*Eurytela dryope*	+	-	-	-	-
88	*Eurytela hiarbas*	+	-	-	-	-
89	*Euxanthe wakefieldi*	-	+	-	-	-
90	*Heteropsis perspicua*	+	-	-	-	-
91	*Hypolimnas anthedon*	+	-	-	-	-
92	*Hypolimnas misippus*	+	-	-	-	-
93	*Junonia hierta*	+	-	+	-	-
94	*Junonia natalica*	+	-	+	-	-
95	*Junonia oenone*	+	-	+	-	-
96	*Junonia sophia*	+	-	-	-	-
97	*Junonia terea*	+	-	-	-	-
98	*Libythea labdaca*	-	-	-	-	+
99	*Melanitis leda*	-	-	+	-	-
100	*Neocoenyra duplex*	+	-	-	-	-
101	*Neocoenyra gregorii*	+	-	-	-	-
102	*Neptidopsis ophione*	-	-	-	+	-
103	*Neptis aurivillii*	+	-	-	-	-

104	*Neptis penningtoni*	+	-	-	-	-
105	*Neptis saclava*	+	-	+	-	-
106	*Phalanta phalantha*	+	-	-	-	-
107	*Physcaeneura leda*	-	-	-	-	+
108	*Precis antilope*	+	-	+	-	-
109	*Precis archesia*	+	-	-	-	-
110	*Precis limnoria*	+	-	-	-	-
111	*Precis tugela*	+	-	+	-	-
112	*Protogoniomorpha anacardii*	+	-	+	-	-
113	*Protogoniomorpha parhassus*	+	-		-	-
114	*Salamis cacta*	-	-	-	-	+
115	*Tirumala formosa*	+	-	-	-	-
116	*Vanessa cardui*	+	-	-	-	-
117	*Vanessa dimorphica*	+	-	-	-	-
118	*Ypthima asterope*	+	-	-	-	-

FAMILY LYCAENIDAE (BLUES AND COPPERS)

	SPECIES	LOCALITY IN TAITA HILLS				
		NGANGAO	CHAWIA	SAGALLA	MODANGACHE	KASIGAU
119	*Actizera lucida*	+	-	-		-
120	*Alaena johanna*	-	-	-	-	+
121	*Alaena picata*	-	-	-	-	+
122	*Anthene amarah*	-	-	+	-	+
123	*Anthene indefinita*	+	+	-	-	-
124	*Anthene princeps*	+	-	-	-	-
125	*Axiocerses harpax*	+	-	-	-	-
126	*Axiocerses tjoane*	+	-	-	-	+
127	*Azanus jesous*	+	-	-	-	+
128	*Azanus moriqua*	-	-	-	-	+
129	*Azanus natalensis*	-	-	-	-	+
130	*Baliochila hildegarda*	-	-	+	-	+
131	*Cacyreus lingeus*	+	+	-	-	+
132	*Cacyreus tepsis*	+	-	-	-	-
133	*Cacyreus virilis*	+	+	-	+	+
134	*Chilades trochylus*	+	-	-	-	+
135	*Cupidopsis jobates*	-	-	-	-	+
136	*Deudorix antalus*	-	-	-	-	+
137	*Deudorix dinochares*	-	-	+	-	-
138	*Eicochrysops hippocrates*	-	-	-	-	+
139	*Eicochrysops masai*	-	-	+	-	-

140	*Euchrysops malathana*	-	-	+	-	+
141	*Euchrysops osiris*	+	-	-	-	+
142	*Euchrysops subpallida*	+	-	-	-	-
143	*Hypolycaena pachalica*	-	-	+	-	+
144	*Hypolycaena philippus*	-	-	-	-	+
145	*Iolaus diametra*	-	-	-	-	+
146	*Iolaus maritimus*	-	-	-	-	+
147	*Iolaus yalae*	+	-	-	-	+
148	*Lachnocnema bibulus*	+	-	-	-	-
149	*Lachnocnema durbani*	+	-	-	-	-
150	*Lampides boeticus*	+	-	-	-	+
151	*Lepidochrysops lukenia*	-	-	-	-	+
152	*Leptomyrina gorgias*	-	-	-	-	+
153	*Leptotes pirithous*	+	+	-	+	+
154	*Ornipholidotos peuceda*	-	-	+	-	-
155	*Pentila tropicalis*	+	-	-	+	+
156	*Pseudonacaduba sichela*	+	-	-	-	-
157	*Spalgis lemolea*	+	-	-	-	+
158	*Tarucus grammicus*	+	-	-	-	-
159	*Tuxentius melaena*	-	-	-	-	+
160	*Uranothauma falkensteini*	+	+	-	-	-
161	*Uranothauma heritsia*	+	-	-	-	-
162	*Uranothauma nubifer*	+	-	-	-	-
163	*Zizeeria knysna*	+	-	-	-	+
164	*Zizula hylax*	+		-	+	+

FAMILY HESPERIIDAE (SKIPPERS)

	SPECIES	LOCALITY IN TAITA HILLS				
		NGANGAO	CHAWIA	SAGALLA	MODANGACHE	KASIGAU
165	*Abantis tetensis*	+	-	+	-	-
166	*Acleros ploetzi*	+	-	-	-	-
167	*Acleros mackenii*	-	-	+	-	+
168	*Andronymus neander*	-	-	-	-	+
169	*Borbo borbonica*	+	-	-	-	-
170	*Borbo holtzii*	+	-	+	-	-
171	*Borbo fallax*	-	-	+	-	+
172	*Borbo fatuellus*	+	-	+	-	-
173	*Borbo gemella*	+	-	+	-	+
174	*Borbo lugens*	+	-	+	+	-

175	*Caprona pillaana*	+	-	+	-	-
176	*Celaenorhinus galenus*	+	+	+	-	+
177	*Celaenorhinus ovalis*	+	-	+	-	+
178	*Coeliades forestan*	-	-	+	-	+
179	*Coeliades pisistratus*	+	-	-	+	-
180	*Coeliades sejuncta*	-	-	-	-	+
181	*Eagris nottoana*	-	-	-	+	+
182	*Eagris sebadius*	-	-	+	-	-
183	*Eretis umbra*	-	-	+	-	+
184	*Gegenes hottentota*	-	-	-	+	-
185	*Gegenes niso*	-	-	+	-	-
186	*Gomalia elma*	+	-	+	-	+
187	*Gorgyra bibulous*	+	-	-	-	-
188	*Gorgyra diva*	+	-	+	-	+
189	*Kedestes callicles*	+	-	+	-	+
190	*Kedestes rogersi*	+	-	+	-	-
191	*Metisella orientalis*	-	-	+	-	-
192	*Monza alberti*	+	-	-	-	+
193	*Pelopidas mathias*	-	-	-	-	+
194	*Pyrrhiades anchises*	-	-	+	-	-
195	*Sarangesa maculata*	-	-	+	-	+
196	*Sarangesa motozi*	+	-	+	-	+
197	*Sarangesa phidyle*	+	-	+	-	+
198	*Sarangesa seineri*	+	-	+	+	+
199	*Spialia confuse*	+	+	-	+	-
200	*Spialia depauperata*	+	+	-	+	-
201	*Spialia diomus*	-	+	-	-	-
202	*Spialia doris*	+	+	-	+	+
203	*Spialia kituina*	+	+	-	-	+
204	*Spialia mafa*	+	+	-	+	+
205	*Spialia spio*	-	+	-	+	-
206	*Spialia wrefordi*	+	+	-	+	-
207	*Spialia colotes*	-	-	+	-	-
208	*Spialia dromus*	-	-	+	+	-
209	*Tagiades flesus*	+	-	+	-	-
210	*Zenonia zeno*	-	-	+	-	+
211	*Zophopetes nobilior*	+	+	-	+	+

**Aerial fruit baited butterfly traps mostly used for sampling the Charaxes were only used in Ngangao. The other sites will most likely record higher numbers of these butterflies once the same method is used.*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abdomen: One of the 3 body regions of an insect, composed of ten (10) segments in butterflies. The last three segments are modified to form the sexual organs (genitalia).

Anal angle: Angle of wing formed by the outer margin and inner margin.

Antenna: A pair of multi-segmented sensory limbs on the head of insects, also referred to as feelers.

Caterpillar: Larval form in butterflies.

Cell: A space in the wing entirely surrounded by veins.

Chorion: The shell of the insect egg.

Dimorphic: Having 2 distinctively different forms within a species. Sexual domorphism is where the form or pattern of the male differs from that of the females.

Endemic: Found only within a limited biogeographical region.

Forewing: The anterior wing.

Hindwing: The posterior wing.

Instar: The period between molts in the larval stage of an insect life cycle. The newly hatched caterpillars is referred to as the first instar.

Larva (Larvae for plural): The caterpillar, or growing stage of the life cycle in insects, it is the feeding and growing stage occurring between the egg and the pupa.

Metamorphosis: Distinct change in form during postembryonic development. Insects such as butterflies, with 4 stage-metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa and adult) are said to undergo complete metamorphosis.

Mimicry: Where one species superficially resembles an unrelated model species with a protective trait such as which could be unpalatability or other defensive features.

Pheromone: A chemical substance secreted by animals. Example is the sex pheromone (attractant) released by both male and female butterflies.

Proboscis: The double coiled tongue of adult butterfly, which can be extended to take in liquids like nectar for food.

Pupa: Quiscent stage in the life cycle of insects that undergo complete metamorphosis, during which larval features are replaced by adult features.

Thorax: The middle of the three body regions in insects, which consist of three segments: the prothorax, mesothorax, and metathorax.

Wingspan: Measurement from the tip to tip of the outspread forewings.

Veins: Tubular branching rods that extend from the bases to the margins of the wings and provide support for the wing membrane.

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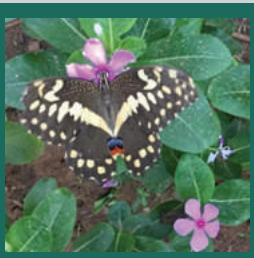
FLUTTERING BEAUTY WITH BENEFITS

THE BUTTERFLIES OF TAITA HILLS

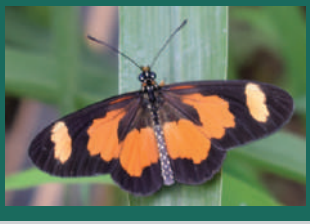
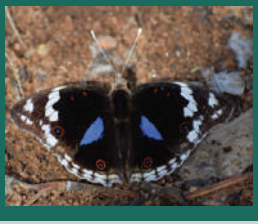


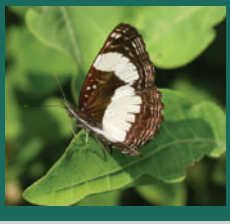

Butterflies are beautiful insects that play a vital role in our environment. They provide pollination services for both farm crops and wild plants ensuring a sustainable environment. They also play an important role in human lives. They are used in insect based enterprises for livelihood support like in butterfly farming and eco-tourism.

Additionally, butterflies are used in research and education and as a symbol for many life concepts such as representation of change, renewal, hope, endurance, and courage to embrace transformations for making life better.

This book is an illustrated guide to the great diversity of butterfly species recorded in the Taita Hills. All the 211 adult butterflies that the authors recorded in the field from 2017 to 2021 are illustrated.

Additionally, the book includes an introduction on butterflies, their anatomy, life cycle and food resources. The Taita Hills are introduced highlighting some of the endemic animal and plant species.



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