

**HYPOKOPELATES BOORMANI – A NEW LYCAENID FROM NIGERIA (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)**

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JOHN BOORMAN, author and co-author with Patrick Roche of the only books dealing with Nigerian butterflies, kindly invited me to study his collection, which includes much material from eastern Nigeria collected by F. Davey in the 1950s. Among the many butterflies was a new species of *Hypokopelates* Druce, 1891 which I am pleased to name after Mr Boorman. His books were my only resource during my first visit to West Africa in the early 1960s.

***Hypokopelates boormani* sp. nov.**

*Male upperside*: Forewing 17mm. The upperside ground-colour and markings are almost exactly like *H. eleala* Hew., as are the white androconial brushes of the forewing underside and the hair-pencil lying against vein 2 of the hindwing. These are typical for a large section of closely related species. The only differences are that the forewing veins are not blackened to the same extent, and the blue lacks the slight hint of green of *H. eleala*. Other members of this section are usually slightly smaller.

*Male underside*: The underside is white and has all the normal features of the *H. eleala* section, except that the usual, narrow black-edged orange discal band is entirely missing, including the small portion on the hindwing connecting the anal eye-spot with the margin. On the forewing the slight submarginal line is closer to the margin than in other members of the section (Fig. 1).

*Male genitalia*: The uncus of the male genitalia (prep. BCU) is shown in Fig. 2 and is entirely typical for the genus; Stempffer (1967) says that they are similar and “do not even present useful specific characters”. There are clear differences from the genitalia of *H. eleala* (Prep. BCS), especially in the larger uncus/tegumen and wider vinculum.

*Male holotype*: Eastern Nigeria, F. Davey leg., in the Natural History Museum, London.

Unfortunately much of the Davey material is not labelled. There is a slight possibility that the specimen is from one of Davey's visits to areas that are now in Cameroun. However, most of his evident material from these trips is labelled as such.

**Discussion**

Many members of the genus are scarce in collections and the discovery of a new species is not very surprising, but when faced with a single male, the possibility of an aberration needs to be considered. I find this unlikely for the following reasons:



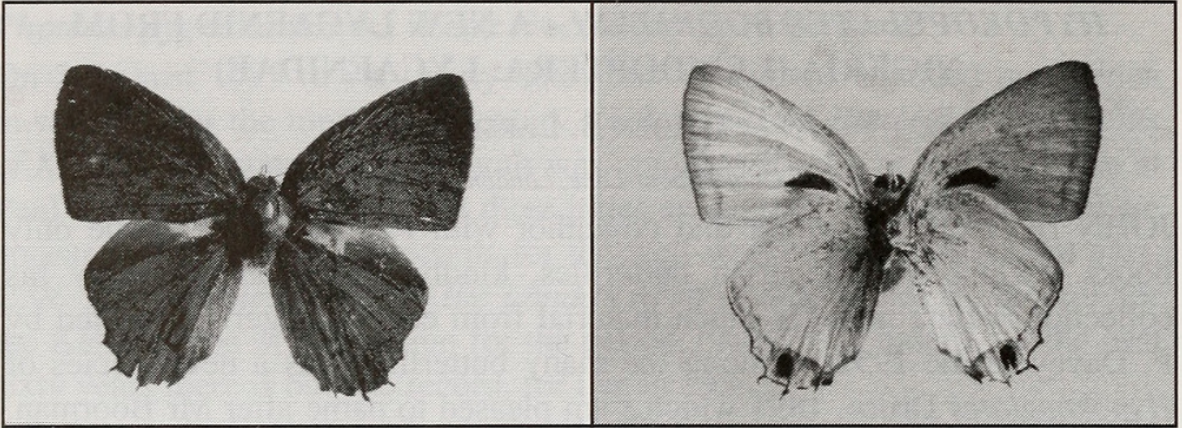


Fig. 1.

Upperside (left) and underside (right) of the male holotype of *Hypokopelates boormani*.

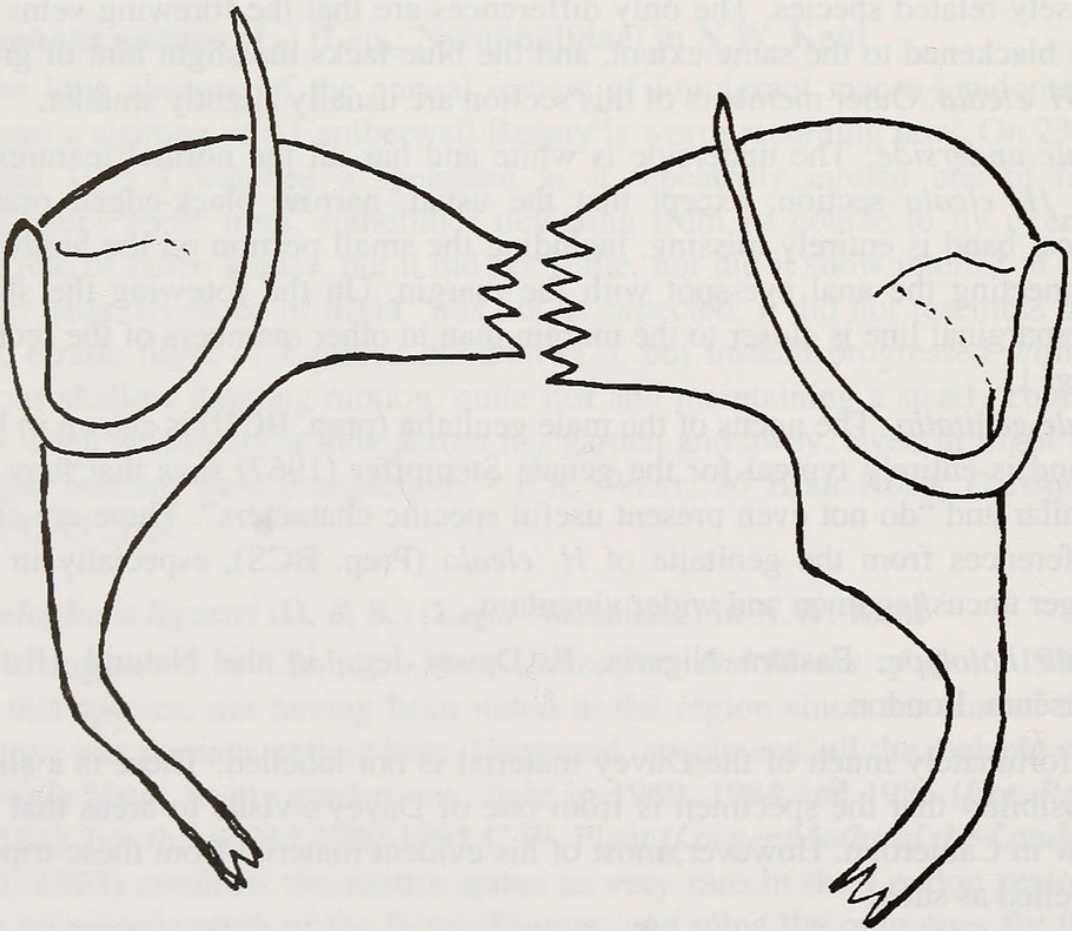


Fig. 2.

The uncus/tegumen structures of *Hypokopelates boormani* (prep. BCU) right and *H. eleala* (prep. BCS) left.



1. the genitalic differences are too strong for intra-specific variation;
2. the complete disappearance of the orange discal bands is not correlated with the other, admittedly minor, differences from *H. eleala*;
3. the complex anal eye-spot and the red line stretching to the anal lobe and up the abdominal fold remain completely unaffected, and;
4. I have not seen anything similar in the thousand *Hypokopelates* and many thousand *Hypolycaena* Felder, having the same pattern, that I have seen in nature and collections. Most aberrations of this type, were it to be an aberration, tend to be of a recurring nature.

### Acknowledgements

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### Reference

Stempffer, H. 1967. The genera of the African Lycaenidae (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera). *Bulletin of the British Museum, Natural History, (Entomology)*, supplement **10**: 1-322.

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### *Epuraea thoracica* Tourn. (Col.: Nitidulidae) new to Kent

*Epuraea thoracica* Tourn. (= *oblonga* sensu Fowler) is a rare species with a restricted habitat, occurring under conifer bark probably always with bark-beetles (Scolytidae). Southern records are few, isolated, and mostly old; midland and northern ones are rather less scattered. The Scottish Highlands are its British headquarters; I took a single specimen at Aviemore in July 1938. The only records I can trace for a south-eastern county are Shirley (Rye) and Chobham (Champion), both Surrey localities.

I was therefore much surprised to find just lately that a male *Epuraea* taken by me at Shooters Hill near here (7.vii.1990) and carelessly passed at the time as *E. pusilla* (Ill.), was in fact a far more interesting find: an undoubted *E. thoracica*. Foremost among its specific characters are the very fine, shallow, and dense puncturation and, in the male, the *rather sharply angled* swelling at the inner apex of the mid-tibiae. The beetle was found under thin bark on a blown-down pine bough, in which were galleries of *Tomicus piniperda* (L.); the situation was at the top of a wooded slope with three or four mature Scots pines, forming part of what is now Oxleas Wood SSSI. The fallen limb was removed after a few weeks, when the small *Tomicus* brood had already died out.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.



Larsen, Torben B. 1996. "Hypokopelates boormani - a new lycaenid from Nigeria (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 108, 7-9.

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