

A note on a dry season collection of Lepidoptera from south western Guinea, West Africa

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The butterfly fauna of Guinea is poorly known. A survey on the Kounoukan massif allowed the authors to present a list of 34 taxa, among which four were new to the country.

Une récolte de papillons du sud-ouest de la Guinée, Afrique de l'Ouest, en saison sèche. - La faune des papillons de guinée est méconnue. Une mission dans le massif de Kounoukan a permis aux auteurs de présenter une liste de 34 espèces parmi lesquelles quatre nouvelles pour le pays.

Key Words : Guinea, Lepidoptera, monsoon forest, new record.

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INTRODUCTION

In contrast to some other West African countries, the butterfly fauna of Guinea is not well studied. In the three decades from 1962 to 1992 the Zoological Record lists some 48 papers on Lepidoptera from Ghana, 73 from Ivory Coast, and 115 from Nigeria. But, over this period, there are only 18 papers listed on Lepidoptera in Guinea. Torben Larsen (pers. comm.) believes that Guinea has some 700-plus species of butterfly. Although there are some general surveys (Berger, 1962; Bigot, 1964; De Fleury, 1926; Pisica, 1972), most work has occurred on the eastern side of the country, especially in the area around Mount Nimba (see Bernardi, 1954; Bernardi & Condamin, 1963; Condamin & Roy, 1963; Dall'Asta, 1981; Evans, 1954; Stempffer, 1953, 1954,

1963). Under these circumstances, we feel that even small contributions to the knowledge of the lepidopterofauna of Guinea can have some value.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In December 1992, following an invitation from Mr. Mamadou Oury Bah, Director General, Direction National du Foret et de la Chasse (DNFC), faunal and floral surveys were carried out on the Kounoukan Massif, a Devonian sandstone outlier of the Fouta Djallon highlands situated some 90 km east of Conakry and 10 km northwest of Moussayah, the nearest town (see Fig. 1). The general results of this fieldwork appear in Barnett *et al.* (1993).

The massif is mainly covered in monsoon forest (dry season from November to May). The vegetation includes primary forest, old secondary forest and farmbrush. Fire-induced savanna occurs on the lower slopes and the ridgetops have natural savanna.

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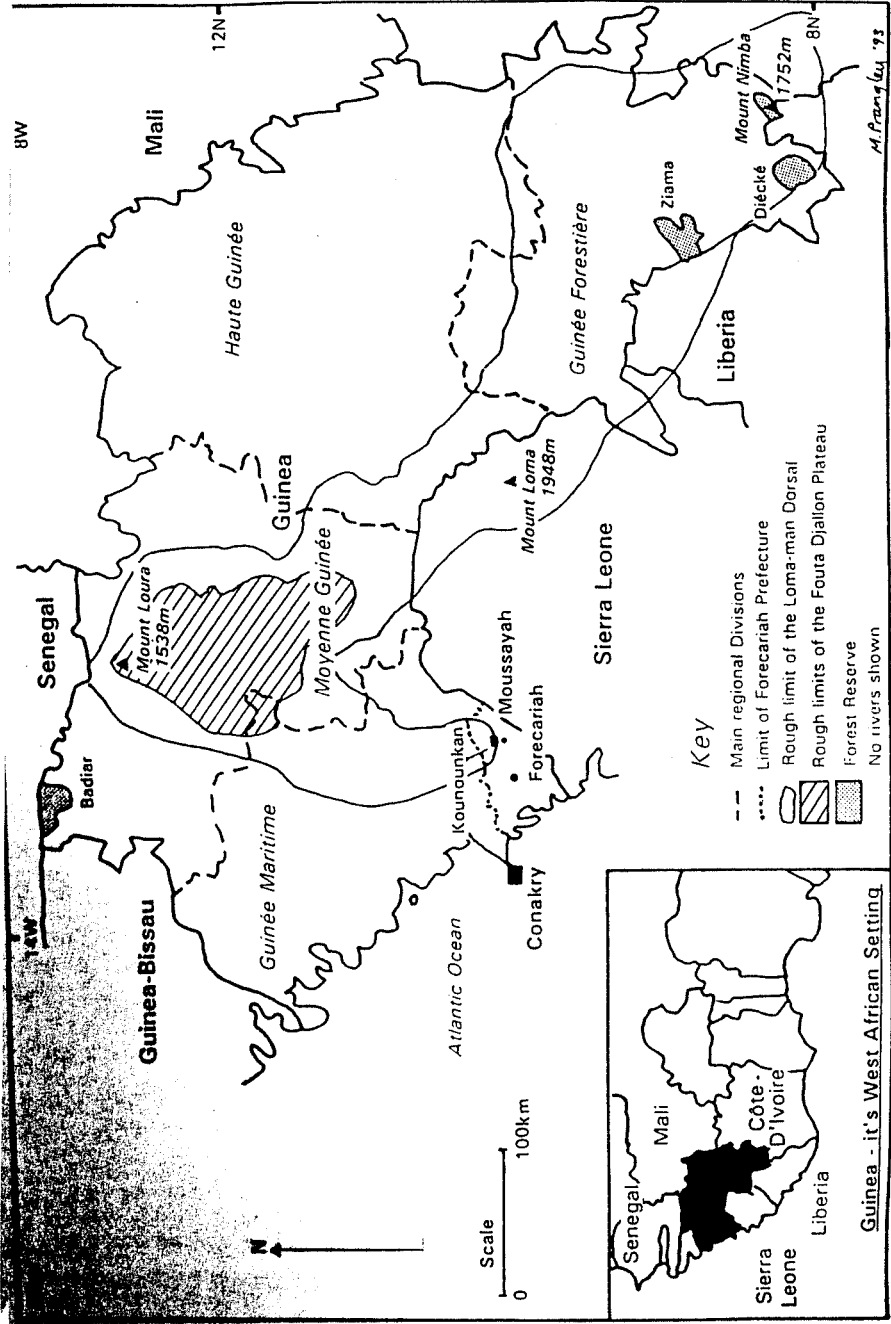


Fig. 1. - Map of Guinea with location of sampling area.

During the current survey, Dr. Jeremie Koman found plant indicator species which place the forest in the "drier peripheral semi-evergreen Guineo-Congolian rain forest" phytocenosis of White (1983) (see Barnett *et al.* 1993).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A small collection of butterflies was made by one of us (COD), and supplemented with photographs by MP. Thirty four taxa were identified (see Table 1). Based on distributions in Ackery *et al.* (1994) and Collins & Morris (1985) and lists in Bernardi (1954), Bernardi & Condamin (1963), Condamin (1963), Condamin & Roy (1963), Stempffer (1954) and Villiers (1957), four records are new to the country (*Euphaedra eupalus*, *Euphaedra perseis*, *Euphaedra xypete*, *Euriphene simplex*), while many appear to be range extensions within Guinea. Comparison of the habitat requirements and food plants in Ackery & Rajan (1988) and Ackery *et al.* (1994) shows that, with the exception of more open country species like *Hypolycaena lebona*, the majority of the taxa recorded are those with a preference for closed-canopy forest. Of these *Papilio horribilis*, *Graphium latreillanum*, *Pseudopontia paradoxa* and *Euphaedra perseis* are the most notable.

Deforestation has been extensive in Guinea (Barnes, 1990) and, since the remaining forests in the Kounounkan area are probably the most northerly remnants of the Upper Guinea Forest Block (Ackery, 1991; Wilson, 1992), these records from Kounounkan may now represent the northwestern limit for some of the more stenotopic species recorded by our study.

Casual observation revealed the presence of all the major butterfly families except for Libytheidae and Riodinidae (Nemeobiidae), both of which could have been overlooked. The current list is only a sample of the many

Table 1. - Butterfly species recorded at Kounounkan.

Species	Previous records
Papilionidae	
<i>Papilio dardanus</i> Brown	1, 5, 6, 7
<i>Papilio demodocus</i> Esper	1, 5, 6, 7
<i>Papilio horribilis</i> Butler	1, 7
<i>Papilio menestheus</i> Drury	1, 5, 7
<i>Papilio pborcas</i> Cramer	1, 5, 7
<i>Papilio sosia</i> Rothschild & Jordan	1, 7
<i>Graphium latreillanum</i> (Godart)	1, 5, 7
<i>Graphium polices</i> (Cramer)	1, 6, 7
Pieridae	
<i>Pseudopontia paradoxa</i> (Felder & Felder)	2, 7
<i>Catopsilia florella</i> (Fabricius)	2, 6, 7
<i>Eurema becabe</i> (L.)	2, 7
<i>Nepheronia thalassina</i> (Boisduval)	2, 5, 7
<i>Mylothris chloris</i> (Fabricius)	2, 5, 7
<i>Belenois calypso</i> (Drury)	2, 5, 6, 7
Danaidae	
<i>Danaus chrysippus aegyptius</i> (Schreber)	3, 6, 7
<i>Amauris damocles</i> (Fabricius)	3, 7
<i>Amauris niavius</i> (L.)	3, 6, 7
<i>Amauris tartarea</i> Mabille	3, 7
Satyridae species present	
Nymphalidae	
<i>Charaxes brutus</i> (Cramer)	6, 7
<i>Euphaedra eupalus</i> (Fabricius)	
<i>Euphaedra harpalyce</i> (Cramer)	7
<i>Euphaedra inanimi</i> (Butler)	6, 7
<i>Euphaedra perseis</i> (Drury)	
<i>Euphaedra xypete</i> (Hewitson)	
<i>Euphaedra</i> sp.	
<i>Euriphene simplex</i> (Staudinger)	
<i>Calina crithea</i> (Drury)	5
<i>Euptera elabontas</i> (Hewitson)	7
<i>Cyrestis camillus</i> (Fabricius)	6
<i>Junonia stygia</i> (Aurivillius)	7
<i>Cynthia cardui</i> (L.) (= <i>Vanessa cardui</i>)	6, 7
Acraeidae	
<i>Acraea pharsalus</i> Ward	7
<i>Acraea</i> sp.	
Lycanidae	
<i>Hypolycaena lebona</i> Hewitson	4, 7
Vesperiidae species present	

This is a partial list of the butterflies (Lepidoptera) of Kounounkan. Many additional species were observed but not identified. Taxonomy and synonymies follow Ackery *et al.* (1994).

Key to references :

- 1 = recorded by Condamin & Roy (1963), Mt. Nimba.
- 2 = recorded by Bernardi (1954), for Mt. Nimba.
- 3 = recorded by Bernardi & Condamin (1963), Mt. Nimba.
- 4 = recorded by Stempffer (1954), Mt. Nimba.
- 5 = recorded by Pisica (1972), various localities.
- 6 = recorded by De Fleury (1926), various localities.
- 7 = reported by Ackery *et al.* (1994).

butterfly species present at Kounounkan. It is hoped to expand studies on the butterflies of the Kounounkan region with future fieldwork.

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