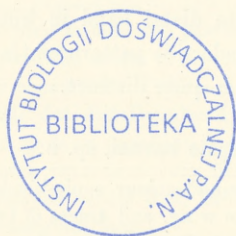

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FOUR NEW AFRICAN SPECIES OF *NEPTIS*.

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Being engaged on a systematic investigation of the African species of the Nymphalid genus *Neptis*, I find four hitherto undescribed forms, of which I submit the following account:—

Neptis poultoni, sp. n.

Expanse 38–42 mm. Ground-colour dark sepia with white markings. Fore wing with an inner marginal patch in 1 *a* and 1 *b*, the proximal edge of which forms a straight line continuous with that of the hind-wing discal band. In 2 and 3 are large contiguous spots forming a subovate patch of regular outline. In area 4 a minute white dot placed distally. In 5, 6, and 10 contiguous

spots forming a large subapical patch. Distal to the white markings and roughly following their contour a line somewhat paler than the ground-colour, followed by a band of more or less rounded dark internervular marks, this followed again by three paler lines forming a hind-marginal border. Fringes dotted white between the nervules. Hind wing with a white discal band of regular outline, 4 mm. wide on inner margin and rather broader in 5, thence narrowing to a small spot in 7. Distal to the white band a border similar to that on fore wing.

Underside. Ground-colour paler than above. Costa white at base and as far as cell end. In cell a white line on subcostal curving outwards and downwards, its end pointing to origin of nervule 3. On end of cell a white transverse line, and beyond this, indications of a second indistinct line. Discal white spots as above, but subapical patch extends into 10. The border ornamentation of pale lines much accentuated, owing to increased whiteness of lines, and an additional fine marginal line.

Hind wing brown at base, but with a *conspicuous curved white costal bar from base to end of 8*. Two indistinct narrow whitish streaks on dark ground. Discal band as above, and beyond it a border of same pattern as in fore wing.

2 ♂♂, Chigwe, Mabira Forest, nr. Kampala. Taken by Dr. S. A. Neave, 24.vii.1911. Type in British Museum.

Neptis poultoni closely resembles *nemetes nemetes* Hew., and also, but less closely, *trigonophora* Butl. From *nemetes* it is at once distinguished by the curved white distal band in hind-wing underside, and from *trigonophora* by the underside pattern of the hind margins of both wings. The male armature is quite distinct.

***Neptis barnsi*, sp. n.**

Expanse 55-60 mm. Ground-colour sepia-black with white markings. Five white dots in cell of fore wing, and traces of two minute dots beyond. An inner marginal white patch of two elongated spots in 1a and 1b, their proximal edges straight, outer ends slightly separated. In 2 and 3 two white marks, proximally just separated by nervule 3, but distally more widely divergent. In area 4 an obsolescent white streak (in some co-types well developed). In 5 and 6 elongated spots divided by nervule 6 and distally divergent. A small spot in 9 near costa. Distal to white markings and roughly following their contour a fine line of bluish-grey scales which is thrown into a series of arches between the nervules. Following this, three bluish-grey lines continuous except at the nervules. Fringes spotted white between the nervules.

Hind wing with a discal white band about 5 mm. wide, rather narrower at inner margin, slightly projecting proximally at median, and extending to area 6. Distal edge of band indented on nervules by the ground-colour and slightly powdered with black between. Three bluish-grey submarginal lines as on fore wing, and midway between the innermost of these and the discal band a narrow line somewhat paler than the ground-colour.

Underside. Ground-colour paler than above. Fore-wing costa white at base and nearly to cell end. In cell a series of rather complicated white

markings, consisting of a basal streak terminating in a spot, a transverse streak, two small spots, and two at each cell end. Beyond this, three or four very small spots. Large white marks as on upper side, that in 4 more fully developed, the pale lines all much more accentuated but white, not bluish-grey, and there is a trace of an additional fine line at and below the apex.

Hind wing with a large curved white costal band from base nearly to end of 8, followed by two less definite white bands on the brown ground-colour. Discal band as on upper side, and rest as on fore wing.

8 ♂♂. Type, Belgian Congo, between Ituri and Epulu Rivers (*Barns*), March 1920 (*Coll. Joicey*).

Co-types, Bitje, Ja River (1), Upper Kassai (5), Semliki Valley (1).

This species closely resembles *seeldrayersi* Auriv., from which it may generally be distinguished by the obsolescent character of the streak in fore-wing area 4, and by the fact that the pale line on fore wing immediately distal to the discal markings is deeply arched (distally convex) between the nervules. The male armature is quite distinct from that of any other described species.

Neptis rothschildi, sp. n.

Expanse 50-55 mm. Sepia-black with white markings. Fore wing with a white cell streak, beginning at base and passing between nervules 4 and 5 to a point considerably beyond the origin of 3. Elongated inner marginal spots in 1 *a* and 1 *b*, distinctly separated. Two similar discal spots in 2 and 3 still more separated. A white dot distally placed in area 4, and a series of three well-separated elongated spots or streaks in 5, 6, and 9. Distal to these discal spots and following their contour a very fine line of greyish-white scales. Beyond this a well-developed white line, broken into spots by the nervules. Finally two delicate submarginal lines.

Hind wing with a discal band about 3-4 mm. wide from inner margin to nervule 6, the spots of which are distinctly separated by the nervules. Distal to this a very faint line, rather paler than the ground-colour, followed by a narrow white secondary band of quadrate spots separated by the nervules. Two delicate submarginal lines.

Underside. Pattern of upper side repeated, but the white marks more pronounced on a paler ground. Fore wing white on costa at base. Cell streak larger and more sharply outlined. Above end of cell two or three additional white streaks. White submarginal bands much more distinct, especially inner one, which is widened to about 1.5 mm., and there is an extra distal line at apex.

Hind wing with a white costal band from base to middle of costa. The secondary discal band composed of spots much larger than above.

2 ♂♂. Type, Kingour Forest, Manyema, Congo Free State (no date) (*Mus. Tring*).

Co-type, Upper Kassai (no date) (*Coll. Joicey*).

This species most nearly resembles *paula* Staud, but is quite differently marked in fore-wing cell above and below. Ward's *biafra* is also similar, but has three transverse white stripes in cell. All three differ from other described species in having a secondary white discal band on the hind wing. The male clasper of the present species is quite different from that of *paula*. I have not had an opportunity of examining that of *biafra*.

Neptis rogersi, sp. n.

Expanse about 50 mm. Sepia-black with white markings. Fore wing cell with three or four white dots and three beyond it. An inner marginal white patch of two spots in 1*a* and 1*b*. Two large subquadrate spots in 2 and 3 separated proximally by the nervule, and distally by a slight invasion of the ground-colour. In 4 a small subtriangular spot, distally placed. Three subapical spots in 5, 6, and 9, the first two subquadrate, distally divergent, and the third a small streak. Just distal to the white discal marks a white line roughly following their contour. This line is not arched between the nervules. Following this, two fine submarginal lines with faint indications of a third, the first breaking into three small but rather conspicuous spots near the costa.

Hind wing with a white discal band 7-8 mm. wide, straight, and sharply defined proximally, regular but invaded by the black nervules distally. The outer edge of the band is closely followed by a pale line, and there are three more pale lines forming a marginal border. Fringes white between nervules.

Underside. Not markedly paler than above. All the lighter markings chalky white. Fore-wing with white at base of costa and a complicated pattern of lines and spots in cell. In the type form there is in the cell a line along the subcostal having two downward projections, between which is a small spot. Just beyond end of this line another spot, and on the median side three spots, one longitudinal and two transverse. Four or five small spots beyond cell. (In the co-type two of the spots coalesce to form a transverse line across cell end.) The spot in 4 is very little larger beneath than above, but more sharply defined and definitely triangular. The discal and submarginal lines are broader and more distinct, only separated by fine dark lines.

Hind wing with a curved white costal band, but this much narrower than in *barnsi* and *seeldrayersi*. This followed by two very distinct curved white bands. White discal band very broad and extending from inner margin to area 7. Other lines as on fore wing.

2 ♀ ♀. Rabai, 26.vi.1999 and 15.vii.1911 (*Rev. K. St. A. Rogers*). Type, Oxford.

I hesitate to describe a species from ♀ ♀ only, but the two examples from which the above account is compiled do not correspond with any other forms in the collections which I have examined. They are at once

distinguished from *agatha* and *seeldrayersi* by the small spot in fore-wing area 4, whilst they differ from *barnsi* in the straight formation of the fore-wing discal line bordering on the large white spots. Also in the much narrower hind-wing basal costal band and in the pure white markings of the underside.

I hope shortly to be able to publish figures of the above forms together with a revision of all the known African species.

Hope Dept., University Museum, Oxford :

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