

233 COLLINS, S. C. & LARSEN, T. B. 1995. *Pseudaletis malangi* - a remarkable new butterfly from the Republic of Guinea. *Lambillionea*, 95:429-431. (WA 17)

***PSEUDALETIS MALANGI* -  
A REMARKABLE NEW BUTTERFLY FROM THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
(LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE)**

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### **Introduction**

Members of the genus *Pseudaletis* Druce, 1888 are all very rare. Many of the twenty or so species are known from just the type or a few specimens. Study of the genus is complicated by the fact that each species seems to vary within certain limits that are difficult to define due to the shortage of material in collections.

We were extremely surprised to receive two males and female of a most distinctive new species from the Fouta Djallon Mountains in Guinea, taken by an inexperienced collector, M. MALANG MANE, who deserves to be much congratulated, and after whom the species is named. Presumably the two males were been courting the female which retains its massive anal hair-tuft fully intact. The species resembles the *P. clymenus*-group but is very different from any known species. However, the genitalia are rather different from those of *P. clymenus* Druce, 1885.

### ***Pseudaletis malangi* sp. nov.**

*Male upperside:* Forewing 21 mm. The male is creamy-white with black markings and much more lightly marked than *P. clymenus* Druce, 1885. The forewing costa is narrowly black, with slight intrusions into the cell at the base and in the middle. At the end of the cell there is a triangular tooth, reaching the base of vein 2. Just over half way to the apex there is another black tooth, projecting into space 3. This tooth is merged with the beginning of the apical and marginal band, but is of a deeper black. The black margin tapers towards space 2, where it is only 2 mm wide, but widens again in 1a and 1b. The hindwing is unmarked except for a narrow black margin of more even width than in *P. clymenus*. The male paratype has slightly better developed black markings than the type.

*Male underside:* On the underside the costa and margin of the forewing are finely lined with black. There is a small spot near the base of the cell and one in its middle. The tooth at the end of the cell and between the cell and the apex are as on the upperside. The outer tooth is continued by slight black streaks in spaces 2 and 1b. The black margin is absent, except for some black markings in the apical area, but there is a fine line of black along the wing margin. The hindwing is almost unmarked except for a fine black linear margin. The tornal area of the hindwing is more widely black, with small silver spots, bordered by a slight area of ochreous; the extent of both black and ochreous is less than in *P. clymenus*.

*Female:* The single female is similar to the male, with reduction of black margins. The forewing costa is only slightly dusted with grey, the small spots in the cell are missing,

and the tooth at the end of the cell is vestigial. The tooth between the cell and the apex is like that of the male, as is the margin. The black tornal area of the hindwing is reduced. The black markings of the underside are reduced to faint traces of the two costal teeth and a small black tornal area, with silver spots, crowned by a small ochreous patch.

*Male genitalia:* The genitalia are of the usual type of the genus, but differ rather significantly from those of *P. clymenus*. The shape and relative size of the four processes of the uncus differ, the shape of the valves is different, the lobes of the futura is triangular, and the penis has some curious small thorns at the base of its ventral side. There are also two unusual constrictions at the bulbous end (fig. 2). From the genital structure, *P. malangi* is closer to the very different *P. agrippina* Druce, 1888 than it is to *P. clymenus* with its tapered subunci. Genital differences within genera of the Aphnaeini are generally slight.

*Holotype:* Male, Dara/Labé, Fouta Djallon, Guinea, ix.1992 (S. C. Collins coll.) (to be placed in the Natural History Museum, London).

*Paratypes:* One male, one female, same data.

## Discussion

At first sight it may seem strange to receive a new *Pseudaletis* from the limited remaining, isolated forests of the Fouta Djallon in Guinea, well outside of the rainforest zone. However, when looking at the - very limited - totality of material in collections, it seems that much of it is from the border zone between forest and savannah, rather from the rainforest proper (Fouta Djallon, Mt. Nimba, Volta, Kagoro (Nigeria), Shaba, Uganda, southern Sudan).

## Acknowledgements

This paper is number 17 in a series of paper emanating from research into the book *Butterflies of West Africa - origins, natural history, diversity, and conservation* under preparation by LARSEN. Support by the Carlsberg Foundation and the National Research Councils of Denmark is gratefully acknowledged.

Fig. 1 Top left: *Pseudaletis malangi*, male holotype; Top right; Female paratype; Bottom: male paratype (1.1 x natural size).

Fig. 2 The male genitalia of the paratype *Pseudaletis malangi* (SCC 268) on the left compared with those of *P. clymenus* (SCC 267) on the right.