

A NEW SPECIES OF *NEITA* VAN SON (NYMPHALIDAE, SATYRINAE) FROM SOUTHERN ANGOLA

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Abstract: Genus *Neita* (Nymphalidae: Satyrinae) is reported by the first time from Angola. A new species is described from the Capelongo area (Huila Province), and compared with the most similar species.

Key words: Lepidoptera, *Neita*, new species, Huila, Angola.

Una nueva especie de *Neita* van Son, 1955 (Nymphalidae, Satyrinae) del sur de Angola

Resumen: El género *Neita* es registrado por la primera vez en Angola y una nueva especie se describe de la área de Capelongo (Provincia de Huila) y se compara con las especies más próximas.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, *Neita*, especie nueva, Huila, Angola.

Taxonomy / Taxonomía: *Neita bikuarica* sp. n.

Genus *Neita* van Son, 1955, is known from six species (Ackery *et al.*, 1995; D'Abrera, 1997), distributed mainly in southern Africa, namely: *N. neita* (Wallengren, 1875) from the Eastern Cape, Transvaal and Natal (South Africa); *N. lotenia* (van Son, 1949) from Natal (South Africa) and Lesotho; *N. durbani* (Trimen, 1887) from the Eastern Cape (South Africa); *N. extensa* (Butler, 1898) from Transvaal (South Africa), Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi; *N. victoriae* (Aurivillius, 1898) from Tanzania (border of the Victoria Lake), Kenya and, possibly, Malawi; and *N. orbipalus* Kielland, 1990, from northern and southern Tanzania.

The genus, to which the new species belongs with no doubts, is reported here for the first time from Angola, and a new species obtained by the “Estudos Apícolas do Ultramar” mission (EAU) near Capelongo, Huila Province (14° 53' S, 15° 05' E, ca. 1200 m), is described. The holotype, the only known specimen, is deposited in the Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical entomological collection (CZ), in Lisbon, Portugal.

Neita bikuarica sp.n.

Fig. 1-2.

MATERIAL EXAMINED: ANGOLA, Huila Province: Capelongo, ?/XI/1957, EAU, holotype male (CZ-2964).

DESCRIPTION:

Length of forewing: 20.0 mm; wingspan: 41 mm. Antennae brownish, ringed with lateral and ventral white annuli. Antennal club elongate and slender, only slightly enlarged, dark brown.

Upperside of all the wings plain brown, with marginal and sub-marginal dark brown lines the sub-marginal areas slightly lighter. Forewing with a large black ocellus (the minute white points, slightly oblique) encircled by a fine, pale orange ring and an outer brown line, wider at the inner margin, the ocellar area roughly pear-shaped and prolonged to space 2. Hindwing with three ocelli, in spaces 1b, 2 and 3, the most posterior one quite reduced, the other two well developed; a fine line, darker than the ground colour, almost

completely encircles the ocelli in a more or less regular way and runs to the costa.

Under surface similar but with greater contrast. Base of hindwing costa, and most of space 1, deep orange; ocelli as usual, in spaces 1, 2, 3 and 6, with fine orange and dark brown rings, the whole group encircled by a dark, reddish-brown, more or less regular line (without any indentation). One oblique dark reddish-brown regular line ca. the basal 1/3 of the hindwing crosses the centre of the cell.

Genitalia without sub-unci, as it is typical from the genus.

ETYMOLOGY: The new species is named from its geographical origin, close to the northern border of the Bikuar National Park.

DISCUSSION: Genus *Neita* van Son, 1955 share with the quite similar *Neocoenyra* Butler, 1885 and *Coenyropsis* van Son, 1958 the simple tarsal claws, the bare compound eyes and the absence of multiple swollen veins on the forewing (as a matter of fact, only the base of the sub-costal (Sc) is dilated). The genitalia of the *Neocoenyra* males present sub-unci, while those of the species of *Neita* and of *Coenyropsis* are known to lack these structures, as it happens in the present case. In what the forewing first radial (R₁) is concerned, it arises in the new species from the cell, from its upper angle (as it is typical from the genus *Neita*) while it emerges from the radial stalk, well beyond the upper angle of the cell, in all the *Coenyropsis* and from the cell but before its upper angle in the *Neocoenyra* (van Son, 1955, 1958). *Melampias*, one other similar Afrotropical genus devoid (like *Neita*) of sub-unci, is well individualized due to the much more conspicuous antennal club, and, mainly, by the distinct insertion of the R₁; the colour pattern of its only known species is also quite different.

N. bikuarica sp.n. is most similar to *N. victoriae*, which is restricted to a narrow area in eastern Africa (Ackery *et al.*, 1995; D'Abrera, 1980, 1997). New species is distinguishable by its slightly more acute forewing apex, narrower orange ring surrounding the ventral hindwing,

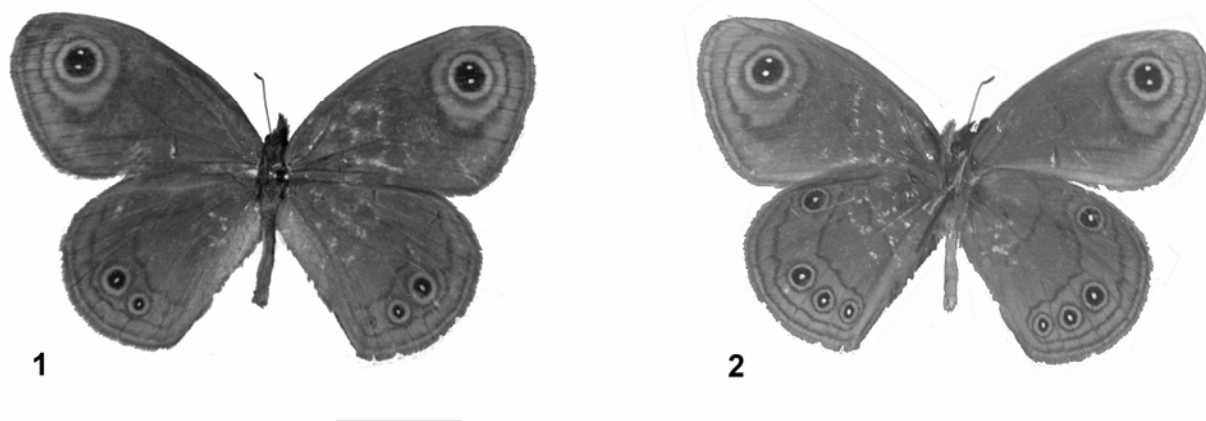


Fig. 1-2. *Neita bikuarica* sp. n., holotype male. 1. dorsal. 2. ventral.

ocelli greater width of the area delimited by the brown line that encloses the hindwing ocelli, and one presence on the posterior ventral wing of a well-defined oblique brown line that crosses the cell. Furthermore, on the dorsal forewing, the orange halo that surrounds the ocellus is, in *N. bikuarica* sp.n., more prolonged to the inner margin, clearly exceeding the first cubital (it attains and is clearly delimited at the level of space 2), while in *N. victoriae* it does not surpass the first cubital. On the dorsal surface the differences between the two species are similar to those already described for the ventral surface, although not so well-marked, and the brown line enclosing the hindwing ocelli is much more conspicuous in the Angolan species. Superficially, the new species also resembles *N. extensa*, which has a larger (also pear-shaped) forewing ocellus but with a deep invagination on the peri-ocellar line on the hind-wing ventral surface (Dickson & Kroon, 1978), and *N. orbipalus* which has better developed ocelli (mainly their orange or yellow areas), and is devoid, like all the remaining species in the genus, of any oblique dark line crossing the cell on the hindwing ventral surface (Kielland, 1990).

ECOLOGY: No relevant data are recorded in the original field notes, or on the specimen's label. However, the surroundings of Capelongo include open woodlands to wooded savannah, mainly with *Brachystegia spiciformis*, *B. bohemii*, *B. gossweileri* and *Julbernardia paniculata* (Fabaceae: Caesalpinioidea), as a rule with a well-developed herba-

ceous layer, mainly of Andropogoneae grasses (Grandvaux-Barbosa, 1970). The larvae of *Neita* whose food-plants are known occur on Poaceae (Ackery *et al.*, 1995).

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