

A new race of *Castalius hintza* (Trimen)*
(Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)
from South West Africa

By C. G. C. Dickson

No. 28

Trimen based his original description of *Lycaena hintza* on specimens from the present Eastern Cape Province (King William's Town and the Bashee River) and it is considered that representatives of this butterfly from South West Africa differ sufficiently from topotypical material to form another race, as described hereunder.

Castalius hintza krooni subsp. nov.

Male. Upperside

Differs from the nominate race in the presence of generally quite conspicuous patches of white scaling on all wings and in the more sharply defined dark and light divisions in the cilia of the forewings.

Forewing. Besides the one which frequently occurs in area 1b and adjoins wing-margin (and which is sometimes present in nominate specimens), white patches are nearly always visible in areas 2 and 4 (beyond the dark discal spots of underside which partially show through the wing) and, in the more extreme specimens, also in area 6, while others may occur incipiently elsewhere on the wing. Marginal dark marking in the form of semi-detached spots in the more extreme examples, including the holotype. Cilia with the blackish divisions at end of veins narrower and better defined in relation to the more prominent white spaces, than in nominate specimens.

Hindwing. White patches more prominent than in forewing; in the more extensively marked specimens such as the holotype, occurring in areas 1c-6, with some of the upper ones very elongated and the inner-marginal area itself conspicuously white. The dark marginal marking tending to be more broken up (as in the forewing) than in nominate race and, as in the holotype, frequently edged inwardly with white scaling. Cilia much as in the nominate race.

Underside

All wings much as in nominate specimens, allowing for some individual variation; the dark and light spaces in the cilia generally more neatly defined.

Length of forewing: 10.0-12.5 mm. (12.5 mm., in holotype).

Female. Upperside

White portions of wings as a whole more extensive than in nominate race, though not always so, in the forewing.

* *Lycaena hintza* Trimén, 1864. *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.*, 3rd Ser., 2: 177.
Lycaena hintza Trimén, 1887. *South African Butts.*, 2: 79, pl. 8, figs. 1, 1a.

Forewing. Cilia with the dark portions, though finer, well defined, as in the male.

Hindwing. Dark marking in general finer than in nominate race.

Underside

All wings as in the male and, as in that sex, with the markings frequently less heavily developed than in nominate specimens.

Length of forewing: 11.75-13.0 mm. (11.75 mm., in allotype).

Body and ancillary portions as in the nominate race, although the underside of the thorax and the legs may be a little whiter in the present race.

♂ Holotype, SOUTH WEST AFRICA: Otavi; 22.ix.1971 (Dr D. M. Kroon); specimen to be presented by Dr Kroon to the Transvaal Museum.

♀ Allotype, SOUTH WEST AFRICA: data as holotype, 29.xii.1971; also allocation of specimen.

Paratypes presented to British Museum (N.H.), data as holotype, 1 ♂ (D.M.K.); Tiger Valley, 4.i.1972, 1 ♀ (D.M.K.). British Museum Reg. Nos. Rh. 17310 and 17311.

Paratypes in the author's collection, as holotype, 1 ♂; Waterberg, 29.ii.1971, 1 ♂ (D.M.K.).

Paratypes in Coll. Dr D. M. Kroon, as holotype, 22.ix.1971, 1 ♂, 29.xii.1971, 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀; Windhoek, 27.xii.1971, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (D.M.K.).

The average size of *C. hintza krooni* is below that of nominate specimens, but there is much variation in the size of individual specimens of both these races. From a preparation which has been made by Dr L. Vári of the Transvaal Museum, the male genitalia agree with those of nominate examples. Although the distribution of *C. hintza* will not be continuous, owing to gaps occurring between populations in many instances, there is likely to be an irregular cline in part of its range between the Eastern Cape and South West Africa. Certain Natal males show some definite indication of the white patches in the hindwing, anyway, as do others from the Transvaal. A small male from Lucerne near Zeerust, in the extreme Western Transvaal, taken by Mr A. L. Capener on 16th November 1948, is not far removed from *C. hitza krooni*. This new race does, however, have a very wide distribution in South West Africa. The type material is all from this territory. A pair of Rhodesian specimens (Farm "Sabi Star", Chitora Valley, 12-15.ix.1972) captured by Dr Kroon, much resemble S.W.A. examples of this butterfly. It must be mentioned that a small proportion of S.W.A. males do have the white marking very largely suppressed in the forewings; but even in these specimens it has been clearly apparent in the hindwings. Mr K. M. Pennington encountered this insect, many years previously, when collecting butterflies in South West Africa.

This race is named with pleasure after Dr D. M. Kroon, who has furnished the following note concerning specimens he observed in the field: "At Windhoek I took them singly, flying low in a dry

sheltered valley, often settling on low bushes, in particular a thorny dark green bush, ? *Zizyphus* sp. They were not uncommon. Further north at Otavi it is much hotter and many specimens were seen and taken along the mud of a small stream, together with several other small Blues, including *Syntarucus pirithous* (L.), *Zizeeria knysna* (Trimen) and others."

The earlier portion of the life-history of *C. hintza hintza* has been described and illustrated in colour by Clark and Dickson in *Life Histories of the South African Lycaenid Butterflies*, pp. 69, 72, Pl. 32 (1971).

"Blencathra", Cambridge Avenue, St. Michael's Estate,
Cape Town.

Observations on British Butterflies in 1972

By A. P. GAINSFORD, F.R.E.S.

(concluded from p. 133)

The all too brief spell of real Summer came to an end on the 30th of July with some rain and a considerable drop in temperature. With the fate of *Maculinea arion* L. now foremost in my mind I had arranged to meet Bob and Rosemary Goodden at the "secret" site on the north Cornish coast, but continuous rain throughout the morning and heavy showers during the afternoon spoilt any chance we might have had of seeing any butterflies. A solitary saturated figure in the depths of the valley turned out to be Jeremy Thomas of Monks Wood rounding off his intensive study of this most critical species and its ecology. Apparently the flight period had been very late and brief in the extreme, lasting from about the 21st to the 27th only but surprisingly encouraging in numbers which added up to some thirty or so butterflies. Much extremely useful information on the ant hosts had been obtained and we were able to hear a good deal about the fascinating and so far successful breeding with stock brought home from Brittany which Bob Goodden is carrying out so ingeniously and painstakingly at Sherborne.

The first week of August was mostly wet with strong winds but another spell of hot, sunny weather began on the 11th, and, with only short-lived interruptions, continued until the 26th of October in the south-west.

A. paphia flew on strongly into October being seen in fair condition on the 12th after a very good season indeed, and the last few *M. athalia* were seen as late as the 12th of August. *E. semele* were about a fortnight overdue at Kit Hill, but as plentiful as ever, and the last few were flying on the 4th of October.

N. io was missing until about the 16th of August, and then slowly became as abundant as ever. At Hill Bridge on the



Dickson, C G C. 1973. "A new race of *Castalius hintza* (Trimen) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from south west Africa." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 85, 137–139.

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