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## A NEW SPECIES OF *GRETNA* FROM CAMEROUN (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE)

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### Introduction

During intensive collecting of butterflies in southern Cameroun, a single male of a remarkable new skipper of the genus *Gretna* was found. It has the typical shape, antennae and appendages of the genus, but the pattern of forewing discal hyaline spots differs completely from any known species in being fused to a large patch, only bisected by the dark veins. The male genitalia are also very distinctive.

### *Gretna leakeyi* sp. nov.

**Upperside:** The forewing length is 22 mm, about the same as for other members of the genus, but the shape is rather more pointed. The forewing is brown with ochreous hyaline spots, deeper in tone than in other members of the genus of similar size. There is a fully fused double spot in the cell, somewhat wider than it is broad. Just below the cell-spot, at the base of spot 2, lies a small androconial pit, as in *G. waga* Plötz, 1886. Immediately beyond the androconial pit is an ochreous spot the size of the fused cell-spot. A somewhat smaller spot fills out the base of space 3. The three spots would form a large unified patch, were not the veins dark brown. In all other members of the genus, the spots are well separated. There are two subapical spots, the upper very small. The hindwing is brown, with the costa ochreous. The fringes are slightly checkered, as is usual.

**Underside:** The hyaline spot pattern is as on the upperside, but otherwise the pattern is much like several other species. There is conspicuous grey shading along the lower discocellular vein, and rather more overall contrast than in *G. waga*.

**Male genitalia:** The uncus consists of two large, ovoid lobes, very similar to those of *G. waga* and two other species. As in that species a branch of an unfused gnathos is attached to either side of the tegumen. The valve agrees in structure with *G. waga*, but the distal process is very long and does not recurve on the main valve as in *G. waga* (genitalia SCC 273).

**Male holotype:** South Cameroun, Djoum (near Sangmelinae), 1.x.1994 (S. C. Collins) (to be deposited in the Natural History Museum, London).

The new species, and its genitalia, is recognizable at a glance and was the only one of its kind among nearly 100 commoner *Gretna* collected in the same area. It is evidently a very scarce butterfly, as are other members of the genus, such as *Gretna bugoma* Evans, 1947 and *G. zaremba* Plötz, 1884, both of which are known only from a handful of specimens.

We take pleasure in naming this fine butterfly in honour of Dr. Richard Leakey, in appreciation of his services to conservation in Africa, as well as his help and assistance with our own butterfly research in Africa.

## **Discussion**

With the exception of the huge *G. balenge* Holland, 1891, members of the genus are morphologically very similar - to the point where identification is not always easy. Yet, the genitalia are very different. *G. lacida* Hewitson, 1876 and *G. zaremba* Evans, 1937 have a long, pointed, unspecialized uncus; and *G. cylinda* Hewitson, 1876 has a short, stubby, pointed uncus. *G. waga*, *G. carmen* Evans, 1937, *G. bugoma* Evans, 1947, and the new species all have the large uncus composed of two ovoid halves, with a branch of the gnathos attached to the tegumen. This type of uncus is refound also in *Artitropa*, *Caenides*, *Zophopetes*, and *Monza*.

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## **Captions**

Figure 1. Male holotype of *Gretna leakeyi* (upperside).

Figure 2. Male genitalia of *Gretna leakeyi* (SCC 273).