The Correct Names for the African Blue Pansy
(Junonia oenone L.) and the African and the
Oriental Yellow Pansy (Junonia hierta Fabricius)
Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae)

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There has been considerable confusion over the scientific names of
the two African butterflies, commonly known as the Blue and Yellow
Pansies, the specific name oenone Linnaeus of the blue and black species
being transferred indiscriminately to the other.

The original description of Papilio oenone Linnaeus (1758, Systema
albido-maculatis subbiocellatis; posticis basi cyanis ocellis duobus.’ and
there is no doubt that this refers to the African Blue Pansy though
Linnaeus cited figures of the yellow species. As Corbet pointed out in
1941 (Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond. (B) 10 (2): 19 footnote) and again in 1945
(Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond. (B) 14 (7 & 8): 94) ‘It is evident that Linnaeus
confused the two but the name must be reserved for the African species.’
formerly known as clelia (Cramer). Corbet was dealing with Junonia
hierta hierta (Fabricius, 1798) under Papilio lintingensis Osbeck (1765),
which name has since been suppressed (see Bull. zool. Nomen. 1968,

Linnaeus (1764, Museum Ludovicae Ulricae Regiae p. 274) re-
described oenone in detail and placed the African and Oriental species
hierta (Fabricius) as ‘Varietas oenones’.

Cramer (1775, Pap. Exot. 1, p. 33) re-named the Blue Pansy as Papilio
celia and wrongly associated the Yellow Pansy with the name oenone
(Linnaeus).

Trimen (1870, Trans. ent. Soc. Lond. p. 353) in a footnote when de-
ing with his Junonia cebrene, correctly summed up the situation but
was incorrect when he stated in the last part of his last sentence, "I
suppose, therefore, that, in strictness, the name Oenone should attach to
Cramer's Clelia; but in that case Oenone, auct., would require a new
nomination; and it will perhaps be better to let the recognised Oenone
stand as "Oenone Fabr.," the latter author's description in Systema
Entomologiae (1775) being unmistakeably that of the butterfly generally
known by that name."

Kirby (1871, Synonymic Catalogue Diurnal Lepidoptera) on p. 187
deals with the Blue Pansy under the name clelia (Cramer) and then
later, on p. 648 of the appendix, corrects this so that clelia (Cramer) is
placed as a synonym of oenone (Linnaeus) and oenone sensu Cramer as
a synonym of hierta (Fabricius).

dealing with the Lepidoptera described by Linnaeus in the Musei Ludo-
vicae Ulricae, under the name oenone Linnaeus, was of the opinion that
the specimen mentioned in the Xth edition which Linnaeus probably had
in his collection was referable to a variety, as the word 'black' had been
omitted from the description and goes on to say that he thought it
inadvisable to change the name from *clelia* because Clerck and other authors were of the same opinion.

It is extremely unfortunate that Aurivillius still persisted in using the name *oenone* (Linnaeus) for the wrong species when writing the African section of Seitz (1913, *Macrolepidoptera of the World*, 13: 225, 226), as a number of authors have followed this standard and very often, to them, the only available comprehensive work on the African butterfly fauna.

However, it is fortunate that this section of the Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.) collection was correctly arranged many years ago, probably according to the appendix of Kirby’s *Catalogue*, by Sir Guy Marshall, so that authors such as Peters (1952, *Provisional Check-list of the Butterflies of the Ethiopian Region*) who used this collection, were correct in the allocation of names, though the latter author should have given the date for *oenone* (Linnaeus) as 1758 rather than 1764 and included var. *oenones* (Linnaeus, 1764) as a synonym of *hierta* (Fabricius) with *cebren* Trimen as a subspecies of *hierta*, not as a synonym of that species.

The following is a list of the aberrational, formal and subspecific names associated with the two species, which, for the most part, were described under the genus *Precis*.

**Junonia oenone** (Linnaeus)

*oenone oenone* (Linnaeus 1758)

= *clelia* (Cramer 1775)

ab. *bipupillata* (Strand 1912)

ab. *caeruleffugiens* (Heslop 1962)

ab. *posterior* (Strand 1912)

ab. *subbipupillata* (Strand 1912)

ab. *subvirilis* (Strand 1912)

ab. *subepicellia* (Strand 1911)

ab. *subtricellata* (Strand 1912)

ab. *tricellata* (Strand 1911)

ab. *viridata* (Strand 1911)

ab. *virilis* (Strand 1912)

ab. *vosseriana* (Strand 1911)

*oenone epicellia* (Boisduval 1833)

**Junonia hierta** (Fabricius)

*hierta hierta* (Fabricius 1798)

= *oenone auct.*

*hierta magnif* (Evans 1926)

*hierta cebren* (Trimen 1870)

ab. *aeolus* (Stoneham 1965)

ab. *conjuncta* (Stoneham 1965)

ab. *demaculata* (Neustetter 1916)

♀ f. *sudanica* (Schultze 1920)

*hierta paris* (Trimen 1887)

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**AN INTERESTING IMMIGRANT.**—I am pleased to report the occurrence of a female specimen of the rare immigrant butterfly *Argynnis lathonia* L. (Queen of Spain Fritillary) at Tal-y-Wern, Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire on the 3rd September 1969. The time in question was 2 p.m. in bright sunshine, when the insect was fluttering over brambles in an open valley near coniferous woodlands. Mr Peter Crow informs me that he believes this to be the first record of this species from Montgomeryshire.