Genus *Orachrysops* Vári, 1986
Cupids

In: Vári & Kroon, 1986. *South African lepidoptera. A series of cross-referenced indices*: ix (198 pp.). Lepidopterists' Society of Southern Africa and the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Type-species: *Lycaena niobe* Trimen, by original designation.

The genus *Orachrysops* belongs to the Family Lycaenidae Leach, 1815; Subfamily Polyommatinae Swainson, 1827; Tribe Polyommatini Swainson, 1827; Subtribe *incertae sedis*. The other genera in the Subtribe *incertae sedis* in the Afrotropical Region are *Cupidopsis*, *Pseudonacaduba*, *Catochrysops*, *Lampides*, *Uranothauma*, *Cacyreus*, *Harpendyreus*, *Leptotes*, *Cyclyrius*, *Tuxentius*, *Tarucus*, *Zintha*, *Zizeeria*, *Actizera*, *Zizula*, *Zizula*, *Brephidium*, *Oraidium*, *Azanus*, *Eicochrysops*, *Euchrysops*, *Lepidochrysops*, *Thermoniphas* and *Oboronia*.

Orachrysops (**Cupids**) is a purely Afrotropical genus containing 11 species. Until recently (1986) members of this exclusively southern African genus were included in the genus *Lepidochrysops*. Recent studies on the early stages of some species of *Orachrysops* has shown that they are probably phytophagous in all larval instars (Edge, 2005a; Edge & Van Hamburg, 2010), unlike the phyto-predacious *Lepidochrysops*. Generic review by G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994 (*In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 260-273 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.

O. niobe group

**Orachrysops ariadne* (Butler, 1898)#
Karkloof Cupid

Karkloof Cupid (*Orachrysops ariadne*) male upperside (left) and underside of ovipositing female (right). Images courtesy Steve Woodhall (left) and Jeremy Dobson (right).

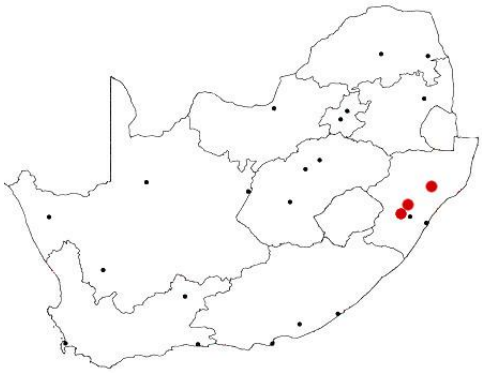
Catochrysops ariadne Butler, 1898. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* **1898**: 193 (186-201).
Neochrysops ariadne (Butler, 1898). Bethune-Baker, 1922.
Lepidochrysops ariadne (Butler, 1898). Hedicke, 1923.
Lepidochrysops ariadne Butler. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Lepidochrysops ariadne (Butler, 1898). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.

Orachrysops ariadne (Butler, 1898). Vári, 1986.
Orachrysops ariadne (Butler, 1898). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 263.
Orachrysops ariadne Butler, 1898. d'Abrera, 2009: 838.

Orachrysops ariadne. Male (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wahroonga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 10 March 2006. J.P. Brouard.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Orachrysops ariadne. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wahroonga, Merrivale, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 14 April 2004. S. Woodhall.
Images S. Woodhall ex Woodhall Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Karkloof, Natal".



Distribution of *Orachrysops ariadne*

KwaZulu-Natal.

Distribution: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal).
Specific localities:
KwaZulu-Natal – 'The Start', Karkloof (TL); near Michaelhouse (D. Clark; colony extinct?); Benvie Estates, near York (Curle brothers); Klaarkloof, 20 km north of Karkloof (Ficq); Nkandla (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Farm Wahroonga, south of Howick.
Habitat: Mist-belt grassland, usually on steep slopes near montane forest. (See Lu & Samways, 2002a and 2002b).
Habits: Flies in long grass near its larval foodplant. Males patrol 'beats' within the colonial boundaries, in search of females. The flight of the males is fast and elusive as they wend their way through the long grass. Females fly more slowly and remain near the larval foodplants (Pringle *et al*.,

1994).
Flight period: March and April (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:

Lu & Samways, 2001: 137-151.

Larval food:
Indigofera astragalina DC. (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 263] Note: This was a misidentification as this species of *Indigofera* has not been recorded from KwaZulu-Natal.
Indigofera woodii Bolus (Fabaceae) [Ref?].
Indigofera woodii Bolus var. *laxa* (Fabaceae) [Lu & Samways, 2001: 137-151; Karkloof, KwaZulu-Natal].
Associated ant:
Camponotus natalensis (F. Smith) (Formicidae) [Lu & Samways, 2001: 137-151].
Conservation status: Classified as Endangered (Henning *et al*., 2009: 57).

Relevant literature:
Henning *et al*., 2009 [Conservation].
Samways & Lu, 2007 [Conservation].
Armstrong & Louw, 2005 [Momitoring of eggs].
Lu & Samways, 2002a [Behavioural ecology].
Lu & Samways, 2002b [Conservation management].
Lu & Samways, 2001 [Life history].
Miller & Quickelberge, 1989 (*Proceedings of the Seventh Entomological Congress of the Entomological Society of southern Africa*: 92).
Henning, S. *et al*., 1993d [Conservation].

******Orachrysops niobe*** (Trimen, 1862)#

Brenton Cupid

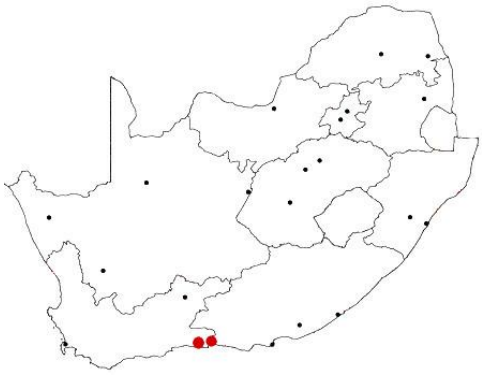
Brenton Cupid (*Orachrysops niobe*) female upperside (left) and male underside (right)
Images courtesy Steve Woodhall

Lycaena niobe Trimen, 1862. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* (3) **1**: 282 (279-291).
Lycaena niobe Trimen. Trimen, 1866a.
Lycaena niobe Trimen, 1862. Trimen & Bowker, 1887b.
Neochrysops niobe (Trimen, 1862). Bethune-Baker, 1922.
Lepidochrysops niobe (Trimen, 1862). Hedicke, 1923.
Lepidochrysops niobe Trimen, 1862. Swanepoel, 1953a.
Lepidochrysops niobe (Trimen, 1862). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Orachrysops niobe (Trimen, 1862). Vári, 1986.
Orachrysops niobe (Trimen, 1862). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 262.
Orachrysops niobe Trimen, 1862. d'Abrera, 2009: 838.

Orachrysops niobe. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 7 November 1993. D.A. Edge.
Images M.C. Williams ex Edge Collection.

Orachrysops niobe. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 27 February 2008. D.A. Edge.
Images M.C. Williams ex Edge Collection.

Type locality: [South Africa]: "Knysna".



Distribution of *Orachrysops niobe*

Western Cape Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Western Cape Province).
Specific localities:
Western Cape Province – Brenton-on-Sea, near Knysna (TL); Nature's Valley (Ball; population extinct (Pringle *et al*., 1994)); Keurbooms River (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
General remarks: Described from three males collected at Knysna by Roland Trimen in 1858 (Trimen, 1862). Not seen again until 1977 when Jonathan Ball rediscovered the species at Natures Valley (Henning & Henning, 1989). Currently regarded as critically endangered, based on IUCN criteria (Edge, 2005a). The colony at Natures Valley is now extinct and the butterfly is known only from the Brenton locality (Edge, 2005a). This locality was threatened by a housing development but was saved following a protracted conservation campaign, documented by Steenkamp & Stein (1999). During this campaign the vernacular name of the butterfly was changed from 'Knysna blue' to 'Brenton blue' (Steenkamp & Stein, 1999). The Brenton locality was proclaimed as a Special Nature Reserve in 2003 (Edge, 2005a).
Habitat: Sandy coastal fynbos (Ball, *vide* Pringle *et al*., 1994). See also S. Henning & G. Henning, 1989. Coastal forest and thicket mosaic with moist fynbos (Edge, 2005a).

Habits: Flies quite slowly, close to the ground but can fly faster if disturbed. Settles on the sand or low plants (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Adults have been recorded nectaring from the flowers of 16 different plants belonging to 13 different families (Edge, 2005a: 29). Courtship and mating behaviours have been described by Edge (2005a: 29). Females oviposit on *Indigofera erecta* and, rarely, on the leaves of *Phyllanthus incurvus*. The latter plant was, however, shown not to be suitable as food for the larvae of *niobe* (Edge, 2005a). Eggs are almost always laid on the underside of leaflets of vigorous plants growing in semi-shade but clearly visible; the eggs are laid on horizontal runners of the plants, close to the ground. Oviposition is not mediated by the presence of the host ant but appears, instead, to be goverened mainly by visual cues (Edge, 2005a).
Flight period: Adults of the first brood emerge from the end of October to the end of November. A second brood flies from the last week of January until early March. Some of the ova from the second brood develop rapidly and produce a third, small brood of adults in April. A third brood only occurs in certain years. The rest of the ova of the second brood develop slowly, overwinter as larvae, and emerge as the next season's first brood adults (Edge, 2005a). Very small adults, as well as normally-sized ones, are a feature of the autumn brood (Swanepoel, 1953: 110; Pringle *et al*., 1994). There is no evidence for protandry in the species (Edge, 2005a: 100).
Early stages:

Ball, *in* Henning, S., & Henning, G., 1989: 142 [locality not specified].

Williams, 1996a: 3 [as *Orachrysops niobe*; Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape].

Edge & Pringle, 1996: 109 [as *Orachrysops niobe*; Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape].

Edge, 2002.

Edge, 2005a [as *Orachrysops niobe*; Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape].

Captive-rearing of the larvae on the leaves only, results in dwarfing but occasional natural dwarfs are also encountered. Dwarfing is possibly the result of a lack of root material on which the larva can feed or it may be because no other larvae are available for 'consumption'. The 1 st and 2nd instars, and presumably also the 3rd instar larvae, consume the cuticle and head capsule following moulting. Larvae, in captivity, are cannibalistic. The first and second larval instars feed mainly on the glabrous upperside of the leaflet parenchyma, leaving characteristic translucent patches. When not feeding they crawl down the stem and rest head downwards, near the ground. Third and fourth instar larvae feed underground on the roots of the food-plant in tunnels excavated by *Camponotus baynei* ants and/or by the larvae themselves. Here the larvae are tended by the ants. Larvae pupate in the subterranean tunnels. Larvae are never found in the nests of the host-ant, which are above ground in dead wood. The ants nest in tunnels bored in the dead wood by beetle larvae. The first instar is 0.9 mm, growing to 1.5 mm; second instar to 3 mm; third instar to 8 mm; and fourth instar to 19 mm. The pupa is 13.5 mm long. The dorsal nectary organ (DNO) and tentacle organs (TO's) are functional from the second instar onwards. Perforated cupola organs (PCO's) were not demonstrated. The mandibles of the larva appear to be very powerful, as would be expected for a larva that feeds on root material. The host-ant is primarily nocturnal and the relationship of *Orachrysops niobe* with the ant is probably obligatory.

Larval food:
Indigofera erecta Thunb. (Fabaceae) [Lubke *et al*., 1997. "This identification was subsequently confirmed by my sending specimens to the last revisor of the genus *Indigofera*, Brian Schrire at Kew Botanic Gardens, and this is recorded in"… Edge, 2005a and Edge & van Hamburg, 2010.].
Indigofera porrecta Eckl. & Zeyh. (Fabaceae) (probable) [Williams, 1996: 3; Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape; oviposition only; misidentification (identification by D. Edge, based on Moriarty A. 1982. *Outeniqua Tsitsikamma & Eastern Little Karoo.* South African Wild Flower Guide 2: 128. Botanical Society of South Africa, Kirstenbosch. Unfortunately this book did not have the species correctly identified)].
Indigofera porrecta Eckl. & Zeyh. (Fabaceae) [Edge & Pringle, 1996: 110; Brenton-on-Sea, Western Cape; misidentification ("The earlier identification of the host plant by myself was confirmed by expert botanist Jan Vlok" D. Edge, pers. comm., 2010)].
Indigofera psoraloides (L.) L. (Fabaceae) [Edge & Pringle, 1996: 114. "A larva of *O. niobe* which was sent to Cape Town by myself was fed on this plant by A. Heath, but died before pupation. This does not constitute evidence that this could be a larval host plant. *I. psoraloides* (correct

spelling) only occurs from Cape Town to Citrusdal up the west coast." D. Edge, pers. comm., 2010.].

Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [J.B. Ball, *vide* Henning, S., & Henning, G., 1989: 142].

Indigofera woodii Bolus [Kroon, 1999. "The source of this reference is given by Kroon as van den Berg & van Wyk *Endangered Wildlife* 24:15. This is quite an old reference and may very well refer to one of the species earlier confused with *O. niobe.*" D. Edge, pers. comm., 2010].

Associated ant:

Camponotus baynei Arnold (Formicidae) (Edge, 2005a: 46).

Conservation status: Classified as Critically Endangered (Henning *et al*., 2009: 59).

Relevant literature:

Edge & Van Hamburg, 2010 [Larval feeding behaviour and myrmecophily].
Edge, 2008b [Environmental Management Plan; 2nd revision].
Edge, 2008a [Adult behaviour].
Edge *et al*., 2008 [Associated vegetation].
Edge *et al*., 2008 [Ant assemblages at potential breeding sites].
Edge, 2005a [Ecology (PhD thesis)].
Edge, 2005d [Ecology (synopsis of PhD thesis)].
Lubke *et al*., 2003 [Floristics and plant communities at Brenton locality].
Edge, 2002 [Population dynamics].
Robertson, 2000 [Ant communities at Brenton locality].
Silberbauer & Britton, 1999 [Population size and distribution].
Steenkamp & Stein, 1999 [Conservation campaign for Brenton locality].
Robertson, 1998 [Ant communities at Brenton locality].
Robertson, 1997 [Ant communities at Brenton locality].
Britton & Silberbauer, 1997 [Population size and distribution].
Lubke *et al*., 1997 [Floristics and plant communities at Brenton locality].
Edge & Pringle, 1996 [Life history].
Williams, 1996a [Life history, in part].
Henning, G., 1995 [Initiation of Brenton campaign].

**Orachrysops brinkmani* Heath, 1997#

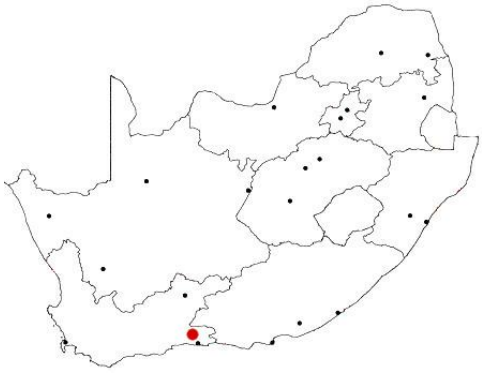
Kammanassie Cupid

Orachrysops brinkmani Heath, 1997. *Metamorphosis* **8** (1): 27 (26-32).
Orachrysops brinkmani Heath, 1997. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops brinkmani. Male. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kammanassie Mountains, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 15 January 1996. D.A. Edge.
Images M.C. Williams ex Edge Collection.

Orachrysops brinkmani. Female (Paratype). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Kammanassie Mountains, Western Cape Province, South Africa. 19 November 1996. D.A. Edge.
Images M.C. Williams ex Edge Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Kammanassie Mts., Uniondale, 33°37.5'S: 22°57'E 3 XI 1996 (A.K. Brinkman)."
Described from a large series (64 males; 30 females), all from the type locality.



Distribution of *Orachrysops brinkmani*

Western Cape Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Western Cape Province).
Known only from the type locality.
Specific localities:
Western Cape Province – Eastern sector of the Kammanassie mountains (TL).
Habitat: Found in fynbos in the eastern sector of the Kammanassie Mountains at altitudes from 1 300 m to 1 500 m (Heath, 1997).
Habits: Males are not territorial (Heath, 1997).
Flight period: Recorded in October, November and December (Heath, 1997). Also in January (male specimen illustrated above).
Early stages:

Heath, 1997: 26 [as *Orachrysops brinkmani* **sp. n.**; Kammanassie Mountains, Western Cape].

Larval food:
Indigofera declinata E.Mey. (Fabaceae) [Heath, 1997: 29; Kammanassie Mountains, Western Cape Province].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

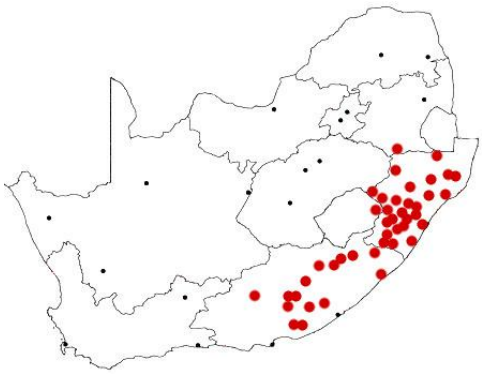
****Orachrysops subravus*** Henning & Henning, 1994#
Grizzled Cupid

Orachrysops subravus G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 264 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.

Orachrysops subravus. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wahroonga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 10 March 2006. J.P. Brouard.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Orachrysops subravus. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Wahroonga, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. 10 March 2006. J.P. Brouard.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Benvie Estate, York, near Hanover, 4 Oct. 1989, A.I. Curle." Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Diagnosis: Not easy to separate from *Orachrysops lacrimosa*. The underside ground colour of *subravus* in the north of its range is greyish and becomes progressively darker (browner) as one moves southwards in its distributional range. In Eastern Cape specimens the spotting on the hindwing underside may be almost obsolete (Pringle *et al*., 1994).



Distribution of *Orachrysops subravus*

South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Lesotho.

Distribution: South Africa (Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Lesotho.
Specific localities:
Mpumalanga – Volksrust (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
KwaZulu-Natal – Benvie Estate, near York (TL; Curle); Mooi River (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Merrivale (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mount Arrochar (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Nottingham Road (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Loteni (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Drakensberg Gardens (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Kokstad (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mount Currie (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Bulwer (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Wahroonga, near Howick (Joubert); Pogola (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Eastern Cape Province – Fraser's Gorge near Mbotyi (Quickelberge); Cathcart (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Windvogel Mountains (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Stutterheim (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mount Kubusie (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Grahamstown (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Habitat: Montane grassland, on slopes and in grassy valleys, often near streams (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: The flight is fast and weaving. Settles on low vegetation and often feeds from flowers (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: October to December. The time of emergence appears to correspond to the timing of spring rains (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:

Clark & Dickson, 1971: 39 [as *Lepidochrysops lacrimosa*; locality uncertain – eggs ex Pennington].

"**Egg**: 0.6 mm diam. x 0.3 mm high. Laid singly on young shoots. Pale dull green with white rib-netting composed of a very irregular involute pattern ending with 20 moles on the edge of the egg. Down the sides the ribs form a triangular pattern with reverse diagonal ribs cut by 20 vertical ribs. The intersections are mole-capped. Eggs hatch after 8 days. The discarded shell is not eaten. **Larva**: 1st instar 1 mm, growing to 2 mm in 5 days; 2nd instar growing to 2.5 mm in 9 days; 3rd instar growing to 4 mm in 11 days. The honey-gland is present in the 2nd and subsequent instars. There seem to be tubercles in all these instars. This species proved to be a vegetable-feeder to the end of the 3rd instar, when the larva died for want of the correct food. Recorded from eggs supplied by Mr. K.M. Pennington, of Balgowan, Natal."

Larval food:
Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Clark & Dickson, 1971: 39].
Indigofera tristis E.Mey. (Fabaceae) [Lu, 2003; Wahroonga, KwaZulu-Natal].
Indigofera woodii Bolus (Fabaceae) [Joubert, 1997: 6; Wahroonga, near Howick, KwaZulu-Natal; as "same species of *Indigofera* as *O. ariadne*"] (*Metamorphosis* **8** (1): 6).
Indigofera woodii Bolus var. *woodii* (Fabaceae) [Lu, 2003; Wahroonga, KwaZulu-Natal].
Associated ant:
Camponotus species (Samways & Lu, 2007).

Note: D'Abrera (2009) omits *Orachrysops subravus* G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994.

**Orachrysops lacrimosa* (Bethune-Baker, [1923])#

Restless Cupid

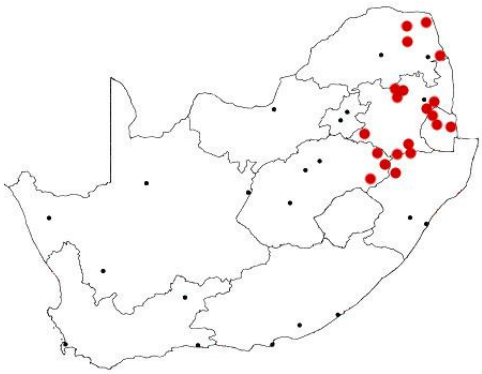
Restless Blue (*Orachrysops lacrimosa*) male underside
Image courtesy Raimond Schutte

Neochrysops lacrimosa Bethune-Baker, [1923]. *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1922**: 281 (275-366).
Lepidochrysops lacrimosa (Bethune-Baker, 1923). Hedicke, 1923.
Lepidochrysops lacrimosa Bethune-Baker, 1923. Swanepoel, 1953.
Lepidochrysops lacrimosa (Bethune-Baker, 1923). Dickson & Kroon, 1978.
Orachrysops lacrimosa (Bethune-Baker, 1923). Vári, 1986.
Orachrysops lacrimosa (Bethune-Baker, 1923). Pringle *et al*., 1994: 264.
Orachrysops lacrimosa Bethune-Baker, 1922. d'Abrera, 2009: 838. [date of authorship erroneous; should be 1923]

Orachrysops lacrimosa. Male (Wingspan 37 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 19 October 2005. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops lacrimosa. Female (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Dullstroom, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 19 October 2005. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Newcastle, Natal".



Distribution of *Orachrysops lacrimosa*

South Africa (Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland.

Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Free State Province, KwaZulu-Natal), Swaziland (Duke *et* al., 1999).
Specific localities:
Limpopo Province – Punda Maria (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Mpumalanga – Verloren Vallei Nature Reserve (Warren, 1990); Wakkerstroom (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Dullstroom (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Lydenburg (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Nelshoogte (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Free State Province – Generaalskop, Golden Gate Highlands National Park (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Witkoppe, near Vrede (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Harrismith (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
KwaZulu-Natal – Newcastle (TL); Muden (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Normandien (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Swaziland – Malolotja Nature Reserve (www.sntc.org.sz).
Habitat: Montane grassland. Males frequent the higher slopes and rocky ridges, whereas females are found lower down on the slopes (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: The flight of males is swift and restless (hence its common name). Females usually fly in areas with short grass, settling frequently on low plants, or feeding from flowers (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Egg-laying behaviour was reported in a population near Dullstroom by Williams (2006).
Flight period: October to December (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages: Nothing published. The partial life history given by Clark & Dickson (1971), purportedly for *Orachrysops lacrimosa*, in fact applies to *Orachrysops subravus*, which at the time was undescribed – MCW.
Larval food:
Indigastrum fastigiatum (E.Mey.) Shrire (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2004, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; Velorenvalei, Mpumalanga].

Indigofera obscura N.E.Br. (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2004, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; Greylingstad, Mpumalanga].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

major Bethune-Baker, 1923 (as var. of *Neochrysops lacrimosa*). *Transactions of the Entomological Society of London* **1922**: 282 (275-366). South Africa: "Newcastle, Natal". Regarded as a good species by Vári & Kroon, 1986 (*South African Lepidoptera. A series of cross-referenced indices*: 52, 132, 175 (198 pp.), and given as such in Ackery *et al*., 1995: 667. Formally synonymized with *Orachrysops lacrimosa* by Henning & Henning, 1994 (*in*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 264 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa). D'Abrera (2009: 838) treats *major* as a valid species, apparently unaware that its status had been formally emended by Henning & Henning, 1994.

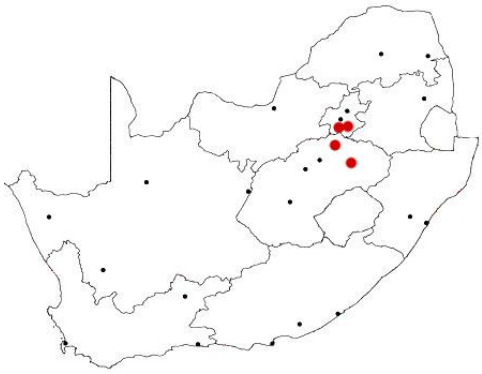
**Orachrysops mijburghi* Henning & Henning, 1994#
Heilbron Cupid

Orachrysops mijburghi G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 267 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops myburghi Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840. [misspelling of species name; should be *mijburghi*]

Orachrysops mijburghi. Male (Wingspan 32 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Heilbron, Free State Province, South Africa. 15 February 2004. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Orachrysops mijburghi. Female (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Greylingstad, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 7 January 2006. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Heilbron, Orange Free State, 21 Dec. 1981, G.A. Henning." Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.



Distribution of *Orachrysops mijburghi*

Gauteng, Free State Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Gauteng, Free State Province).
Specific localities:
Gauteng – Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve (R. Terblanche [taxonomic status uncertain]); Evaton [26 29 01.6S, 27 53 32.2E].
Free State Province – Heilbron (TL); Petrus Steyn (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habitat: Undulating grassland (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: Males patrol back and forth, occasionally settling on low vegetation or the ground, or feeding from flowers. Females fly around more slowly, always in close proximity to the larval host plants (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: October to March.
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Indigofera evansiana Burtt Davy (Fabaceae) [Williams & Woodhall, *in* Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 268; Heilbron, Free State Province].
Indigofera dimidiata Vogel ex Walp (Fabaceae) [Terblanche & Edge, 2007; Suikerbosrand, Gauteng].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).
Conservation status: Classified as Vulnerable (Henning *et al*., 2009: 58).

******Orachrysops violescens* Henning & Henning, 1994#

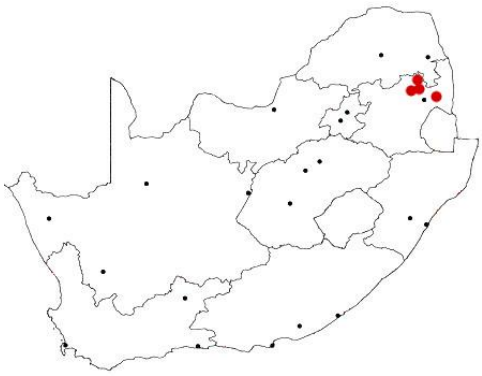
Violescent Cupid

Orachrysops violescens G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 266 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops violescens Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops violescens. Male (Wingspan 31 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
The Bonnet, near Graskop, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. 19 October 1991. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops violescens. Female (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Graskop, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 21 September 2002. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Mac Mac Falls, Eastern Transvaal, 24 Oct. 1987, R. Warren". Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.



Distribution of *Orachrysops violescens*

Mpumalanga.

Distribution: South Africa (Mpumalanga).
Specific localities:
Mpumalanga – Mac Mac Falls (TL); Kowyn's Pass, near Graskop (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mac Mac Pools (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Graskop (Pringle *et al*., 1994); 'The Bonnet', near Graskop (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Hendriksdal (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Mariepskop (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Khandiswe Mountain, near Berg en Dal, Kruger National Park (Williams).
Habitat: Grassland, from 1 000 to 1 500m. Colonies are often located near pockets of montane forest (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: Males patrol restlessly, with a rapid, erratic flight, over grassy slopes. Females remain close to stands of the larval host plant (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: September to December.
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 267].

**Orachrysops regalis* Henning & Henning, 1994#

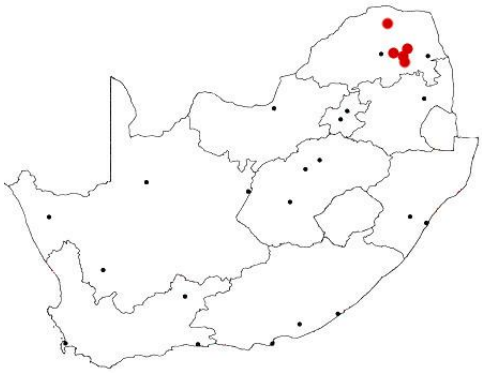
Royal Cupid

Orachrysops regalis G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 265 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops regalis Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops regalis. Male (Wingspan 37 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bewaarkloof N.R. (15 km W. of Serala), Limpopo Province, South Africa. 9 November 2014. A. Coetzer.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops regalis. Female (Wingspan 38 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Bewaarkloof N.R. (15 km W. of Serala), Limpopo Province, South Africa. 9 November 2014. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Wolkberg, Transvaal, 30 Oct. 1988, G.A. Henning".
Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.



Distribution of *Orachrysops regalis*

Limpopo Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Limpopo Province).
Specific localities:
Limpopo Province – Wolkberg (TL; male illustrated above); Letsitele Kop (Pringle *et al*., 1994); The Downs, Lekgalameetse Nature Reserve (the Dobsons); Vlakfontein, Soutpansberg [22 58 50S, 29 57 46E] (Mecenero *et al*., 2013); Bewaarkloof Reserve, 24.134079°S; 29.879103°E (J.E. Terblanche, 2020).
Habitat: Grassland.
Habits: The flight is fast, rather erratic, and just above the grass. Males patrol up and down grassy slopes from as early as 09h00 to as late as 16h00. On reaching the top of a slope males often circle about, sometimes settling on a flower to feed, before flying down the slope. Females fly rather more slowly than the males, fluttering over grassy areas in search of larval host plants on which to oviposit (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: October to December.
Early stages: Nothing published.

Larval food:
Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 266].
Indigofera setiflora Baker (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2004, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; as *Indigofera accepta* N.E. Br.; Wolkberg, Limpopo Province].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

***O. montanus* group**

******Orachrysops warreni* Henning & Henning, 1994#
Lost Valley Cupid

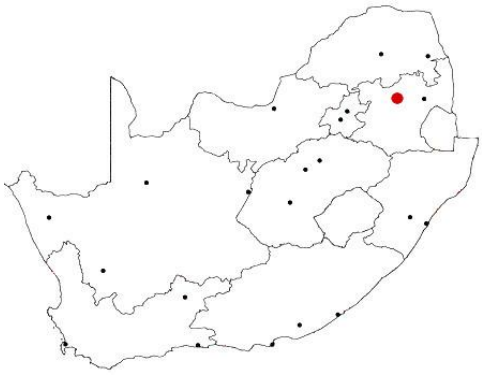
Lost Valley Cupid (*Orachrysops warreni*) female underside
Image courtesy Steve Woodhall

Orachrysops warreni G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 271 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops warreni Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 838.

Orachrysops warreni. Male (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvallei, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 11 December 2010. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops warreni. Female (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Verlorenvallei, Mpumalanga, South Africa. 11 December 2010. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Verloren Valei, 30° 09' 9" E 25° 17' 3" S, Eastern Transvaal, 24 Dec. 1988, R. Warren". Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.



Distribution of *Orachrysops warreni*

Mpumalanga.

Distribution: South Africa (Mpumalanga).
Known only from the type locality.
Specific localities:
Mpumalanga – Verloren Valei (TL).
Habitat: Lydenburg Montane Grassland (Gm 18) (Mucina & Rutherford, 2006). Montane grassland, at 2 300 m (Pringle *et al*., 1994). In December 2010 it was noted that the butterfly was largely restricted to the 30 m wide firebreaks on either side of the main road through the Verlorenvallei Reserve. This was because larval host-plants were growing profusely in the firebreaks but were very rare elsewhere. This is a clear indication that the host-plant is dependent on frequent fires, perhaps ideally every year (Williams, unpublished).
Habits: Flies lower and faster than *Orachrysops lacrimosa*, which flies at the same locality, but earlier in the year (both species have been found flying together in late November) (Pringle *et al*., 1994). Mating behaviour has been described by Willis & Edge, 2015.
Flight period: November to January, with a peak in December (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Early stages:

Willis & Edge, 2015. [in part]

Larval food:
Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 271].
Indigofera dimidiata Vogel ex Walp. *sensu lata* (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2004, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; Velorenvalei, Mpumalanga].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

**Orachrysops montanus* Henning & Henning, 1994#

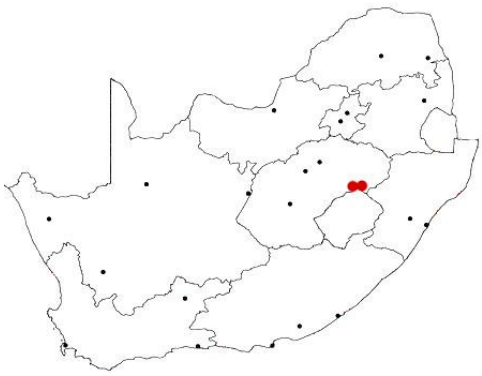
Golden Gate Cupid

Orachrysops montanus G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 268 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops montanus Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops montanus. Male (Wingspan 33 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Golden Gate, Free State Province, South Africa. 1 January 2010. J. Dobson.
Images M.C. Williams ex Dobson Collection.

Orachrysops montanus. Female. Left – upperside; right – underside.
Golden Gate National Park, Free State Province, South Africa. 21 December 2004. D.A. Edge.
Images M.C. Williams ex Edge Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Clarens, Orange Free State, December, 1958, J. Riley".
Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.



Distribution of *Orachrysops montanus*

Free State Province.

Distribution: South Africa (Free State Province).
Specific localities:
Free State Province – Clarens (TL; Riley); Golden Gate Highlands National Park (Ficq & Collins).
Habitat: Grassland. Colonies are found in gullies at the base of the mountains (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: Males fly rapidly and erratically in the open but on entering gullies the flight becomes more fluttering, as they search for females or for flowers on which to feed. Females fly slowly in the vicinity of the larval host plants, spending long periods settled on low vegetation (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Flight period: December and January.
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Indigofera species (Fabaceae) [Pringle *et al.*, 1994: 269].
Indigofera dimidiata Vogel ex Walp. *sensu lata* (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2004, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; Golden Gate Highlands National Park, Free State Province].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

Conservation status: Classified as Vulnerable (Henning *et al*., 2009: 59).

**Orachrysops nasutus* Henning & Henning, 1994#

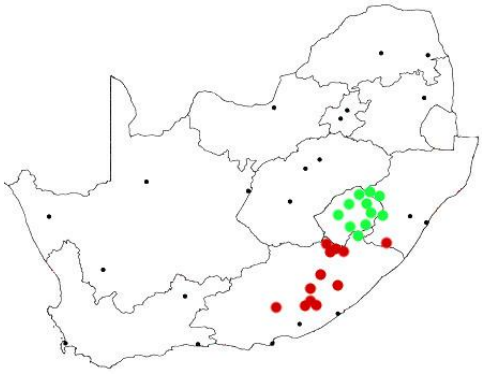
Nosy Cupid

Orachrysops nasutus G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 269 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops nasutus Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops nasutus nasutus. Male (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January 2002. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops nasutus nasutus. Female (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January 2002. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Mount Kemp, Cape Province, 26 Dec. 1963, W. Teare."
Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Diagnosis: *Orachrysops nasutus* and *Orachrysops subravus* are sympatric at the type locality of the former and can only be separated by reference to the morphology of the genitalia (Pringle *et al*., 1994: 270).



Distribution of *Orahrysops nasutus*

Ssp. *nasutus* (red dots) – KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province.

Ssp. *remus* (green dots) – South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Lesotho.

Distribution: South Africa, Lesotho.
Habitat: Montane grassland (Pringle *et al*., 1994).
Habits: Nothing published.
Flight period: Recorded, so far, in late December and early January.
Early stages: Nothing published.
Larval food:
Indigofera elandsbergensis P. B. Phillipson (Fabaceae) [Edge, unpublished, 2001, *in* Edge, 2005a: 46; Hogsback, Eastern Cape Province; referable to the nominate subspecies].
Lessertia stricta (L.) Bolus (Fabaceae) [Woodhall, *vide* Botha & Botha, 2006: 193].
Associated ant: Unknown (Edge, 2005a: 46).

Orachrysops nasutus nasutus Henning & Henning, 1994#

Nosy Cupid

Orachrysops nasutus G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 268 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.
Orachrysops nasutus Henning & Henning, 1994. d'Abrera, 2009: 840.

Orachrysops nasutus nasutus. Male (Wingspan 34 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January 2002. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops nasutus nasutus. Female (Wingspan 36 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Gaika's Kop, Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. 1 January 2002. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Mount Kemp, Cape Province, 26 Dec. 1963, W. Teare."
Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Distribution: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province).
Specific localities:
KwaZulu-Natal – Kokstad (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Eastern Cape Province – Mount Kemp (Teare; TL); Gaika's Kop (Pringle *et al*., 1994; male and female illustrated above); Barkly East (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Stutterheim (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Lady Grey (Mecenero *et al*., 2013); Somerset East (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).

Orachrysops nasutus remus Henning & Henning, 1994#

Drakensberg Nosy Cupid

Orachrysops nasutus remus G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994. *In*: Pringle, Henning, & Ball [eds]. *Pennington's butterflies of southern Africa* 2nd edition: 270 (800pp.). Struik-Winchester, South Africa.

Orachrysops nasutus remus. Male (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sehonghong Valley, Lesotho. 29 January 2007. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Orachrysops nasutus remus. Female (Wingspan 35 mm). Left – upperside; right – underside.
Sehonghong Valley, Lesotho. 29 January 2007. M. Williams.
Images M.C.Williams ex Williams Collection.

Type locality: South Africa: "Drakensberg Gardens, Natal, 4 Jan. 1975, D.M. Kroon."
Holotype in the Transvaal Museum, Pretoria.
Diagnosis: Can only be distinguished from the nominate subspecies by examination of the genitalia (see Pringle *et al*., 1994: 270).
Distribution: South Africa (KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape Province), Lesotho.
Specific localities:
KwaZulu-Natal – Drakensberg Gardens (TL; Kroon); Mont-aux-Sources (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Eastern Cape Province – Matatiele (Mecenero *et al*., 2013).
Lesotho – Rafolatsane (Pringle *et al*., 1994); Sehonghong Valley (Williams).

Note: D'Abrera (2009: 840) does not list *Orachrysops nasutus remus* G.A. & S.F. Henning, 1994.