

## The type locality of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915

J. J. M. Moonen



Willem Alexanderstraat 4,  
6267 AR Cadier en Keer  
The Netherlands  
Email: moonenj@hetnet.nl

Suara Serangga Papua **9**(1): 23-27

**Abstract:** August Pulle, Dutch botanist and member of the third Dutch expedition to New Guinea (1912-1913), published a detailed account of this expedition in 1915. With this publication it has been possible to clarify the type locality of the holotype of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915: "Peramelesbivak, Went Mountains, South New Guinea".

**Rangkuman:** August Pulle, ahli tumbuh-tumbuhan Belanda dan anggota ekspedisi Belanda yang ketiga ke to New Guinea (1912-1913), menerbitkan suatu laporan terperinci dari ekspedisi tersebut pada tahun 1915. Dengan terbitan itu dimungkinkan untuk menjelaskan lokasi holotype *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915: "Peramelesbivak, Went Mountains, South New Guinea".

**Keywords:** *Ornithoptera*, New Guinea, Papua, third New Guinea Expedition.

### Introduction

The holotype of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915, (its current valid name is *Ornithoptera* (*Schoenbergia*) *chimaera charybdis*) does not have a locality label. Van Eecke (1915: 56) regretted that "the locality is not distinctly indicated, ...". Jan Haugum (1988: 336) mentioned the labels attached to the specimen without reference to the (unknown) collecting locality. Pulle however, published a detailed journal about the third Dutch New Guinea Expedition in 1915. His account has been key to reconstruct the collector's itinerary and to clarify the type locality of *P. chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915.

## The Expedition

The third Dutch South-New Guinea Expedition (August 1912 - April 1913) proceeded where the second Dutch Expedition (1909-1910) stopped, researching the area between the upper course of the Lorentz river and the Wilhelmina summit. From the 4700 m. high summit the expedition members looked over the area North of the central mountains that had only been explored from the Northern side of New Guinea. They recognized the Mamberamo river and other landscape features.

The base camp Kloofbivak was situated by the Lorentz river (or Uindir river) so that supplies could be brought across the river. From the Kloofbivak upwards supplies had to be carried from camp to camp as far as the last camp before the Wilhelmina summit (now Puncak Trikora) (see map).

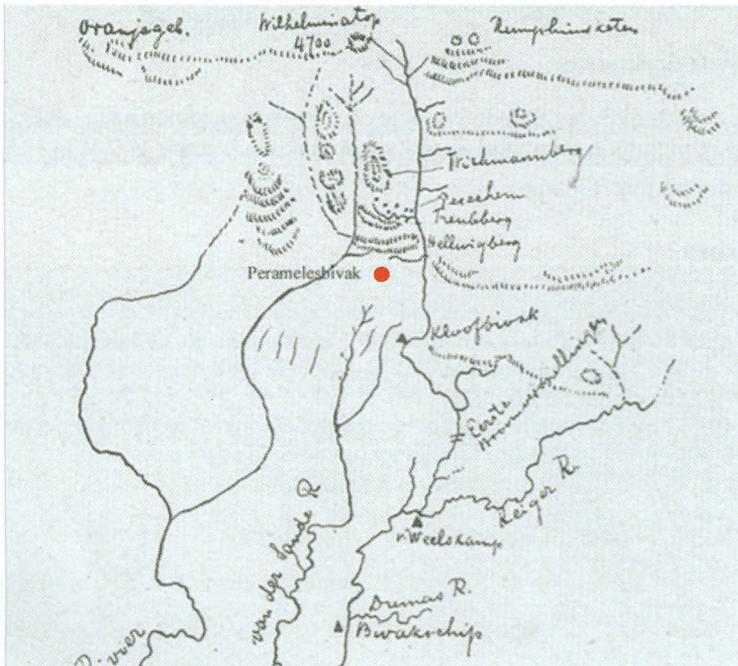
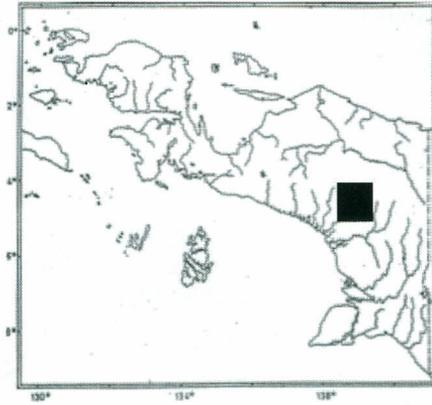
The leadership of the expedition was in the hands of Alphons Franssen Herderschee. August Pulle was the botanist and Gerard Versteeg was the expedition doctor and responsible of the zoological collections. The zoological specimens collected were deposited afterwards in the *Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie* in Leiden (RMNH), The Netherlands, nowadays Naturalis Biodiversity Centre.

## The type locality

The type specimen of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915, kept in RMNH, has no label with locality and date. It has a label indicating it was collected during the third Dutch Expedition to New Guinea in 1912-1913. The handwritten expedition journal of G. Versteeg was deposited in the library of the *Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen* (KIT) in Amsterdam, now closed. The whereabouts of Versteeg's journal are not known. As Pulle had written a good journal of the expedition, it should be possible to find out the locality of capture.

Van Eecke (1915) wrote about the specimen following: "1 ♀. Captured by Mr. G. Versteeg in the explored territory on 25 Nov. 1912. It is a pity that the locality is not distinctly indicated" (fig. 2). As *Ornithoptera chimaera* was only known from British New Guinea near the Owen Stanley Range, Van Eecke (1915: 56) stated that the species "inhabits the Dutch (Central) part of New Guinea". Haugum (1988: 336) mentioned all the labels attached except the piece of the original papering made in the field at the time of collection for temporary storage and transport of the butterfly. On this paper one can read: 'GV 25/11'; meaning G. Versteeg (the collector) and the date 25-11-1912 (fig. 2) [25 could be 23, but 25 is more likely, just as Van Eecke interpreted it].

Pulle (1915) reconstructed the route and the collecting dates of the expedition. Pulle and Versteeg left the Kloofbivak on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1912 and walked four



**Map** of the explored region: "Het stroomgebied van de Noord(Lorentz)-rivier met het omliggende bergland", sketched by August Pulle (1915:34) and its position in a map of West Papua.

hours to the Van de Sande river bivak. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> they continued to the Peramelesbivak at 1000 m., where they arrived on November 23<sup>th</sup>. They stayed there for two weeks. Pulle collected plants and Versteeg collected a series of Paradise birds that they did not find elsewhere. On December 6<sup>th</sup> they left Peramelesbivak on their way towards the higher mountains. Herderschee and his men reached the Wilhelmina summit on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The way back took less time and finally the expedition members sailed from the Lorentz river to the sea on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1913.

According to Pulle's account, the collecting locality of *Ornithoptera chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915 has to be the Peramelesbivak at 1000 m., only a few kilometers north of Kloofbivak but considerable higher. A double check with the localities of the Paradise birds collected by G. Versteeg, also kept in RMNH, confirms Peramelesbivak [Went Mountains, South New Guinea] as collecting locality for the type specimen of *P. chimaera charybdis*.

## Acknowledgements

The author thanks the Uyttenboogaart-Eliassen Foundation for the financial support that made it possible to travel between Cadier en Keer and Naturalis Biodiversity Center during this research.

## Literature

- Eecke, R. van. 1915. Studies on Indo-Australian Lepidoptera II. The Rhopalocera collected by the third New Guinea Expedition. In Herderschee, A. F., Nova Guinea 13(Zool.3): 55-80, pls I-III.
- Haugum, J.1988. The type specimens of Papilionidae in theDutch Rijksmuseum, Leiden. Papilio International. 5(2):327-362.
- Pulle, A.1915. Naar het Sneeuwgebergte van Nieuw Guinea met de derde Nederlandsche Expeditie. Amsterdam: Maatschappij voor Goede en Goedkoop Lectuur.



**Fig. 1.** The holotype of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915 [RMNH.INS.904434]. The tips of the forewings were bent over during the transport in the field.



**Fig. 2.** Labels of the holotype of *Papilio chimaera charybdis* van Eecke, 1915.