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Lepidopterists' Society of Africa

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Dear Karen,

This letter serves to confirm the following findings as elucidated in our report to you on the survey's done by this society on the farms Chaos and Jarabub, which form part of your reserve, over the last 20 years.

This is the only locality that we are aware of, in which the rare butterfly *Anthene minima* can still be found. Over the past twenty years this species has been recorded here on a regular basis while it has not been recorded from anywhere else during this period. The species was listed as rare in the Red Data Book published by CSIR in 1989.

During February 2006 a survey conducted by the society found the species in very good numbers, but concentrated only around a few *Acacia tortillis* trees, on the above mentioned farms. We have very little knowledge on the biology of this species but have found that it only occurs on a few trees during any one year and that the actual trees differ from year to year. It is not known what the restricting factor is which limits this species to only a few trees at a time. Both sexes were found on these trees.

Further there is also a geometrid moth *Nychiodes tyttha* which occurs widely but rarely in eastern and south eastern Africa. In South Africa so far this species has only been found in the Zululand Rhino Reserve. The Zululand Rhino Reserve is interesting because it protects a particular type of lowland dry savannah which occurs sporadically in tropical and subtropical eastern Africa and which differs from other types of more common savannah well preserved in KZN game reserves. For the family Geometridae alone we have records for 101 species found in the reserve.

The society has embarked on an atlassing project called SABCA (South African Butterfly Conservation Assessment) in partnership with SANBI and the Avian Demography unit of Cape Town University. It is hoped that this project will in future increase our knowledge on the distribution of our butterflies.

Regards,

Hermann Staude