

Some interesting faunistical data of Rhopalocera in Greece (Lepidoptera)

by

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ABSTRACT. — Interesting results of three years butterfly collecting all over the Greek mainland and the islands of Évvoia, Kérkira and Levkás are given.

INTRODUCTION

Despite the fact that Greece during the last decades has been visited frequently by quite a number of lepidopterologists the Rhopalocera fauna still seems to contain new and unexpected elements. In 1976 for instance we collected in the mountainous area around Khrisomiléa one specimen of a rather ill-known Satyrid species, *Kirinia climene* (Willemse, 1977). The present article deals with interesting catches made during collectings in 1975, 1976 and 1977. A full report of all the species collected during these three years together with the localities where they have been observed will follow in short time. I am much indebted to my father F. Willemse for his help and advise during the preparation of this paper and to Mr. B. J. Lempke for his critical comments.

Interesting faunistical data

Colias libanotica heldreichii Staudinger. Mt. Vardhoúsia, 1900 m, two worn females. The present subspecies was not yet recorded from this locality, which is however, covered by the known range of the subspecies: the areas of Mt. Aroánia, Mt. Parnassós, Mt. Timfristós and the mountains of Ípiros (e.g. Bretherton, 1968, 1970; Brown, 1976, 1977a and b; Coutsis, 1969, 1973; Higgins & Riley, 1975; Johnson, 1965; Koutsaftikis, 1974; Stempffer, 1962; Straubenzee, 1932; Thurner, 1967).

Apatura iris (Linnaeus). Mt. Smólikas, 1400 m, a worn male. This species was recently recorded for the first time from Greece from the eastern Rodhópi Mts. north of Dráma (Kattoulas & Koutsaftikis, 1977).

Apatura metis Freyer. Paranéstion, along the river Néstos, north-east of Dráma, one male. Previously recorded from Greece only twice, from Flórina (Dacie a. o., 1972) and from the western Rodhópi Mts. (Kattoulas & Koutsaftikis, 1977).

Boloria graeca (Staudinger). Mt. Vardhoúsia, 1900 m, several specimens. The species was not yet recorded from this locality which however adjoins the known range in Greece which includes Mt. Timfristós, the mountains near Flórina and Kastoriá and Thráki (Coutsis, 1973; Dacie a. o., 1977; Higgins & Riley, 1975; Koutsaftikis, 1974).

Pseudochazara graeca (Staudinger). The species was known to occur in the western Greek mountains, from Mt. Smólikas in the north to Mt. Tayetos in the south, but as far as could be traced it had not yet been recorded from Mt. Dirfis, Évvoia. Recently four subspecies were distinguished (Brown, 1977a; Gross, 1978). The specimens at hand from Mt. Smólikas agree with subsp. *coutsisi* Brown and its synonym *zagoriensis* Aussem, 1978 and those from Mt. Manalon with subsp. *pelops* Gross. However the specimens from Mt. Panakharkón, Mt. Panaitolikón, Mt. Vardhoúsia, Mt. Oiti (Willemse, 1975) and especially those from Mt. Dirfis do not fully agree with any of the described subspecies. Apparently we are, in the case of *P. graeca*, dealing with a number of isolated populations which are more or less different from each other.

Coenonympha leander (Esper). Two specimens have been found on Mt. Tzoumérka at 2000 m which is the second record of *C. leander* from Greece. Coutsis (1972) recorded the species for the first time from the Katarapass and described his material as subsp. *katarae*, distinct from the nominate form in e.g. the regular and well defined white postmedian band on the hindwings. The white postmedian band of the specimens from Mt. Tzoumérka, which is about 100 km south of the Katarapass, are however less regular and less well defined. The male genitalia were not examined.

Kirinia climene (Esper). A single male was found at Khrisomiléa on the eastern slopes of the Pindhos range (Willemse, 1977).

Kirinia roxelana (Cramer). Known from all over the Greek mainland and apparently also occurring in the islands of Kérkira, Levkás and Évvoia.

Heodes ottomanus (Lefèbvre). Leptokariá-Kariá (Mt. Ólimbos) and Koróni (Ípiros); worn males were also found on the islands of Kérkira and Évvoia. This species has already been recorded from the greater part of the mainland of Greece, including the Pelopónnisos and the island of Thásos.

Lycaena dispar rutila (Werneburg). Filákion, along the river Árdhas, a couple and Paranéstion, along the river Néstos, one fresh male. The species has been recorded from the surroundings of Thessaloniki (Bretherton, 1966) and northern Greece (Higgins & Riley, 1975) but other recent records seem to be lacking. This material confirms the occurrence in Thráki and eastern Makedhonía. The specimens at hand are small; length of fore wing male 15.5-17.0, female 15.0 mm.

Tarucus balkanicus (Freyer). Évzonoí (Makedhonía, and Yimárior (Lévkas). A local species known from eastern, northern and central Greece (Coutsis, 1978; Dacie a. o., 1972; Koutsaftikis, 1973, 1974).

Agrodiaetus damon (Denis & Schiffermüller). Mt. Smólikas, 1200 - 1400 m, a small series. This species has been recorded recently for the first time from Greece from Mt. Timfristós and Mt. Vérmion (Coutsis, 1978; Willemse, 1975).

Aricia sp.. Mt. Vardhoúsia, 1900 m, six specimens. The specimens resemble *A. artaxerxes montensis* Verity because of their pointed apex of the fore wings and the whitish-grey ground colour of the underside of the wings.

Syrichthus proto (Ochsenheimer). Found in ten localities among which are Mt. Timfristós, Pili (western Thessalia), some localities in Ípiros, and the island of Kérkira which indicates that the species also occurs in the northwestern parts of Greece. Previously already recorded from the Pelopónnisos, Áttiki and Mt. Parnassós (Bretherton, 1968; Brown, 1977b; Thurner, 1967; Willemse, 1975).

Hesperia comma (Linnaeus). Mt. Mainalon and Mt. Panakhaikón in the Pelopónnisos and on Mt. Timfristós, Mt. Panaitolikón and Mt. Vardhoúsia in central Greece. Records already refer to Mt. Oiti, Mt. Parnassós, Mt. Aroánia and Mt. Taiyetos (Brown, 1977b; Coutsis, 1969; Willemse, 1975).

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OPVALLEND GEDRAG VAN PAPILIO MACHAON LINNAEUS (LEP., PAPILIONIDAE).

Op 11 juni 1979 heb ik op de Observant, het kunstmatig verhoogde deel van de St. Pietersberg bij Maastricht, een interessant gedrag van de Koninginnepage (*Papilio machaon*) kunnen waarnemen. Er waren toen vier dieren bovenop de top, die ofwel snel in lange banen laag (1-1½ m) over de afgeplatte top van de Observant vlogen, als het ware de hele oppervlakte afzoekend, ofwel op de grond gingen zitten, schijnbaar om zich in de zon op te warmen. Ze zaten dan echter bijna nooit op de warmste plekken en wanneer de zon achter de wolken verdween, bleven ze gewoon zitten. Na enige tijd werd me duidelijk wat er gebeurde: iedere keer als een laag rondvliegend dier boven een zittend dier kwam, vloog het zittende pijlsnel op naar het overvliegende dier. Daarna vlogen ze samen om elkaar heen wervelend hoog op (tot 10 à 15 meter). Even later kwamen beide dieren weer omlaag. De één ging baantjes vliegen en de ander ging op de grond zitten. Of dit zittende dier hetzelfde was als voorheen, was niet te zien.

Dit gedrag heb ik herhaalde malen kunnen waarnemen, waarschijnlijk omdat er vier dieren bijeen waren en omdat in elk geval drie dieren mannetjes waren. Het vierde exemplaar heb ik niet kunnen sexen.

Achteraf is me duidelijk geworden, dat ik ditzelfde gedrag al eerder had gezien, namelijk op een heuvel in de omgeving van Daroca in Spanje (29.V.1970). Een Koninginnepage zat op de heuveltop en ging na opjagen door mij steeds opnieuw weer zitten, totdat er een tweede dier in de buurt kwam. Samen vlogen ze op de bekende wervelende wijze omhoog, waarbij ze door de harde wind honderden meters weggeblazen werden.

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