

## A contribution to the knowledge of the Lepidoptera fauna of Sámos

by

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**ABSTRACT.** — Fifty-four species of Lepidoptera are recorded from the island of Sámos. Some comments are added to the more interesting captures.

The Greek island of Sámos is situated in the utmost eastern part of the Aegean Sea, very close to the Turkish coast; its surface area is 486 km<sup>2</sup>. The entomofauna of this island seems to be rather insufficiently known.

My friend, Drs. J. Hijner has visited the island twice a year, during the last five years, each time in May and August-September. During these visits he very kindly collected Lepidoptera for me. All material comes from the surroundings of Vathí, the main city, situated in the eastern part of the island.

The material now available contains 42 species of butterflies; this is not a bad figure if one makes a comparison with the 46 species of this group listed by Bretherton (1966) from the far better known island of Rhodes.

### Remarks on some species

*Papilio alexanor maccabaeus* Staudinger. — Occurring in several localities around the Mediterranean; mostly local and not common. Subspecies *maccabaeus* has deep yellow coloured wings and may attain a wingspan of 85 mm. Fairly common in May.

*Allancastris cerisyi* (Godart). — A common spring butterfly. Most specimens collected in the second half of May are worn.

*Aporia crataegi* (Linnaeus). — Two large males with heavy black scaling at the end of the veins of the forewings and a very thinly scaled female. Possibly to be attributed to ssp. *augustior* Graves.

*Melitaea didyma* (Esper). — There is a striking variability in the females, although all material is of the same brood and from the same locality. Some females are not unlike *M. didyma meridionalis* Staudinger, but have a greenish-yellow suffusion on the forewings. There are also unicolorous orange-brown and orange-red forms. The males are rather small when comparing them with *M. didyma occidentalis* Staudinger, but of a warm orange-red, more fiery than in ssp. *occidentalis*.

Pale not well marked dull orange forms are found in both sexes. For the moment it is difficult to say to which subspecies the Sámos populations belong. More material, also of later broods, is required.

*Hipparchia algerica* (Oberthür). — A rather small and fresh male was captured near Vathí in the middle of May 1973. The specimen cannot be distinguished from westeuropean *H. semele* populations by external characters. Examination of the genitalia proved its identity. The butterfly has no affinities with the ssp. *senhes* Fruhstorfer, which is in my possession from the island of Chíos, north-west of Sámos.

*Hipparchia mersina mersina* (Staudinger). — A worn male *Hipparchia* sp., taken about the middle of May at the same locality as the previous species, was identified as *mersina* on account of the very long and slender androconia. The species is new to the European fauna (cf. Kudrna, 1977).

*Maniola telmessia* (Zeller). — This species is regarded as a subspecies of *M. jurtina* (Linnaeus) by some authors. It is very common in Sámos in May. In my opinion the differences in the male genitalia between *jurtina* and *telmessia* are small. Moreover Dr. Higgins wrote to me, that both are variable. The males can easily be recognized by the large brownish spot under the apical eye and by the circle of the same brown colour surrounding it.

*Pseudochazara anthelea* (Hübner). — One male taken in May 1973. Distinct from Balkan

populations by the broader white bands on fore- and hindwings and by a more extended brown spot in the lower half of the whitish band on the upperside of the hindwings.

The female specimens of *anthelea* from Asia are very distinct because all white colour is replaced by brown. I do not know whether this is the case or not in Sámos, because I have not seen any females yet.

*Pararge aegeria* (Linnaeus). — A small series of May and September gives the impression of being intermediate between ssp. *tircis* Butler and ssp. *aegeria* (Linnaeus).

*Lasiommata maera orientalis* (Staudinger). - Two females captured in May. A very striking warm red-brown coloured subspecies.

*Ypthima asterope* (Klug). — One male was captured in May 1976. This species is new to the European fauna and a real surprise. Bretherton (1966) mentioned it from Cyprus, but there are no records from western Turkey. It can probably be found there in suitable localities.

*Saturnia pyri* (Denis & Schiffermüller). — Two males and two females were collected. All specimens are large, even for *pyri*. The light parts in the central area of the forewings are whiter and more contrasting with the dark parts than in most other European *pyri* populations. The female antennae are quite aberrant: bipectinate and measuring in breadth nearly three quarters of the width of the male antennae. If this should be a constant character, it would be very remarkable.

The population possibly belongs to ssp. *teherana* Lenek, 1970, which name is also attributed by Rougeot (1970: 89) to the populations of Asia Minor.

*Euplagia quadripunctaria* (Poda). — This well-known species is abundant in Sámos, as it is in Rhodes and in some other Aegean islands. Sometimes tree trunks are completely covered with moths, which when disturbed fly up in clouds (cf. Chopard, 1962; also cited by Bourgoigne, 1962). The specimens from Sámos belong to f. *fulgida* Oberthür, a large form with deep red hindwings.

#### List of the species so far collected

<i>Papilio machaon sphyrus</i> Hübner	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i> (Cramer)
<i>Papilio alexanor maccabaeus</i> Staudinger	<i>Ypthima asterope</i> (Klug)
<i>Iphiclides podalirius smyrnensis</i> (Eisner)	<i>Nordmannia ilicis</i> (Esper)
<i>Allancastris cerisyi</i> (Godart)	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Aporia crataegi augustior</i> Graves	<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Pieris brassicae cataleuca</i> Röber	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> (Poda)
<i>Pieris rapae leucosoma</i> Schawerda	<i>Philotes baton schiffermuelleri</i> Hemming
<i>Pontia daplidice</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Aricia agestis</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller)
<i>Euchloe ausonia crameri</i> Butler	<i>Plebicula thersites</i> (Cantener)
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Polyommatus icarus zelleri</i> Verity
<i>Colias croceus</i> (Fourcroy)	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i> (Esper)
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra insularis</i> Verity	<i>Carcharodus flocciferus orientalis</i> Reverdin
<i>Leptidea sinapis</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Spialia sertorius orbifer</i> (Hübner)
<i>Charaxes jasius</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris syriaca</i> (Tutt)
<i>Limenitis reducta reducta</i> Staudinger	<i>Gegenes pumilio</i> (Hoffmannsegg)
<i>Polygonia egea</i> (Cramer)	<i>Lymantria dispar</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Melitaea didyma</i> (Esper)	<i>Utetheisa pulchella</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Melitaea trivialis pseudodidyma</i> Rebel	<i>Arctia villica</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Hipparchia syriaca syriaca</i> (Staudinger)	<i>Euplagia quadripunctaria</i> (Poda)
<i>Hipparchia algerica</i> (Oberthür)	<i>Zygaena punctum</i> Ochsenheimer
<i>Hipparchia mersina mersina</i> (Staudinger)	<i>Chaerocampa alecto cretica</i> (Boisduval)
<i>Hipparchia fatua fatua</i> (Freyer)	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Pseudochazara anthelea</i> (Hübner)	<i>Saturnia pyri</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller)
<i>Maniola telmessia</i> (Zeller)	<i>Cossus cossus</i> (Linnaeus)
<i>Pararge aegeria</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Mythimna vitellina</i> (Hübner)
<i>Lasiommata megera</i> (Linnaeus)	<i>Acontia lucida</i> (Hufnagel)
<i>Lasiommata maera orientalis</i> (Heyne)	<i>Aspitates ochrearia</i> (Rossi)

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