

Additional butterfly records from the Greek islands of Santoríni and Síros (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

John G. Coutsis

Samenvatting. Bijkomende meldingen van vlinders van de Griekse eilanden Santoríni en Síros (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

De auteur vermeldt enkele vlindersoorten van de Griekse eilanden Santoríni en Síros die hij waarnam tijdens enkele bezoeken in 1994 en 1995. Deze soorten werden niet eerder van deze eilanden vermeld.

Résumé. Des données additionelles sur les papillons des îles grecques de Santorini et Síros (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea)

L'auteur mentionne quelques espèces de papillons qu'il a observées sur les îles grecques de Santorini et Síros lors des visites en 1994 et 1995 et qui n'ont pas encore été mentionnées avant.

Key words: *Iphiclides podalirius* - *Maniola jurtina* - *Melanargia larissa* - *Hipparchia senthes* - *Euchloe ausonia* - Santoríni - Síros - faunistics.

Coutsis, J.G.: 4 Glykonos Street, GR-10675 Athens, Greece.

The paucity and banality of butterfly species in the Greek Cycladic islands - the former most certainly due to the aridity of the region, the insular and small land masses and the negative effects of persistent strong winds - have made these islands rather unpopular to the collector, resulting in the scarcity of published butterfly records from that area. It seems therefore appropriate to publish any such new records as they come by, no matter how few they are and to what common and often widespread species they refer.

During a recent third visit to Santoríni in June 1994, *Iphiclides podalirius* (Linnaeus, 1758) was captured at Firá and should now be added to the list of butterflies from that island, presented by Coutsis (1992, 1994). The butterfly seems to be scarce on Santoríni, only two specimens having personally been recorded.

On a second visit to Síros in early May 1995, the following records made there are additions to and verifications of the ones presented by Coutsis (1994).

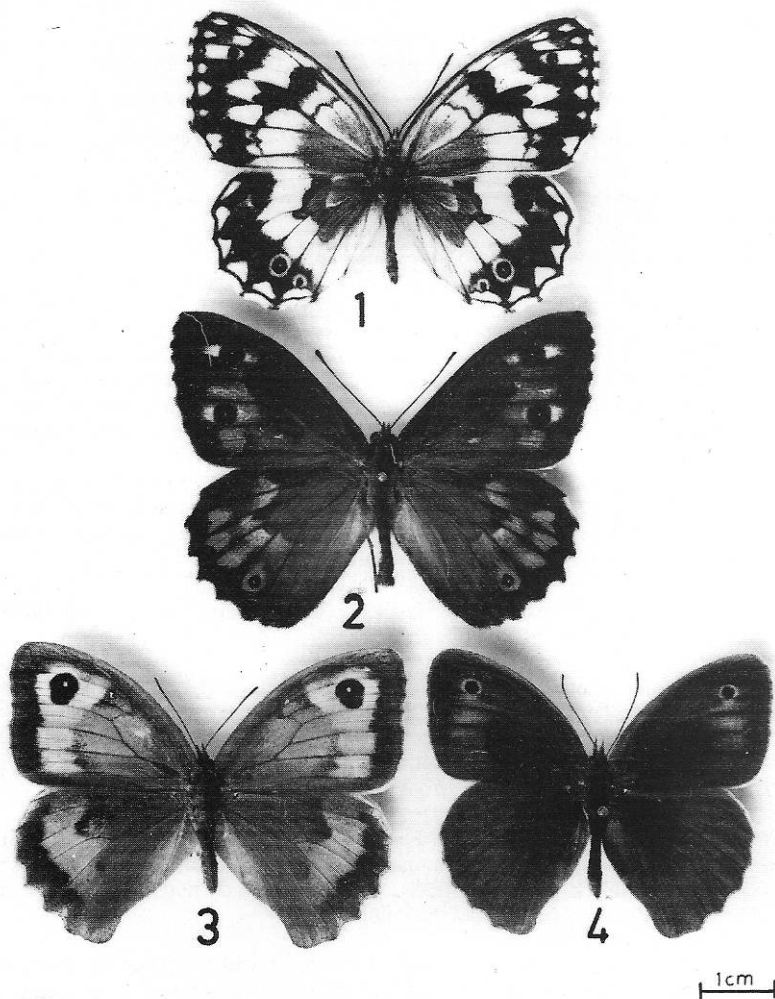
Maniola jurtina (Linnaeus, 1758). Confirmed by genitalial examination. Found in astronomical numbers, probably as a result of a population explosion, perhaps due to a very wet winter and spring that had beneficial effects on the growth of graminaceous plants upon which the larvae feed. Females have large orange-brown areas on all wings upperside, very much as in populations from the other Cycladic islands.

Melanargia larissa (Geyer, [1828]). Five fresh males recorded from the hills SE of the small town of Possidonia. This was a totally unexpected record, as this insect is so far unknown from any of the Cycladic islands. The specimens do not seem to differ from those of southern Mainland Greece and the Peloponnese.

Hipparchia senthes (Fruhstorfer, 1908). Five males and two females, all in fresh condition, captured on hills SE of Possidonia. Determination based on genitalia. The specimens are large and bright and, as with those from other Cycladic islands, share characters with the forms from southern Mainland Greece and the Peloponnese.

Also present were large numbers of fresh second brood *Euchloe ausonia* (Hübner,

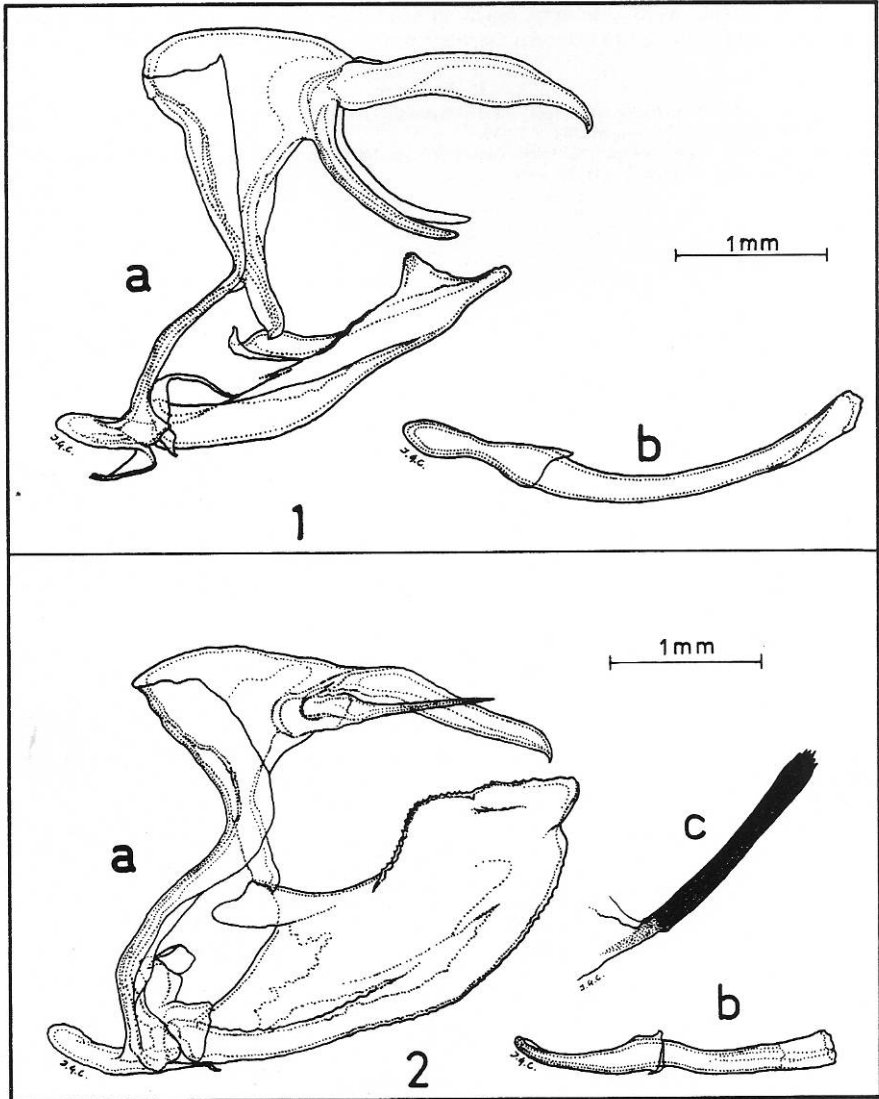
Plate 1



1. *Melanargia larissa* (Geyer, [1828]) ♂; 2. *Hipparchia senthes* (Fruhstorfer, 1908) ♂; 3. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758) ♀; 4. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758) ♂.

All specimens: Greece, Siros island, hills SE of Possidonia, 80-100 m, 6/7.V.1995, J.G. Coutsis leg. et coll.

Plate 2



Male genitalia of: 1. *Hipparchia senthes* (Fruhstorfer, 1908) and 2. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Both specimens: Greece, Siros island, hills SE of Possidonia, 80-100 m, 6/7.V.1995, J.G. Coutsis leg. et coll.
a. Side view of left side of genitalia with left valva and aedeagus removed.
b. Side view of left side of aedeagus.
c. Rod of left side of Jullien organ.

[1804]) quite in contrast to other years when it was uncommon throughout Greece; perhaps, here again, the wetness of the spring and previous winter may have played a role in this development. Yellow- and white-flowered crucifers, many of which serve as its larval foodplant, were still very much in evidence, whereas under normal climatic conditions and in this particular area these are usually parched by the start of May.

References

- Coutsis, J.G., 1992. Butterflies on the Greek island of Santorini (Thera), end August 1991 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea). - *Phegea* 20 (2): 79-80.
- Coutsis, J.G., 1994. Butterflies from the Greek islands of Sïros, Nákos and Santorini (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea). - *Phegea* 22 (4): 157-160.