

Butterflies and Skippers from the Greek island of Kíthira, late April and early June, 1999 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

John G. Coutsis

Samenvatting. Dagvlinders van het Griekse eiland Kíthira, eind april en begin juni 1999 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

Tijdens twee bezoeken van telkens 2 dagen nam de auteur 27 soorten dagvlinders waar op het Griekse eiland Kíthira. In het totaal werden met zekerheid 35 soorten vermeld van dit eiland, een redelijk klein aantal, gezien de rijke fauna van het nabije schiereiland Pelopónnisos, de tamelijk grote oppervlakte van het eiland en zijn rijke plantengroei.

Résumé. Papillons de l'île grecque de Kíthira, fin avril et début juin 1999 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

Lors de deux visites de 2 jours chacune, l'auteur observa 27 espèces de papillons sur l'île grecque de Kíthira. Au total, 35 espèces ont été mentionnées de cette île, un nombre assez restreint, vu la proximité de la presqu'île du Péloponnèse et de la richesse de sa faune, la superficie importante de l'île et sa végétation riche.

Key words: Lepidoptera – Hesperioidea – Papilionoidea – faunistics – Greece – Kíthira

Coutsis, J. G.: 4 Glykonos Street, GR-10675, Athens, Greece. e-mail: kouts@otenet.gr

The island of Kíthira is situated about 13.5 km SSW from the SE tip of Pelopónnisos, which in turn is known as Cape Maléas. The island has an area of 284 km² and consists mainly of a central plateau with a mean altitude of approximately 200 m, surrounded by stony peaks, the highest of which has an altitude of just over 500 m.

Kíthira is mostly covered with rather dense maquis, with few remnants of pine woods and it also possesses areas with garrigue (phrygana), especially so near the coast. The central plateau has cultivated areas and the island is generally well watered, possessing numerous streams, the most important of which at one point forming a waterfall. A number of interspersed oaks suggests that in the past the island may have harboured oak forests.

The rather incomplete published lepidopterological information about this island makes it desirable to produce in print any additional data, in order to fill in a zoogeographical gap.

Kíthira was visited by myself in late April 1999 and again in early June of the same year. Collecting took place on April 26 and 27, as well as on June 3 and 4 and the following species were recorded:

1. *Carcharodus alceae* (Esper, [1780]). Milopótamos; 1km N of Áno Livádi. End April.
2. *Spialia orbifer* (Hübner, [1823]). 1km N of Áno Livádi; Milopótamos. End April.
3. *Muschampia proto* (Ochsenheimer, 1808). Hills N of Melidóni; Áno Livádi; 1km S of Milopótamos. Beginning June.
4. *Thymelicus acteon* (Rottemburg, 1775). All localities visited. Beginning June.
5. *Iphiclides podalirius* (Linnaeus, 1758). Áno Livádi; between Milopótamos and Áno Livádi. End April, beginning June.
6. *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758. Milopótamos; hills W of Paleópoli; hills SE of Agía Pelagía. End April.
7. *Euchloe ausonia* (Hübner, [1804]). All localities visited. End April.

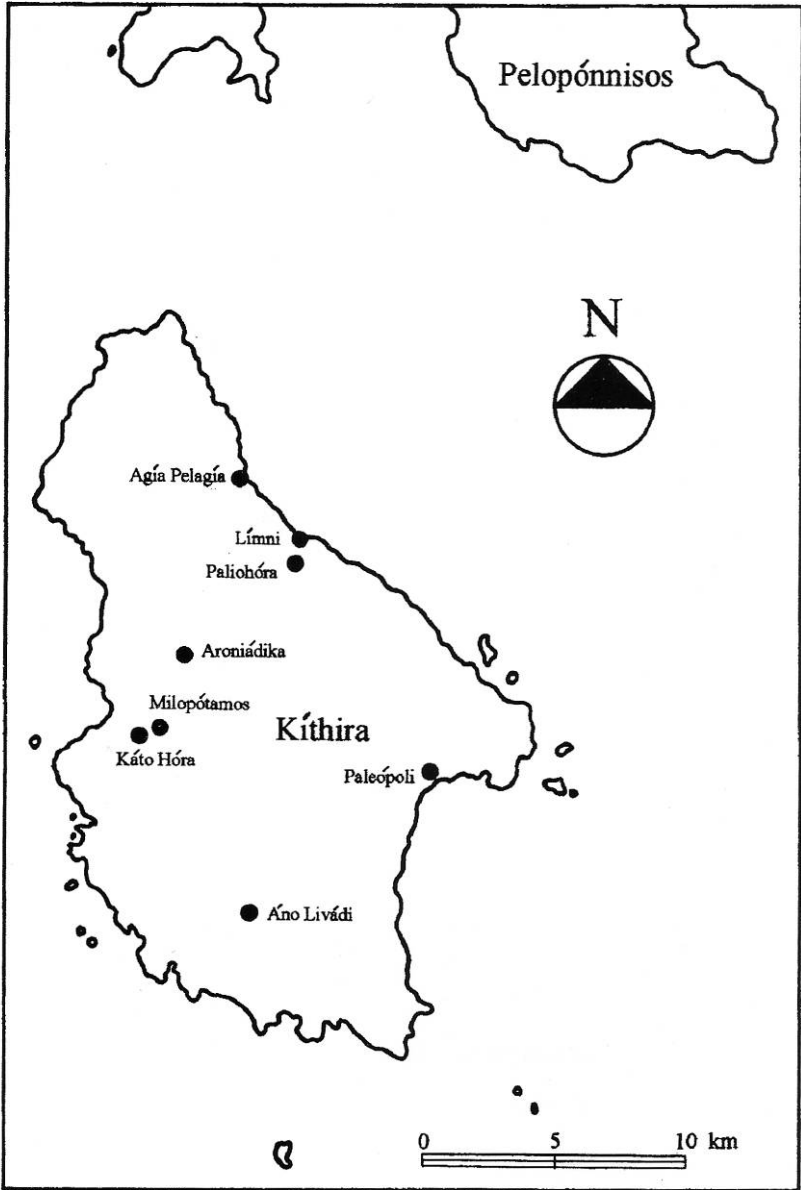


Fig. 1: Map of Kíthira with localities visited.

8. *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758). All localities visited. End April, beginning June.
9. *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758). Áno Livádi. End April, beginning June.
10. *Pontia edusa* (Fabricius, 1777). Áno Livádi. End April, beginning June.
11. *Colias crocea* (Fourcroy, 1785). Hills NE of Milopótamos; Áno Livádi; Agía Pelagía. End April.
12. *Gonepteryx cleopatra* (Linnaeus, 1767). Milopótamos. End April, beginning June. 1 km S of Milopótamos; Áno Livádi; hills SW of Káto Hóra; Agía Pelagía; Melidóni. Beginning June.
13. *Lycaena phlaeas* (Linnaeus, 1761). Áno Livádi; Milopótamos. Beginning June.
14. *Callophrys rubi* (Linnaeus, 1758). 2 km NW of Áno Livádi. End April.
15. *Satyrium spini* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Hills N of Melidóni; Áno Livádi; Milopótamos. Beginning June.
16. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus, 1767). Áno Livádi. Beginning June.
17. *Celastrina argiolus* (Linnaeus, 1758). Áno Livádi. Beginning June.
18. *Pseudophilotes vicrama* (Moore, 1865). 2km NW of Áno Livádi; Milopótamos; hills SW of Káto Hóra; Paliahóra; 3km NW of Agía Pelagía. End April.
19. *Glaucopsyche alexis* (Poda, 1761). 2km SW of Áno Livádi. End April.
20. *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775). 2km NW of Áno Livádi; Milopótamos; hills SW of Káto Hóra; Límni. End April. Áno Livádi. End April and beginning June.
21. *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus, 1758). Áno Livádi. End April.
22. *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758). Áno Livádi; Límni; near Agía Pelagía; near •Paleópoli. End April.
23. *Kirinia roxelana* (Cramer, [1777]). Milopótamos. Beginning June.
24. *Pararge aegeria* (Linnaeus, 1758). 1km N of Áno Livádi; Milopótamos. End April and beginning June.
25. *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767). 1km E of Aroniádika. End April. Milopótamos. Beginning June.
26. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758). All localities visited. Beginning June.
27. *Hipparchia senthes* (Fruhstorfer, 1908). Hills NW of Agía Pelagía; Límni. Beginning June.

The *G. cleopatra* have green hindwing undersides and the majority of the females are of the whitish upperside morph; only a few were found to have yellowish uppersides.

The *G. alexis* males have upperside black borders of variable width, some having wide ones, as in populations from S Pelopónnisos, while others having narrow ones, as in populations from N Pelopónnisos, as well as from C and N Greece.

The *P. aegeria* are all with reddish-brown spots on upperside, very much as in populations from Kríti island.

In the case of *M. jurtina* and *H. senthes*, identification was based on the genitalia structures. The taxa *E. ausonia*, *C. rubi*, *G. alexis*, *H. senthes* and *T. acteon* are reported here for the first time from the island of Kithira.

Taxa published by Rebel (1937 & 1938), but not recorded by the present author are the following:

1. *Thymelicus sylvestris* (Poda, 1761)
2. *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Taxa recorded by Reisser (1940), but not by the present author or Rebel, are as follows:

1. *Carcharodus orientalis* Reverdin, 1913
2. *Pyrgus armoricanus* (Oberthür, 1910)
3. *Leptotes pirthous* (Linnaeus, 1767)
4. *Hyponephele lupina* (Costa, [1836])
5. *Hipparchia fatua* Freyer, 1844
6. *Limenitis reducta* Staudinger, 1901
7. *Polygonia egea* (Cramer, [1775])

The following taxa, reported by Kattoulas and Koutsaftikis (1977), have not been recorded by Rebel, Reisser, or by the present author:

1. *Carcharodus lavatherae* (Esper, [1783])
2. *Satyrium ilicis* (Esper, [1779])
3. *Cyaniris semiargus* (Rottemburg, 1775)
4. *Aricia agestis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)
5. *Hipparchia semele* (Linnaeus, 1758)
6. *Hipparchia fagi* (Scopoli, 1763)

Of these, *C. lavatherae*, *C. semiargus*, *H. semele*, and *H. fagi* seem highly improbable.

The sum total of reliable recordings amounts to 35 species, a number which shows the butterfly fauna of Kíthira to be rather poor in species, despite the island's close geographic proximity to the butterfly-rich Pelopónnisos, its relatively large area and its relative lushness.

References

- Kattoulas [sic!], M. & Koutsaftikis, A., 1977. Lepidoptenfauna [sic!] der Insel Kythera, I Teil. — *Annls.Mus.Goulandris* 3: 115–120.
- Rebel, H., 1937. Griechische Lepidopteren. V. — *Z.öst.EntVer.* 22: 93–95.
- Rebel, H., 1938. Zur Lepidopterenfauna Kretas. — *D.ent.Z.Iris* 52: 30–36.
- Reisser, H. von, 1940. Lepidopteren von den Aegäischen Inseln. — *Z.wien.ent.Ges.* 31: 44–59.