Abstract. A restricted colony of *Clossiana selene* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) is reported for the first time from Greece. The species appeared to be locally common in mid-July 2011, however its known distribution so far is extremely limited, encompassing only a small marshland area surrounded by coniferous forest in the West Rhodópi mountain range, NE Greece, very close to the Bulgarian border. The small size of its habitat, which is of unusual nature in Greece, in conjunction with the general rarity of this butterfly in SE Europe, call for immediate environmental protection by the authorities.

First record from Greece

On July 11, 2011 the author was visiting the West Rhodópi mountain range, in Drama prefecture, NE Greece (see Fig. 1). A large part of the area was declared a National Park in 2010, and a special collecting permit is now required. Among several fritillary species feeding on thistles in a clearing of the coniferous forest, a worn specimen was captured, which surprisingly turned out to be a *C. selene*. The particular clearing was rather dry, which is not normal for *C. selene* occurrence. The author assumed that the specimen was probably a stray, and set

**Fig. 1. The West Rhodópi mountain range on the Greek-Bulgarian border, hosting a colony of *Clossiana selene*.**
out searching for a damper locality. Indeed, after some strenuous walking, a marshland was revealed in another forest clearing, where the butterfly was found in relatively high numbers. A total of 15, mostly fresh males were captured in a time period of about two hours. On July 15 the area was visited again, and two, reasonably fresh females were also collected. One specimen of each gender is depicted in Figs. 2 and 3.

The particular marshland is exceptionally remote, located very close to the Bulgarian border, which explains to some extent the fact that the colony had been unknown before. It is crossed by a stream and vegetated by tall grass, which makes on site movement difficult. It strongly resembles typical habitat of *C. selene* in Scandinavia and Canada, a type of environment which is extremely rare, if not unique, in the latitude range of Greece. Other species found to be common at the same locality include *Brentis daphne* (Bergsträsser, 1780), *Mellicta athalia* (Rottemburg, 1775), *Erebia oeme* (Hübner, 1804), *Erebia ottomana* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1847), *Coenonympha glycerion* (Borkhausen, 1788), *Coenonympha rhodopensis* (Elwes, 1900), *Lycaena candens* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1844), *Carcharodus flocciferus* (Zeller, 1847), and thousands of annoying *Tabanus* flies (which is another feature reminiscent of marshes and bogs further up north!).

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References