

Butterflies in Northern and Central Greece, July 1971

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NORTHERN AND CENTRAL GREECE



The following is a brief account of our observations and captures during a holiday in northern and central Greece between the 2nd and 20th July, 1971. It was our deliberate intention to visit areas, as far as we could, in which the butterfly fauna was not well known. In all 114 species were seen or collected including some, e.g., *A. ilia clytie*, *E. ligea*, *S. pruni*, *E. decoloratus*, *E. alctas*, *P. eroides* and *C. lavatherae*, not recorded in lists recently published by Coutsis (1969, 1972) and Bretherton (1970) or mentioned by Higgins and Riley in

A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe as occurring within the present geographical boundaries of Greece. We travelled by car and most of the collecting was by the wayside where the terrain seemed most favourable. As the accompanying map shows we travelled quite long distances.

We first collected en route from Athens to Thessaloniki and on the slopes of Mount Pilion near Volos. Then, based at Thessaloniki, in separate sorties, we collected near Florina, which is close to the Albanian and Yugoslavian borders, on Mount Olympos, on Mount Cholomon in the Chalcidiki peninsula, and Nr. Drama, Kavala and Xanthi in Eastern Macedonia. It might have been more profitable if we had spent several days in one locality, but the trip was undertaken by way of reconnaissance. We purposely covered as much territory as we could in the limited time available to us.

On the 2nd July, travelling north from Athens, we stopped briefly at the sulphur springs at Thermopylae, where freshly emerged *G. rhamni* and *G. cleopatra* were flying together, alongside several other species including *H. fatua*. It was here we netted the only specimen of *G. nostradamus* we saw. Further north, about 12 km. south of Volos, we collected in an olive grove leading down to the sea. Here *H. fatua* were abundant and we saw, too, several *T. balkanicus* and netted a single female *E. marloyi*. We stayed at Portaria perched 550 m. up the slopes of Mount Pilion overlooking the Pagasitikos Gulf. On the 3rd July we collected up the road running east out of Portaria up to a height of about 1200 m. where there is a ski run. About 40 species were identified including *P. anthelea amalthaea* and *K. roxelana*, in one localized colony associated with *Q. quercus*, and *A. admetus* in several places. At the summit of the road there was a large colony of a "silver-studded" blue, identified as *P. idas graeca* Tutt.

The morning of the 4th July was spent collecting in a rocky ravine near Makrynitsa, a village about 4 km. north of Portaria. at about 700 m. About 30 species in all were noted, including *G. farinosa* and *P. pandora*. Makrynitsa was the only place where we found these species, and several more *P. anthelea amalthaea* were seen. In the afternoon we travelled to Tsangarada on the east side of the Mount Pilion peninsula. Several *P. krueperi* were caught in one restricted locality and a single female *T. thersamon*. We stayed at the Xenia hotel at Tsangarada for the night of the 4th July and on the following day we travelled to Thessaloniki, collecting at several places en route including the Vale of Tembi, where we netted a rather worn *C. jasius*.

On the 6th July we journeyed to some hills about 10 km. north of the town near Laina. *C. briseus* was abundant in fine condition and there were also a few *H. fatua*. *M. trivia* were plentiful, too, and a few small *M. phoebe* were also caught. *L. thersites* were especially numerous and were settling on patches of damp mud in scores.

On the 7th July we travelled in cloudy and rainy weather to Florina where we obtained passes to enter the military zone in the mountains west of the town, and on the 8th we travelled up the road to the west to Pisoderi and to about 1 km. beyond, collecting at several places between 1,000 m. and 1,450 m. The mountainous countryside was green and the flowery meadows in some places were reminiscent of Switzerland. 47 species were noted, including *E. ligea*, abundant in one spot, *A. hyperantus*, a colony in a sheltered and watered locality where *M. arion*, a large dark and heavily marked form, was also flying, as well as a "short tailed" blue. This has been identified as *E. alcetas* (although showing a small single orange lunule medial to the marginal black spot in S2 on the hind-wing underside). A single *A. anteros* and three *P. eroides* were found in the same flowery track as the *E. ligea*.

On the 9th July we travelled north to the border village of Niki and then west into the hills close to the Yugoslavian border where we walked up a wooded and rather dry valley. The catch included a single rather worn female *A. ilia clytie*, *N. antiopa*, *S.w-album*, several more *E. alcetas* and a single *C. lavatherae*. In the late afternoon we returned to near Pisoderi where *P. eroides* had been caught the previous day, but it had partly clouded over and no interesting blues were seen, although *E. ligea* was still flying. A solitary worn *P. sidae* was caught.

On the 10th July we travelled from Florina back to Thessaloniki and collected briefly at several places on the dry and rocky hills between Florina and Edessa just north of Lake Vegoritis. *L. duponcheli*, males of the second brood, were quite common in several places and several very fresh *C. australis* were caught. *H. lycaon*, *H. lupina* and *P. anthelea amalthea* were also taken. We also found a colony of *H. semele*, the only specimens we saw on the whole trip. *A. admetus* and *A. ripartii* were flying together and a single *S. pruni* was also caught.

On the 12th July we collected on Mount Cholomon in the Chalcidiki peninsular, walking down from the summit of the road, about 2 km. towards Thessaloniki. *M. galathea* and *M. jurtina* were the commonest butterflies and *M. arion* in a large and moderately heavily marked form was quite common over the whole area. That evening we travelled to Katerini where we stayed for two nights, using the town as a base for Mount Olympos.

On the 13 July we took the road to St Demetrios, a village north of the mountain at about 800 m. On our way up to the village we took *H. alcyone syriaca* and a single female *T. thersamon*. Passing through the village the road climbed to the top of a pass where *B. circe* were abundant. Then the road descends to the west of Mount Olympos through dry and rocky hills and here we found a large colony of *H. lycaon*. We finally turned east to climb up the rough military road wind-

ing up the west-facing and rather bare and open slopes of the mountain and eventually reached about 2100 m. There was, however, little sunshine and relatively few insects were flying. However, at about 1500 m. in a grassy and lightly wooded ravine we came across a colony of *A. hyperantus*. *M. galathea* were widespread and at high altitudes fine specimens with wide black borders were noted.

On the 14th July we collected on the east side of Mount Olympos travelling via Litochoron. At the monastery at the foot of the mountain we netted two *L. celtis* feeding on brambles amongst many fritillaries. We then drove up the rough road to the Mountaineering Club House at 1010m. and proceeded further up the road to approximately 1500m. collecting at likely spots en route. This part of the mountain is rather densely wooded but there were small clearings in which many species were flying. *L. celtis* was abundant and flew up and down the road, particularly above 1000m. In all about 43 species were caught or identified, including a single fresh male *H. ottomanus* caught at about 1400m. The large silver-studded blue *P. idas graeca* was quite plentiful at the highest levels we reached.

On the 15th July we returned to Thessaloniki from the Mount Olympos area making a diversion via Edessa to a locality just north of Lake Vegoritis where we had collected briefly on our return from Florina on the 10th July. This time we walked up a gently sloping narrow open valley with a dry river bed. Plenty of insects were flying including many *L. duponcheli* and *P. ergane*, also *T. balkanicus*, *A. admetus*, *A. ripartii*, a small form of *P. dorylas*, and *P. escheri dalmatica*; one male *L. coridon* was caught. About 100m. from the valley on the opposite side of the road a clump of trees was found to harbour a colony of *H. alcyone syriaca* and also *K. roxelana*.

On the 17th July we set out for our final expedition, to eastern Macedonia. We collected at various places on the way to Drama, a small town north of Kavala, including the immediate neighbourhood of the Lion of Amfipolis where we had caught *H. ottomanus* in May 1969, but without any sign of this species on this occasion. Between Amfipolis and Kavala the road runs south of dry hillsides and in and around gulleys were found *L. duponcheli* and *T. balkanicus* quite commonly and also in less arid situations many second brood small *M. trivialis*.

On the 18th July we drove north of Drama towards the Bulgarian border for about 25 km., climbing up through the Phalakron mountains to about 650m., almost as far as the village of Volax. The mountains hereabouts are bare and covered only with low scrub but towards the upper reaches of the valley up which the road wound the terrain became progressively greener and the vegetation in the valley more lush. Butterflies were in profusion, and scores were settling

together in damp patches in the bed of a stream. The day was perfect and cloudless and we caught or noted 52 species. The most unexpected catch, taking into account the lateness of the date, was *A. cerisyi ferdinandi*, in the upper part of the valley; two males and two females in fine condition and one rather worn female were taken and several others were seen. In addition, we caught *E. decoloratus*, which was quite common in the upper reaches of the valley, and *C. minimus*, both species we had not seen before. We also came across a colony of *P. tiphonus*, taken by us before only near Florina and a further colony of *A. hyperantus*. Blues were in profusion, including fresh *L. bellargus*, and scores of *M. daphnis* (but only three blue females) and *A. admetus* and *A. ripartii* were to be seen particularly settling on damp mud patches. *A. ripartii* was interesting because the white streak on the hind-wing underside was often absent and was seldom well marked. Some specimens, too, showed traces of marginal lunules on the undersides, illustrating the very close affinity between this species and *A. admetus* with which it was flying. The species could still be separated, however, into two separate series and whether any were hybrids is uncertain. *P. baton schiffermuelleri* was quite common at lower levels in the valley and *L. duponcheli* was also common in lower and drier localities.

On the 19th July we took the road from Kavala east to Xanthi and then went north up a dry rocky pass towards Echinos. Unfortunately, we were stopped about 8 km. from Xanthi at a military check point and could go no further (we had omitted to ascertain whether a permit was required). This was disappointing as we were anticipating that we might do as well as we had done north of Drama. We collected at several places on the way back to Xanthi but only noted common species. Between Xanthi and Kavala, however, we came across another colony of *H. fatua* in an area of sandy heathland and low scrub.

On the 20th July we returned from Kavala to Amfipolis noting further colonies of *L. duponcheli* and *H. fatua*.

We are indebted to Dr. Lionel Higgins for helpful discussions on the identity of several species.

LIST OF SPECIES CAUGHT BETWEEN 2nd-20th JULY 1971

PAPILIONIDAE: 3 species

<i>Papilio machaon</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, not common
<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> L.	Widespread and quite common
<i>Allancastris cerisyi ferdinandi</i> Stichel	Nr. Drama

PIERIDAE: 15 species

<i>Pieris brassicae</i> L.	Widespread and quite common
<i>Pieris rapae</i> L.	Widespread and common
<i>Pieris mannii</i> Mayer	Mt. Pilion, Mt. Cholomon, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Pieris ergane</i> Geyer	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Pieris krueperi</i> Stdgr.	Mt. Pilion
<i>Pieris napi</i> L., perhaps f. <i>pseudo-rapae</i>	Mt. Pilion and Nr. Florina
<i>Pieris daplidice</i> L.	Widespread and common
<i>Aporia crataegi</i> L.	Nr. Florina
<i>Colias crocea</i> Fourc.	Widespread and common
<i>Colias australis</i> Verity	Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama
<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> L.	Widespread and quite common
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> L.	Thermopylae, Mt. Pilion and Mt. Cholomon
<i>Gonepteryx farinosa</i> Zeller	Mt. Pilion
<i>Leptidea sinapis</i> L.	Widespread and quite common
<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i> Stgr.	Widespread in mountainous districts in the north, e.g., between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama and Xanthi

LIBYTHEIDAE: 1 species

<i>Libythea celtis</i> Laicharting	Mt. Olympos, abundant on eastern aspect
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NYMPHALIDAE: 22 species

<i>Charaxes jasius</i> L.	Vale of Tembi, one only
<i>Apatura ilia</i> Schiff. f. <i>clytie</i>	Nr. Florina, one worn female only
<i>Limenitis reducta</i> Stgr.	Widespread
<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> L.	Widespread but not common
<i>Iachis io</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Aglais urticae</i> L.	Nr. Florina
<i>Polygonia c-album</i> L.	Nr. Florina and Mt. Olympos
<i>Polygonia egea</i> Cramer	Mt. Pilion, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Pandoriana pandora</i> Schiff.	Mt. Pilion, one only
<i>Argynnis paphia</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Cholomon and Mt. Olympos
<i>Mesoacidalia aglaja</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Cholomon, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama

<i>Fabriciana adippe</i> Schiff.	Mt. Pilion and Mt. Olympos
f. <i>cleodora</i>	
<i>Fabriciana niobe</i> L. f. <i>eris</i>	Nr. Florina
<i>Issoria lathonia</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Brenthis daphne</i> Schiff.	Mt. Pilion and Nr. Florina, all worn
<i>Clossiana erphrosyne</i> L.	Mt. Olympos, worn
<i>Clossiana dia</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Melitaea phoebe</i> Schiff.	Thessaloniki, small 2nd brood, Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama
<i>Melitaea didyma</i> Esper	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama
<i>Melitaea trivia</i> Schiff.	Widespread and often com- mon, 2nd brood, very small
<i>Melitaea athalia</i> Rott.	Nr. Florina, a few only

SATYRIDAE: 20 species

<i>Malanargia galathea</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Cholomon, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Melanargia larissa</i> Geyer	Widespread, occasionally fly- ing with <i>M. galathea</i> . <i>M.</i> <i>larissa larissa</i> , Nr. Florina: <i>M. larissa herta</i> , Volos and Nr. Athens
<i>Hipparchia alcyone syriaca</i> Stdgr.	Mt. Olympos and between Florina and Edessa
<i>Hipparchia semele</i> L.	A single colony between Florina and Edessa
<i>Hipparchia fatua</i> Freyer	Widespread: Thermopylae, Mt. Pilion, Thessaloniki and eastwards to Xanthi
<i>Chazara briseis</i> L.	Widespread in colonies
<i>Pseudochazara anthelea</i> <i>amalthea</i> Frivaldsky	Mt. Pilion, and Nr. Florina, not common
<i>Brintesia circe</i> Fab.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Mt. Olympos in colonies
<i>Erebia ligea</i> L.	Nr. Florina, in one colony
<i>Maniola jurtina</i> L.	Widespread and generally common, with extensive orange markings in fe- males
<i>Hyponephele lycaon</i> Kuehn.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama, in colonies
<i>Hyponephele lupina</i> Costa	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama

<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i> L.	Nr. Florina (two colonies), Mt. Olympos (one colony) and Nr. Drama
<i>Pyronia tiphonus</i> L.	Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama, but not common
<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> L. f. <i>lyllus</i>	Common almost everywhere, many of males being <i>marginata</i> forms
<i>Coenonympha arcania</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama, worn but not common
<i>Parage aegeria</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama, not common
<i>Lasiommata megera</i> L.	Widespread and generally common
<i>Lasiomata maera</i> L.	Widespread but less common than <i>L. megera</i>
<i>Kirinia roxelana</i> Cramer	Mt. Pilion in one colony and between Florina and Edessa (one only)

LYCAENIDAE: 38 species

<i>Quercusia quercus</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, in one colony
<i>Nordmannia ilicis</i> Esper	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Mt. Olympos
<i>Strymonidia spini</i> Schiff.	Mt. Pilion, in several places
<i>Strymonidia w-album</i> Knoch.	Nr. Florina, one only
<i>Strymonidia pruni</i> L.	Between Florina and Edessa, one only
<i>Callophrys rubi</i> L.	Nr. Florina, worn
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> L.	Widespread, but never very common; generally dark and some specimens almost black
<i>Heodes virgaureae</i> L.	Nr. Florina, quite common in several localities
<i>Heodes ottomanus</i> Lefèbvre.	Mt. Olympos, one only (a fresh male)
<i>Heodes tityrus</i> Poda	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama and Xanthi, but nowhere common
<i>Heodes alciphron</i> Rott.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama, but nowhere common
<i>Thersamonia thersamon</i> Esper.	Mt. Pilion (a male), and Mt. Olympos (a female)
<i>Palaeochrysophanus</i> <i>hippothoe</i> L.	Nr. Florina, a few only
<i>Syntarucus pirithous</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama, but nowhere common

<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i> Freyer	Nr. Volos, between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama in localized colonies
<i>Everes decoloratus</i> Stdgr.	Nr. Drama, quite frequent in one area, mostly worn
<i>Everes alcetas</i> Hoffmannsegg	Nr. Florina, a few only
<i>Cupido minimus</i> Fuessly	Nr. Drama, a few only, worn
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> L.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Mt. Olympos, in small colonies
<i>Maculinea arion</i> L.	Nr. Florina, and Mt. Cholo-mon, a large dark and heavily marked form in colonies
<i>Philotes baton schiffermuelleri</i> Hemming	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama, not common
<i>Scolitantides orion</i> Pallas	Mt. Pilion and Nr. Drama, not common and mostly worn
<i>Plebejus argus</i> L.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama
<i>Plebejus idas graeca</i> Tutt	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina and Mt. Olympos, all above 1,000m.
<i>Aricia agestis</i> D. and S.	Widespread but not common
<i>Aricia allous</i> Geyer	Nr. Florina, Nr. Drama and Nr. Xanthi
<i>Aricia anteros</i> Freyer	Nr. Florina, one male only
<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i> Rott.	Nr. Florina, a few worn
<i>Agrodiaetus admetus</i> Esper	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama, common in colonies
<i>Agrodiaetus ripartii</i> Freyer	Nr. Florina, between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama
<i>Plebicula escheri dalmatica</i> Speyer	Mt. Olympos, between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama
<i>Plebicula amanda</i> Schneider	Nr. Florina, a few worn
<i>Plebicula thersites</i> Cantener	Widespread in large colonies
<i>Meleageria daphnis</i> Schiff.	Mt. Pilion, Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos, between Florina and Edessa and Nr. Drama (in large colonies): only four females caught, one (black) on Mt. Pilion and three (blue) Nr. Drama
<i>Lysandra coridon</i> Poda	Between Florina and Edessa, one only
<i>Lysandra bellargus</i> Rott.	Nr. Florina, Mt. Olympos and Nr. Drama (many)
<i>Polyommatus icarus</i> Rott.	Widespread and common almost everywhere

Polyommatus eroides
Frivaldsky

Nr. Florina, three males
only

HESPERIIDAE: 15 species

Pyrgus alveus Huebner

Nr. Drama, one only

Pyrgus armoricanus Oberthur

Widespread but not common

Pyrgus serratulae Rambur

Nr. Florina, Nr. Drama, and
Nr. Xanthi

Pyrgus sidae Esper

Nr. Florina, one only worn

Spialia sertorius orbifer
Huebner

Widespread and quite common

Carcharodus alceae Esper

Widespread and quite common

Carcharodus lavatherae
Esper

Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama,
three females only

Carcharodus orientalis
Reverdin

Nr. Athens, Mt. Pilion and
Nr. Drama, three only

Erynnis tages L.

Thessaloniki, Nr. Florina, Nr.
Drama and Nr. Xanthi,
not common, worn

Erynnis marloyi Boisduval

Nr. Volos, one female only

Thymelicus acteon Rott.

Nr. Florina and Nr. Drama in
colonies

Thymelicus lineola Ochs.

Nr. Florina, in colonies

Thymelicus sylvestris Poda

Nr. Pilion, Nr. Drama and
Nr. Xanthi, not common

Ochlodes venatus faunus
Turati

Widespread

Gegenes nostrodamus Fab.

Thermopylae, one only

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PURPLE EMPEROR IN SURREY. — I can now add to my note (*Ent. Record* **83**; 358). During 1972, three male *Apatura iris* L. entered my friend's house in Surrey between 31st July and 19th August and were, with some difficulty, persuaded to leave. On 8th August his wife noticed a male basking on a flagstone outside the drawing room. Having no better apparatus available, she captured it very simply by putting a tumbler over the top.—J. A. C. GREENWOOD, The Thatches, Forest Road, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey. 30.x.1972.



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