

The butterflies of Mount Parnon

G. C. Bozano & N. Gavalas



MANAGEMENT BODY
PARNON MOUSTOS
MAINALON & MONEMVASIA

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G. C. Bozano & N. Gavalas

The butterflies of Mount Parnon

Astros 2020



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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Mount Parnon range that extends along the south-eastern Peloponnisos, together with its coastal areas, has significant natural characteristics, as the result of the complex geomorphology and climatic conditions of the region which have formed a unique environment where man, for thousands of years has coexisted harmoniously with nature. This special relationship of people with their environment is reflected in their activities, architecture and cultural traditions and is expressed today through the disposition of Greek Environmental Bodies, such as the Management Body of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon & Monemvasia, to conserve and protect this beautiful landscape but also to highlight its uniqueness and specificities.

Therefore, we believe that publishing a Guide of Mount Parnon, an area particularly rich in plant species and with high levels of endemicy, where the wealth of butterfly species is presented, decisively contributes to both the awareness of residents and visitors, Greeks or foreigners. In order to highlight the need for protection and respect for all aspects of the natural environment, the local development program CLLD / LEADER under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020, provides assistance to our efforts by funding the publication of the Guide, in the framework of the project "Support of environmental awareness actions of the Management Body. The case of Parnon-Maleas Biosphere Reserve".

The project of the publication is extremely important as the result of the lifelong research of the author, an authentic nature-lover of Greece, while at the same time it is a product of the intensive fieldwork of special entomologists, who collaborated to complete the present publication. The scientific Guide you hold in your hands attempts to present Parnon area, as a start, offering valuable information about some of the most undoubtedly fascinating organisms, both from an aesthetic point of view and from a scientific point of view. The butterflies of Parnon present wide diversity in form, colour, habitat preferences and their relationship with their environment in general. More specifically, the Guide provides information about the mountain's butterfly species that concern identification, geographical distribution, flight-period, habitat and conservation status of different species.

As a representative of the Management Body, it is my special pleasure and honour to share "The Butterflies of Mount Parnon" with everybody interested, local resident or visitor, hoping that this excellent edition will fully fulfil its objectives.

Dimitrios Miliotis
Chairman of the Administrative Board
of the Management Body
of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon & Monemvasia

MANAGEMENT BODY OF PARNON, MOUSTOS, MAINALON & MONEMVASIA

The Management Body of Mount Parnon and Moustos wetland was established by Law 3044/2002 with the aim of administering and managing the protected area of Mount Parnon and Moustos wetland. By Law 4519/2018, it was renamed to Management Body of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon & Monemvasia, since including, fourteen (14) Natura 2000 Network areas, thus significantly increasing its territorial jurisdiction, in addition to the existing area of responsibility [J.M.D. No. 33999 (Official Government Gazette/353/AAP/6.9.2010)].

The Management Body (M.B.) is a non-profit public benefit organization, supervised by the Ministry of Environment & Energy. It is governed by an 11-member Administrative Board appointed by ministerial decision, consisting representatives of ministries, local government, local agencies and environmental organizations.

The responsibilities of M.B. defined by the institutional framework include,

- an opinion during the management plan preparation process and its implementation, monitoring, evaluation and updating for the sustainable management and protection of the natural capital of the Natura 2000 network,
- using financial tools to promote new local development standards and actions,
- supporting studies, monitoring and projects included in the management plan, necessary for the protection, conservation and promotion of the protected areas of responsibility of the M.B.,
- providing opinions during the process of environmental licensing of projects and activities within the protected areas of responsibility, whose effects directly or indirectly affect the protected areas,
- encouraging consultation with local communities during the process of environmental reports, presidential decrees and management plans for the designation of protected areas,
- implementing national, European or international programs and actions,
- informing the public and production bodies and raising awareness on issues concerning the purposes of M.B.
- organizing training and educational programs, as well as public events for the promotion of protected areas,
- approving tour activities and assisting in the licensing of scientific research and technical testing and analysis,
- supporting ecotourism projects and actions for the promotion of local products.

PROTECTED AREAS

PROTECTED AREA OF MOUNT PARNON AND MOUSTOS WETLAND

The protected area of Mount Parnon and Moustos wetland was established in 2010 by Joint Ministerial Decision [JMD No 33999 “Identification of the use of terms and building restrictions for the protection of land and water areas of the municipalities of Northern Kynouria, Leonidio, Skritida and Tyros of N. Arkadia, the municipalities Therapnon, Oinountos and Geronthron of N. Laconia and the communities Kosmas (N. Arcadia) and Karyon (N. Laconia) of the area Parnon - Moustos” (GG 353/AAΠ/6.9.2010) and its amendment (GG 160/A.A.A.T./16.6.2011)], with the aim of protecting the area as a national Natural Heritage.

Parnon area includes about 23 habitat types. Some of them are unique or rare at national or European level, as the extensive black pine forests, the endemic forests with Syrian junipers, the chestnut forests, the Moustos lagoon, the Dafnonas ravine etc.

The most important areas of Parnon are a) wetlands and areas with Syrian junipers (*Juniperus drupacea*) (dense clusters and shrubland areas) b) areas of importance for the flora, which are exclusively shrubland areas and c) Mount Parnon peaks which, in addition to shrubland, also include grassland areas on a small plateau.

ZONING OF PROTECTED AREAS

According to the JMD No 33999/2010 the protected area includes the following areas (Law 1650/1986):

A. Strict Nature Reserves: extremely sensitive ecosystems or habitats with rare or endangered species of flora or fauna, which are crucial to the life cycle of rare or endangered species of wildlife.

a. *Juniperus drupacea* forest in Malevi Monastery (2.I)

b. Moustos Wetland (2.II)

In these areas only scientific research is allowed and no human activity of brief or of permanent nature of intervention in the natural environment.

B. Nature Reserves: include areas of ecological or biological importance in which natural environment is protected from activities and interventions that may alter conservation status, composition or evolution. The protected area of Mount Parnon and Moustos wetland includes the following:

a. Forests of *Juniperus drupacea* at Prastos (3.I)

b. Forests of *Juniperus drupacea* at Agios Vasilios-Platanaki (3.II)

c. Forests of *Juniperus drupacea* at Palaiochori (3.III)

d. Important flora area at mount Parnon peaks (3.IV)

e. Important flora area at Mazia-Kontolina (3.V)

f. Important flora area at Agios Ioannis-Orini Meligou (3.VI)

g. Area of Dafnona gorge and monasteries of Sintza and Elona (3.VII)

h. Moustos wetland (4.I)

Several activities are permitted, with no adverse effect on the protected area.

C. Stream Protection Areas: linear protection areas along the streams of Dafnonas, Vrasiatas and Tanos and the sides of the banks in a 50 m width

D. Other areas out of Strict Nature Reserves, Nature Reserves, Moustos Protection zone and areas with an approved city plan: this is the whole protected area, which is not included in the above zoning. It includes settlements or villages with special value and interest, due to the quality of their natural and cultural characteristics and at the same time offer significant opportunities for the development of activities that are harmonized with the protection of nature and the landscape.

Almost all activities are permitted with certain minimum conditions.

NATURA 2000 RESERVES

The jurisdiction area of the Management Body, according to Law 4519/2018 (OGG 25/A/20.02.2018) includes the following "NATURA 2000" European Ecological Network areas (symbolized by *) (SAC: Special Areas of Conservation, SPA: Special Protected Areas, pSAC: proposed Special Areas of Conservation):

- SAC-SPA – LIMNI STYMFALIA (GR 2530002) (1.308,91 ha).
- SAC – OROS OLIGYRTOS (GR 2530004) (8.630,65 ha).
- SAC - OROS MAINALO (GR 2520001) (22.673,07 ha).
- SPA - ORI ARTEMISIO KAI LYRKEIO (GR 2510004) (11.477,38 ha).
- SAC - LIMNI TAKA (GR 2520002) (1.033,15 ha).
- SAC - AKRONAFPLIA KAI PALAMIDI (GR 2510003) (366,16 ha).
- SAC – LIMNOTHALASSA MOUSTOU (GR 2520003) (368,24 ha).
- SAC – OROS PARNONAS (KAI PERIOCHI MALEVIS (GR 2520006) (55.767,52 ha).
- SAC -pSAC – MONI ELONAS KAI CHARADRA LEONIDIOU – SPILAIO MANA KAI GALAZIA LIMNI (GR 2520005) (8.293,47 ha).
- SAC -pSAC – ORI GIDOVOUNI, CHIONOVOUNI, GAIDOUROVOUNI, KORAKIA, KALOGEROVOUNI, KOULOCHERA KAI PERIOCHI MONEMVASIAS SPILAIO SOLOMOU TRYPA KAI PYRGOS AG. STEFANOY KAI THALASSIA ZONI EOS AKROTIRIO KAMILI (GR 2540001) (38.869,97 ha).
- SPA – ORI ANATOLIKIS LAKONIAS (GR 2540007) (37.566,61 ha).
- SAC - pSAC – EKVOLES EVROTA, PERIOCHI VRONTAMA KAI THALASSIA PERIOCHI LAKONIKOU KOLPOU (GR 2540003) (10.632,61 ha).
- SPA – YGROTOPOI EKVOLON EVROTA (GR 2540006) (2.172,76 ha).
- SAC – PERIOCHI NEAPOLIS KAI NISOS ELAFONISOS (GR 2540002) (5.493,74 ha).

In addition to the above, within the boundaries of territorial jurisdiction of Management Body four Important Bird Areas (IBA's) are included:

- LIMNI STYMFALIA (GR 117)
- ORI ARTEMISIO KAI LYRKEIO (GR 118)
- YGROTOPOI EKVOLON EVROTA (GR 122)
- ORI ANATOLIKIS LAKONIAS (GR 123)

The territorial jurisdiction of the Management Body covers almost the entire Eastern Peloponnisos, extends within the boundaries of 10 Municipalities and 4 Prefectures (Laconia, Arcadia, Argolis and Corinthia), with the largest part belonging to the Prefecture of Laconia. The Management Body occupies mountainous ecosystems (Parnon, Mainalon, Oligyrtos, Artemisio and Lyrkeio, mountains of Eastern Laconia), wetlands (Moustos, Evrotas estuary), lakes (Stymfalia, Taka), rivers (Evrotas), islands (Elafonisos) and sea areas (Laconic gulf and Monemvasia sea zone).

The case of Mount Parnon and Cape Maleas Biosphere Reserve

As part of the joint effort of the bodies of the Parnon - Malea region to link biodiversity with entrepreneurship, a nomination form was prepared by the Management Committee in order for the region to be included in the UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve Network. The Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program, which includes 701 sites in 124 countries, aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. It combines the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable. As the inclusion of the area of the proposed Biosphere Reserve "Parnon - Maleas" in the MAB Program does not imply further legal commitments and restrictions, it is considered as a good opportunity to address and resolve local problems and related conflicts, with the effective participation of the population.

The area is characterized by a strong Mediterranean landscape with dominant elements, the remarkable natural environment, the diffuse and recognizable historical and cultural heritage. The geographical boundaries of the Parnon - Maleas Biosphere Reserve are identical with the administrative boundaries of a total of six neighboring municipalities, more specifically the Municipalities follow the administrative division of North Kynouria, South Kynouria, Monemvasia, Elafonisos, Sparta and Eurotas.

The proposed Biosphere Reserve (BR) substantially promotes the supporting and strengthening entrepreneurship pilot actions and biodiversity protection and strengthens emblematic innovative business initiatives by introducing relevant certification. Also, the creation of an internationally recognizable identity (Brand) for the Parnon - Maleas region and its products is promoted and supported.

The vision of the BR Parnon - Maleas reflects the long-term objectives of the Management Committee that designs and implements the local strategy, but also the aspirations and expectations of the local community. For the area of the proposed Biosphere Reserve, the objectives described and implemented are:

- Nature protection and conservation / research, scientific monitoring, actions of sustainable management of nature and resources, through the actions of the Management Body of Parnon, Moustos, Mainalon and Monemvasia.
- Promoting local identity, improving the quality of life, promoting local entrepreneurship (cooperation, transfer of know-how and enhancing innovation and extroversion), through the actions of the Regional Development Company of Parnonas S.A.

In this context, the region fulfils the three interrelated fundamental functions which according to the UNESCO MAB Program are: promoting economic & social development in the context of sustainability, contributing to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and biodiversity in general, and, program support, environmental education, research and monitoring for environment and sustainable development.

FOREWORD BY THE FIRST AUTHOR

The idea of this book came to light in July 2016 when I met for the first time the people of the Management Body in their Astros offices. I proposed to accomplish a survey of the butterfly species of the area and we agreed that the final outcome should have been a book covering all the butterflies that I was going to find.

The survey started, without setting any deadline, so after decades spent studying the butterflies in remote and difficult areas of all continents, I found myself dedicated full time to the relatively small but very beautiful Parnon Mountains. In the last four years I have spent as much time as possible there, trying to explore as many different habitats as possible, at different altitudes and in every season of the year.

I must heartily thank Wendy Copage, Saranto Dolianitis and Sue Davy for their invaluable help during the explorations: Wendy, with her unrivalled knowledge of the territory, has guided us to the most remote paths of Mount Parnon, Sarantos has been an enthusiastic companion, always keen to learn about butterflies and Sue not only provided a precious logistic support, but also shared with us her botanical knowledge.

Special thanks also go to my wife Laura who took most of the photos of butterflies in nature. Her enthusiasm and her skill are behind the lovely images that you'll find in this book. The photos of spread specimens are by me.

I would like to thank my entomologist friends, from Italy, Israel and Japan, who in the past years have visited us in Leonidio giving their contribution to the knowledge of the Parnon insect fauna. My special thanks go to Alessandro Floriani who first discovered here three rare species.

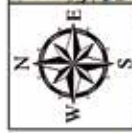
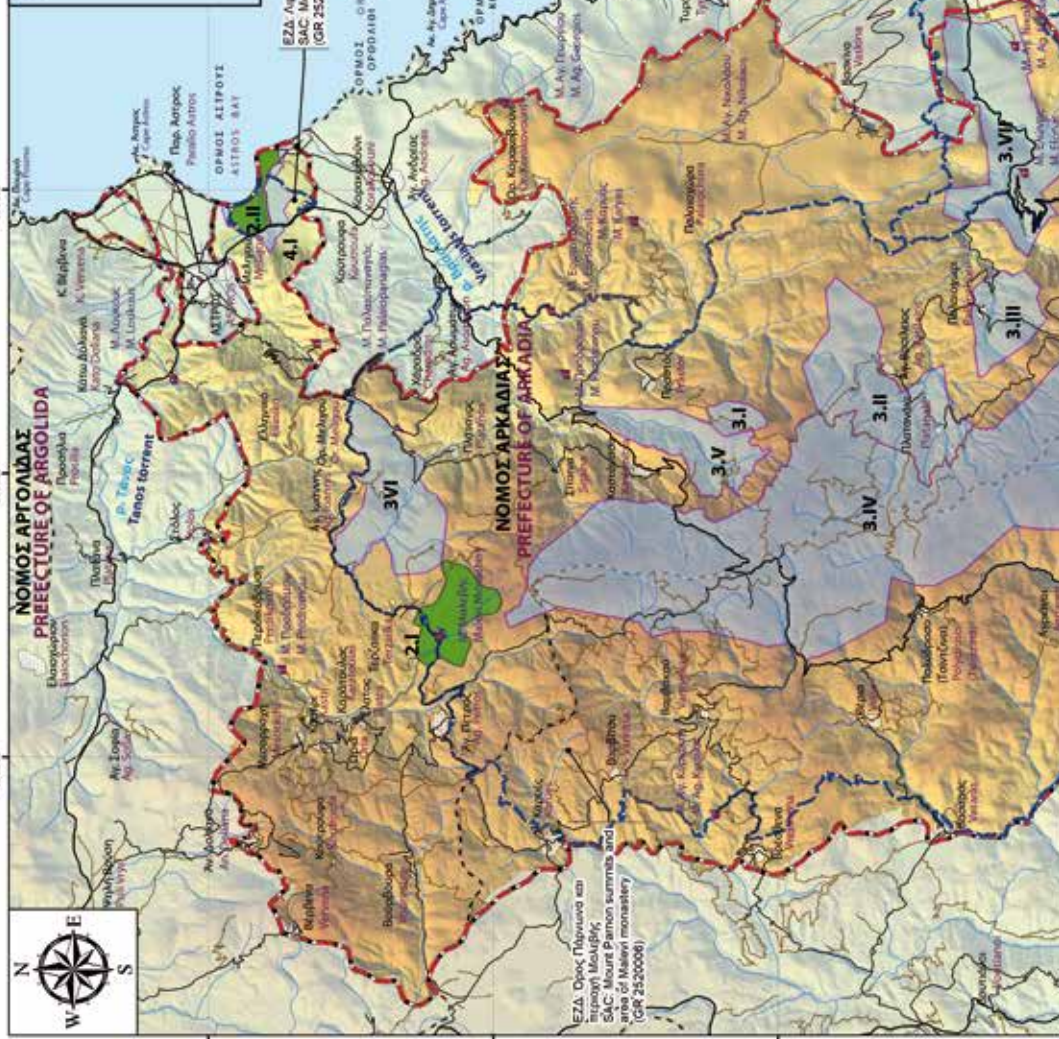
John Coutsis and Nick Gavalas, two of the most knowledgeable experts of Greece butterflies, had a pivotal role in the preparation of this book. They shared with me their outstanding knowledge of the habitats and distribution of butterflies in Greece, helping to build a much more precise picture of the butterfly fauna of Mount Parnon.

Nick has kindly accepted to be co-author of the book and John has been constantly supporting the project, giving an invaluable contribution to all the contents of the book.

Last but very important, I like to thank the people of the Management Body: Katerina Pantazi, Argyris Boglis and all the staff and the guards of the protected area that we often met in remote mountain paths. They have been from the beginning friendly and helpful and it has been a pleasure working with them.

Gian Cristoforo Bozano
Leonidio, September 2020

ΑΡΓΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΚΟΛΠΟΣ ARGOLIKOS GULF

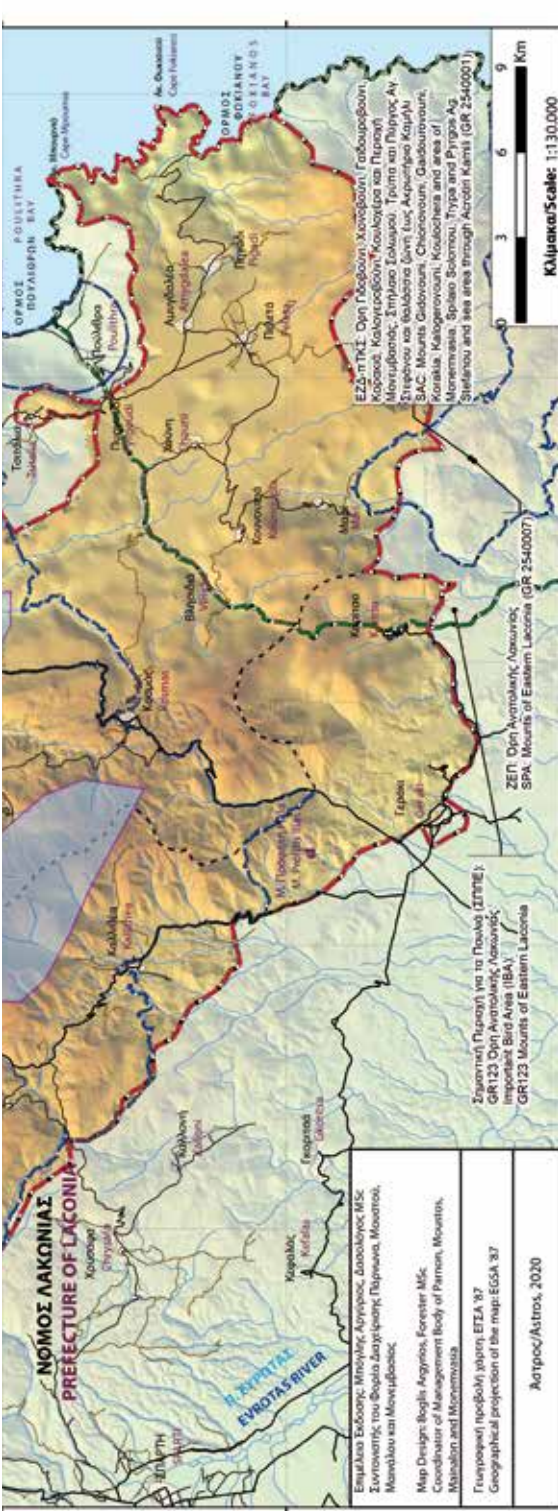


EZA: Αστροδύλακον Μισοστόν
SAC: Μισοστόν Λαγόν
(GR 2520003)

EZA: Δεός (Μουσείο επί Στάθμης)
SAC: Μονή Παμμον βουνών και περιοχή Μοναστηρίου Μελίνας
(GR 2520006)

EZA: Πύλη: Μονή Ελισσών επί Στάθμης
SAC: Ελευθέριος Μοναστήριον και Λαγόνιο γαργαλιάνων και Γ. Λιμνών
(GR 2520005)

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0120000



ΥΠΟΜΝΗΜΑ / LEGEND

Περιοχική Προστασία / Protected Areas



Περιοχική Απολύτης Προστασίας της Φύσης

Absolute Nature Protection Areas

- 21 Σπηλιος διαβροχόβουν Μονησ Μελιολησ
- Forest of Jampiers spouces at Meloni Monastery
- 22 Τυπόμενος Μουσείοσ
- Moutos Wetland



Περιοχική NATURA 2000

Areas of the NATURA 2000 Network

- Εδαφικησ Ζωνησ Διατηρησησ (ΕΖΑ) Special Area of Conservation (SAC): GR 2520003, GR 2520005, GR 2520006, GR 2540001.
- Ζωνη Εδαφικησ Προστασιασ (ΖΕΠ) Special Protection Area (SPA): GR2540007

Σημαντη Πρωτοβια για το Πουλοσ (ΣΠΤΕ):

- GR123 Ορη Ανωταλικησ Ανωταλικησ
- Important Bird Area (IBA):
- GR123 Mounts of Eastern Laconia



Περιοχική Προστασία της Φύσης

Nature Protection Areas

- 31 Δομη διαβροχόβουν Πρωτοβιασ
- Forest of Jampiers spouces at Prastos
- 31 Δομη διαβροχόβουν Αγ. Βασιλειου - Πιραιοβουν
- Forest of Jampiers spouces at Agios Vasiliou Piriakali
- 31II Δομη διαβροχόβουν Πιραιοβουν
- Forest of Jampiers spouces at Piriakali
- 31V Σημαντη Πρωτοβια Χλωροβασ Κερσοβουν Πάρνιονα
- Important flora area at mount Parnion summits
- 3V Σημαντη Πρωτοβια Χλωροβασ Μελιολησ - Κονιολογία
- Important flora area at Mts-Koniologia
- 3VI Σημαντη Πρωτοβια Χλωροβασ Αγ. Ιουλιανη - Ορησ Μελιολησ
- Important flora area at Agios Ioannin-Onni Meliologu
- 3VII Χλωροβασ Δομησ και Πρωτοβια Μονων Ελατικησ και Σηριτικησ
- Area of Dafniona gorge and monasteries of Siriza and Elona
- 4J Πρωτοβια Προστασιασ Τυπόμενος Μουσείοσ
- Moutos Wetland
- Πρωτοβια Προστασιασ Ρυθμωτων (Τόπουσ Ερπαστησ, Διαρρινωσ)
- Tarrent Protection Areas (Tanos, Vrasitika, Dafnion)



Νεαπολι / Prefectures



Οικοτιπι / Settlements



Υδρογραφικησ Δικτυοσ / Drainage Network



Μοναστηριασ / Monasteries

Οδοσ Δικτυοσ / Road Network

Κριτικησ Ασφαλτοβιομιοσ

Main Asphalt Road

Κριτικησ δευτερευουσ Ασφαλτοβιομιοσ

Main-Secondary Asphalt road

Κριτικησ δευτερευουσ Χωματοβιομιοσ

Main-Secondary Dirt Road



What is a butterfly?

The butterflies are insects and belong to the order of Lepidoptera (from the Greek “wings with scales”).

The Lepidoptera have appeared on the earth over 100 million years ago and presently number almost 200,000 known different species, the second largest insect order after the Coleoptera (the beetles).

The butterflies, with about 20.000 species, represent a relatively small group of the whole Lepidoptera order. They are distinguished from all their relatives, commonly known as moths, by three main characters: they fly only during the daytime, the tip of their antennae is thickened, or clubbed, making them resemble a drum-stick, (the other Lepidoptera have antennae of various shapes, thread-like or feather-like, but never clubbed at the tip) (Fig. 1), and they fold their wings in a vertical position over their back while resting, whilst all other Lepidoptera hold them flat to the sides of their body (Fig. 2).

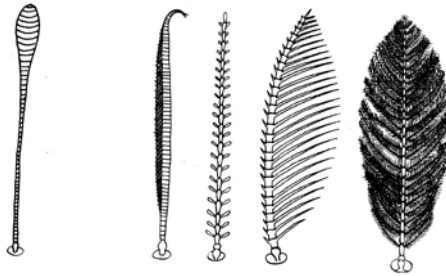


Fig. 1 left: antenna of a butterfly - right: four antennae of other Lepidoptera

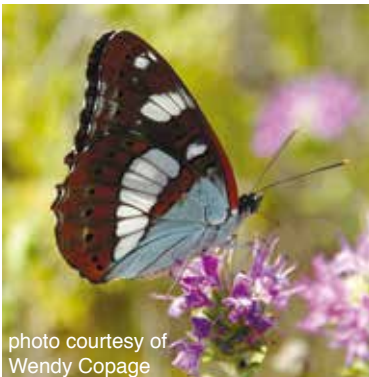


photo courtesy of
Wendy Copage



photo courtesy of
Laura Arcelli

Fig. 2 left: a butterfly resting - right: a burnet moth resting

The scientific classification, or systematics, of the butterflies follows the rules of the binomial system like every other animal or plant species: a species is univocally referred to by the name of a genus, with its initial in capital lettering, and of a species, with its initial in small lettering. A genus is a group of species sharing one or more characters different from any other species not belonging to that genus.

The binomial system was established in the 18th century by Linnaeus, a Swedish naturalist, who named thousands of animals and plants in his famous book "Systema naturae".

Here you will find for every different butterfly species the names of the genus, of the species and of the author who first discovered and described that species, together with the year when the discovery was published. For instance *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758. The vernacular names in local languages have no scientific value but are often easier to use.

The life of a butterfly

Butterflies, like most insects, have a complex life cycle consisting of four stages, that are very different from each others both in shape and in behaviour.

The first stage is the **egg**. A butterfly female lays 80 to 500 eggs, tiny but often with complicated shape and sculptures (Fig. 3). The eggs of butterflies, and those of insects in general, are very tough and can survive under very low temperatures that would kill most adult insects.

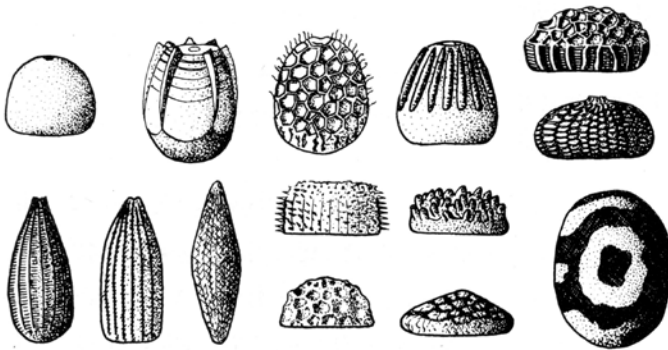


Fig. 3 different shapes of eggs of butterflies and of other Lepidoptera

After some time, varying from a few days to some months depending on the species, a young **caterpillar** gnaws its way through the shell of the egg and comes out in the shape of a slender worm which immediately starts feeding on the leaves of the plant where its mother has laid the egg. The caterpillars of every butterfly species have their own food preferences, eating one or more plant species. The female butterfly, when seeking a place for her eggs, selects as an expert botanist the plants that the caterpillars will need to feed upon when hatched.

The caterpillars (Fig. 4) eat a lot and grow quickly, but, since their skin is not elastic, they undergo several moultings (skin changes), usually five or six. Their skin is shed after breaking dorsally and it is replaced by a new larger one.



Fig. 4 caterpillars

After having reached full growth, that is once they have reached their maximum size, they undergo another important transformation becoming a **pupa** or **chrysalis** (Fig. 5), a seemingly inert and motionless stage undergoing internally all the necessary transformations and tissue rearrangements eventually leading to the birth of a mature winged butterfly.

The duration of the pupa stage varies from a few days to several months, and in some rare instances even several years.

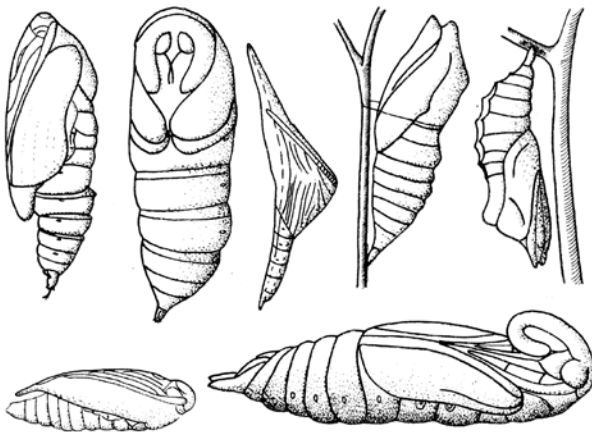


Fig. 5 pupae of different species of butterflies and of moth.

Some are suspended by the tail, some by a belt and some simply lay on the ground

When the time has come the shell of the pupa breaks and the **butterfly** emerges. At the beginning the wings are completely folded, crinkled and wet. The butterfly, sitting in a safe place, will then manage to spread the wings and to have them dried by the air and the sun. Then at last it is ready to fly.

The butterfly is very different from the caterpillar: it has not only the legs but also two pairs of wings. The body is much slimmer than in the caterpillar and the mouth is completely different in order to fulfil completely different food requirements. The caterpillar feeds of leaves and the mouth has a pair of robust jaws to cut the leaves. The butterfly feeds of tiny drops of nectar that the butterfly finds inside the flowers. The mouth is a delicate sucking tool, named proboscis, (Fig. 6) that the butterfly can extend to reach the internal cavities of the flowers where the nectar is to be found.

A butterfly, unlike a caterpillar, does not grow and retains the same size it had when emerging from the pupa. Therefore the required quantity of food is much less than for the caterpillars.

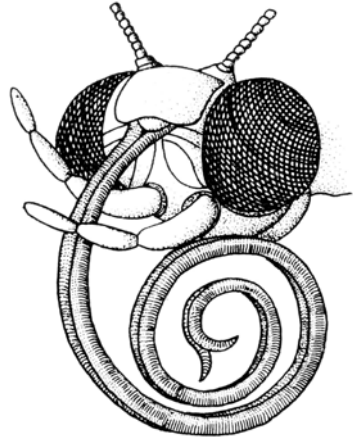


Fig. 6 butterfly head with eyes, palpi and proboscis

How long does an adult butterfly live? From a few weeks to several months, and often to about one year, depending on the species. In the latter case butterflies which have first appeared on the wing in late spring / early summer, enter into aestivation (go to sleep during summer) all through the hottest period of the summer months, then wake up and resume flight during the cooler autumn months and eventually enter into hibernation (go to sleep during winter) throughout the coldest period of the winter months, finally waking up and resuming flight in early to mid-spring of the following year. It is during this last period that their mating, egg laying and ensuing death takes place, thus marking the completion of their year-long life cycle.

Which butterfly is this?

Vladimir Nabokov, the famous novel writer, said: "I cannot separate the aesthetic pleasure of seeing a butterfly and the scientific pleasure of knowing what it is".

How can we recognize what species the beautiful butterfly flying in front of us belongs to?

Nowadays there are sophisticated techniques allowing a precise classification of most animals, including the butterflies. The study under a microscope of their anatomical details or the laboratory examination of the molecular structure of a fragment of DNA will give us an indisputable answer. But we don't need these complex techniques, as we can recognize most of the butterfly species by just looking at their wing colours and markings. Some species are so distinctive that you can recognize them in flight, others require a more detailed observation that may be made either with the help of colour pictures of individuals at rest or on momentarily captured and released specimens.

Of course a basic knowledge of the wings of the butterflies is required.

Butterflies have two pairs of wings (one pair on each side), the anterior of either pair being called forewing and the posterior hindwing. Both left and right forewings as well as both left and right hindwings are symmetrical to each other in shape, colour scheme, and markings, but no symmetry exists between either of the two forewings and their corresponding hindwings. The upper side (dorsal side) of a butterfly's wings is most often totally different from the underside (ventral side) (Fig. 7), the latter very often exhibiting colour schemes and markings that camouflage the insect when at rest into merging with its natural surroundings.

When trying to identify a butterfly one must look for diagnostic characters on either of the two forewings and corresponding hindwings both upper side and underside, and when



Fig. 7 upper side and underside of a butterfly

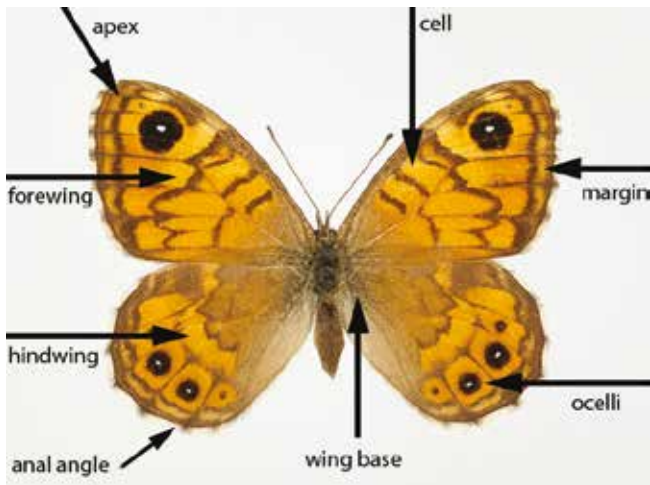


Fig. 8 upper side of a spread butterfly showing the different areas of the wings

these characters are discovered reference should be made as to their exact location on the wings, the geography of which is shown in Fig. 8.

While determining which species a butterfly belongs to, there is yet another element that has to be taken into account: in many species the wing colour and markings are different between the male and the female. This condition, common in many animal species, is called sexual dimorphism. In the butterflies the sexual dimorphism, when present, varies from slight to very pronounced.

Other forms of variation frequently found in butterflies are the individual and the seasonal one. Butterflies belonging to the same species may have different size, colours and markings, but usually the differences are slight and limited to detail. Seasonal variation in particular is governed by climatic conditions (temperature, humidity) as well as by the particular immature stage (egg, larva, pupa) the insect was in when affected by these conditions.

The butterflies of Mount Parnon

So far 110 species of butterflies have been reliably recorded in the Mount Parnon area. This represents the 89% of the species known from the whole of Pelopónnisos (124 species) and the 45% of the totality of species known from Greece (240 species).

Since butterflies are often elusive and rare creatures, it is likely that some more species, new to the Parnon area will be discovered in the future.

In the next pages of the book you will find an account of all the 110 butterfly species where for every species being listed the following information is given:

- scientific name (in italic lettering), author's name and year when the description of that species was first published
- relevant characters of colour and wing markings that allow one to understand which species it is as well as female characters, if different from those of the male
- similar species, if any in the area
- caterpillar food plants, habitat and flight period in the area
- general range inhabited by a species and its range in Greece
- actual size photos of upper side and underside of the male and, when different, also of the female

The following abbreviations are used:

♂ = male

♀ = female

ups = upper side

uns = underside

S., N., E., W. = South, North, East, West

C. = Central

m = meters



family **Papilionidae**

A family of large and colourful butterflies, represented by about 600 species worldwide, a dozen of them found in Europe and just five in the Párnon area.

Their wings are white or yellow with black stripes and black, blue or red spots. The sexual dimorphism is negligible: the wing colour and markings of the females are same as in the males, but the abdomen is larger in the females.

The genera found in the Párnon area are the following:

Papilio:

hindwings with tails, upper side ground colour yellow - 2 species

Iphiclides:

hindwings with long tails, upper side ground colour white - 1 species

Parnassius:

no tails, upper side ground colour white, with black spots - 1 species

Zerynthia:

no tails, upper side ground colour yellow, with red and black markings - 1 species



Papilio machaon

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Swallowtail

Diagnosis:
hindwing with tail

Female: same as male

Caterpillar food plant:
several Umbelliferae , subfamily
Apiodeae

Habitat in Párnon area:
all habitats, from 0 to 1700 m,
the males like to fly around hill
and mountain tops

Flight period in Párnon area:
March to October, three broods

Status in Párnon area:
common

Range:
widely spread in Europe
and N.W. Africa to China
and Japan, found also in N.
America

Range in Greece:
whole of Greece including all
islands



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Papilio alexanor

Author: Esper, 1799

English name:
Southern Swallowtail

Diagnosis:
large, hindwings with tails, wings
crossed by transverse black bars

Female: same as male

Similar species:
Papilio machaon without the black
bars across the wings

Caterpillar food plant:
several umbellifers (family
Apiaceae)

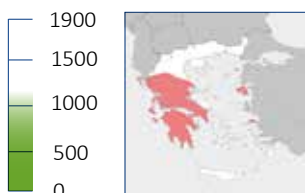
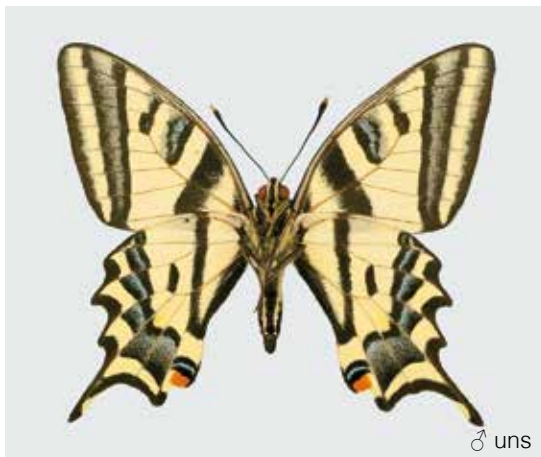
Habitat in Párnon area:
dry slopes and meadows, from 0
to 1000 m

Flight period in Párnon area:
March to May, one brood

Status in Párnon area:
uncommon

Range:
S.E. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle
East to Central Asia

Range in Greece:
most of mainland Greece, Ionian
islands and some Aegean islands



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Iphiclides podalirius

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name:
Scarce Swallowtail

Diagnosis: large, hindwings with long tails, upper side ground colour white, wings crossed by transverse black bars

Female: same as male

Similar species:
ground colour yellow in *Papilio machaon* and *Papilio alexanor*

Caterpillar food plant:
several *Prunus* species including fruit trees

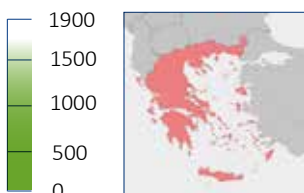
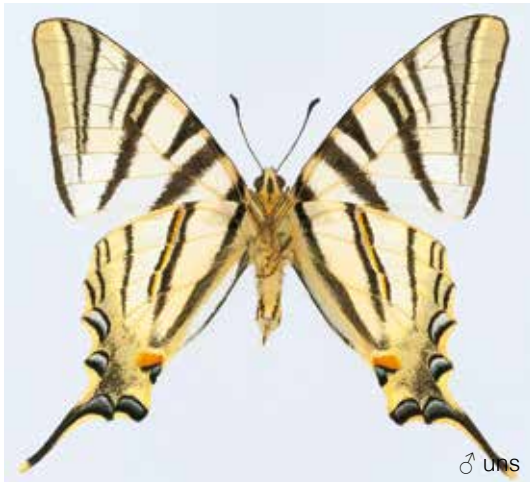
Habitat in Párnon area:
meadows and clearings, from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párnon area:
March to September, three broods

Status in Párnon area:
very common

Range: Europe and Asia to China

Range in Greece:
whole of Greece including all islands



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Parnassius mnemosyne

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Clouded Apollo

Diagnosis: easily recognizable by the translucent white ground colour with two black spots in the forewing cell

Female: same as male

Similar species:

Aporia crataegi without black spots on the forewing

Caterpillar food plant:

several *Corydalis* species

Habitat in Páron area:

mountain meadows above 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June and July, one brood

Status in Páron area:

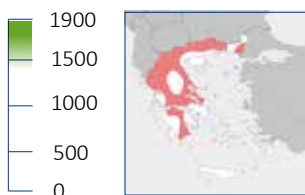
locally common

Range:

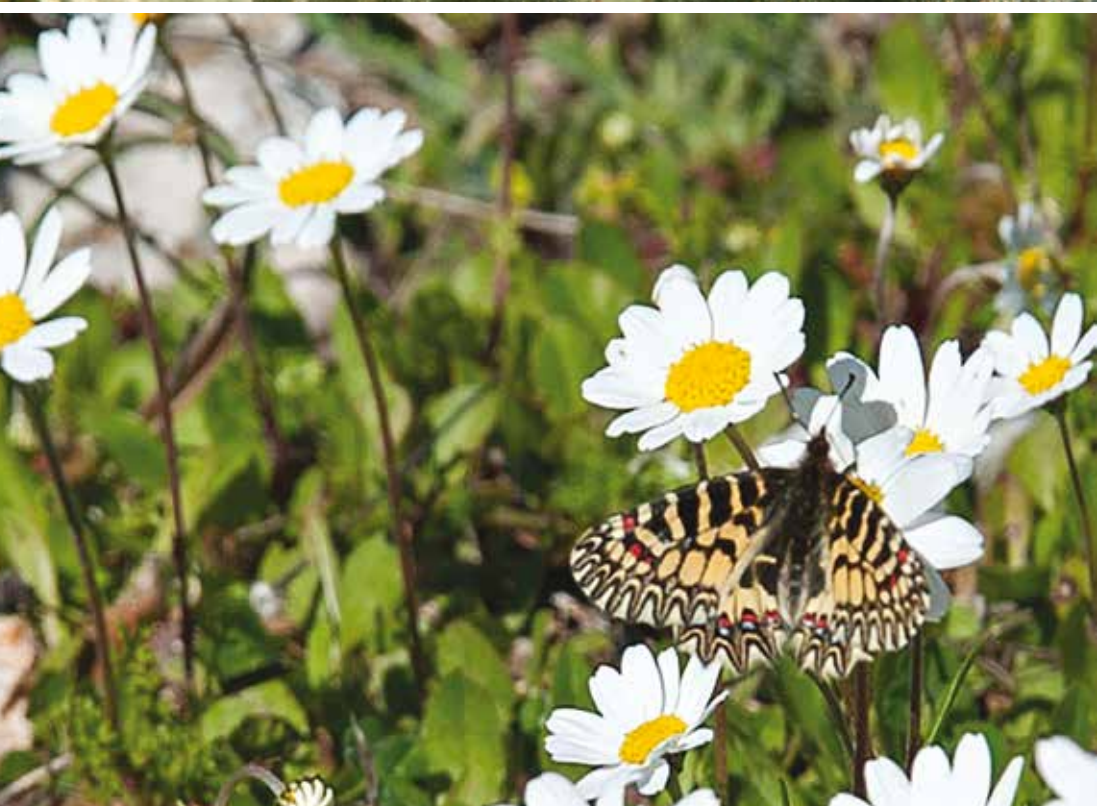
Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, Central Asia

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece



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Zerynthia polyxena

Author:

Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Southern Festoon

Diagnosis: easy to identify for the wing markings

Female: same as male

Similar species: none in the area

Variations:

some specimens have a dark yellow upper side ground colour

Caterpillar food plant:

Aristolochia species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 300 to 1000 m

Flight period in Páron area:

February to April, one brood

Status in Páron area:

widespread, but not common

Range: S. Europe to S. Ural mountains, Asia Minor

Range in Greece:

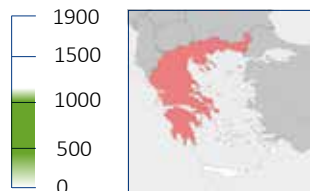
mainland Greece and Ionian islands, Évia island, and certain islands of the Saronikos and the Kikladhes groups



♂ ups



♂ uns



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family **Pieridae**

A family of medium size butterflies, called "Whites and Yellows" or "Sulphurs". Their wings are white, yellow or orange, often with black spots. The sexual dimorphism is strong: the females are usually less coloured than the males and have additional black spots.

The caterpillars feed on many species of crucifers or leguminous plants.

The adult butterflies are strong flyers, often very common in open areas.

Pieridae is a large family found in all continents and all climates. Over 1200 species are known, about 60 of them are found in Europe and 25 in Greece. In the Páron area there have been recorded 16 species belonging to the following genera:

Pieris:

ground colour white, with a few black spots - 5 species

Aporia:

ground colour white with veins strongly lined with black - 1 species

Anthocharis:

males with apex of the forewings bright orange - 3 species

Euchloe:

white with black spots and underside of the hind wing white and green - 1 species

Pontia:

similar to *Euchloe* - 1 species

Colias:

ground colour bright yellow/orange - 1 species

Gonepteryx:

apex of the forewing and anal angle of the hindwing pointed - 3 species

Leptidea:

small, wings elongate, white - 1 species



Pieris brassicae

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Large White

Diagnosis: the largest *Pieris* species

Female: forewing upper side with two median black spots

Similar species: all the other *Pieris* species are much smaller

Caterpillar food plant:
several Cruciferae spp.

Habitat in Párnon area:
found everywhere, from 0 to 1800 m

Flight period in Párnon area:
several broods from March to October

Status in Párnon area:
very common

Range: Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor,
W. and Central Asia

Range in Greece:
whole of Greece including all islands



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Pieris ergane

Author: Geyer, 1828

English name: Mountain Small White

Diagnosis: the smallest *Pieris* species; the black spots on the forewing underside are almost invisible

Female: forewing upper side with two median black spots

Similar species: all the other *Pieris* species have one or two evident black spots on the forewing underside

Variations: the specimens of the summer broods are smaller and the upper side is completely white

Caterpillar food plant: principally *Aethionema* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:
meadows and clearings from 700 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:
several broods from April to October

Status in Páron area: common

Range: S. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece:

all of Mainland Greece including the islands of Évia, Kríti, Sámos, Thásos and Kefalonía



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Pieris napi



Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Green-veined White

Diagnosis: the veins are lined with greenish-grey, especially evident on the hindwing underside

Female: forewing upper side with two median black spots

Similar species: *Pieris brassicae* is much larger, *Pieris rapae* has the hindwing underside almost uniformly yellow

Variations: summer brood specimens have the veins' dark lining less evident, the males have one black spot on the forewing upper side (the spot is missing or vestigial in the first brood males)

Caterpillar food plant: many Cruciferae species

Habitat in Páron area: meadows and clearings from 700 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area: several broods from April to October

Status in Páron area: locally common

Range: S. Europe, Asia Minor, Central Asia

Range in Greece: most of mainland Greece and Évia, Kérkira , Híos, Sámos, Lèsvos, Samothraki and Kos islands



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Pieris krueperi

Author: Staudinger, 1860

English name: Krueper's Small White

Diagnosis: the black markings on the apex of forewing underside are distinctive; the hindwing underside has a yellow-green suffusion, darker in spring brood

Female: black spots more developed

Similar species: easy to recognize from the other *Pieris* species

Variations: the green-yellow suffusion on the hindwing underside is more developed in the spring brood specimens

Caterpillar food plant: *Alyssum* species

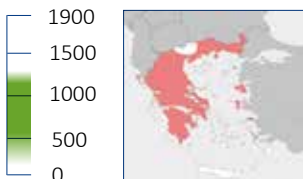
Habitat in Párnon area: rocky slopes 300 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnon area: several broods from April to October

Status in Párnon area: local

Range: S. Balkans, Asia Minor, to N. India

Range in Greece: mainland Greece and Évia, Kérkira, Híos, Kos and Sámos islands



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Pieris rapae

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Small White

Diagnosis:

the black spots on the forewing underside are well developed; hindwing under almost uniformly pale yellow

Female: forewing upper side with two median black spots

Similar species:

Pieris brassicae is much larger, *Pieris napi* has the hindwing underside veins lined with greenish-grey

Caterpillar food plant: principally Brassicaceae

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1900 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

several broods from February to November

Status in Párnon area: very common

Range: Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Asia to Japan

Range in Greece: whole of Greece including all islands



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↑ male and female courtship flight

↓ male



Aporia crataegi

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Black-veined White

Diagnosis:

all veins are strongly lined with black

Female:

wings translucent

Similar species:

Parnassius mnemosyne has black spots on the forewing upper side

Caterpillar food plant:

Prunus species

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows, forest clearings, roadsides, from 0 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

May to July, one brood

Status in Párnon area:

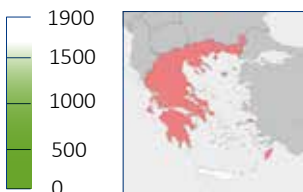
very common

Range:

from C. and S. Europe, N.W. Africa to temperate Asia and Japan

Range in Greece:

mainland Greece and many islands, absent from Kríti



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Pontia edusa



Author: Fabricius, 1777

English name: Eastern Bath White

Diagnosis: easy to identify for the underside green-yellowish markings

Female: upper side with black spots more developed

Similar species:

Pontia daplidice which flies in western Europe, is morphologically indistinguishable and it is identifiable only by biochemical examinations. *Euchloe ausonia* with black markings on upper side less developed and white spots on underside of hindwings less regular

Caterpillar food plant:

several Cruciferae and Resedaceae species

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1800 m

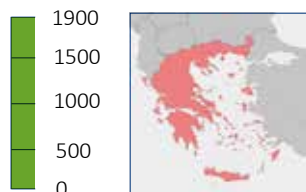
Flight period in Párnon area:

several broods from February to October

Status in Párnon area: common

Range: S. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece: whole of Greece including all islands



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Euchloe ausonia

Author: Hübner 1804

English name: Eastern Dappled White

Diagnosis:

the forewing apical area is black with white spots, the hindwing underside is greenish-yellow with large white spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

the female of *Anthocaris cardamines* looks somehow similar to *Euchloe ausonia* but it has the forewing more rounded.

Pontia edusa has the black discoidal spot on the upper side of the forewing much wider and the white spots on the underside of the hindwing more regular

Caterpillar food plant:

several Cruciferae species

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1300 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

two broods from March to June

Status in Párnon area: common

Range:

Italy, Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East, Central Asia

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including all islands



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male and female



Anthocharis cardamines

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Orange Tip

Diagnosis:

in the male the apical area of the forewing is orange and the ground colour is white

Female:

forewing upper side without the orange apical area

Similar species:

Anthocharis gruneri is smaller and in the male the upper side of the wings is light yellow

Caterpillar food plant:

several Cruciferae species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

one brood from April to June

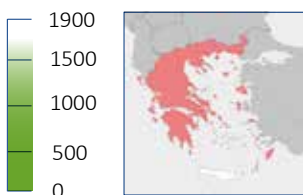
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, Asia to Japan

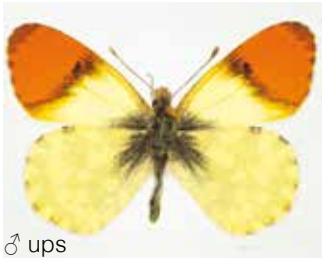
Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including some Kikladhes islands, as well as the islands of Évia, Scópelos, Híos, Sámos, Kérkira and Lefkádha



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Anthocharis damone



Author: Boisduval, 1836

English name: Eastern Orange Tip

Diagnosis:

in the male the apical area of the forewing is orange and the ground colour is yellow

Female:

forewing upper side without the orange apical area, hindwing underside yellow

Similar species:

Anthocharis gruneri is smaller and in the male the upper side of the wings is light yellow.

Anthocharis cardamines in the male the upper side is white instead of yellow, in the female ground colour of the underside of the hind wing is white, not yellow

Caterpillar food plant:

Isatis tinctoria

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 700 to 1100 m

Flight period in Páron area:

one brood from April to June

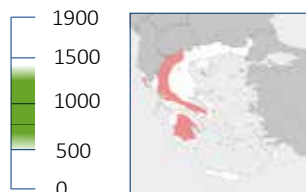
Status in Páron area: very rare

Range:

S. Balkans and S. Italy, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece:

most of Greece, not in the islands, except in Kérkira



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Anthocharis gruneri

Author: Herrich-Schäffer, 1851

English name: Gruner's Orange Tip

Diagnosis:

in the male the apical area of the forewing is orange and the ground colour is light yellow

Female:

forewing upper side without the orange apical area

Similar species:

Anthocharis cardamines is larger and in the male the upper side of the wings is white, not light yellow. *Euchloe ausonia* somehow resembles to the female of *A. gruneri* but the black discoidal spot on the forewing is smaller and not joined to the wing costal margin as in *A. gruneri* (see below)

Caterpillar food plant: *Aethionema* species

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 400 to 1300 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

one brood from April to June

Status in Párnon area:

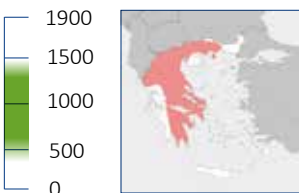
locally common

Range:

S. Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece, present only in Thàsos and Évia islands



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Colias crocea

Author: Geoffroy, in Fourcroy, 1785

English name: Clouded Yellow

Diagnosis:

easy to identify by the upper side bright yellow-orange with black margins

Female:

in the black margin there are large yellow spots

Similar species: none in the area

Variations:

often the female has the upper side whitish instead of yellow (form *helice*)

Caterpillar food plant:

Leguminosae species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1900 m

Flight period in Páron area:

several broods from March to November

Status in Páron area: very common

Range:

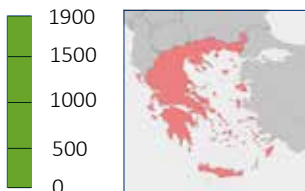
Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including the islands



form *helice*



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Gonepteryx rhamni



Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Brimstone

Diagnosis:

wing upper side ground colour bright yellow in male, greenish-white in female; the forewing apex and the hindwing anal angle are pointed as in all *Gonepteryx* species



Female: upper side greenish-white

Similar species:

Gonepteryx farinosa that has the hindwing anal angle less acute and the male upper side with a powdered appearance and a more intense yellow on forewing than on hindwing

Caterpillar food plant: *Rhamnus* species



Habitat in Párnón area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1900 m

Flight period in Párnón area:

two broods, one on May-June and the second from late summer, then hibernates and reappears again in early Spring

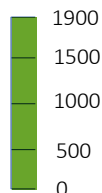
Status in Párnón area: common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

mainland Greece and Évia island



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Gonepteryx farinosa

Author: Zeller, 1847

English name: Powdered Brimstone

Diagnosis:

ground colour of male ups bright yellow with powdering on forewing and light yellow on hindwing and of female whitish on both wings; the forewing apex and the hindwing anal angle are pointed as in all *Gonepteryx* species

Female: upper side ground colour whitish

Similar species:

G. rhamnii female differs by its greenish-white ups ground colour and more developed pointed extension on each wing and *G. cleopatra* female by its greenish-white to pure yellow ups ground colour and less developed pointed extension on each wing

Caterpillar food plant:

Rhamnus species and *Paliurus spina-christi*

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1600 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

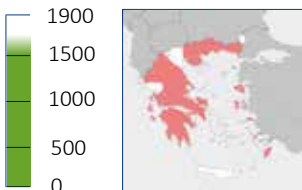
two broods, one on May-June and the second from late summer, then hibernates and reappears again in early Spring

Status in Párnon area: very common

Range:

S. Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East to Central Asia

Range in Greece: most of mainland Greece, Ionian and Aegean islands



♂ ups



♀ ups



♀ ups



♀ ups

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Gonepteryx cleopatra

Author: Linnaeus, 1767

English name: Cleopatra

Diagnosis:

the forewing apex and the hindwing anal angle are pointed as in all *Gonepteryx* species; in the male the apical area of the forewing is orange

Female:

upper side ground colour whitish or yellow, without the apical orange area present in the male

Similar species:

the female is similar to that of *G. rhamnii* and *G. farinosa*

Variations:

female upper side ground colour often yellow instead of whitish

Caterpillar food plant: *Rhamnus* species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1900 m

Flight period in Páron area:

several broods from February to November

Status in Páron area: very common

Range:

S. Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor and Middle East

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including all islands



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Stefano Bossi www.farfalle.altervista.org



Leptidea sinapis

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Wood White

Diagnosis:

small, wings elongated, male upper side of the forewing with black apex

Female:

upper side almost completely white

Similar species: none in the area

Variations:

in summer broods all the dark markings are very reduced or absent.

Recently it has been found that in Europe there are two more species, *Leptidea reali* and *Leptidea juvernica*, externally identical to *Leptidea sinapis*, but with different DNA and different anatomical structures

Caterpillar food plant: several Leguminosae species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

several broods from April to September

Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Central Asia

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including a great number of islands



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family **Nymphalidae**

A family of medium to large size butterflies, which all around the world includes over five thousand species. The family Nymphalidae is divided in thirteen very different subfamilies. The following seven subfamilies are present in the Párnon area:

Nymphalinae:

large, strong flyers, wing shape more or less irregular

Limnitiidae:

upper side black with large white spots

Charaxinae:

very large, strong flyers, hindwings with two tails each

Heliconiinae:

upper side orange with many black spots

Danainae:

large, slow flyers, wings light orange-brown

Libytheinae:

small, wing shape irregular, head with very long palpi resembling a long nose

Satyrinae:

the subfamily with more species among Nymphalidae. Size from very small to large, colour brown or black, but also orange or white with large black spots. All Satyrinae feed on monocot grasses



Nymphalis polychloros

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Large Tortoiseshell

Diagnosis:

large, wing margins scalloped, upper side dark orange-red with black spots

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

similar to *Aglais urticae*:

Aglais urticae is smaller, with hindwing upper side basal and median areas black instead of red-brown

Caterpillar food plant:

elms, poplars and many other trees

Habitat in Párnon area:

forest clearings from 500 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

wintered specimens February to April, freshly emerged ones June to September

Status in Párnon area:

common

Range:

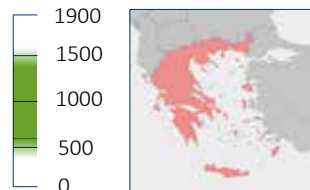
Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece including some islands



Aglais urticae



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Nymphalis antiopa



Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Camberwell Beauty

Diagnosis:

large, wing margins scalloped, upper side dark with marginal yellow bands

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

none in Párrnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

poplars and willows

Habitat in Párrnon area:

forest clearings from 500 to 1600 m

Flight period in Párrnon area:

wintered specimens March to April and freshly emerged ones June to September

Status in Párrnon area:

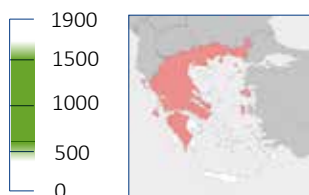
very rare

Range:

Europe, temperate Asia and N. America

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece including the islands of Évia, Thásos and Samothráki



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Vanessa atalanta

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Red Admiral

Diagnosis:

upper side black with red bands and white spots
lower side black with red bands and white spots

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

none in Páron area

Caterpillar food plant:

nettles (*Urtica* spp.) and *Parietaria* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

all habitats from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

wintered specimens January to May and
freshly emerged ones May to November

Status in Páron area:

common

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Asia to China and
Japan, N. America south to Guatemala

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including all islands



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Vanessa cardui

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Painted Lady

Diagnosis:

upper side dull orange with black spots, apex black with white spots

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

none in Páron area

Caterpillar food plant:

nettles (*Urtica* spp.) and thistles

Habitat in Páron area:

all habitats from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

wintered specimens from January to May and freshly emerged ones from May to December

Status in Páron area:

very common

Range:

cosmopolitan except New Zealand and greater part of S. America

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including all islands



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Aglais urticae

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Small Tortoiseshell

Diagnosis: upper side red with small blue spots at the margins

Female: same as male

Similar species: similar to *Nymphalis polychloros*: *Nymphalis polychloros* is larger, with hindwing upper side basal and median areas red-brown instead of black

Caterpillar food plant: nettles (*Urtica* spp.)

Habitat in Párnon area:
all habitats from 1200 to 1900 m

Flight period in Párnon area:
from May to October in one brood

Status in Párnon area: locally common

Range: Europe, Middle East, Caucasus, Transcaucasia, Central Asia to China and Japan

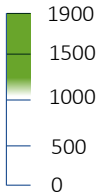
Range in Greece:
most of mainland Greece, Évia and Thásos islands



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Polygonia c-album

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Comma

Diagnosis:

wing margins strongly scalloped

Female: same as male

Similar species:

Polygonia egea having wings less strongly scalloped, black markings on upper side fewer and smaller, white marking on hindwing underside smaller and angular

Caterpillar food plant:

Urtica, *Prunus*, *Ulmus* etc.

Habitat in Páron area:

woodland with clearings from 300 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to August in two broods

Status in Páron area:

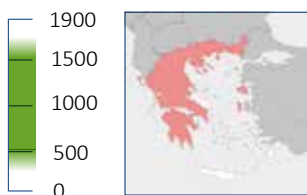
common

Range:

from Europe and N.W. Africa to China and Japan

Range in Greece:

all of mainland Greece as well as Kérkira and Thásos Islands



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photo by
Wendy Copage



Polygonia egea

Author:

Cramer, 1775

English name:

Southern Comma

Diagnosis:

wing margins strongly scalloped

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

Polygonia c-album having wings more strongly scalloped, black markings on upper side more numerous and more pronounced, white marking on hindwing underside larger and rounded

Caterpillar food plant:

Parietaria spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

rocky slopes from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to October in several broods

Status in Páron area:

common

Range:

S. Europe (except Iberian Peninsula), Asia Minor and Middle East

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including most of the islands



photo by Wendy Copage

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Charaxes jasius

Author:

Linnaeus, 1767

English name:

Two-tailed Pasha

Diagnosis:

large, hindwing with two tails

Female: same as male

Similar species:

none in Páron area

Caterpillar food plant:

Strawberry tree (*Arbutus* species)

Habitat in Páron area:

Mediterranean maquis from 0 to 700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June and August-October in two broods

Status in Páron area:

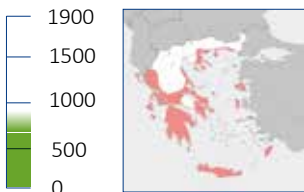
locally common

Range:

coastal Mediterranean areas, Africa

Range in Greece:

along the coasts of most of mainland Greece and most islands, but not yet reliably recorded in N.E. Greece (Thráki), and absent from the Kikládhes Islands



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Limenitis reducta

Author: Staudinger, 1901

English name: Southern White Admiral

Diagnosis: upper side black with bluish sheen, and with well-defined white spots, underside dark brick red with well defined white spots. Flight characteristically gliding

Female: same as male

Similar species: none in Páron area

Caterpillar food plant: honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.)

Habitat in Páron area: meadows and clearings from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area: April to October in several broods

Status in Páron area: common

Range: S. and part of central Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East, N. Iran

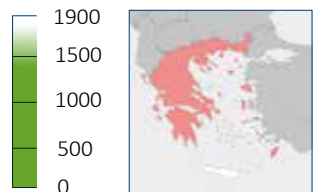
Range in Greece: whole of Greece including most major islands and minor ones close to the mainland, but absent from the Kikládhes islands



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Argynnis paphia

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Silver-washed Fritillary

Diagnosis: large, hindwing underside crossed by well developed silvery stripes

Female: same as the male but without the black horizontal stripes on the forewing upper side

Similar species: *Argynnis pandora* having the ground colour of forewing underside red instead of yellow-buff and the hindwing underside pure green rather than yellowish-green

Variations: some females have the upper side ground colour greenish-grey instead of orange

Caterpillar food plant: violets, rarely *Rubus* spp.

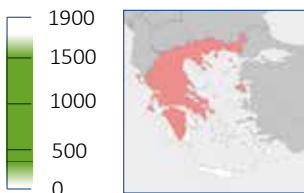
Habitat in Párnon area: all habitats from 100 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párnon area: June to September in a single protracted brood

Status in Párnon area: very common

Range: Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Asia to China and Japan

Range in Greece: most of mainland Greece as well as the islands of Kérkira, Évia, Ándhros, Lésvos, Sámos, Samothráki and Thásos



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Argynnis pandora



Author: Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Cardinal

Diagnosis: large, forewing upper side with two black stripes, ground colour of forewing underside red, and of hindwing underside almost uniformly pure-green

Female: same as the male but without the black horizontal stripes on the forewing upper side and with silvery stripes on hindwing underside

Similar species: *Argynnis paphia* having the forewing underside ground colour yellow-buff

Caterpillar food plant: violets, especially *Viola tricolor*

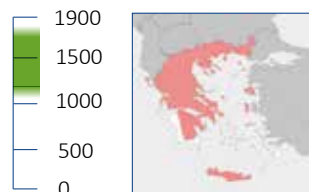
Habitat in Párnon area: meadows and clearings from 1200 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párnon area: June to September in a single brood

Status in Párnon area: locally common

Range: Europe, Canary Islands, N.W. Africa, Middle East

Range in Greece: most of mainland Greece including most of its major islands, but absent from the Kiklâdhes and Dhodhekánisa island groups



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Argynnis niobe

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Niobe Fritillary

Diagnosis:

large or medium size, hindwing underside with many greenish-yellow to yellowish-buff spots and a row of orange-brown spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Argynnis adippe being larger, having two black androconial stripes on the forewing upper side in the male, and more washed-out spotting on hindwing underside in both male and female

Caterpillar food plant: violets

Habitat in Párnon area:

clearings from 1000 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

May to July

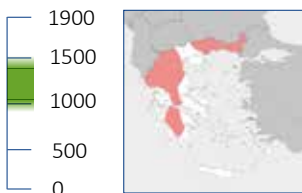
Status in Párnon area: rare

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, Iran, C. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, absent from the islands except Sámos



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Argynnis adippe



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Author:

Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name:

High Brown Fritillary

Diagnosis:

in flight easily confused with *Argynnis niobe* and *Speyeria aglaja*, alighted may be diagnosed by the washed-out spotting of the hindwing underside

Female:

same as the male but without the black androconial stripes

Similar species:

Argynnis niobe not having black androconial stripes on the forewing upper side in the male and having well defined spotting on hindwing underside in both male and female

Caterpillar food plant:

violets, rarely *Rubus* spp.

Habitat in Párnon area:

clearings from 1000 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to September

Status in Párnon area:

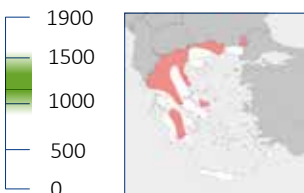
rare

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Asia to China and Japan

Range in Greece:

mountain areas of mainland Greece and at low altitude areas in Northern Greece, absent from the islands, except Évia



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Speyeria aglaja

Author:

Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name:

Dark Green Fritillary

Diagnosis:

large or medium size, hindwing underside with many silvery spots and without orange-brown spots

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

Argynnis niobe and *Argynnis adippe* both lacking silver spotting on hindwing underside

Caterpillar food plant:

violets

Habitat in Páron area:

clearings from 1000 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June to August

Status in Páron area:

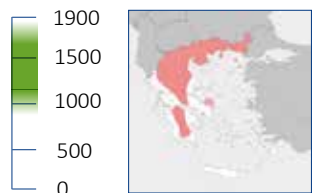
uncommon

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Asia to China and Japan

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece, absent from the islands except Évia



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Issoria lathonia

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Queen of Spain Fritillary

Diagnosis:

hindwing underside with large silver spots

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

the hindwing underside is unique among European butterflies

Caterpillar food plant:

violets

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1600 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to October in three broods

Status in Páron area:

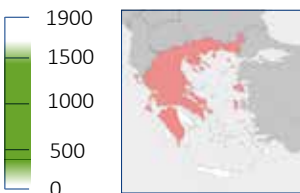
common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Madeira, Canary Islands, Asia Minor to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

most of mainland Greece, and islands of Évia, Thásos, Samothráki and Kefaloniá



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female ↑



male ↑

male and female courtship ↓



Melitaea cinxia

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Glanville Fritillary

Diagnosis:

ground colour upper side dull fulvous; hindwing both upper side and underside with a series of black spots inside fulvous band close to the wing's outer margin (see the picture)

Female:

upper side ground colour duller than in the male, , and often with a dark, smoky overtone especially at base of wings

Similar species:

Melitaea didyma and *Melitaea ornata* and *Melitaea trivia* all three of which lack the series of black spots inside the fulvous band close to the hindwing's outer margin

Caterpillar food plant:

plantain, hawkweed and *Centaurea* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to July in two broods

Status in Páron area:

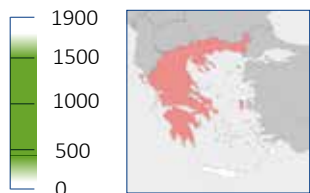
very common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor to Central Asia and China

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, absent from the islands except Kérkira, Évia and Hios



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Melitaea ornata



Author: Christoph, 1893

English name: Southern Knapweed Fritillary

Diagnosis:

ground colour upper side bright fulvous; black markings that are close to and near the center of forewing's outer margin displaced inwards; hindwing upper side and underside without series of black spots inside fulvous band near wing's outer margin.

Female: same as the male but often larger and ground colour less uniform, being often intermixed with yellowish-fulvous areas

Similar species: *Melitaea cinxia* having a series of black spots inside fulvous band near hindwing's outer margin; *Melitaea didyma* having on upper side bright reddish-tawny ground colour with less extensive black markings; *Melitaea trivia* being smaller, having the black spots along the margin on hindwing underside somewhat rounded rather than lunular

Caterpillar food plant: hawkweed and *Centaurea* spp.

Habitat in Páron area: meadows and clearings from 200 to 1300 m

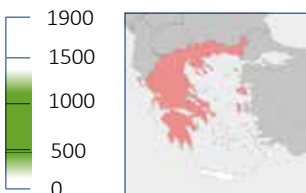
Flight period in Páron area: April to June in a single brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range: S Europe, Asia Minor, Near East, Iran, S.E. European Russia and N.W. Kazakhstan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, and also present on the larger Greek islands off the western coast of Asia Minor, as well as on some small islands just off the shores of mainland Greece such as are Éyina, Póros and Spétses; absent from Kríti, Dhodhekánisa and Kikládhes islands and not yet reported from any of the Ionian islands



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Melitaea didyma

Author: Esper, 1778

English name: Spotted Fritillary

Diagnosis: upper side ground colour red-orange bright reddish-tawny, black markings not extensive

Female: upper side ground colour light orangey-tawny often with light bluish-grey suffusion; black markings more extensive than in male

Similar species: *Melitaea trivia* being usually smaller and having ground colour on upper side dark tawny to light yellowish tawny and extensive black markings; *Melitaea cinxia* having a series of black spots inside fulvous band near hindwing's outer margin; *Melitaea ornata* having on upper side the black markings that are close to and near the center of forewing's outer margin displaced inwards

Caterpillar food plant: *Centaurea* and *Linaria* spp.

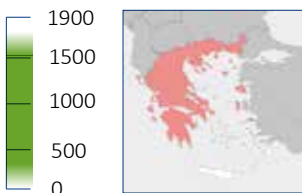
Habitat in Páron area: meadows and clearings from 50 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area: May to September in two or three broods, last brood specimens are very small

Status in Páron area: very common

Range: Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor to Central Asia and China

Range in Greece: widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos and in the islands of Kérkira, Évia, Sámos, Híos, Lésvos, Límnos, Samothráki and Thásos



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Melitaea trivia

**Author:**

Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name:

Lesser Spotted Fritillary

Diagnosis:

similar to *Melitaea didyma* but usually smaller, ground colour on upper side dark tawny (1st brood) to light yellowish-tawny (2nd brood), and black markings upper side more extensive

Female:

same as the male but usually larger and ground colour on upper side rarely intermixed with yellowish areas

Similar species:

Melitaea didyma usually being larger, and having ground colour on upper side bright reddish-tawny in male and light orangey-tawny often with light bluish-grey suffusion in female

Caterpillar food plant:

Verbascum spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows from 1200 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to October in two broods

Status in Páron area:

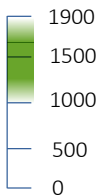
rare

Range:

widespread in Europe but absent from the British Isles, N.E. Greece, eastern Aegean islands, Spain and Portugal; also present in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Amur but absent from Asia Minor and the Near East

Range in Greece:

western and central part of N. Greece, central and southern part of mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos, as well as islands of Éyina, and Évia



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Libythea celtis

Author:

Laicharting, 1782

English name:

Nettle-tree Butterfly

Diagnosis:

forewing with a peculiar square apex, hindwing indented, palpi very long (see picture)

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

none in Europe

Caterpillar food plant:

hackberry (*Celtis australis*)

Habitat in Páron area:

woods with hackberry trees from 700 to 1300 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June to September in a single brood and wintered specimens in March and April

Status in Páron area:

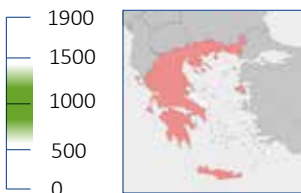
locally common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor to Japan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and also present on islands of Kriti, Kérkira, Lésvos and Thásos



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Danaus chrysippus

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Plain Tiger

Diagnosis: an unmistakable large butterfly with a characteristic leisurely sailing flight

Female: same as the male but lacking on hindwing the large black spot right below wing's center

Similar species: none in Greece

Caterpillar food plant:

Asclepiadaceae spp., including *Gomphocarpus fruticosus*

Habitat in Páron area:

semi-cultivated meadows close to river beds at sea level

Flight period in Páron area:

August to October

Status in Páron area:

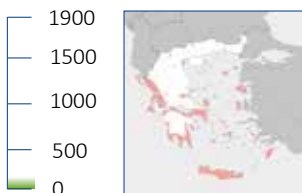
locally common

Range:

Africa, Canary Islands, tropical and subtropical Asia, with scattered, most often temporary colonies in the Mediterranean coastal and especially river delta regions

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos and also recorded on some Ionian, Kikládhes, central and eastern Aegean islands as well as on Kriti Island and the Dhodhekánisa islands



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Melanargia larissa

Author:

Geyer, 1828

English name:

Balkan Marbled White

Diagnosis:

white ground colour with a complicate pattern of black spots and lines

Female:

same as the male but underside markings brown instead of black

Similar species:

none in the Parnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

Poa spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnion area:

meadows from 500 to 1800 m

Flight period in Párnion area:

May to August in one brood

Status in Párnion area:

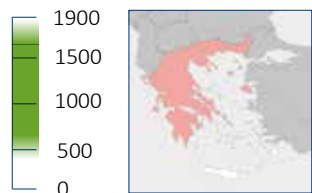
common

Range:

Balkans, Asia Minor, Near East

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded on the Greek islands of Kérkira, Ídhra, Éyina, Évia, Ándhros, Síros, Lésvos, Límnos and Samothráki; absent from most Kikládhes and all Dhodhekánisa islands as well as from Kríti Island



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Hipparchia fagi



Author: Scopoli, 1763

English name: Woodland Grayling

Diagnosis: large, upper side dark brown, both wings with a broad whitish marginal band, the forewing's band with a greyish-brown powdering

Female: same as the male but whitish band clearer and more intense white

Similar species:

Hipparchia syriaca: see next page;
Brintesia circe having the white band pure white and with well defined borders

Caterpillar food plant: *Festuca* spp.,
Bromus spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:
woodland from 500 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:
June to August in one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range:
S. and C. Europe, Western Asia

Range in Greece:
widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded on the islands of Kefaloniá, Évia, and Thásos



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Hipparchia syriaca

Author: Staudinger, 1871

English name: Eastern Rock Grayling

Diagnosis: externally looking same as *Hipparchia fagi*

Female: same as the male but whitish band clearer and more intense white

Similar species:

it is impossible to separate *Hipparchia fagi* from *Hipparchia syriaca* other than by structural characters that can be observed only under a microscope

Caterpillar food plant: several grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

woodland from 100 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to September in one brood

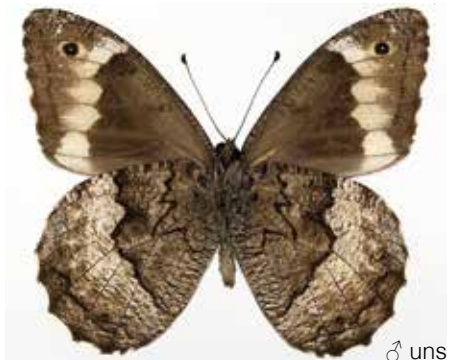
Status in Párnon area: not common

Range:

Balkans, Asia Minor, Caucasus, N. Iran, Middle East

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos but absent from most islands except Kérkira, Kefaloniá, Évia, Ródhos, Sámos, Híos, Lésvos, Samothráki and Thásos



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Hipparchia statilinus

Author: Hufnagel, 1766

English name: Tree Grayling

Diagnosis:

upper side completely blackish brown except for two black spots close to the forewing outer margin, on forewing underside the spot arrangement is the same but the spots are large and yellow-ringed

Female:

upper side ground colour lighter brown and spotting more intense

Similar species:

Hipparchia fatua having the dark line close to the outer margin of the hindwing more pronounced on both sides (see pictures) and having two dark zig-zag lines across the hindwing underside

Caterpillar food plant:

Bromus spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

woodland from 400 to 1200 m

Flight period in Páron area:

July to September in one brood

Status in Páron area:

not common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, N Africa, Asia Minor, N. W.Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded on the islands of Kérkira, Kefaloniá, Kíthira, Évia, and Thásos



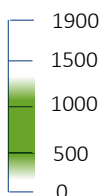
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Hipparchia fatua

Author: Freyer, 1843

English name: Freyer's Grayling

Diagnosis:

very close to *Hipparchia statilinus*

Female:

upper side of the forewing with white, black and yellow small spots close to the outer margin

Similar species:

Hipparchia statilinus having the dark line close to the outer margin of the hindwing less evident or missing (see pictures) and having only one dark zig-zag line across the hindwing underside

Caterpillar food plant:

various grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

woodland from 0 to 800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June to September in one brood

Status in Páron area:

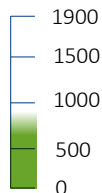
not common

Range:

Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East, N. Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in a great number of islands, absent from Kríti



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Hipparchia senthes



Author: Fruhstorfer, 1908

English name: Balkan Grayling

Diagnosis:

upper side brown with some yellow-orange areas, underside of hindwing mottled grey and white, underside of forewing light yellow-orange with black markings

Female:

upper side light orange areas more strongly tinted and having sharper edges

Similar species:

none in the Párnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

various grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

woodland from 200 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to August in one brood

Status in Párnon area: common

Range:

S. Italy, S. Balkans, W. and C. Turkey

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in many islands, absent from Ionian and Dhodhekánisa islands, as well as from Kríti



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Satyrus ferula

Author: Fabricius, 1793

English name: Great Sooty Satyr

Diagnosis: male upper side completely dark brown except for two black round spots centered by a white small pupil, close to the forewing outer margin

Female: upper side ground colour lighter brown with a broad yellowish band across the wings, underside lighter

Similar species: none in the Párrnon area

Caterpillar food plant: *Festuca* spp. and other grasses

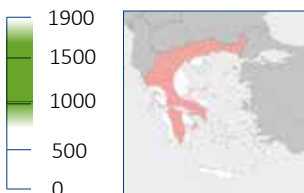
Habitat in Párrnon area: woodland from 800 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párrnon area: July to September in one brood

Status in Párrnon area: common

Range: S Europe, N Africa, Asia Minor, Middle east, Central Asia to China

Range in Greece: widespread in mainland Greece and also recorded from the islands of Ídhra and Éyina



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Pseudochazara graeca



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Author:

Staudinger, 1870

English name:

Grecian Grayling

Diagnosis:

upper side ground colour greysh-brown with a broad yellowish-orange band across the wings

Female:

larger than the male, upper side bands lighter coloured, often slightly wider and sharper

Similar species:

the female of *Satyrus ferula* being larger, with a lighter upper side ground colour

Caterpillar food plant:

grasses

**Habitat in Páron area:**

a mountain butterfly, dry grassy slopes from 1400 to 1900 m

Flight period in Páron area:

July and August in one brood

Status in Páron area:

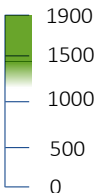
locally common

Range:

Southern Balkans

Range in Greece:

mountains of southern and central mainland Greece and of Pelopónnisos; absent from all islands except that of Évia



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Pseudochazara amalthea

Author: Frivaldszky, 1845

English name: Balkan White-banded Grayling

Diagnosis:

upper side ground colour dark grey-brown with across the wings a broad white band, tinged with orange on the hindwing

Female:

larger than the male, upper side more brownish, white band less developed

Similar species:

Brintesia circe and *Chazara briseis* both having the white band narrower and not tinged with orange

Caterpillar food plant: grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

dry grassy slopes from 700 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

July and August in one brood

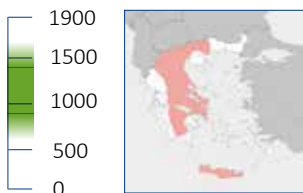
Status in Páron area: uncommon

Range:

Southern Balkans

Range in Greece:

mountains of mainland Greece except Thráki; also present in Pelopónnisos and the islands of Kríti and Évia



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Brintesia circe



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Author:

Fabricius, 1775

English name:

Great Banded Grayling

Diagnosis:

large, upper side ground colour black with a white band across the wings

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

Chazara briseis whose underside ground colour is lighter and the white band broader, and *Hipparchia fagi* whose white band is powdered with greyish-brown and has suffused borders

Caterpillar food plant:

Bromus spp., *Lolium* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnos area:

woodland and clearings from 500 to 1800 m

Flight period in Párnos area:

from mid June to August in one brood

Status in Párnos area:

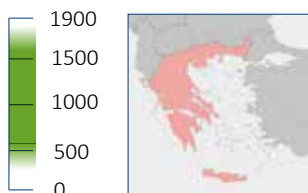
common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, Asia Minor to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded on the islands of Évia, Kèrkira and Thásos



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Chazara briseis

Author:

Linnaeus, 1764

English name:

The Hermit

Diagnosis:

large, upper side dark brown with large irregular white bands across the wings

Female:

upper side white bands more developed

Similar species:

Hipparchgia fagi having the white bands powdered with brown on the forewing and *Brintesia circe* having the underside ground colour darker with the white band narrower and more regular

Caterpillar food plant:

Sesleria spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

dry grassy slopes from 600 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

late June to September in one brood

Status in Páron area:

common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, N. W. Africa, Asia Minor, Central Asia to China

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, absent from the islands



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Arethusana arethusa



Author:

Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name:

False Grayling

Diagnosis:

upper side ground colour brown with a series of orange spots close to the wing margins

Female:

ground colour and orange spots lighter than in the male

Similar species:

none in the Párnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

Festuca spp, *Poa* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

clearings from 1300 to 1800 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

from July to August in one brood

Status in Párnon area:

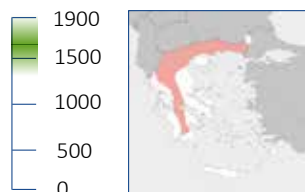
rare

Range:

S. and C. Europe, N.W. Africa , Asia Minor, Central Asia to N.W. China

Range in Greece:

mountainous areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



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Maniola jurtina

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Meadow Brown

Diagnosis:

male upper side dark brown with one black round spot at forewing apex, female upper side brown with large orange patches

Female:

upper side ground colour lighter with a broad orange patch on the forewing and a smaller one on the hindwing

Similar species:

Hyponphele lycaon and *Hyponphele lupinus* both without black spots on the hindwing underside close to the wing margin

Caterpillar food plant:

Poa spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

from May to September in one brood

Status in Párnon area:

very common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including most islands except eastern Aegean and Dhodhekánisa islands



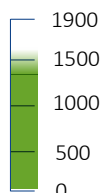
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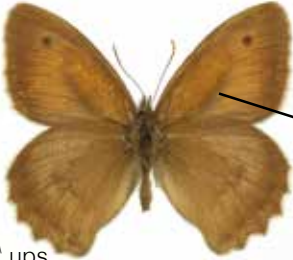


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Hyponephele lycaon



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Author:

Rottemburg, 1775

English name:

Dusky Meadow Brown

Diagnosis:

male upper side brown with one black spot close to the forewing apex, and a dark stripe (androconial patch) starting from the wing base, female forewing upper side with two black spots



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Female:

upper side of the forewing yellow with brown dusting at base and two black spots close to the outer margin

Similar species:

Hyponephele lupinus having the male with the androconial patch wider and more evident (see picture) and the female with darker forewing upper side. *Maniola jurtina* having some black spots on the hindwing underside close to the wing margin



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Caterpillar food plant:

Poa spp., *Festuca* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 500 to 1100 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

from late May to August in one brood

Status in Párnon area:

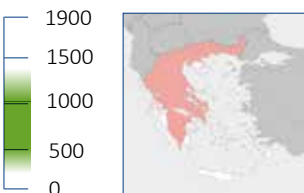
not common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus and most of temperate Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands except Évia



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Hyponephele lupinus

Author:

Costa, 1836

English name:

Oriental Meadow Brown

Diagnosis:

very close to *Hyponephele lycaon*, upper side ground colour lighter

Female:

forewing upper side with two black spots inside a yellowish band close to the wing margin

Similar species:

Hyponephele lycaon having the male with the androconial patch slimmer and less evident (see picture) and the female with forewing upper side almost completely yellow. *Maniola jurtina* having some black spots on the hindwing underside close to the wing margin

Caterpillar food plant:

grasses of unknown species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 500 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

from June to September in one brood

Status in Páron area:

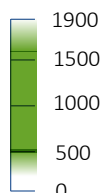
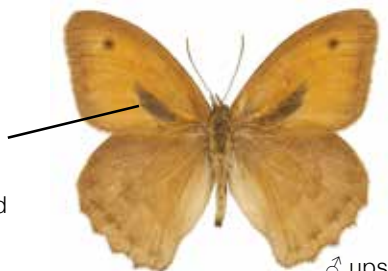
not common

Range:

S. and C. Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East, C. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and recorded also from the islands of Kriti, Kefaloniá, Kíthira, Évia, Thásos, Ródhos, Tílos, Kos and Lésvos



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Coenonympha pamphilus

Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Small Heath

Diagnosis:

very small, upper side light orange brown with a dark regular margin and a small round black spot close to apex of the forewing

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

none in the Párnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

several species of grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

grassy slopes from 300 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

from April to September in several broods

Status in Párnon area:

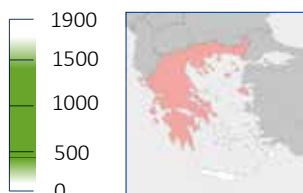
very common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, western and central Asia to Mongolia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and recorded also from the Ionian islands and those of Évia, Skiáthos, Thásos and Lésvos



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Pararge aegeria



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Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Speckled Wood

Diagnosis:

upper side brown with many small yellow spots and one black spot close to forewing apex

Female:

same as male

Similar species:

none in the Páron area

Caterpillar food plant:

Poa spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

woodland and clearings from 100 to 1200 m

Flight period in Páron area:

from March to September in three broods

Status in Páron area:

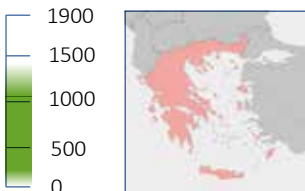
common

Range:

most of Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded from the islands of Kérkira, Kíthira, Kríti, Ándhros, Évia, Skiáthos, Skópelos, Samothráki, Thásos, Lésvos, Sámos, Kos and Kárpáthos



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Kirinia roxelana

Author:

Cramer, 1777

English name:

Lattice Brown

Diagnosis:

large, upper side brown with a series of round black spots circled with yellow close to the outer margin of the hindwing, more evident on the underside

Female:

upper side of the forewing with the orange patch more developed and with white spots close to the wing costa

Similar species:

none in the Párnion area

Caterpillar food plant:

Poa spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnion area:

sparse woodland from 200 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnion area:

from April to September in a single brood

Status in Párnion area:

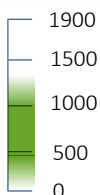
rare

Range:

S. and C. Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East, N. W. Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded from the islands of Kérkira, Kíthira, Évia, Skiáthos, Thásos, Samothráki, Lésvos, Híos, Sámos, Ikaría, Nísiros, Sími and Ródhos



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Lasiommata maera



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Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Large Wall Brown

Diagnosis:

upper side dark brown with one black, white pupilled spot close to the forewing apex and three smaller spots close to the outer margin of the hindwing

Female: upper side of the forewing with a broad orange-yellow suffusion

Similar species:

Lasiommata megera smaller, having upper side ground colour orange

Caterpillar food plant:

Festuca spp., *Nardus* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnos area:

woodland and clearings from 200 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnos area:

from April to October in two broods

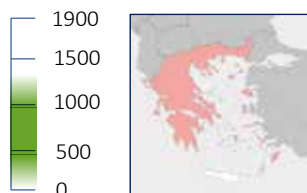
Status in Párnos area: common

Range:

from Europe and N.W. Africa to C. Asia and W. China

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, and also recorded from the islands of Kérkira, Zákynthos, Kefaloniá, Spétses, Éyina, Évia, Samothráki, Lésvos, Híos, Sámos, Pátmos, Kos, Nísiros, Tílos, Sími and Ródhos



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Lasiommata megera

Author: Linnaeus, 1767

English name: Wall Brown

Diagnosis:

upper side ground colour orange with dark brown linear markings, one black, white pupilled spot close to the forewing apex and three smaller spots close to the outer margin of the hindwing

Female: upper side dark brown linear markings less developed

Similar species:

Lasiommata maera larger, having the male with upper side almost completely dark brown and female darker orange than in *Lasiommata megera*

Caterpillar food plant:

Festuca spp., *Brachypodium* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

woodland and clearings from 0 to 1600 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

from April to October in three or four broods

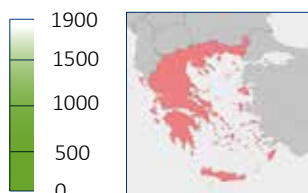
Status in Párnon area: very common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece, including all islands



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family **Lycaenidae**

A family of small size butterflies, which all around the world includes over six thousand species. The family Lycaenidae is divided into eight subfamilies. The following three subfamilies are present in the Párnon area:

Lycaeninae:

the upper side is in most species different tones of gleaming red-gold with more or less developed dark spots, some species are dark brown. A few species have a short tail

Theclinae:

the upper side is uniformly dark brown, the underside is grey with more or less developed small orange spots close to the margin of the hindwing and a black or blue spot at the anal angle. The hindwings have well developed tails

Polyommatainae:

the largest subfamily of Lycaenidae with over 80 species in Europe and 25 species in the Párnon area. Males upper side usually blue, females usually brown





Lycaena phlaeas

Author: Linnaeus, 1761

English name: Small Copper

Diagnosis:

very small, upper side of the forewing gleaming red-gold with many black spots and a dark grey margin

Female:

larger than the male, upper side of the forewing brighter orange-gold with black spots less developed

Similar species: none in the Páron area

Variations:

summer specimens have often the forewing upper side suffused with brown; some specimens have a row of blue spots on the hindwing upper side

Caterpillar food plant:

Polygonum spp. and *Rumex* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

from March to October in four broods

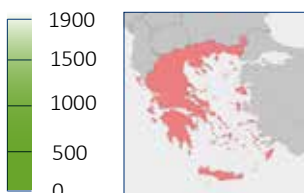
Status in Páron area: very common

Range:

Europe, N. and C. Africa, temperate and subtropical Asia to China, N. America

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece, including all islands



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Lycaena thersamon



Author: Esper, 1784

English name: Lesser Fiery Copper

Diagnosis:

male upper side of the forewing pale gleaming red gold with narrow black margins



Female: upper side of the forewing bright orange-red with many black spots

Similar species: *Lycaena thetis* having in the male the upper side of both wings completely fiery red gold and the underside of the hindwing with little developed black spots



Variations:

summer specimens have a short tail

Caterpillar food plant:

Polygonum spp. and *Rumex* spp.



Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows from 800 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

April-May and July-August in two broods

Status in Párnon area: very rare

Range: C. and E. Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East, temperate W. and C. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and also present in Évia, Thásos, and certain Sporádhes and Dhodhekánisa islands



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Lycaena tityrus

Author: Poda, 1761

English name: Sooty Copper

Diagnosis:

male upper side dark brown with a row of small orange spots along the wing margin, male underside ground colour light yellowish-grey

Female:

upper side of the forewing orange-gold with many black spots, , underside ground colour yellow-orange

Similar species: many Lycaenidae species have the upper side dark brown with orange spots but the anal angle of their hindwings is rounded, while in *Lycaena tityrus* at the anal angle there is a protrusion like a vestigial tail (see pictures)

Caterpillar food plant:

Rumex spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows from 600 to 1400 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to September in two broods

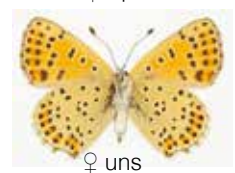
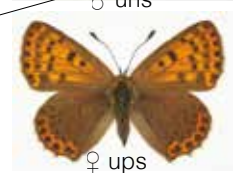
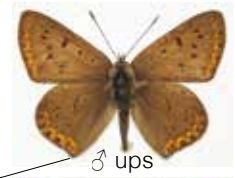
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, Asia Minor, N. Iran, temperate W. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in the mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos and also present in Évia and Sámos islands



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Lycaena thetis

Author: Klug, 1834

English name: Fiery Copper

Diagnosis:

male upper side of both wings fiery red-gold with narrow black margins widening at forewing's apex, underside of the hindwing light grey with dark spots little developed

Female:

female upper side orange-gold with many black spots

Similar species: *Lycaena thesamon* having in the male the upper side of the hindwing with a dark shade and the underside of the hindwing with well developed black spots

Caterpillar food plant:

Acantholimon androsaceum (see picture below)

Habitat in Páron area:

mountain meadows from 1700 to 1900 m

Flight period in Páron area:

July-August, one brood

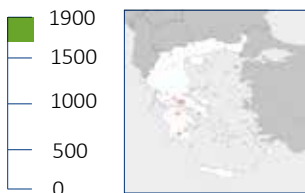
Status in Páron area: very local

Range:

Greece, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece:

found only on a few mountains in southern mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos



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Satyrium ilicis



Author: Esper, 1779

English name: Ilex Hairstreak

Diagnosis:

upper side uniformly dark brown, hindwings with a short tail, underside of the hindwings with a row of faint orange spots close to the wing margin and a row of white linear spots crossing the wing

Female:

same as the male but occasionally with an orange dash on the upper side of the forewing

Similar species: *Satyrium spini* having on the underside of the hindwings a blue spot at the anal angle (see picture)

Caterpillar food plant:

Quercus spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

clearings from 400 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

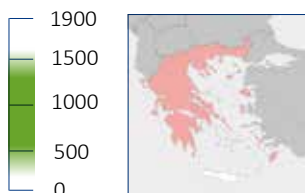
May to July in one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range: Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East, N.W. Kazakhstan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and in a good number of islands, but absent from Kríti, Kápathos, Ródhos and the Kikládhes islands



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Satyrium spini

Author: Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Blue-spot Hairstreak

Diagnosis:

upper side uniformly dark brown, hindwings with a short tail, underside of the hindwings with a row of faint orange spots close to the wing margin and a large blue spot at anal angle

Female: same as the male

Similar species: *Satyrium ilicis* not having on the underside of the hindwings the blue spot at the anal angle (see picture)

Caterpillar food plant: *Rhamnus* spp. and *Prunus* spp.

Habitat in Páron area: clearings from 100 to 1300 m

Flight period in Páron area: May to July in one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range: Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East, N. Iran, S. Turkmenistan, W. Afghanistan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and in the islands of Zákynthos, Kíthira, Spétses, Évia, Híos and Sámos; absent from Kríti, Kárpathos, Dhodhekánisa and Kikládhes islands



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Favonius quercus



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Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Purple Hairstreak

Diagnosis:

male upper side uniformly dark brown with a purple sheen, hindwings with a short tail, underside ground colour light grey with a white line across the wings close to the wing margin

Female:

upper side of the forewing with two gleaming blue spots along the inner margin

Similar species:

Satyrium ilicis and *Satyrium spini* both having the upper side brown, without purple sheen and underside ground colour darker

Caterpillar food plant: oak and ash trees

Habitat in Párnon area: clearings from 300 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

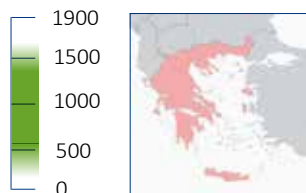
July to September in one brood

Status in Párnon area: locally common

Range: Europe, N.W. Africa, S.W. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and also found in the islands of Kefaloniá, Kíri, Évia, Samothráki, Lésvos and Sámos; absent from the Dhodhekánisa, Kikládhes, Sporádhes and Límnos islands



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Callophrys rubi

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Green Hairstreak

Diagnosis:

underside almost completely green

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

none in Greece

Caterpillar food plant:

gorse, broom, ling and *Vaccinium* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

clearings and bushes from 0 to 1200 m

Flight period in Páron area:

March to May in one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, Asia Minor, N. Central Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and most islands but absent from Kríti



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Lampides boeticus



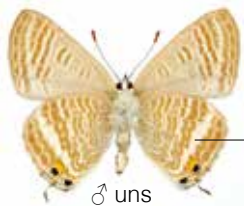
♂ ups

Author: Linnaeus, 1767

English name: Long-tailed Blue

Diagnosis:

hindwings with a long tail; male upper side dull blue with two large black spots at anal angle of the hindwing



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Female:

upper side brown with a blue suffusion in the basal and median area of wings

Similar species:

Leptotes pirithous: smaller, having shorter tails and the under-side of the hindwing without a white band (see picture)



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Caterpillar food plant:

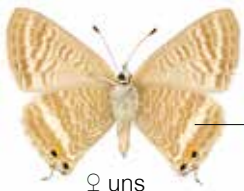
several species of Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

clearings from 0 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June to September in two broods



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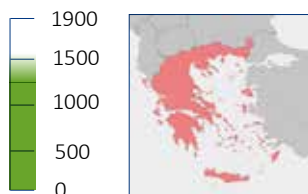
Status in Páron area: not common

Range:

Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia

Range in Greece:

widespread throughout mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and the islands



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Leptotes pirithous

Author: Linnaeus, 1767

English name: Short-tailed Blue

Diagnosis:

hindwings with a short tail; male upper side dull blue with two small black spots at anal angle of the hindwing

Female:

upper side brown with a blue suffusion in the basal and median area of wings

Similar species:

Lampides boeticus: larger, having longer tails and on the underside of the hindwing a white band close to the wing margin (see picture of *Lampides boeticus*)

Caterpillar food plant:

several species of small Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

clearings from 0 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to October in several broods

Status in Páron area: not common

Range:

S and C Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, C. Asia to India, Africa, Arabian peninsula

Range in Greece:

widespread throughout mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and the islands



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Cacyreus marshalli

Author: Butler, 1898

English name: Geranium Bronze

Diagnosis:

upper side uniformly dark brown, hindwings with a tail; underside light brown with a complicated pattern of darker brown and white markings

Female: same as the male

Similar species: none in Europe

Caterpillar food plant: *Pelargonium* spp. and *Geranium* spp.

Habitat in Párnon area: flowery gardens from 0 to 500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

April to November in several broods

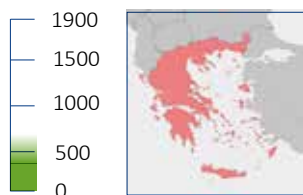
Status in Párnon area: locally common

Range:

S. Africa and, through accidental introduction and subsequent expansion, S. and C. Europe, most major Mediterranean Islands, N.W. Africa, Madeira, Canary Islands, W. parts of Asia Minor, coastal parts of Middle East

Range in Greece:

many scattered colonies in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and a good number of islands including Kríti



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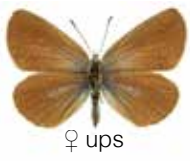
Cupido osiris



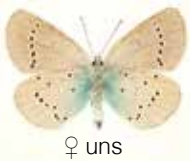
♂ ups



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Author:

Meigen, 1829

English name:

Osiris Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side dark blue, underside light grey without orange spots at the margins

Female:

ups ground colour brown with a blue suffusion at the wing base

Similar species:

the female is similar to *Cupido minimus* but larger; *Cyaniris helena* having orange spots at the anal angle of the hind-wing underside

Caterpillar food plant:

Onobrychis spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Párrnon area:

meadows from 900 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párrnon area:

May to July, one brood

Status in Párrnon area:

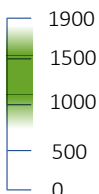
rare

Range:

S. Europe, Turkey, Central Asia

Range in Greece:

mountain areas in Greece, Pelopónnisos, Límnos and Híos islands



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Cupido minimus

Author: Fuessly, 1758

English name: Little Blue

Diagnosis:

very small, upper side dark brown the male having a suffusion of blue scales in the basal area, underside light grey with a regular row of small black spots across the wings

Female:

same as the male but without the blue scales suffusion on the upper side

Similar species:

the female of *Cupido osiris* being larger

Caterpillar food plant:

small Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 300 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to July, one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, temperate Asia to China

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos, as well as the islands of Kérkira and Kos



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Celastrina argiolus



Author:

Linnaeus, 1758

English name:

Holly Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side light blue, underside light grey with many small black spots

Female:

upper side dull blue with a broad black band along the forewing margin

Similar species:

none in Greece

Caterpillar food plant:

ivy, holly and many other shrubs and trees

Habitat in Párrnon area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párrnon area:

April to September in several broods

Status in Párrnon area:

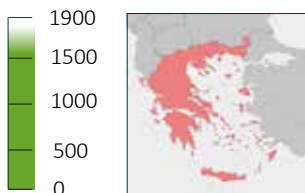
common

Range:

Europe, N. W. Africa, Asia to China and Japan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and the majority of the islands



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Glaucopsyche alexis

Author: Poda, 1761

English name: Green-underside Blue

Diagnosis:

underside light grey with a bent row of black spots on the forewing and a green suffusion from the base to the middle of the hindwing

Female:

upper side dark brown with a blue suffusion at the base of the wings

Similar species:

none in the Párnon area

Caterpillar food plant:

Astragalus spp., *Cystus* spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 300 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

March to May, one brood

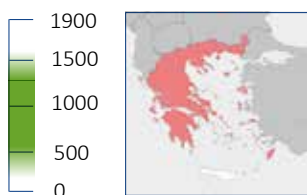
Status in Párnon area: common

Range:

Europe, N. W. Africa, Turkey, W. and C. temperate Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and in most islands, absent from Kríti



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Pseudophilotes bavius



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Author: Eversmann, 1832

English name: Bavius Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side dark blue with black margin, hindwing with orange spots at the anal angle

Female:

upper side strongly suffused with black, hindwing orange spots more developed

Similar species:

Pseudophilotes vicrama having the male upper side lighter blue without orange spots at the anal angle of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Salvia spp.

Habitat in Párrnon area:

meadows from 800 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párrnon area:

April - May, one brood

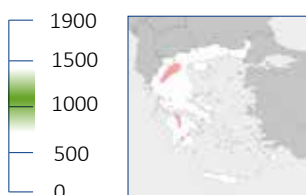
Status in Párrnon area: very rare

Range:

Balkans, Ukraine, Turkey, Iran, Syria, N.W. Kazakhstan, S. European Russia

Range in Greece:

very local mostly on mountains of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos



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Pseudophilotes vicrama

Author: Moore, 1865

English name: Eastern Baton Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side light blue with a row of black spots along the margin of the hindwing, underside of the hindwing with a row of orange spots all along the margin

Female:

upper side dark brown with a blue suffusion at the base of the wings

Similar species:

Pseudophilotes bavius having the male upper side darker blue with orange spots at the anal angle of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Thymus and *Satureja* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 300 to 1200 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April - May, one brood

Status in Páron area: rare

Range:

C. and E. Europe (except northern part), E. and C. temperate and subtropical W. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and in most islands



photos by Wendy Copage

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Plebejus sephirus



Author: Frivaldzky, 1835

English name: Zephyr Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side blue, hindwing with black spots at the anal angle, underside of the forewing without the "icarus" spot (see below), hindwing underside with a white band inside and all along orange lunules



Female:

upper side dark brown, hindwing with a series of well developed orange spots



Similar species:

Polyommatus icarus: male lacking black spots on upper side of hindwings, both genders having the "icarus spot" on underside of forewing (see image below) and lacking the white band on underside of hindwing, having instead in its place a single wedge-shaped white dash; *Polyommatus thersites*: male darker blue upper side without any black spots on hindwing, both genders having a wedge-shaped white dash on hindwing underside



Caterpillar food plant: *Astragalus* spp.

Habitat in Párnon area: meadows from 1000 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area: June - July, one brood

Status in Párnon area: rare

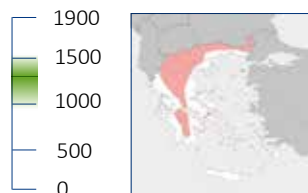
Range: Balkans through Asia Minor to the Caucasus

Range in Greece: local on mountains of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos

black spot in the cell



P. icarus



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Plebejus argus

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Silver-studded Blue

Diagnosis:

very small; male upper side blue with a broad black margin along the wings

Female:

upper side dark brown, hindwing with a series of orange spots

Similar species:

Plebejus sephirus: male upper side lighter blue with narrow black margins, both genders much larger

Caterpillar food plant:

many species of Fabaceae, Ericaceae and Cistaceae

Habitat in Párnon area:

mountain meadows from 1600 to 1900 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to August, one brood

Status in Párnon area:

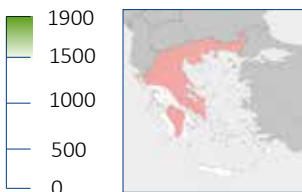
locally common

Range:

temperate and subtropical parts of Europe and Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, more localized, but abundant where found, in Pelopónnisos. Absent from all islands except Kérkira, Évia, Skiáthos and Thásos



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Aricia agestis



Author: Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Brown Argus

Diagnosis:

small, upper side dark brown with a regular row of orange spots along the wing margins, underside of the forewing without the "icarus" spot (see under *Polyommatus icarus*)

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

Aricia artaxerxes having on the upper side the row of orange spots less developed; the female of *Polyommatus icarus* being larger and having on underside of the forewing the "icarus" spot (see page 144)

Caterpillar food plant:

various species of Geraniaceae

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 400 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to August in several broods

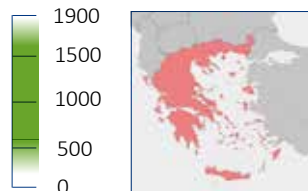
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, N.W. Africa, temperate Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and in a good number of islands



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Aricia artaxerxes

Author:

Fabricius, 1793

English name:

Mountain Argus

Diagnosis:

very close to *Aricia agestis*

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

Aricia agestis having on the upper side the row of orange spots more developed

Caterpillar food plant:

Geranium spp. and *Helianthemum* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

mountain meadows from 1300 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June - July, one brood

Status in Páron area:

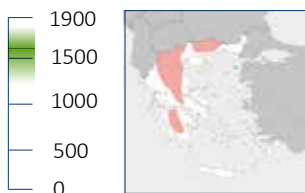
rare

Range:

Europe, Turkey, temperate Asia

Range in Greece:

mountain areas in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos



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Aricia anteros



♂ ups



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♀ ups



♀ uns

Author:

Freyer, 1838

English name:

Blue Argus

Diagnosis:

male upper side light greenish-blue with a wide dark margin

Female:

upper side ground colour brown with a row of orange spots along the margin

Similar species:

Lysandra coridon larger and having on underside of the forewing the "icarus" spot (see below)

Caterpillar food plant:

various Geraniaceae

Habitat in Párnon area:

mountain meadows from 1500 to 1900 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to September, two broods

Status in Párnon area:

very local

Range:

Balkans, Turkey, Caucasus, N. Iran

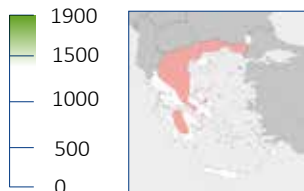
Range in Greece:

mountain areas in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, but absent from all islands except Évia

black spot in the cell



Polyommatus icarus



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Meleageria daphnis

Author: Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Meleager's Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side light greyish-blue with a black marginal border at wing margin, underside of the hindwing without orange spots; hindwing scalloped at anal angle

Female: upper side darker blue with a wide black margin extending to the wing base in the forewing

Variations: in northern Greece female wings powdered blue on upper side

Similar species: *Lysandra coridon* having a row of orange spots on the underside of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant: *Coronilla* spp. and *Astragalus* spp.

Habitat in Páron area: meadows at 1000 -1800 m

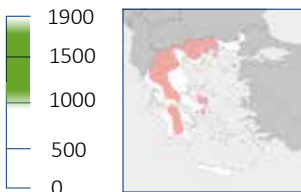
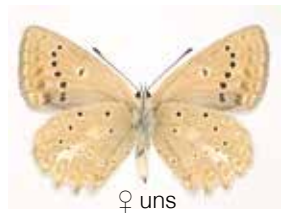
Flight period in Páron area:

June to August, one brood

Status in Páron area: locally common

Range: S. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East

Range in Greece: widespread in mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands except Évia, Sámos and Thásos



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Cyaniris helena

Author:

Staudinger, 1862

English name:

Helen Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side blue, underside light grey with large orange spots at the anal angle

Female:

ups ground colour brown with large orange spots at the anal angle

Similar species:

Cupido osiris not having orange spots on the hindwing underside

Caterpillar food plant:

Trifolium physodes

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows from 700 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

April to June, one brood

Status in Párnon area:

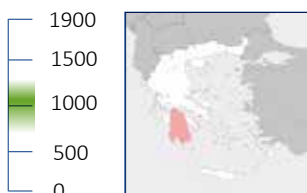
locally common

Range:

found only in the Pelopónnisos

Range in Greece:

Pelopónnisos



♂ ups



♂ uns



♀ ups



♀ uns

Agrodiaetus admetus



♂ ups



♂ uns

Author:

Esper, 1788

English name:

Anomalous Blue

Diagnosis:

upper side completely brown; underside with a row of dark lunules close to the wing margin

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

Agrodiaetus ripartii having a white stripe across the underside of the hindwing

**Caterpillar food plant:**

Onobrychis spp.

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows from 500 to 1300 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

June to August, one brood

Status in Párnon area:

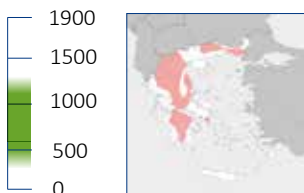
locally common

Range:

S.E. Europe, Turkey

Range in Greece:

widespread in the mountain areas in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Agrodiaetus ripartii

Author:

Freyer, 1830

English name:

Ripart's Anomalous Blue

Diagnosis:

upper side completely brown; underside of the hindwing crossed by a white stripe

Female:

same as the male

Similar species:

Agrodiaetus admetus not having a white stripe across the underside of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Onobrychis spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

dry meadows from 900 to 1700 m

Flight period in Páron area:

July and August, one brood

Status in Páron area:

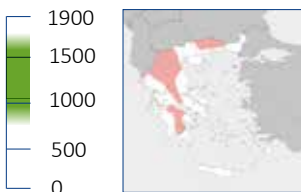
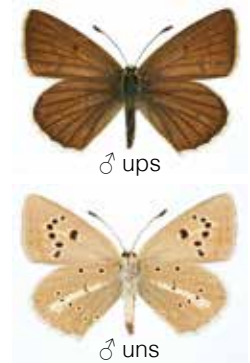
locally common

Range:

S. Europe, Asia Minor to Central Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in the mountain areas in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



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↑ male and female underside

black spot in the cell
(*icarus* spot) present

↓ male upper side



♂ uns

Polyommatus icarus

absent



♂ uns

Polyommatus thersites



Polyommatus icarus

Author: Rottenburg, 1775

English name: Common Blue

Diagnosis:

underside of both wings with a row of orange spot at wing margin; forewing underside with a black spot in the cell area (see facing page)

Female:

usually upper side brown with a row of orange spots close to the wing margins

Variations:

upper side of females may have a wide blue suffusion

Similar species:

Polyommatus thersites not having the black spot in the cell of forewing underside (see facing page)

Caterpillar food plant:

Trifolium spp., *Medicago* spp. and many other Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

found in all habitats, from 0 to 1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

February to November, several broods

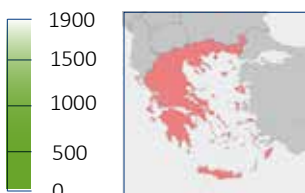
Status in Páron area:

one of the commonest butterflies in the area

Range:

Europe, Middle East, Asia Minor and Central Asia

Range in Greece: commonly found in all of Greece



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Polyommatus thersites

Author: Cantener, 1835

English name: Chapman's Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side violet-blue, underside of both wings with a row of orange spot at wing margin; forewing underside without the "icarus spot" in the cell area (see the previous page)

Female:

upper side brown with a row of orange spots close to the wing margins, often with a blue suffusion at wing base, which in some specimens may extend almost to the wing margin, same as in *Polyommatus icarus*

Similar species:

Polyommatus icarus having a black spot in the cell of forewing underside (see the previous page)

Caterpillar food plant:

various sainfoins (*Onobrychis*) species

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings, from 500 to 1600 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to September, two broods

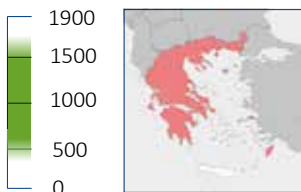
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

C. S. Europe, N. W. Africa, Middle East, Asia Minor to Central Asia

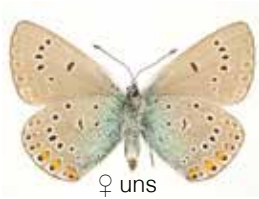
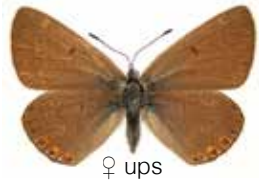
Range in Greece:

mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos and the islands of Kérkira, Évia, Ródhos, Kos, Sámos and Thásos



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Polyommatus amandus



Author: Schneider, 1792

English name: Amanda's Blue

Diagnosis:

larger than most *Polyommatus* species, male upper side shining blue and with black margins, underside marginal orange spot only on the hindwing; forewing underside without the "icarus spot" in the cell area (see page 144)

Female:

upper side brown with some orange spots close to the margin of the hindwing

Similar species:

Polyommatus icarus having a black spot in the cell of forewing underside (see under *Polyommatus icarus*) and whose male upper side is violet blue

Caterpillar food plant:

various vetches (*Vicia*) species and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

humid meadows and clearings, from 500 to 1400 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to August, one brood

Status in Páron area: not common

Range:

Europe, N. W. Africa, Middle East and Asia Minor

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, but absent from the islands, except Lésvos and Thásos



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Polyommatus escheri

Author: Hübner, 1823

English name: Escher's Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side silvery blue with a thin black margin, underside marginal orange spot well developed on both wings; underside light grey, forewing underside without a black spot in the cell area

Female:

upper side brown with orange spots close to the margin of the hindwing, underside markings bold

Similar species:

Polyommatus icarus having a black spot in the cell of forewing underside (see page 144) and whose male upper side is violet blue

Caterpillar food plant: various *Astragalus* spp.

Habitat in Páron area:

dry meadows and rocky slopes, from 700 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to August, one brood

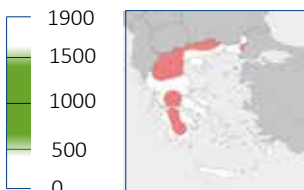
Status in Páron area: not common

Range:

S. Europe and N. W. Africa

Range in Greece:

widespread in mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



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Polyommatus dorylas



♂ ups



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Author: Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775

English name: Turquoise Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side bright light blue and with a black margin, underside with black spots little developed, forewing underside without the "icarus spot" in the cell area (see page 142)

Female:

upper side brown with a row of marginal orange spots on both wings

Similar species:

Polyommatus escheri having the upper side ground colour darker and the underside with black spots more evident

Caterpillar food plant:

Anthyllis spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Párnon area:

dry meadows and rocky slopes, from 700 to 1700 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

May to August, one brood

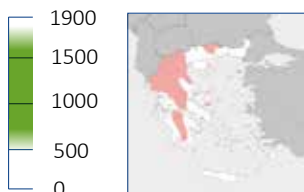
Status in Párnon area: not common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, N. W. Africa, Asia Minor and Caucasus

Range in Greece:

widespread in mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands except Évia



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Lysandra bellargus

Author: Rottenburg, 1775

English name: Adonis Blue

Diagnosis: wing fringes chequered (see below), male upper side brilliant sky-blue, forewing underside with the “*icarus* spot” (see page 144)

Female: upper side brown with a more or less developed row of orange spots close to the wing margins, often with a blue suffusion at wing base, which in some specimens may extend almost to the wing margin

Similar species:

Polyommatus icarus which has wing fringes uniformly light grey and whose male upper side is violet blue

Caterpillar food plant:

Hippocrepis spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 1100 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

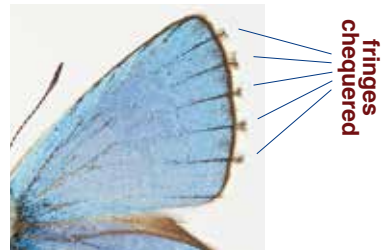
May-June and August-September, two broods

Status in Páron area: rare

Range: Europe, Asia Minor, Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, scattered colonies in mountain areas of Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands except Thásos



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Lysandra coridon

Author: Poda, 1761

English name: Chalk-hill Blue

Diagnosis:

male upper side light greyish-blue, upper side of the hindwing with a row of dark points at wing margin

Female:

upper side brown, upper side of the hindwing with a row of small orange spots at wing margin, underside of the hindwing ground colour darker

Similar species: *Meleageria daphnis* having no orange spots on the underside of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Hippocrepis spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

mountain meadows at 1600 -1800 m

Flight period in Páron area:

Mid July to August, one brood

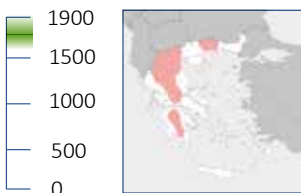
Status in Páron area: locally common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, Asia Minor

Range in Greece:

widespread in mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



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family **Hesperiidae**

A family of small size butterflies called "Skippers".

Hesperiidae have eyes larger than in the other families and strong wing muscles in their robust body allowing them a quick, darting flight. Their wings have usually inconspicuous grey, orange or brown colours.

several Hesperiidae species are very similar and difficult to recognize. A careful study of the wing markings is usually required to distinguish them

Hesperiidae is a large family found in all continents. Over 3500 species are known, 47 of them are found in Europe and 29 in Greece. In the Páron area there have been recorded 15 species belonging to the following genera:

Hesperia:

ground colour orange - 1 species

Ochlodes:

ground colour orange - 1 species

Thymelicus:

ground colour orange, smaller than the two above genera - 3 species

Pyrgus:

ground colour grey - 2 species

Spialia:

ground colour grey, similar to *Pyrgus* - 1 species

Muschampia:

ground colour grey - 1 species

Carcharodus:

ground colour grey-brown - 2 species

Erynnis:

ground colour black - 2 species

Gegenes:

ground colour dark brown, smaller than *Erynnis* - 2 species

Hesperia comma



♂ ups



♂ uns



♀ ups



♀ uns

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Silver-spotted Skipper

Diagnosis: underside with many white-silver spots

Female: upper side with whitish spots more evident

Similar species:

Ochlodes sylvanus having the underside lighter, with little evident yellow spots

Caterpillar food plant:

Festuca ovina and *Lolium perenne*

Habitat in Párrnon area:

meadows from 1000 to 1800 m

Flight period in Párrnon area:

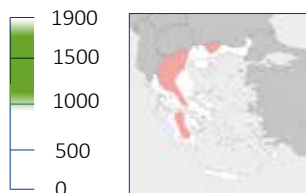
June to September, one brood

Status in Párrnon area: locally common

Range: from Europe and N.W. Africa to Japan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mountain areas of mainland Greece and Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



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Ochlodes sylvanus

Author: Esper, 1777

English name: Large Skipper

Diagnosis: underside with many yellow spots; male upper side of the forewing with a black bar from the base towards the apex of the wing

Female: upper side without the black bar on the upper side of the forewing

Similar species:

Hesperia comma having the underside darker, with distinct white spots

Caterpillar food plant:

Festuca spp., *Poa* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 700 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

June to August, one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range: from Europe to C. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, in Pelopónnisos and in Évia, Thásos and some Ionian islands



♂ ups



♂ uns



♀ ups



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Thymelicus lineola

Author: Ochsenheimer, 1808

English name: Essex Skipper

Diagnosis: very small; upper side completely orange-brown with the wing margins black and in the male a short black stripe across the forewing

Female: same as the male but larger

Similar species:

Thymelicus sylvestris larger and having on the upper side of the forewing of the male a longer black stripe (see photos)

Caterpillar food plant:

Holcus spp., *Bromus* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1500 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to September, one brood

Status in Páron area: common

Range: from Europe through Asia to Japan, introduced in N. America

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands



♂ ups



♂ uns



Thymelicus lineola



Thymelicus sylvestris



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Thymelicus sylvestris



♂ ups



♂ uns

Author: Poda, 1761

English name: Small Skipper

Diagnosis: upper side completely orange-brown with the wing margins black and in the male a long black stripe across the forewing

Female: same as the male but without the black stripe on the upper side of the forewing

Similar species:

Thymelicus lineola smaller and having on the upper side of the forewing of the male a shorter black stripe (see photos)

Caterpillar food plant:

Holcus spp., *Brachypodium* spp., *Bromus* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows and clearings from 200 to 1500 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

May to September, one brood

Status in Párnon area: common

Range: from Europe and N. W. Africa, through Asia to Japan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in Pelopónnisos and also found on the islands of Kérkira, Kefaloniá, Kíthira, Spétses, Évia, Skiáthos, Thásos, Límnos, Lésvos, Híos, Sámos, Kos, Kálimnos, Sími and Tílos



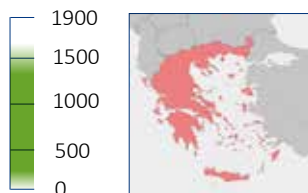
Thymelicus sylvestris



Thymelicus lineola



Thymelicus acteon



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Thymelicus acteon

Author: Rottemburg, 1775

English name: Lulworth Skipper

Diagnosis: upper side dark orange-brown with the wing margins black and in the male a black stripe across the forewing

Female: same as the male but the upper side of the forewing without the black stripe and with a circle of light spots

Similar species:

Thymelicus lineola and *Thymelicus sylvestris* both having the upper side lighter orange (see previous page)

Caterpillar food plant:

Holcus spp., *Brachypodium* spp., *Bromus* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 500 to 1300 m

Flight period in Páron area:

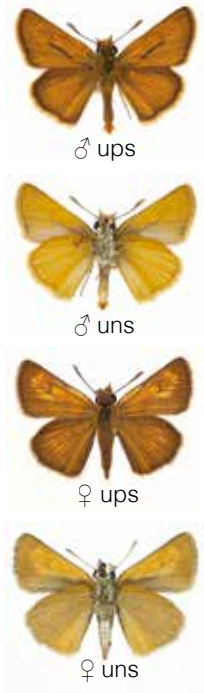
May to July, one brood

Status in Páron area: not common

Range: C. and S. Europe, N. W. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East, Iraq and W. Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in Pelopónnisos and also found on the islands of Kérkira, Zákynthos, Kíthira, Spétses, Ídhra, Éyina, Évia, Skiáthos, Thásos, Límnos, Lésvos, Híos, Sámos, Kos, Kálimnos, Ródhos, Krlti, Ándhros, Síros, Páros, Mílos and Santoríni



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Pyrgus armoricanus



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Author: Oberthür, 1910

English name: Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper

Diagnosis: upper side dark grey with many irregular white spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Spialia orbifer smaller and having on the upper side of the forewing a row of small white spots along the margin (see photos below)

Caterpillar food plant:

Potentilla spp., *Fragaria* spp. and *Rubus* spp.

Habitat in Párnon area:

dry meadows from 800 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

observed only in May and June, but probably there is a second brood from July to August

Status in Párnon area: rare

Range: C. and S. Europe, N. W. Africa, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East, Iran, Turkmenistan

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, in Pelopónnisos and also found on the islands of Kríti, Évia and Thásos



Pyrgus armoricanus



Spialia orbifer



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Pyrgus malvae

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Grizzled Skipper

Diagnosis: small, upper side dark grey with many small white spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Spialia orbifer having on the upper side of the forewing a row of small white spots along the margin (see below)

Caterpillar food plant:

Potentilla spp., *Rubus* spp. and several Malvaceae

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows from 800 to 1300 m

Flight period in Páron area:

May to July, one brood

Status in Páron area: rare

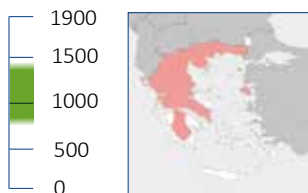
Range: Europe except the S.W. area, temperate Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece, in Pelopónnisos and in the islands of Kérkira, Lésvos and Sámos



Spialia orbifer



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Spialia orbifer



♂ ups



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Author: Hübner, 1823

English name: Orbed Red Underwing Skipper

Diagnosis: small, upper side dark grey with many white spots; upper side of the forewing with a regular row of small white spots along the margin

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Pyrgus malvae not having on the upper side of the forewing a row of small white spots along the margin (see photos in the previous page)

Caterpillar food plant: *Sanguisorba* spp.



Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows from 0 to 1500 m

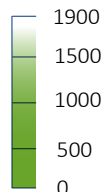
Flight period in Párnon area:

April to August, two broods

Status in Párnon area: very common

Range: from Sicily, mid Europe and Balkans, across S.E. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, to C. and Far East Asia

Range in Greece: widespread in mainland Greece, in Pelopónnisos and also found on the islands of Kefaloníá, Zákynthos, Kíthira, Spétses, Éyina, Évia, Skiáthos, Skíros, Thásos, Límnos, Lésvos, Híos, Sámos, Kálimnos, Sími and Ródhos



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Muschampia proto

Author: Ochsenheimer, 1808

English name: Sage Skipper

Diagnosis: small, upper side dark grey with white spots; underside of the hindwing reddish-brown with two rows of white spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Pyrgus armoricanus and *Spialia orbifer* both having on the upper side of the wings many white spots and the ground colour of the underside of the hindwing lighter olive-brown



Caterpillar food plant:

Phlomis spp.

Habitat in Párnon area:

meadows from 400 to 1300 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

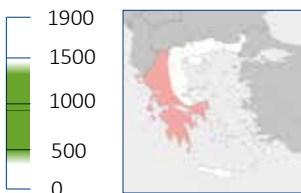
June to October, two broods

Status in Párnon area: very common

Range: N.W. Africa, S. Europe, Iran

Range in Greece:

widespread in W. mainland Greece (sporadic elsewhere on mainland), in Pelopónnisos, and also found on islands of Kérkira, Kíthira, Spétses, Kálimnos and Sími



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Carcharodus alceae

Author: Esper, 1780

English name: Mallow Skipper

Diagnosis:

small, upper side dark brown-grey with black spots and small white spots on the forewing; underside of the brown with white spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Carcharodus orientalis having on the upper side of both wings many large white spots and the underside of the hindwing lighter

Caterpillar food plant:

Altea officinalis

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1400 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to September, two broods

Status in Páron area: common

Range:

C. and S. Europe, Asia Minor, Middle East, Yemen to C. Asia

Range in Greece:

whole of Greece including all islands



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Carcharodus orientalis



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Author: Reverdin, 1913

English name: Oriental Marbled Skipper

Diagnosis: small, upper side dark brown-grey with large white spots on both wings; underside of hindwing light brown with white bands and spots

Female: same as the male

Similar species: *Carcharodus alceae* having on the upper side small white spots only on the hindwing and the underside of the hindwing darker

Caterpillar food plant: *Stachys* spp.

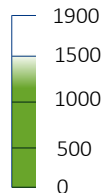
Habitat in Párnon area:
meadows and clearings from 0 to 1400 m

Flight period in Párnon area:
April to August, two broods

Status in Párnon area: common

Range: S.E. Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle East

Range in Greece:
mainland Greece, Pelopónnisos, as well as the islands of Kérkira, Éyina, Évia, Skíros, Límnos, Lésvos, Ándhros and Nísiros



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Erynnis tages

Author: Linnaeus, 1758

English name: Dingy Skipper

Diagnosis:

upper side dark brown-grey with a few light spots on the upper side of the forewing, underside uniformly olive-brown

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Erynnis marloyi having upper side and underside ground colour darker and without light spots except at the costa of the forewing

Caterpillar food plant:

Hippocrepis spp., *Coronilla* spp., *Lotus* spp. and other Leguminosae

Habitat in Páron area:

meadows and clearings from 0 to 1400 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to September, two broods

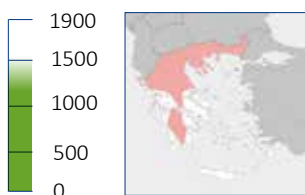
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, N.E. Iraq, N. Iran to C. Asia

Range in Greece:

widespread in mainland Greece and in Pelopónnisos, absent from the islands except Kérkira and Thásos



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Erynnis marloyi



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Author: Boisduval, 1834

English name: Inky Skipper

Diagnosis:

upper side of the hindwing uniformly blackish-brown, upper side of the forewing with two black bars crossing the wing, underside uniformly blackish-brown except a row of few white spots starting from the costa of the forewing

Female: same as the male

Similar species:

Erynnis tages having upper side and underside ground colour lighter and with more light spots

Caterpillar food plant:

Pyrus spinosa and *Pyrus cocomilla*

Habitat in Párnon area:

dry grassy slopes from 500 to 1200 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

April to August, two broods

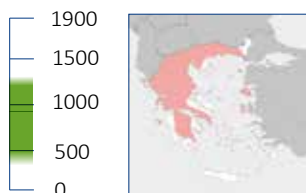
Status in Párnon area: very rare

Range:

C. and S. Balkans, Asia Minor, Middle East, N.E. Iraq, N. Iran and S. Turkmenistan

Range in Greece:

present but very local in mainland Greece and in Pelopónnisos, present also in the Ionian island of Kérkira, as well as in Lésvos, Híos and Sámos



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Gegenes pumilio

Author: Hoffmannseg, 1804

English name: Pigmy Skipper

Diagnosis:

small, forewing pointed, male upper side completely black

Female:

ground colour lighter, forewing both sides with a row of small white dots across the wing

Similar species:

Gegenes nostradamus having in the male a tuft of long hairy scales at the base of the underside of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Pennisetum spp. *Ehrharta* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Páron area:

dry slopes and hillsides from 0 to 1200 m

Flight period in Páron area:

April to October, three broods

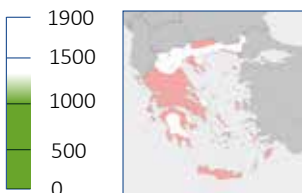
Status in Páron area: common

Range:

S Europe, N. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East to N India

Range in Greece:

widespread in coastal areas of mainland Greece and of Pelopónnisos, present as well in most islands



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Gegenes nostradamus



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Author: Fabricius, 1793

English name: Mediterranean Skipper

Diagnosis: very close to *Gegenes pumilio*, small, forewing pointed, male upper side completely black, male underside of the hindwing with a tuft of long hairy scales at the wing base

Female: ground colour lighter, forewing both sides with a row of small white dots across the wing

Similar species:

Gegenes pumilio having in the male shorter hairy scales at the base of the underside of the hindwing

Caterpillar food plant:

Bothryochloa spp., *Aeluropus* spp., *Panicum* spp. and other grasses

Habitat in Párnon area:

coastal slopes and hot hillsides from 0 to 1000 m

Flight period in Párnon area:

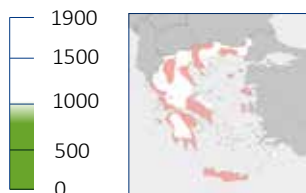
April to October, three broods

Status in Párnon area: rare

Range: S Balkans, N. Africa, Asia Minor, Middle East to India

Range in Greece:

widespread in coastal areas of mainland Greece and of Pelopónnisos, present as well in most islands



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ADDITIONAL SPECIES THAT COULD BE FOUND IN MOUNT PARNON AREA

In the future additional butterfly species, already known for other areas of the Peloponnisos, could be found in Mount Párnon area. The more likely are the following:

family Pieridae: *Pieris mannii* (1)

family Lycaenidae: *Lycaena ottomana*, *Satyrium acaciae*, *Agrodiaetus aroanensis*,
Turanana taygetica

family Hesperidae: *Spialia phlomidis*

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(1) already observed in the area by J. Coutsis

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MANAGEMENT BODY
ΠΑΡΑΝΟΝ ΜΟΥΣΤΟΣ
ΜΑΝΑ, ΟΥΝ & ΜΟΝΕΜΑΣΑ



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Gian Cristoforo Bozano lives in Milano with his wife Laura. He is an engineer but butterflies have always been his main interest and he has dedicated his life to study them all around the world. He is editor and co-author of the series of books "Guide to the butterflies of the Palearctic Region" well known among worldwide butterfly specialists.



Nick Gavalas lives in Athens and works in the field of Health. He is a graduate of the Biology Department of Athens University and has been involved in the research of the Greek Rhopalocera butterflies since 1984. He has been author or co-author of many articles published in prestigious scientific journals in this field.