

Butterflies and Skippers from the Greek island of Évvia (= Euboea) (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

John G. Coutsis & Níkos Ghavalás

Abstract. The hitherto recorded species of Butterflies and Skippers from the Greek island of Évvia are being listed and the need for further field-work on this island is being stressed in order to obtain a more complete view of its lepidopterological composition.

Samenvatting. De dagvlinders van het Griekse eiland Évvia (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

De tot nu toe bekende dagvlinders van het Griekse eiland Évvia worden opgesomd en de noodzaak voor verder onderzoek wordt benadrukt om also een betere kijk te krijgen op de samenstelling van de vlinderfauna van het eiland.

Résumé. Les papillons diurnes de l'île grecque d'Eubée (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

La liste des papillons diurnes de l'île grecque d'Eubée, observés jusqu'à présent, est donnée. La nécessité d'études supplémentaires est exprimée afin d'avoir une meilleure idée de la composition de la faune lépidoptérologique de cette île.

Key words: Hesperioidea – Papilionoidea – Greece – Évvia island – faunistics – distribution

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Introduction

The island of Évvia lies very close to the Greek mainland and consequently bears more similarities to the Pelopónnisos than it does to an island in the strict sense of the word. Its closest distance from the mainland to the north and to the east is about 3 km and a little over 40 m respectively. The latter distance extends along Évvia's coastline for less than 100 m, and this locality, being part of the straights of Évripos, is united to the mainland by a bridge. The island's overall length is about 170 km, its maximum width about 50 km and its area approximately 4000 km². Évvia is mountainous, fairly well watered and locally quite heavily forested. The two most prominent mountain ranges are those of Mts. Dírfis (1743 m) and Óhi (1399 m). The vegetation is Mediterranean and bears close affinities to that of central and southern Greece.

The paucity of published butterfly and skipper records from this island prompted us to present the following checklist, which is a compilation of records that are based on past publications, on personal communications and on our own field experiences. This list is by no means complete and it is hoped that in time more fieldwork will be undertaken in order to fill in the gaps and produce a more definitive picture of the island's lepidopterological profile.

Checklist

Carcharodus alceae (Esper, 1780). Mt. Dírfis, Oxíliothos and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Erétria.

Carcharodus orientalis Reverdin, 1913. Mt. Dírfis.

Pyrgus malvae (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Pyrgus armoricanus (Oberthür, 1910). Mt. Dírfis.

Spialia orbifer (Hübner, 1823). Mt. Dírfis and near Káristos.

Thymelicus acteon (Rottemburg, 1775). Mt. Dírfis, Roviés and near Káristos.

Thymelicus sylvestris (Poda, 1761). Mt. Dírfis and Pisónas.

Ochlodes faunus (Turati, 1905). Mt. Dírfis.

Gegenes nostrodamus (Fabricius, 1793). Roviés. Confirmed by male genitalia.

Gegenes pumilio (Hoffmansegg, 1804). Roviés. Confirmed by male genitalia. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri.

Papilio machaon Linnaeus, 1758. Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Roviés and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri.

Iphiclides podalirius (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Ahládi, Oxíliothos and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri, and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Ákres.

Zerynthia polyxena ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Bernardi (1971) from the collections in the 'Muséum Paris' as *Zerynthia hypsipyle* Schultz, and with no locality data other than 'Evvoia' (= Évvia), and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Psahná.

Parnassius mnemosyne (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis. Found to be common in late May and early June, both within the forest of *Abies cephalonica* Loudon, as well as just above the tree line, and at altitudes ranging from about 700 m to about 1200 m. Grey marginal border of FW upper-side with faint white spots as in populations from central Greece and the Pelopónnisos.

Pieris brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Ahládi, Oxíliothos, Pisónas and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Zárakes, Erétria, Psahná and Ákres.

Pieris rapae (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Ahládi, Oxíliothos and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Edipsós and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos, Erétria and Psahná.

Pieris mannii (Mayer, 1851). Mt. Dírfis.

Pieris krueperi Staudinger, 1860. Mt. Dírfis.

Pieris napi (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Oreí.

Pieris ergane (Geyer, 1828). Mt. Dírfis.

Aporia crataegi (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and near Káristos.

Pontia edusa (Fabricius, 1777). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri, and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Erétria and Psahná, in both cases as *Pontia daplidice* L.



Fig. 1. Map of Greece showing location of Évvia island.

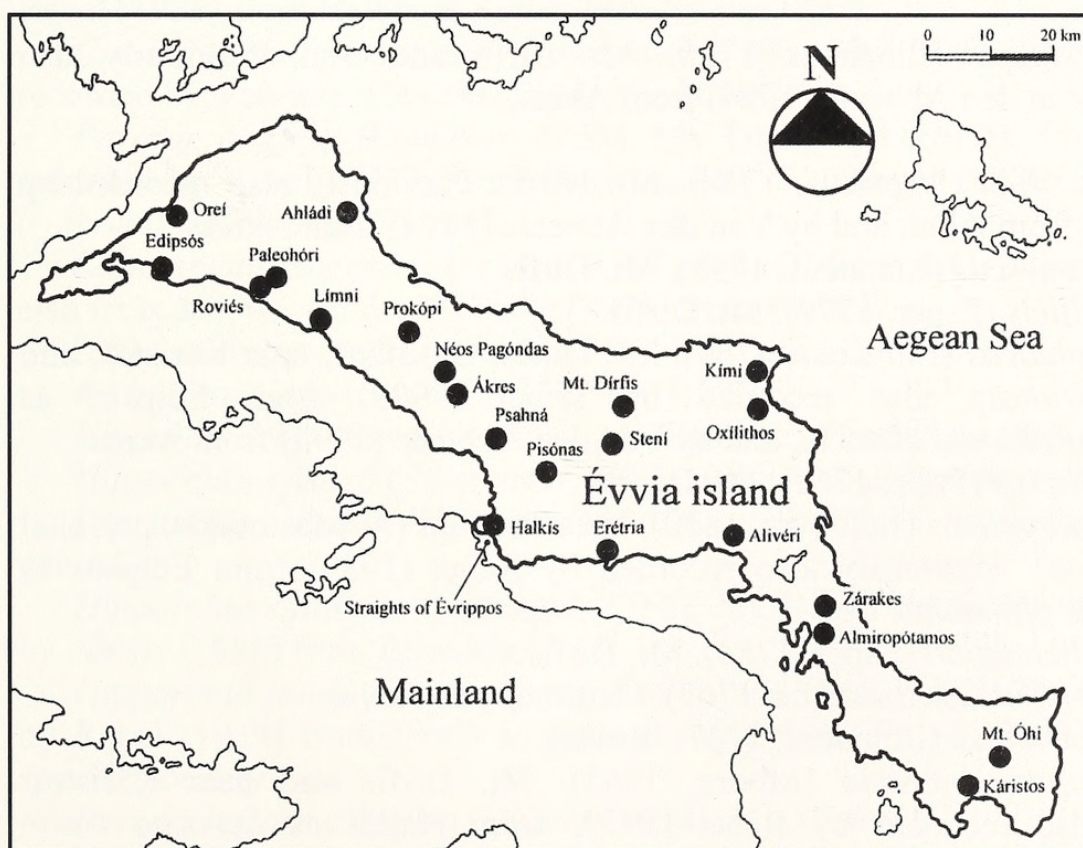


Fig. 2. Map of Évvia island indicating sampling localities.

Euchloe ausonia (Hübner, 1804). Oxíliothos and Pisónas. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos, Erétria, Psahná, Ákres and Néos Pagóndas.

Anthocharis cardamines (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos, Alivéri, Erétria and Psahná.

Anthocharis gruneri Herrich-Schäffer, 1851). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Psahná.

Colias crocea (Fourcroy, 1785). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Roviés and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1937 & 1939) from Halkís, as *Colias croceus* Fourc. Further previous records are by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri, and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos, Erétria and Psahná.

Colias alfacariensis Ribbe, 1905. Recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri as *Colias australis* Verity. This record requires confirmation, as it is probably erroneous, perhaps having been based on a misidentification of whitish, or yellow-white female *Colias crocea*. From our own field experiences the range of this species in Greece does not extend this far south.

Gonepteryx rhamni (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos.

Gonepteryx farinosa (Zeller, 1847). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Psahná.

Gonepteryx cleopatra (Linnaeus, 1767). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí, Roviés and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Erétria and Psahná, and by Staudinger (1870) from Euboea (= Évvia), as *Rhodocera Cleopatra* L.

Leptidea sinapis (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Oreí. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Ákres.

Callophrys rubi (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Kími, and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Ákres.

Favonius quercus (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Satyrium ilicis (Esper, 1779). Mt. Dírfis.

Lycaena phlaeas (Linnaeus, 1761). Mt. Dírfis, Oxíliothos, near Káristos, and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Edipsós as *Chrysophanus phlaeas eleus* F., and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Ákres.

Lycaena tityrus (Poda, 1761). Mt. Dírfis.

Lycaena ottomanus (Lefebvre, 1830). Near Prokópi (A. Mastorákis, personal communication). Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Edipsós as *Chrysophanus ottomanus* Lef.

Lycaena thersamon (Esper, 1784). Mt. Dírfis.

Lampides boeticus (Linnaeus, 1767). Oxíliothos and Roviés.

Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767). Roviés.

Pseudophilotes vicrama (Moore, 1865). Mt. Dírfis and near Káristos. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Halkís as *Lycaena baton schiffermülleri* Hem.

Glaucopsyche alexis (Poda, 1761). Mt. Dírfis and near Káristos. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Ákres.

Celastrina argiolus (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí and Ahládi. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos.

Chilades trochylus (Freyer, 1845). Roviés. Found in August in fair numbers, feeding on the flowers of *Heliotropium*. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Límni.

Plebeius argus (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis. Confirmed by male genitalia. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri.

Lycaeides idas (Linnaeus, 1761). Stení. Confirmed by male genitalia.

Aricia agestis ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos.

Ultraaricia anteros (Freyer, 1838). Mt. Dírfis.

Polyommatus thersites (Cantener, 1835). Mt. Dírfis.

Polyommatus dorylas ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Polyommatus icarus (Rottemburg, 1775). Mt. Dírfis and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Halkís and Edipsós as *Lycaena icarus* Rott.

Meleageria daphnis ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Melanargia larissa (Geyer, 1828). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Halkís as *Melanargia larissa herta* HG.

Maniola jurtina (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1937 & 1939) from Stení and Kími respectively, in both cases as *Epinephele jurtina* L.

Hyponephele lycaon (Rottemburg, 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Hyponephele lupinus (Costa, 1836). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Halkís as *Epinephele lupinus* Costa.

Coenonympha pamphilus (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Erétria.

Pararge aegeria (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Kími, and by Staudinger (1870) from Euboea (= Évvia), as *Pararge Egeria* L.

Lasiommata megera (Linnaeus, 1767). Mt. Dírfis and Oxíliothos. Previously also recorded by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Psahná.

Lasiommata maera (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Kirinia roxelana (Cramer, 1777). Mt. Dírfis.

Hipparchia fagi (Scopoli, 1763). Mt. Dírfis. Confirmed by male genitalia.

Hipparchia syriaca (Staudinger, 1871). Roviés. Confirmed by male genitalia.

Hipparchia senthes (Fruhstorfer, 1908). Oxíliothos. Confirmed by male genitalia.

Hipparchia statilinus (Hufnagel, 1766). Mt. Dírfis. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri.

Hipparchia fatua (Freyer, 1844). Roviés and Oreí. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1939) from Évvia as *Satyrus fatua fatua* Frr., without giving more specific locality data.

Pseudochazara anthelea (Hübner, 1824). Mt. Dírfis.

Pseudochazara graeca (Staudinger, 1870). Mt. Dírfis. Found to be very common above tree line, at altitudes ranging from about 1400 – 1600 m, in mid July to early September. The butterflies are similar to populations from central Greece and the Pelopónnisos, being light-colored and thus differing from the ones from northern Greece that are darker and browner.

Brintesia circe (Fabricius, 1775). Mt. Dírfis and Roviés.

Charaxes jasio (Linnaeus, 1767). Roviés and Ahládi. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri.

Limenitis reducta Staudinger, 1901. Mt. Dírfis and Oxíolithos. Previously also recorded by Staudinger (1870) from Euboea (= Évvia), as *Limenitis Camilla* S. V.

Vanessa atalanta (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oxíolithos and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Rebel (1937) from Halkís as *Pyrameis atalanta* L., and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Psahná.

Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis, Oxíolithos and Roviés. Previously also recorded by Alexis (1986) from Paleohóri, as *Cynthia cardui* L., and by Van den Abbeele (1994) from Almiropótamos, Erétria, Psahná and Ákres.

Nymphalis polychloros (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Nymphalis antiopa (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Aglais urticae (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Polygonia egea (Cramer, 1775). Mt. Dírfis, Oreí and Oxíolithos. Previously also recorded by Staudinger (1870) from Euboea (= Évvia), as *Vanessa Egea* Cr. (*Triangulum* F.).

Melitaea trivia ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Argynnis paphia (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Argynnis pandora ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Argynnis aglaja (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Argynnis adippe ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775). Mt. Dírfis.

Issoria lathonia (Linnaeus, 1758). Mt. Dírfis.

Discussion

The 84 or so combined butterfly and skipper species presented here, though by no means representing a complete list of all the butterflies and skippers eventually to be met with on the island of Évvia, do however suggest that the island has a rich fauna in Lepidoptera, clearly comparing favourably with that of the immediately proximate mainland. This is undoubtedly due to the island's close distance from the mainland, to its possessing an extensive land-mass, to its being well watered, to its having a rich and diversified Flora, and to its exhibiting pronounced altitudinal differentiation. All the recorded species are to be also found on the mainland, there being no indication of endemism on the island. 46 of these records are new to the island, attesting to the paucity of past records and publications, while almost all of them were carried out in a single locality, thus indicating the necessity for further and geographically broader field-work and investigation.

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