

# The known geographic distribution of *Lycaena thetis hephestos* (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN, 1985) in Greece (Lepidoptera : Lycaenidae)

Alain OLIVIER

**Samenvatting.** De gekende geografische verspreiding van *Lycaena thetis hephestos* (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN, 1985) in Griekenland (Lepidoptera : Lycaenidae) De geografische verspreiding van *Lycaena thetis hephestos* (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN, 1985) in Griekenland wordt in detail besproken en afgebeeld door middel van een verspreidingskaartje.

**Résumé.** La répartition géographique de *Lycaena thetis hephestos* (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN, 1985) en Grèce (Lepidoptera : Lycaenidae) La répartition géographique de *Lycaena thetis hephestos* (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN, 1985) en Grèce est discutée et illustrée au moyen d'une carte de répartition.

**Key words :** *Lycaena - thetis - hephestos* - geographic - distribution - Greece.

Olivier, A. : Luitenant Lippenslaan 43 b 14, B-2200 Antwerpen-Borgerhout.

## Introduction

Recently the Greek populations of *Lycaena thetis* KLUG, 1834 have been described as a separate subspecies (DILS & VAN DER POORTEN 1985). I think it to be interesting to present here a detailed account of the geographic distribution of this butterfly in Greece.

## Literature records and recent findings

Literature records relating to the distribution of *L. thetis* in Greece are very few. The first mention of this species in Greece is in STAUDINGER (1870: 45): «*Thetis* Klug. Lediglich auf den höchsten Spitzen des Veluchi [Timfristós]- und Kaljacouda [Kaliakoúda]-Gebirges gefangen, wo die Art in der zweiten Hälfte des Juli eben nicht selten flog». These localities are mentioned again in HIGGINS & RILEY (1984).

COUTSIS (1969) records *L. thetis* from the Óros Taígetos in the southern Pelopónnisos and DILS & VAN DER POORTEN (1985) mention it from Óros Taígetos and Mt. Helmós, as well as from a mountain situated in the nomos Fthiótida (Steréa Ellás), this being the first record from Central Greece since STAUDINGER (1870).

I would like to record the precise data for this last population discovered by me as Óros Íti (Fthiótida, Steréa Ellás) (1800 m), 23 & 25.VII.1985.

Finally MM. DILS & VAN DER POORTEN rediscovered *L. thetis* on Mt. Kaliakoúda at 1900-2100 m on 9.VIII.1986 (VAN DER POORTEN pers. comm.). It is likely that *L. thetis* will be found again on Mt. Timfristós too and that it occurs on some other mountains in South and Central Greece.

Old records of this species from S. Yugoslavia, also mentioned in HIGGINS & RILEY (1984) should be confirmed.

The known geographic distribution of *L. thetis* in Greece is shown on map 1.

Map 1 : Known geographic distribution of *Lycaena thetis* in Greece



- Old record (STAUDINGER 1870) that has not been confirmed
- Localities where the species has been recorded recently (1985-1986)

## Ecology

*Lycaena thetis* is a xeromontane species (see also VARGA 1975) found on dry rocky biotopes with *Astragalus* sp., thistles etc. above the treeline, at an altitude of 1700-2100 m. The adults fly in the second half of July and throughout August until the beginning of September.

On Óros Íti I observed *L. thetis* together with a.o. *Pyrgus serratalae* (RAMBUR, 1840), *Parnassius apollo* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Colias aurorina* (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1850), *Polyommatus coridon* (PODA, 1761), *Arícia artaxerxes* (FABRICIUS, 1793), *Pseudochazara graeca* (STAUDINGER, 1870), *Erebia ottomana* HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1851, *Erebia melas* (HERBST, 1796) and *Hyponephele lycaon* (KÜHN, 1774).

A description and two nice photographs of its characteristic biotope on Mt. Helmós are given in SCHMIDT & HASSLER (1986). The biotope on Mt. Íti is much alike.

## Bibliography

- Coutsis, J.G., 1969. List of Grecian Butterflies. - *Entomologist* 102 : 264-268.
- Dils, J. & Poorten, D. van der, 1985. Observaties en notities over *Thersamonia thetis* KLUG met beschrijving van de Zuid- en Centraalgriekse populaties (Lepidoptera : Lycaenidae : Lycaeninae). - *Phegea* 13(4) : 109-112.
- Higgins, L.G. & Riley, N.D., 1984. *A field guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe* (Ed. 5, reprint). Collins, London.
- Schmidt, A. & Hassler, M., 1986. Entomologische Eindrücke aus Mazedonien und Griechenland (Lepidoptera). - *Nachr.ent.Ver.Apollo* (N.F.) 7 : 91-124.
- Staudinger, O., 1870. Beitrag zur Lepidopterenfauna Griechenlands. - *Horae Soc.ent.ross.* 7 : 3-304.
- Varga, Z., 1975. Geographische Isolation und Subspeziation bei den Hochgebirgs-Lepidopteren der Balkanhalbinsel. - *Acta ent.jugosl.* 11 : 5-39.

## Correction

In *Phegea* 16 (2) on p. 38 the main title should be : **BIOGEOGRAPHY OF THE BUTTERFLIES OF LIMNOS.**

## Korte mededeling

### Symposium «Invertebraten van België»

- Waar : Koninklijk Belgisch Instituut voor Natuurwetenschappen, Vautierstraat 29, 1040 Brussel, tel. 02/648.04.75
- Wanneer : vrijdag 25 en zaterdag 26 november 1988.
- Doel :
1. Een stand van zaken opmaken inzake de huidige kennis van de invertebraten van België.
  2. Proceedings uitgeven met : synthese-artikelen over zoveel mogelijk invertebratengroepen, huidige en nieuwe richtingen van onderzoek, inventaris van bibliografische gegevens enz.
  3. Conclusies : situeren van de goed bestudeerde groepen (van phylum tot genus), aangeven van lacune's, suggesties inzake gericht onderzoek voor de eerstkomende jaren.