

# Butterflies from the Greek islands of Síros, Náxos and Santoríni (Lepidoptera : Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

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**Samenvatting.** Dagvlinders van de Griekse eilanden Síros, Náxos en Santoríni (Lepidoptera : Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)  
De auteur geeft een lijst van de dagvlinders welke hij waarnam op de Griekse eilanden Síros, Náxos en Santoríni tijdens korte bezoeken in 1992 en 1993.

**Résumé.** Papillons des îles grecques de Síros, Náxos et Santoríni (Lepidoptera : Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)  
L'auteur donne la liste des papillons qu'il a observés dans les îles grecques de Síros, Náxos et Santoríni lors de quelques courtes visites en 1992 et 1993.

**Key words :** Butterflies - Síros - Náxos - Santoríni - distribution.

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The island of Síros (or Síra), situated in the Aegean Sea, is a member of a group of islands known as Kikládés (or Cyclades) (see fig. 1). Its latitude is approximately 37° N, its area about 84 km<sup>2</sup> and its highest altitude about 440 m; it is extremely dry, practically waterless, wind-blown and supports a rather poor flora typical of garrigue situations. Cultivations are carried out mostly in wind-protected gullies, where also a few trees manage to take hold. Geologically it consists mainly of limestone and mica schist.

The island was visited end April 1992 and the following butterflies were recorded :

1. *Carcharodus alceae* (Esper, [1780]) : near Ermoúpoli.
2. *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758 : near Possidonía, near Kámbos.
3. *Iphiçlides podalírius* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Parakopí, Fínikas, Ermoúpoli.
4. *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Ermoúpoli.
5. *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Kámbos.
6. *Euchloe ausonia* (Hübner, [1804]) : near Parakopí, near Possidonía, Fínikas, near Ermoúpoli.
7. *Colias crocea* (Fourcroy, 1785) : near Possidonía, Kámbos.
8. *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Possidonía, Kámbos.
9. *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Possidonía, Ermoúpoli, Kámbos, near Parakopí, Fínikas.
10. *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767) : Kámbos.
11. *Callophrys rubi* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Possidonía, near Kámbos.
12. *Lycæna phlaeas* (Linnaeus, 1761) : near Kámbos.
13. *Pseudophilotes vicrama* (Moore, 1865) : near Possidonía, near Kámbos.

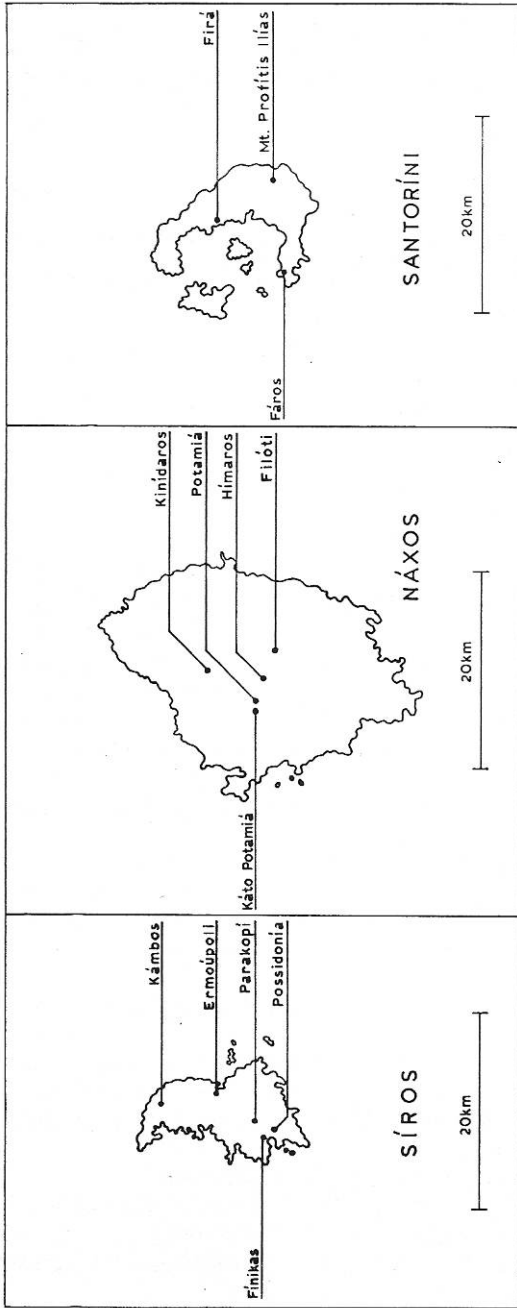


Figure 1 : Maps of the Greek islands of Síros, Náxos and SantorínĪ with indication of the localities visited.

14. *Glaucopsyche alexis* (Poda, 1761) : near Possidonía, near Kámbos, near Ermóupoli.

A single male *Maniola* was also seen, but not captured, which within all probability was *M. jurтина* (Linnaeus, 1758), the only species of this genus so far recorded from the Kikládés islands.

The island of Náxos, likewise situated in the Aegean Sea at a latitude of about 37° N and belonging to the same group of islands as Síros, has an area of about 430 km<sup>2</sup>, making it the largest island of the group. Its highest altitude is approximately 1000 m. Geologically the island is composed primarily of limestone and to a lesser extent of corundium. It is well watered practically all year round and has a vastly richer vegetation than all other islands within its immediate vicinity. At higher elevations it supports remnants of what must have once been extensive oak woods. At low and middle elevations it supports extensive cultivations that also include olive trees and fruit trees. At the bottom of well-watered gullies and ravines it has quite vast concentrations of oriental plain trees.

Náxos was visited end April, beginning May 1993 and the following butterflies were recorded :

1. *Carcharodus alceae* (Esper, [1780]) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m.
2. *Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758 : near Hímaros, alt. 250 m.
3. *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758) : above Filóti, alt. 500 m.
4. *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m.
5. *Pontia edusa* (Fabricius, 1777) : between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m.
6. *Euchloe ausonia* (Hübner, [1804]) : near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
7. *Gonepteryx cleopatra* (Linnaeus, 1767) : above Filóti, alt. 500 m; near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
8. *Colias crocea* (Fourcroy, 1785) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m.
9. *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m; between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m.
10. *Callophrys rubi* (Linnaeus, 1758) : between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m.
11. *Lycaena phlaeas* (Linnaeus, 1761) : near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
12. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus, 1767) : near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
13. *Pseudophilotes vicrama* (Moore, 1865) : between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m.
14. *Glaucopsyche alexis* (Poda, 1761) : between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m; near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
15. *Aricia agestis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m; near Kinídaros, alt. 390 m.
16. *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775) : near Káto Potamiá, alt. 50 m; between Potamiá and Filóti, alt. 200 m.

The following should be noted :

- a. There was a general paucity of butterflies on Naxos, perhaps due in part to adverse weather conditions both during 1992 and 1993.
- b. The record of *agestis* in this area seems to be unique to Naxos, as the butterfly seems to be absent from the other islands of the group.
- c. All *cleopatra* females recorded were of the whitish morph.
- d. Old records of *Zerynthia cerisy* (Godart, [1824]) and *Archon apollinus* (Herbst, 1798) (see Boisduval 1832) could not be confirmed.
- e. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758), which usually starts flying in Greece end April, had apparently not yet emerged.

The island of Santorini (or Thira) was visited for the second time end June 1993, the first one having been end August 1991 (Coutsis 1992).

The following species were recorded during this second visit and unless otherwise stated, all records are from Mt. Profitis Ilias, NE side, alt. 180-250 m.

1. *Thymelicus acteon* (Rottemburg, 1775)
2. *Pieris brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758)
3. *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758) : near Fáros, alt. 10 m.
4. *Colias crocea* (Fourcroy, 1785) : Firá, alt. 230 m.
5. *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758)
6. *Hipparchia aristaeus* (Bonelli, 1826)
7. *Maniola jurtina* (Linnaeus, 1758)
8. *Lasiommata megera* (Linnaeus, 1767)
9. *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus, 1767) : Firá, alt. 230 m.

Identification of *jurtina* and *aristaeus* based on genitalia. Both these species were found exclusively in shaded situations, avoiding direct exposure to the very strong sun. *T. acteon* was quite numerous and active in the sun. It is difficult to assess whether such sedentary taxa as are *jurtina* and *acteon* are "post-eruption" introductions to the island, or whether they represent "pre-eruption" populations that somehow managed to survive through the volcanic holocaust that affected the area.

### References

- Boisduval, J., 1832. *Icones historiques des Lépidoptères nouveaux ou peu connus* I: 1-251.  
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