

Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina from central Greece (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

Hristos T. Anastassiu & John G. Coutsis

Samenvatting. *Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina* uit Centraal-Griekenland (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

Een vindplaats van *Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina* (Eversmann, 1843) werd ontdekt op het Griekse vasteland, wat aantoont dat deze soort niet uitsluitend op de Peloponnesos voorkomt.

Résumé. *Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina* (Eversmann, 1843) de Grèce centrale (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

Une nouvelle localité de *Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina* (Eversmann, 1843) fut découverte en Grèce continentale, ce qui montre que cette espèce n'existe pas seulement sur le Péloponnèse.

Key words: *Polyommatus (Neolysandra) coelestina* – Greece – Distribution

Anastassiu, H. T.: 36 Argyrokastrou Street, GR-15773 Athens (Zografou), Greece (hristosa@esd.ece.ntua.gr).

Coutsis, J. G.: 4 Glykonos Street, GR-10675 Athens, Greece (koutis@otenet.gr).

Introduction

The discovery of *Neolysandra coelestina* (Eversmann, 1843) in Greece, was carried out in 1971 on Mt. Helmós, in the Pelopónnisos (Bretherton *et al.*, 1972). It was later also recorded from Mt. Erimanthos, which is likewise situated in the Pelopónnisos and lies about 30 km to the west of Mt. Helmós (Bollino *et al.*, 1996). It was then assumed that the species was a relict element of Asiatic origin, which somehow had managed to maintain a foothold exclusively within the restricted area of these two mountain ranges, the more so as repeated searches to try and detect its presence on other Peloponnesean mountains brought about negative results.

New record

During a recent collecting expedition by the first author to Central Greece (Stereá Ellás) in late June 2004 and while visiting a mountain range situated in the district of Viotía, two worn females and one worn male were captured that on superficial grounds appeared to be *Neolysandra coelestina*. These were subsequently dissected by the second author and their genitalia confirmed them as such. All three specimens were captured at an altitude of about 1500m and in association with a *Vicia* species, which on superficial grounds appeared to be *Vicia dalmatica* A. Kerner (the already known larval host-plant of *coelestina*), but which must await definitive identification by a botanist.

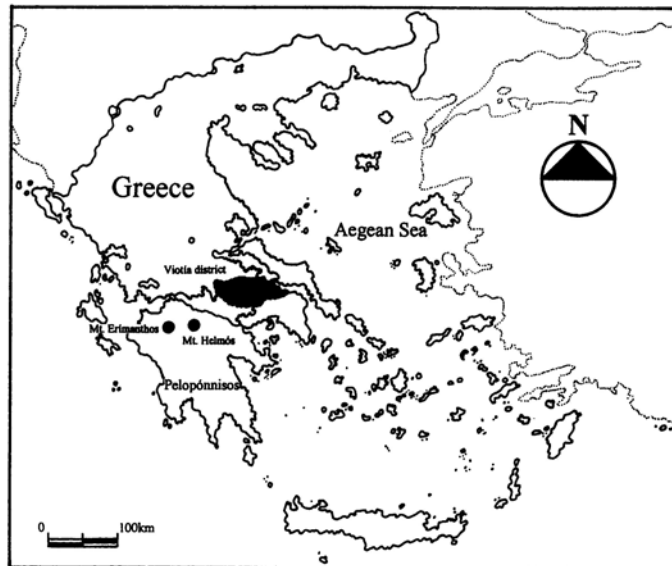


Figure 1: Map of Greece, indicating the sampling localities.

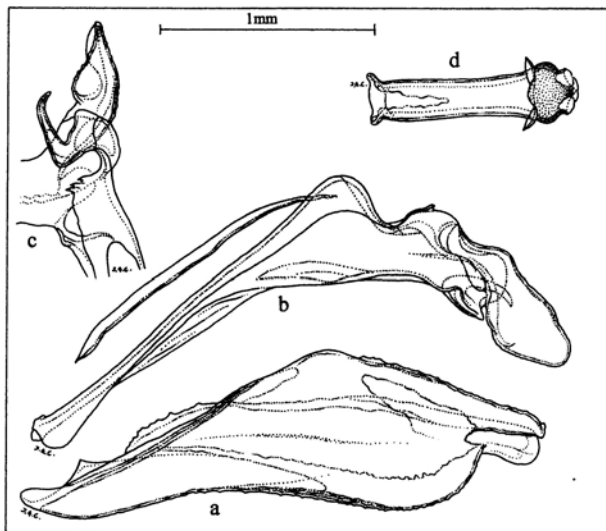


Figure 2: Male genitalia of *Neolysandra coelestina* (Eversmann, 1843) recorded from Central Greece, district of Viotia: **a.**– Side view of exterior face of left valva. **b.**– Side view of left side of genitalia, with valva and aedeagus removed. **c.**– Ventral view of right half of tegumen, together with right labis and falx. **d.**– Dorsal view of aedeagus.

Discussion

This new record extends by about 70 km to the northeast the hitherto known range of *coelestina* in Greece and shows that the butterfly is not a Peloponnesean isolate. The vast range of the known larval host-plant on the Greek mainland as well as the lack of geographic and climatic barriers suggest that *coelestina* might prove to be much more widespread in Greece than originally assumed.

References

- Bollino, M., Vitale, F., Sala, G., Cesaroni, D. & Sbordoni, V., 1996. A check-list of Papilionoidea (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera) from Erymanthos Oros (Greece, Pelopónnisos). — *Linneana Belgica* **15**(6): 342–348.
- Bretherton, R. F., Coutsis, J., Higgins, L. G. & de Worms, C. G. M., 1972. *Agrodiaetus coelestina* Eversmann: a Lycaenid new to Greece & western Europe. — *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* **84**: 29–32.
-