

Butterflies on the Greek island of Pátmos in the first half of July 2004 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

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Samenvatting. Dagvlinders van het Griekse eiland Pátmos in de eerste helft van juli 2004 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

Tijdens een bezoek aan het eiland Pátmos werden daar vier soorten dagvlinders waargenomen die nog niet eerder van het eiland bekend waren. Dit brengt het totale aantal soorten voor Pátmos op 19.

Résumé. Les papillons de l'île grecque de Pátmos pendant la première moitié de juillet 2004 (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea & Papilionoidea)

Pendant une visite de l'île de Pátmos, 4 espèces de papillons furent observées qui n'avaient pas été observées sur cette île auparavant. Cette observation porte le nombre d'espèces sur l'île de Pátmos à 19.

Key words: Greece – Pátmos – faunistics.

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Introduction

The Greek island of Pátmos is situated in the SE Aegean Sea and it has an area of about 32 km² and GPS coordinates at its centre of N 37° 19' and E 026° 32'. Details on the island's geography, topography and flora are given by Olivier (1997).

By the first half of July the island presents a parched sight, with most flowers and grasses in total desiccation. Butterflies were to be met with sparsely and almost exclusively in wind-protected gullies and in seaside orchards and gardens that are supported by mechanical irrigation.

Flower-feeding butterflies were mostly recorded either on *Heliotropium* species, or on *Vitex agnus-castus* Linnaeus, just about the only wild flowers around; some were also recorded sipping moisture on mud puddles formed by leaking water pipes. The Satyrinae in particular were recorded by being flushed from bushes and rocks that were in the shade. All in all fifteen species were recorded, four of which are new to the island, while the rest had previously also been recorded by Olivier (1997).

Checklist

The places visited were Hóra, ca. 220 m; Livádi, sea level; Ágrio Livádi, 50m; Léfkes, sea level; Kípi, 0–120 m; Diakófti, ca. 50m. The following species were recorded between July 8 and July 11:

Gegenes pumilio (Hoffmansegg, 1804). Léfkes; Kípi. Both on *Heliotropium* and *Vitex agnus-castus*. Identification confirmed by male genitalia.

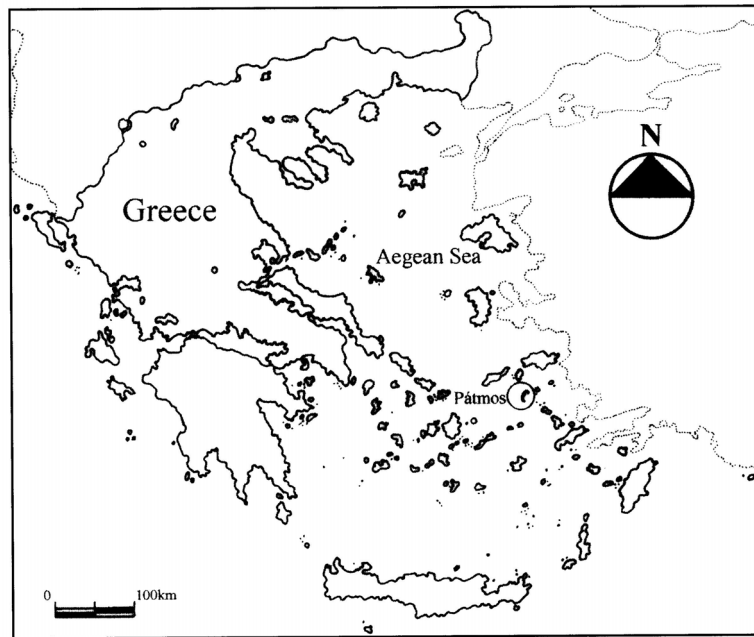


Figure 1: Map of Greece with the position of the island of Pátmos in the southern Aegean Sea.

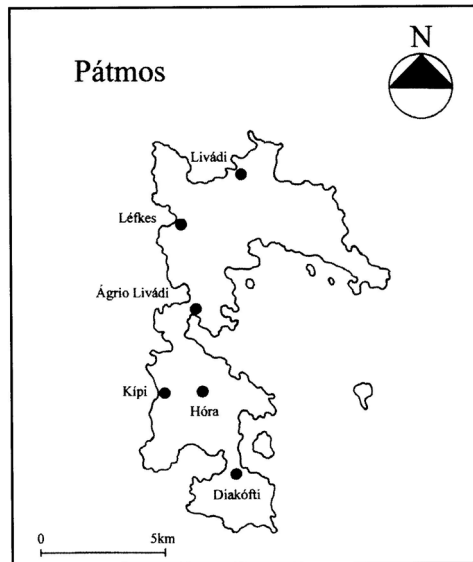


Figure 2: Map of the island of Pátmos, indicating the sampling localities.

Carcharodus alceae (Esper, 1780). Ágrio Livádi; Kípi. On dry grasses and on *Vitex agnus-castus*.

Iphiclides podalirius (Linnaeus, 1758). Léfkes; Hóra; Kípi. Mostly in the vicinity of orchard trees and on *Vitex agnus-castus*.

Papilio machaon (Linnaeus, 1758). Livádi; Kípi.

Pieris brassicae (Linnaeus, 1758). Hóra; Kípi. In the latter location on *Vitex agnus-castus*.

Pieris rapae (Linnaeus, 1758). Kípi; Léfkes.

Pontia edusa (Fabricius, 1777). Kípi. **New to Pátmos.**

Lycaena phlaeas (Linnaeus, 1761). Kípi. In small numbers on *Heliotropium*.

Lycaena thersamon (Esper, [1784]). Kípi. Very few on *Heliotropium*.

Syntarucus pirthous (Linnaeus, 1767). Léfkes. Two on the leaves of a lemon tree. **New to Pátmos.**

Polyommatus icarus (Rottemburg, 1775). Léfkes; Kípi. On mud puddles.

Lasiommata maera (Linnaeus, 1758). Kípi. A single male flushed from bushes. **New to Pátmos.**

Maniola telmessia (Zellar, 1847). Léfkes; Kípi. A few females flushed from bushes and a single male on a water puddle. Confirmed by Male genitalia.

Vanessa cardui (Linnaeus, 1758). A single specimen at Diakófti.

Polygonia egea (Cramer, [1775]). Hóra. On building walls. **New to Pátmos.**

Discussion

To the fifteen species presented here, one should also add another four butterflies (i.e. *Zerynthia cerisy* (Godart, 1824), *Colias crocea* (Fourcroy, 1785), *Polyommatus loewii* (Zeller, 1847) and *Vanessa atalanta* (Linnaeus, 1758)), all of which were listed by Olivier (1997), but missed by the present author. This brings the sum-total of butterfly species known from Pátmos to a modest nineteen. This paucity in butterflies seems to be the characteristic of all Aegean islands that have a small landmass, a pronounced geographic isolation, a lack of water sources, a poor and non-diversified flora and an exposure to very frequent strong northern winds, known as "meltémia".

References

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