



PHEGEA

driemaandelijks tijdschrift van de
VLAAMSE VERENIGING VOOR ENTOMOLOGIE

Afgiftekantoor 2170 Merksem 1

ISSN 0771-5277

Periode: juli – augustus – september 2006

Erkenningsnr. P209674

Redactie: Dr. J.-P. Borie (Compiègne, France), Dr. L. De Bruyn (Antwerpen), T. C. Garvoet (Antwerpen), B. Goater (Chandlers Ford, England), Dr. K. Maes (Tervuren), Dr. K. Martens (Brussel), H. van Oorschot (Amsterdam), W. O. De Prins (Leefdaal).

Redactie-adres: W. O. De Prins, Leefdaal 401B, B-3061 Leefdaal (Belgium).

e-mail: willy.de.prins@telenet.be.

Jaargang 34, nummer 3

1 september 2006

Archon apollinus from Ródos Island, Greece, confirmation desirable (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae)

John G. Coutsis & Níkos Ghavalás

Abstract. Past records of *Archon apollinus* from the Greek island of Ródos are presented and the need for their confirmation is discussed.

Samenvatting. *Archon apollinus* van Rhodos, Griekenland, bevestiging gewenst (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae)

Vermeldingen van *Archon apollinus* (Herbst, 1798) van het Griekse eiland Rhodos worden opgesomd en de noodzaak voor de bevestiging ervan wordt besproken.

Résumé. *Archon apollinus* sur l'île de Rhodes, Grèce, confirmation souhaitée (Lepidoptera: Papilionidae)

Les mentions d'*Archon apollinus* (Herbst, 1798) sur l'île grecque de Rhodes sont signalées et la nécessité de leur confirmation est discutée.

Key words: Papilionidae – *Archon apollinus* – Greece – Ródos – distribution.

Coutsis, J. G. : 4 Glykonos Street, GR-10675 Athens, Greece. e-mail: kouts@otenet.gr.

Ghavalás, N.: 30 Karaolí – Dimitriou Street, GR-12461 Athens, Greece.

Introduction

To our knowledge, the only existing records of *Archon apollinus* (Herbst, 1798) from the Greek island of Ródos are the ones that were presented by Rebel (1916, 1924) and by Pierron (1978). Olivier (1993) incorporates these records in his treatise on the butterflies of this island and accepts *apollinus* as a member of the island's butterfly composition. Tolman (1997), in his field guide on European butterflies, likewise lists Rhodes (= Ródos) as a locality for *apollinus*.

Discussion

The Rebel records were based on larvae observed end March by Hofrat Martin, who later described them to Rebel as having rectangular red spots. The Pierron record simply mentions that he personally encountered *apollinus* in

Phegea 34 (3) (1.IX.2006): 81

Ródos, but gives no precise locality and date information, which, to say the least, seems a bit odd, given the fact that there existed only one previous record of this butterfly from Ródos and that it was in need of confirmation.

The lack of any other published records of *apollinus* from Ródos, despite the fact that collecting took place often in April, both by the first author, as well as by other lepidopterists, as attested by Gianelli (1914) and by Turati & Fiori (1930), made us consider visiting the island in the first half of March in hope of confirming the Rebel and Pierron records.

A visit to Ródos and field results

The trip to Ródos was eventually made by both authors in early March 2005, and the search for *apollinus* was carried out within an altitudinal zone extending from sea level to about 600 m. Care was taken to search areas where *Zerynthia cerisy* (Godart, [1824]) either was known to fly from past experiences, or was actually found flying in abundance, in hope that the often syntopic and larval host-plant-sharing *apollinus* would also make its appearance.

Unfortunately not a single *apollinus* was to be recorded anywhere. At sea level there was an abundance of *cerisy*, mostly very fresh, and at altitude *cerisy* had not yet emerged. It thus appeared to us that the timing was just right for *apollinus*, and that, had it been around, surely we would have observed it.

Conclusions

The vagueness of the Pierron record and the fact that the larvae of *cerisy* may very well at times be black with red spots (making confusion possible with those of *apollinus*, when the larvae are in their first two stages and still very small), imply that the uncontested acceptance of *apollinus* as being a faunal element of Ródos is not entirely justifiable.

Even though we do not exclude the possibility that *apollinus* is actually found on Ródos, we strongly feel that, with the evidence at hand, confirmation of its existence there is still both desirable and necessary.

The future

Our future plans call for revisiting Ródos in February 2007 in hope of eventually perhaps finding *apollinus* possibly at sea level locations. It is also hoped that in time other lepidopterists as well, will be prompted to contribute to the search of this butterfly on the island of Ródos.

References

- Gianelli, G. 1914. Escursioni Zoologiche del Dr. Enrico Festa nell'Isola di Rodi. X. Lepidotteri. — *Boll. Musei Zool. Anat. comp. R. Univ. Torino* **29**: 1–4.
- Olivier, A. 1993. *The butterflies of the Greek island of Ródos: Taxonomy, faunistics, ecology and phenology*. — Flemisch Entomological Society, Antwerpen, 250 pp., 2 colour plates.
- Pierron, M. 1978. Quelques notes sur la biologie d'*Archon apollinus* (Staudinger) (Lep. Papilionidae). — *Alexanor* **10**: 325–330.
- Rebel, H. 1916. Zur Lepidopterenfauna der Insel Rhodus. — *Jahresbericht des wiener Entomologen Vereins* **26**(1915): 111–115.
- Rebel, H. 1924. Lepidopterologische Nachträge zu einigen ostmediterranen Insularfaunen. — *Jahresbericht des wiener Entomologen Vereins* **30** (1919): 37–49.
- Phegea* **34** (3) (1.IX.2006): 82

Tolman, T. 1997. *Butterflies of Britain & Europe*. — Harper Collins, London, 320 pp.
Turati, E. & Fiori, A. 1930. Lepidotteri di Rodi. — *Memorie della Società entomologica italiana* **9**:
196–214.

Erratum

In the Abstract and Résumé of our paper "The chromosome number and karyotype of *Plebeius (Plebejides) pylaon brethertoni* from Mt. Helmós, Pelopónnisos, Greece, its tentative elevation to species level, and notes about presently existing unsettled taxonomic questions in the *pylaon* species-group complex (Lepidoptera: Lepidoptera)" (*Phegea* **34**(2): 57–60), the author name of *Plebeius (Plebejides) pylaon brethertoni* should be corrected to: (Brown, 1976).

John G. Coutsis & Jurate De Prins
