

# New distributional data of *Polyommatus timfristos* (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) in Greece

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**Abstract.** In July 2019 the author visited south-central Greece, in order to study the recently described species *Polyommatus timfristos* Lukhtanov, Vishnevskaya & Shapoval, 2016. Until now the species was only known from two localities in Greece, but during the field work a new population was discovered.

**Samenvatting.** In juli 2019 bezocht de auteur zuid-centraal Griekenland. De reis was gewijd aan het bestuderen van de recent beschreven soort *Polyommatus timfristos* Lukhtanov, Vishnevskaya & Shapoval, 2016. Tot nu toe was de soort alleen bekend van twee plaatsen in Griekenland, maar tijdens het veldwerk werd een nieuwe populatie ontdekt.

**Résumé.** En juillet 2019, l'auteur s'est rendu dans le centre-sud de la Grèce. Le voyage a été consacré à l'étude de l'espèce *Polyommatus timfristos* récemment décrite Lukhtanov, Vishnevskaya & Shapoval, 2016. Jusqu'à présent, l'espèce n'était connue que de deux localités en Grèce, mais au cours des travaux sur le terrain, une nouvelle population a été découverte.

**Key words:** *Polyommatus timfristos* – Distribution – Faunistics.

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## Introduction

*Polyommatus timfristos* (Lukhtanov, Vishnevskaya & Shapoval, 2016) is a recently discovered species, endemic to Greece. It was described in 2016 based on material collected in 2008 in two localities, one in Mt. Timfristós (district Evritanía) and one in Mt. Parnassós (district Fthiótida), from 1200 to 1800 m altitude (Vishnevskaya *et al.* 2016). The presence of this species was subsequently confirmed in these two localities (Rowlings, Haahtela, pers. comm.).

Because of its similarity to other closely related lycaenid species in the Balkans, it is very likely that *P. timfristos* has been overlooked in other places, especially in the areas between Mt. Timfristós and Mt. Parnassós, within the abovementioned altitudinal range.

## Notes

A field trip to central-southern Greece was made between July 16<sup>th</sup> and July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019 in order to study the morphology and distribution of *Polyommatus timfristos*. Coordinates and altitudes of the localities were measured with a GPS (Garmin eTrex 20).

*P. timfristos* was found in both of the previously known localities, in syntopy with *Polyommatus ripartii pelopi* (Brown, 1976) and *Polyommatus admetus* (Esper, 1783). It is possible to distinguish *P. timfristos* from these two species by the morphological differences described by Vishnevskaya *et al.* (2016).

During a field survey in the area surrounding Mt. Parnassós, a new population of *P. timfristos* was discovered at Ágia Stilianós, near Eptálofos village, approx. 7 km from the known locality on Mt. Parnassós as

the crow flies. It is a xerothermic locality, consisting of a dry rocky and flowery slope at 1270 m altitude (Fig. 1). A few males of *P. timfristos* were found (Fig. 2) together with *P. ripartii pelopi*, *P. admetus* and several other Papilionoidea species.

This new locality and the previously known localities are shown on the map (Fig. 3): Fthiótida County, Ágia Stilianós, 38°33.583'N 22°31.088'E, 1270 m, 20.vii.2019.

## Conclusion

This new population was discovered in a xerothermic locality just like the other previously known localities of this species, and in the same altitudinal range.

Taking into account the currently known distribution of *P. timfristos* (Vishnevskaya *et al.* 2016), it is to be expected that several more populations of this species are yet to be discovered in the mountainous areas between Mt. Timfristós and Mt. Parnassós, at altitudes between 1200 and 1800 m. The lack of records is surely due to the fact that the species has been overlooked, due to its similarity to *P. ripartii pelopi*. A systematic survey is required in these areas in order to clarify the detailed occurrence of *P. timfristos* populations.

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Fig. 1. New locality of *Polyommatus timfristus*: Dry rocky hillside along the road at Ágia Stilianós, Fthiótida district. © Morten S. Mølgaard.

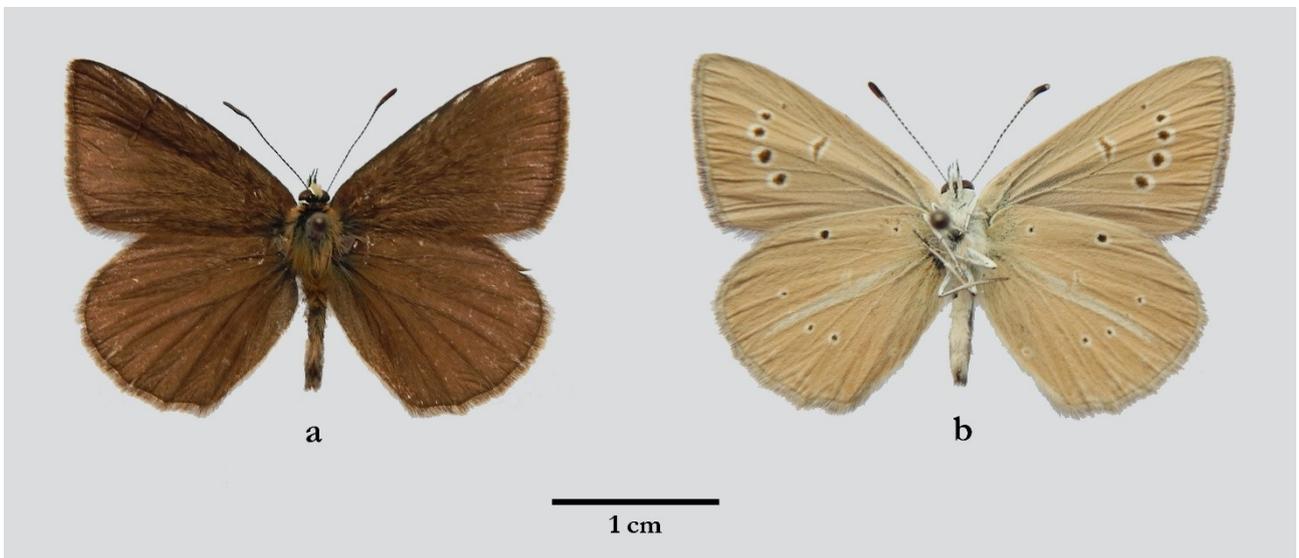


Fig. 2. a, b. *Polyommatus timfristus* ♂ upperside/underside, Greece, district Fthiótida, Ágia Stilianós, 1270 m, 20.vii.2019. © Morten S. Mølgaard.

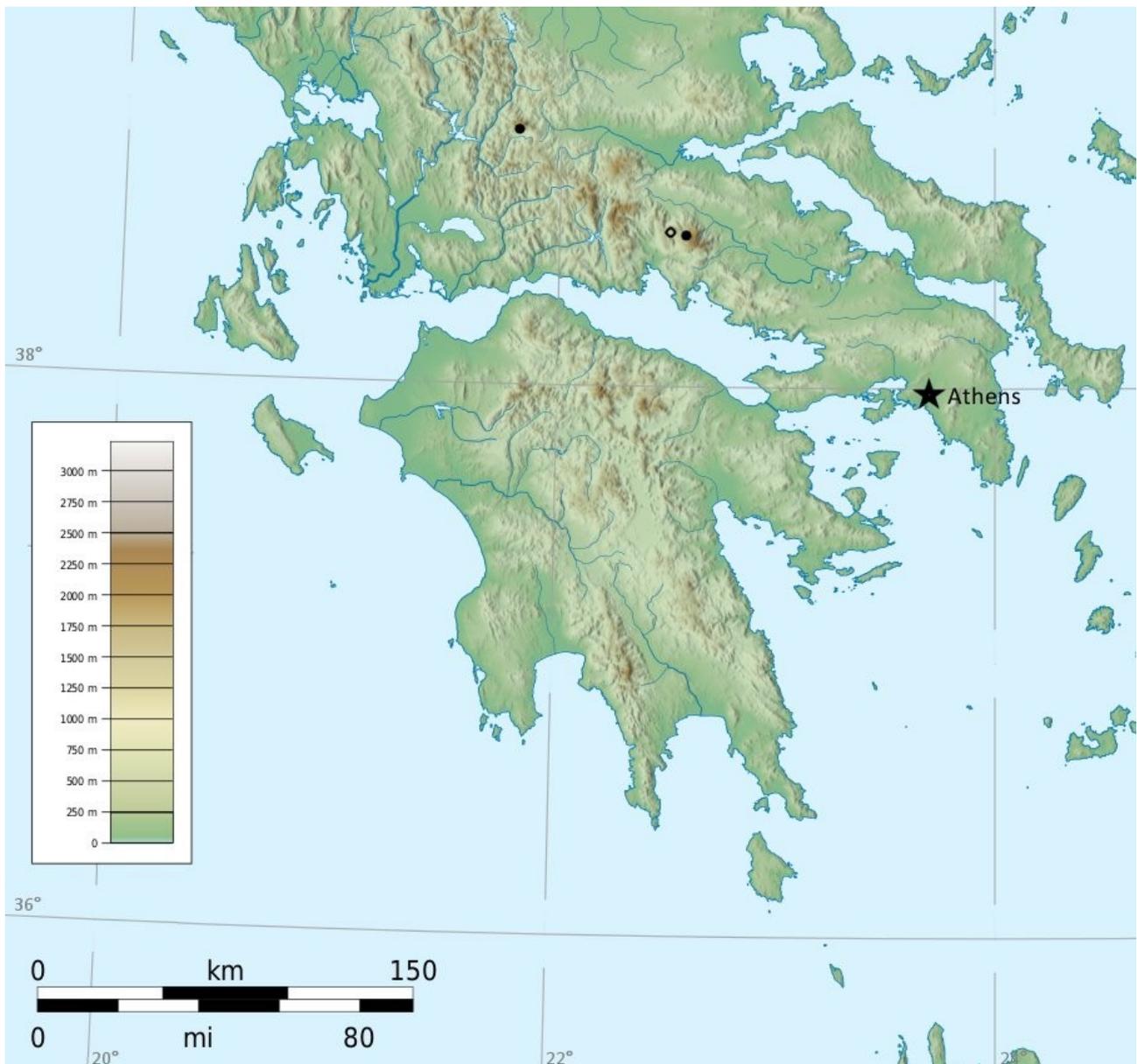


Fig. 3. Distribution map. ● = previously known localities, ○ = new locality of *P. timfristos*.

### Reference

Vishnevskaya M. S., Saifitdinova, A. F. & Lukhtanov V. A. 2016. Karyosystematics and molecular taxonomy of the anomalous blue butterflies (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae) from the Balkan Peninsula. — *Comparative Cytogenetics* **10** (5): 1–85. <https://doi:10.3897/CompCytogen.v10i5.10944>.