

## *PELOPIDAS THRAX* (LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE), PRESENCE CONFIRMED IN MAINLAND GREECE

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*Pelopidas thrax* (Hübner, [1821]) is included in the butterfly fauna of Greece and is known for its migratory behavior (Tolman 2008, Pamperis 2009). Its range includes W and SW Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Arabia, Africa, Far East, the Kashmir region, and many islands of Greece (Tolman 2008). In Greece, it was found on the islands of Kastellorizo, Rodos, Kos, Kalymnos, Samos, Chios, Lesvos and Limnos (refer to the map capturing the distribution of this species in Greece as of 3.XI.2021, downloaded from [http://www.pamperis.gr/2021\\_NEW\\_MAPS/etrs89\\_2021.html](http://www.pamperis.gr/2021_NEW_MAPS/etrs89_2021.html)). Langourov et al. (2021) confirmed the presence of the species on the island of Limnos.

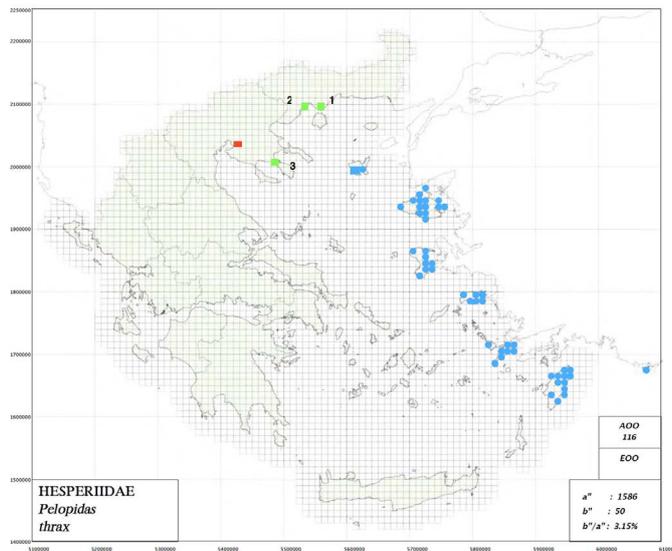
In addition, *P. thrax* was recently reported and photographed by several observers in three coastal areas of Macedonia (Fig. 1):

1. Delta of river Nestos, 23.VII.2021 by users michiel van kerkvoorde and mireille de heer (data obtained from <https://observation.org>, accessed 3.XI.2021)
2. Kavala, 23.X.2020 by user josefwirth (data obtained from <https://uk.inaturalist.org/observations/64451546> accessed 3.XI.2021)
3. Sithonia, 5.X.2021 by user monika dresser (data obtained from [https://lepiforum.de/vergleich\\_mit\\_forum.htm](https://lepiforum.de/vergleich_mit_forum.htm) accessed at 3.XI.2021).

During investigation in the foothills of Mt. Chortiatis, Macedonia (near Thessaloniki, 150-200m) we photographed two individuals of this species, the first on 23.X.2021 and the second on 28.X.2021 (Fig. 2). Both days were sunny with a temperature of approximately 20 °C. The location where these two individuals were found is of dry rocky terrain, which is traversed by a stream. The surrounding flora consists of a few *Paliurus spina-christi* bushes and low grassy vegetation (*Papaver rhoeas*, *Matricaria chamomila*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Solanum eleagnifolium*, *Thymus vulgaris* and several Poaceae). Some individuals of *Pieris brassicae*, *P. rapae*, *Pontia edusa*, *Colias crocea*, *Lasiommata megera*, *Polyommatus icarus*, *Carcharodus alceae* and *Gegenes nostradamus* were also observed flying in this location. No specimens were collected.

There are no published record of the presence of *Pelopidas thrax* in mainland Greece. We report herein the presence of the species in Mt. Chortiatis, as well as the three unpublished mainland localities and we expect to find out next year if it will be established in this area.

## *Pelopidas thrax* in mainland Greece



**Fig. 1.** *Pelopidas thrax* in Greece (modified from [http://www.pamperis.gr/2021\\_NEW\\_MAPS/etrs89\\_2021.html](http://www.pamperis.gr/2021_NEW_MAPS/etrs89_2021.html), ● new record, ● recent unpublished records: 1. Delta of Nestos, 2. Kavala, 3 Sithonia, ● literature records)



**Fig. 2.** *Pelopidas thrax*, Greece, Macedonia, Mt. Chortiatis. **A.** 23.X.2021, **B.** 28.X.2021

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### Literature

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