Atalanta (December 1999) **30**(1/4): 151–152, Würzburg, ISSN 0171-0079

## About the distribution of *Glaucopsyche alexis* (Poda, 1761), *Everes argiades* (Pallas, 1771), and the first finding of *Erynnis tages* (LINNAEUS, 1758) in the Leningrad Region

(Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, Hesperiidae)

by

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Glaucopsyche alexis (PODA) was found for the first time in the territory of the Leningrad Region by KAWRIGIN in St-Petersburg in May 1857 (DIAKONOV, 1968). It was a single finding. Since that time *G. alexis* was not found in this territory for over 100 years. The species was found again in the 1960's in the Luga District of the Leningrad Region. Before the 1980's *G. alexis* was rare and local but the number of its collection places has considerably increased during the last decade. This species occurs often and every year in Maluksa, Krupeli and Luga and there are stable populations in those places. A greater population is in St-Petersburg. In this place *G. alexis* was found at the first time by M. PROKOFIEV. At the present time *G. alexis* occurs in 3 districts of the city—Moscovskiy, Nevskiy and Vasileostrovskiy Districts. The flight period in St-Petersburg and the region is from the end of May to the beginning of July. A. MATOV found the larva in St-Petersburg in August 1993 on *Melilotus* spec. and reared a male. The butterflies of *G. alexis* fly on different kinds of meadows where plants of *Melilotus* are growing. The females have many blue scales on the upper side of the wings.

Everes argiades PALL. was found in Leningrad Region for the first time by B. SOKOLOV in August 1973. Before the 1990's this species was noted only in 2 places: Lisino-Korpus (by A. KHITSUN) and Krupeli (by B. LOGINOV). But since the middle of the 1990's *E. argiades* became actively spread in the Leningrad Region, especially in the Luga District (found by A. MATOV). Before 1998 only one generation was observed; from the end of July to the end of August. In 1998 two generations of butterflies were found in Sologubovka, Maluksa, Zharok and Maluksa (by PETRI-KEVICH). The imagines of the first generation occurred in that places in the beginning of June. Butterflies of the second generation occurred no rarely from the middle of July to the middle of August and were visibly larger than the butterflies of the first generation. The habitats of the species are mesophytic and xerophytic meadows overgrown by different species of Fabaceae. The butterflies in the Kirovsk District of the Leningrad Region feed on the flowers of *Melilotus* and they occurred only in places where this plants grew. Unlike *G. alexis, E. argiades* was never found in St-Petersburg.

The expansion of both species' distribution is connected apparently with the rise in temperature in the North-West of Russia in the 1990's and also with the expansion of *Melilotus* (especially in *G. alexis*). It is possible that the expansion will continue further to the North including the Karelian Isthmus.

*Erynnis tages* (LINNAEUS, 1758) in the European part of Russia is distributed mostly in the Center and South. It was considered that the northern limit of its distribution is in the South of the Moscow Region (MIMONOV, 1988). DIAKONOV (1968) supposed the occurrence of this species in the Leningrad Region on the base of the findings of *E. tages* in neighbouring Estonia.

The distribution of *E. tages* in Estonia is closely approaching the border of the Leningrad Region (SULCS & VIIDALEPP, 1974) but this species has never been found in the Leningrad Region (DERZHAVETS et al., 1986). On 14.VI.1997 two females of *E. tages* were collected by A. IVANOV 5 km to the West from Luga (the South of the Leningrad Region) on dry meadows. On 22.VI. 1997 one female was collected by A. MATOV in the same place. Therefore, DIAKONOV's supposition was confirmed. Now this finding place of *E. tages* is the northernmost in Russia. It is obvious that its distribution in Russia is wider than it was considered.

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Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: Atalanta

Jahr/Year: 1999

Band/Volume: 30

Autor(en)/Author(s): Ivanov Alexandr I., Matov Alexey Yu.

Artikel/Article: About the distribution of Glaucopsyche alexis (Poda, 1761), Everes argiades (Pallas, 1771), and the first finding of Erynnis tages (Linnaeus, 1758) in the Leningrad Region (Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae, Hesperiidae) 151-152