

Field notes – Kurze Exkursionsberichte – Excursions en bref

On the presence of *Pyrgus alveus* (HUEBNER, 1803) in the Peloponnesus (Lepidoptera, HesperIIDae)

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Recently, while sorting out the *Pyrgus* in my collection, I examined the genitalia of two male specimens taken on a collecting trip to Greece in 1979. They were the only *Pyrgus* caught in the Peloponnesus on that trip. The dissection of the first specimen confirmed the determination based on external characters : *Pyrgus armoricanus persicus* REVERDIN taken on Mt. Kyllini. The second specimen, which had proved more difficult to identify, could be determined as *Pyrgus alveus*. This specimen came from the western side of Mt. Chelmos near Kalavryta and was taken on the 23rd July just above the tree-line at about 1800 m, among scattered trees of Greek Fir.

According to DE JONG (1972), the typical subspecies of *P. alveus* is present in the Balkans : he mentions Bulgaria, Yugoslavian Macedonia and Albania, but not Greece. As far as I know, the species has been reported from this country only twice : a single specimen from Drama in Eastern Macedonia (DACIE *et al.*, 1972) and from the Southern Pindus range in Central Greece (COUTSIS, 1972). I have found no record from the Peloponnesus. A recent and very thorough work on the butterflies of Mt. Chelmos does not mention it either (LEESTMANS & ARHEILGER, 1987).

This new record greatly extends southwards the known Balkanic range of the species. During the last glacial period, the Peloponnesus was probably a refugium for *Pyrgus alveus*, and the colony which has survived there, apparently isolated today, must be considered a relic. We cannot exclude the possibility that it has reached a subspecific level, as in the case of ssp. *centralitaliae* VERITY of Central and Southern Italy, which has a postglacial origin. However, any speculation in this direction is impossible as only one specimen is known, and *P. alveus* is a very variable species. Nevertheless, I think it is useful to give the photographs of my specimen and its genitalia (fig. 1-3). The more evident features are the pointed apex of the forewings and a yellowish flush on the upperside.

In conclusion, we can say that our knowledge on the occurrence of *P. alveus* in Greece is still very patchy ; it is certainly one of the rarest *Pyrgus* in this area, and further exploration is needed to define its complete range and variation.

I am grateful to my friend Dr. V. Raineri of the Museo di Storia Naturale of Genoa who photographed the genitalia.



Fig. 1-3. *Pyrgus alveus* (HÜBN.) ♂, Mt. Chelmos, Peloponnesus. 1. Upperside ; 2. Underside ; 3. Genitalia, left valva removed.

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