

A contribution to the knowledge of the butterfly fauna of East Jordan

G. C. BOZANO

Viale Romagna 76, I-20133 Milan, Italy.

Inspired by the superb work by T. B. LARSEN and I. NAKAMURA (1983), *The Butterflies of East Jordan*, I twice visited that country in 1989 – from March 20th-24th and again from April 24th-29th. I used this work to plan the itinerary, and the present note will make continuous reference to it, both for distribution data and nomenclature.

The timing was very appropriate : in March I found most of the spring species, while in April many summer species were already on the wing. Of the 82 species known from the area, I recorded 52. Some of the species were previously known only from single specimens e.g. *Iolana alferii* WILTSHIRE and *Precis orithya here* LANG, or were just suspected to occur (*Anthocharis cardamines* L.). Others such as *Papilio alexanor* ESPER had not been seen for many years.

Most significant records

Papilio alexanor maccabaeus STAUDINGER : One worn female collected at Wadi Kufrinja in March seems to be the first Jordanian record for more than 30 years. One week later D. BAIOCCHI found many worn specimens in Israel (pers. comm.). The flight period in the area is likely to be the beginning of March.

Euchloe aegyptiaca VERITY : Unexpectedly common west of Petra along the road that descends to Wadi Araba. In the Azraq National Park, Eastern Desert, I found a much larger form, but still with well defined stripes on the hindwing underside.

Zegris eupheme ESPER : Subspecies *uarda* HEMMING is very common in the north. In the Southern Desert I collected ssp. *larseni* PITTAWAY with the undersides of the forewing apex and hindwing almost completely yellow. The specimens I found around Petra appear to be closer to the Southern Desert form than to *uarda*.

Anthocharis cardamines phoenissa VON KALCHBERG : One female collected at Wadi Kufrinja in March is the first available record from Jordan.

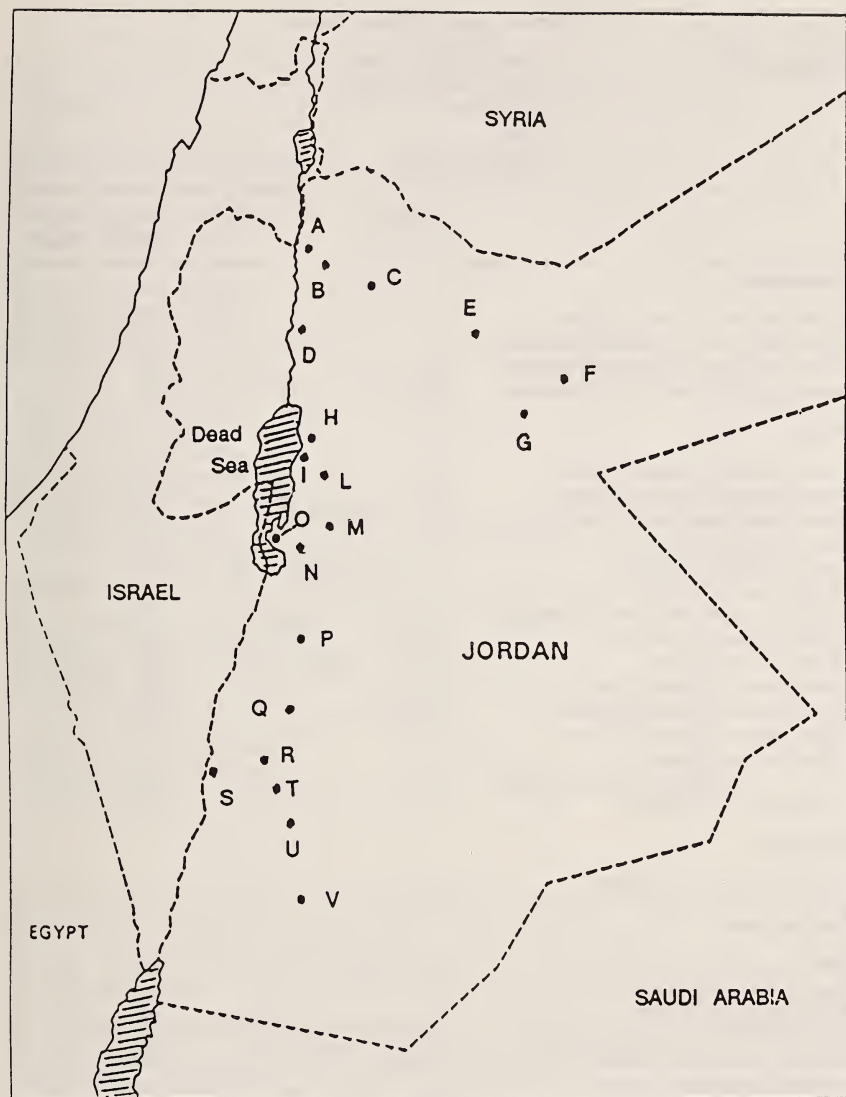


Fig. 1. List of the localities.

From North to South :

- | | |
|--|---|
| A) Wadi Kufrinja 100/300 m (Ajlun) | M) Rabba 900 m (Karak) |
| B) Sakib 800 m (Ajlun) | N) Wadi el Karak 700 m (Karak) |
| C) Jarash 800 m | O) Al Mazra'a - 350 m (Dead Sea) |
| D) 20 km West of El Salt - 100 m | P) Tafila 1000 m |
| E) Qasr el Hallabat 400 m (Eastern Desert) | Q) 30 km South of Tafila 1250 m |
| F) El Azraq 400 m (Eastern Desert) | R) Petra 700/900 m |
| G) Qasr el Amra 400 m (Eastern Desert) | S) Wadi Araba 50/300 m (Petra) |
| H) Main 400 m (Madaba) | T) Jabal Harun 1600 m (Petra) |
| I) Callirhoe - 150 m (Madaba) | U) Ras en Naqb 1200 m (Southern Desert) |
| L) Wadi el Mujib 400 m (Madaba) | V) Wadi Ram 800 m (Southern Desert) |

Table 1 : List of collected species

Abbreviations :

M = March 20th to 24th

A = April 24th to 29th

C = common

F = few

S = single specimen

	Localities	Flight period	Abundance
Papilionidae			
<i>Papilio machaon syriacus</i> VERITY	C	M, A	F
<i>Papilio alexanor maccabaeus</i> STAUDINGER	A	M	S
<i>Allancastris deyrollei eisneri</i> BERNARDI	B	M	F
<i>Archon apollinus bellargus</i> STAUDINGER	B, M, N	M	C
Pieridae			
<i>Aporia crataegi augustior</i> GRAVES	C	A	C
<i>Pieris brassicae catoleuca</i> ROBER	B, O	M, A	F
<i>Pieris rapae leucosoma</i> SCHAWERDA	A, C, D, F, N, R	M, A	C
<i>Pontia glauconome</i> KLUG	V	A	S
<i>Pontia daplidice</i> LINNAEUS	A, D, H, I, N, O, P, R, S, T	M, A	C
<i>Madais fausta</i> OLIVIER	A, I	A	F
<i>Euchloe ausonia melisande</i> FRUHSTORFER	A, B, D, F, L, N, Q	M, A	C
<i>Euchloe aegyptiaca</i> VERITY	F, R, U	M	C
<i>Euchloe belemia</i> ESPER	D, F, L, N, R	M, A	C
<i>Elphinstonia charlonia</i> DONZEL	F, R, U	M	F
<i>Zegris eupheme uarda</i> HEMMING	A, B, D, L	M, A	C
<i>Zegris eupheme larseni</i> PITTAWAY	Q, R, V	M	F
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			
<i>phoenissa</i> VON KALCHBERG	A	M	S
<i>Colias croceus</i> GEOFFROY	A, O	M, A	F
Danaidae			
<i>Danaus chrysippus</i> LINNAEUS	I, O	A	C
Nymphalidae			
<i>Vanessa cardui</i> LINNAEUS	A, C, H, L, R	M, A	C
<i>Precis orithya here</i> LANG	O	A	C
<i>Polygonia egea</i> CRAMER	A	M	S
<i>Melitaea phoebe telona</i> FRUHSTORFER	A, C, H, L, P, Q, R, T	M, A	C
<i>Melitaea trivia syriaca</i> REBEL	C, Q	A	F
<i>Melitaea deserticola</i>			
<i>macromaculata</i> BELTER	L, R	M	C
Satyridae			
<i>Melanargia titea palestinensis</i> STAUDINGER	A, C, H, P	A	C
<i>Pseudochazara telephassa</i> GEYER	H	A	C
<i>Maniola telmessia</i> ZELLER	A, C	A	C
<i>Ypthima asterope</i> KLUG	A, D, H, O	M, A	C
<i>Lasiommata megera emilyssa</i> VERITY	D, R	M	F

	Localities	Flight period	Abundance
Lycaenidae			
<i>Apharitis acamas</i> KLUG	G	A	F
<i>Apharitis myrmecophila</i> DUMONT	F	A	F
<i>Lycaena phlaeas timeus</i> CRAMER	A	A	F
<i>Lycaena thersamon omphale</i> KLUG	C	A	F
<i>Lampides boeticus</i> LINNAEUS	Q	A	F
<i>Tarucus balkanicus</i> FREYER	A, D, O	M, A	C
<i>Tarucus rosaceus</i> AUSTAUT	O	A	C
<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i> MOORE	O	A	F
<i>Azanus jesous</i> GUERIN-MENEVILLE	O	A	C
<i>Pseudophilotes abencerragus nabataeus</i> GRAVES	E, R	M, A	F
<i>Iolana alfierii</i> WILTSHIRE	Q, R	M, A	F
<i>Chilades galba</i> LEDERER	A, D, F, O	M, A	C
<i>Freyeria trochylus</i> FREYER	A	M, A	F
<i>Plebejus pylaon cleopatra</i> HEMMING	H, U	A	F
<i>Aricia agestis</i> DENIS & SCHIFFERMULLER	A	M, A	F
<i>Polyommatus icarus zelleri</i> VERITY	A, C, D, Q	M, A	C
<i>Agrodiaetus loewii uranicola</i> WALKER	F, G, H, S, U, V	A	C
Hesperiidae			
<i>Spialia orbifer hilaris</i> STAUDINGER	A	A	S
<i>Syrichthus tessellum nomas</i> LEDERER	C	A	F
<i>Carcharodus stauderi ambigua</i> VERITY	A, C, H, V	A	C
<i>Carcharodus orientalis maccabaeus</i> HEMMING	A, H	A	C
<i>Thymelicus flava syriaca</i> TUTT	A, C, D	A	C
<i>Gegenes nostrodamus</i> FABRICIUS	I	A	F

Precis orithya here LANG : Very abundant in a small palm tree oasis at 350 m below sea level on the southern coast of the Dead Sea. That extraordinary tropical environment hosted also *Danaus chrysippus* L., *Azanus jesous* GUERIN-MENEVILLE, *Tarucus rosaceus* AUSTAUT, *Chilades galba* LEDERER, *Zizeeria karsandra* MOORE and *Ypthima asterope* KLUG. A single specimen of *Precis orithya here* had been collected by T. B. LARSEN in the uppermost northern part of the Jordan Valley, near the site of Pella, on 21st October 1983.

Apharitis myrmecophila DUMONT : One of the most localized and rare of Jordan's butterflies. I found five specimens at Qasr el Azraq, Eastern Desert.

Iolana alfierii WILTSHIRE : In March I collected one male at Petra flying around the only *Colutea* seen during two days search. In April I discovered a large population 30 km south of Tafila on a slope with many *Colutea* bushes.



Agrodiaetus loewii uranicola WALKER : Found also in the Southern Desert as predicted by LARSEN & NAKAMURA.

Syrichtus tessellum nomas LEDERER : Two males collected at Jarash. According to LARSEN & NAKAMURA less than ten specimens were known from Jordan.

References

- LARSEN, T. B. and NAKAMURA, I., 1983. The butterflies of East Jordan. *Entomologist's Gazette* 34 : 135-208.
LARSEN, T. B., 1984. A tropical migrant butterfly new to the eastern Mediterranean, *Junonia orithya here* LANG. *Atalanta* 15 : 101-102.
PITTAWAY, A. R., 1985. *Fauna of Saudi Arabia* 7 : 172-197.

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Plate I :

Left column

- Papilio alexanor* ♀ Wadi Kufrinja 300 m 21.III.1989
Euchloe aegyptiaca ♂ Petra 700 m 23.III.1989
Euchloe aegyptiaca ♂ El Azraq 400 m 24.III.1989
Iolana alfierii ♂ 30 km South of Tafila 1250 m 27.IV.1989
Iolana alfierii ♀ 30 km South of Tafila 1250 m 27.IV.1989

Right column

- Anthocharis cardamines* ♀ Wadi Kufrinja 300 m 21.III.1989
Precis orithya ♂ Al Mazra'a - 350 m 29.IV.1989
Zegris eupheme uarda ♂ underside Wadi Kufrinja 300 m 21.III.1989
Zegris eupheme larseni? ♂ underside Petra 900 m 23.III.1989
Zegris eupheme larseni ♂ underside Wadi Ram 800 m 22.III.1989

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Bozano Gian Cristoforo

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