

Notes on Sicilian species of the genus *Hipparchia* Fabricius. (Satyridae).

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The aim of this paper is to outline the distribution and flight periods of the butterflies of the genus *Hipparchia* Fabricius 1807 in Sicily; particular attention is paid to the subgenus *Parahipparchia* Kudrna 1977. The paper is based primarily on my own investigations carried out in various parts of Sicily during the past few years, namely from 20. VI. 76 to 25. VII. 1976 and from 10. VII. 1977 to 30. VII. 1977. I have also included some localities cited by other authors if the identity of their specimens was in my opinion proved without doubt. Records based on material collected by other lepidopterists and made available for my examination always include the name of the collector. The systematics of this paper is based on the recently published revision of this genus (Kudrna 1977).

The identification of all taxa is based on the examination of male genitalia whenever necessary.

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List of localities investigated:

- 1) Palermo: Monreale: San Martino delle Scale: 580 m.: 11-7-1976.
- 2) — : Madonie: Isnello: Piano Zucchi: 1100 m.: 10-7-1976 – 15-7-1977.
- 3) — : — : Isnello: Portella Colla: 1400 m.: 10-7-1976.
- 4) — : — : Isnello: Piano Battaglia: 1600 m.: 10-7-1976.
- 5) — : — : Polizzi Generosa: Piano Quacella: 1270 m.: 9-7-1976 – 14-7-1977.
- 6) — : — : Monte San Salvatore: 1300–1900 m.: 9-7-1976 – 14-7-1977.
- 7) Messina: Monti Nebrodi: Novara di Sicilia: Cantoniera Vernita: 900 m.: 3-7-1976.
- 8) — : Etna: Nicolosi: Bivio Serra la Nava: 1600 m.: 23-7-1976 – 29-7-1977.
- 9) — : Isole Eolie: Vulcano: 0–500 m.: 2-7-1976.
- 10) — : — : Lipari: 0–150 m.: 16-7-1977.
- 13) — : Avola: along the sea-coast: 0 m.: 25-6-1976; 27-6-1976; 30-6-1976; 4-7-1976; 7-7-1976; 12-7-1977.
- 14) — : Avola Vecchia: 400 m.: 6-7-1976; 26-6-1976; 10-7-1977; 13-7-1977.
- 15) — : Pachino: 0–100 m.: 23-7-1977.
- 16) — : Noto: Fiume Menghisi: 29-6-1977.

- 17) — : Monti Iblei: Palazzolo Acreide: 600 m.: 29-6-1976; 19-7-1976; 22-7-1977.
 18) — : Monti Iblei: Buccheri: 800 m.: 19-7-1976.
 19) Agrigento: Valle dei Templi: 200–300 m.: 16-7-1976.

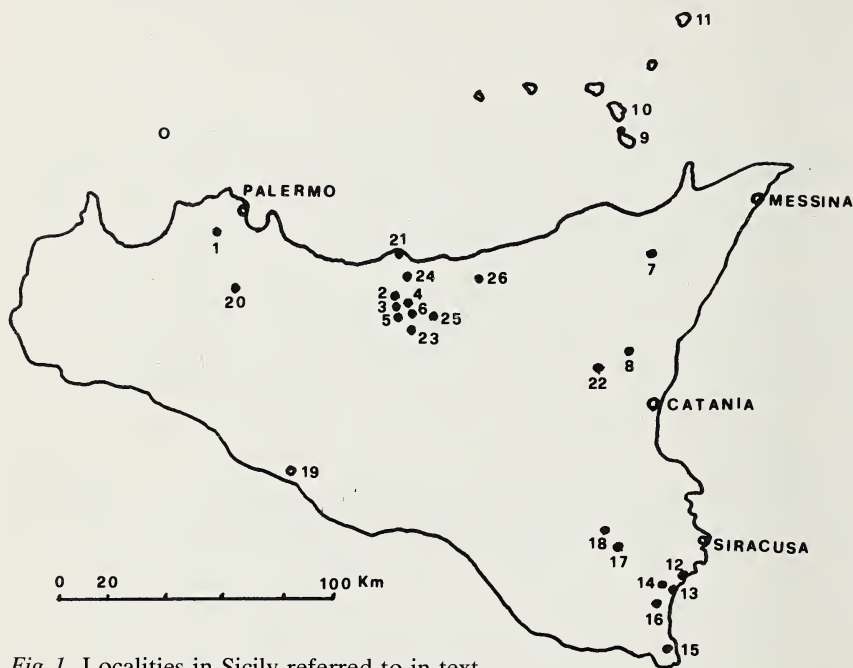


Fig. 1. Localities in Sicily referred to in text.

Hipparchia algirica blachieri (Fruhstorfer 1908)

This species is distributed throughout most of Sicily, but it is most common and widespread in the areas (of North and East Sicily) of the lines Palermo–Messina and Messina–Siracusa. The vertical distribution spans from sea level to about 1900 m., but mostly restricted to localities ranging from 500 to 1500 m. The habitat consists of dry rocky ground with sparse bushes and trees – especially, fig trees and carob trees, rarely as pine or chestnut trees woods. It settles mostly on stones, rocks, bare ground, tree trunks, but only seldom on flowers. The flight period of *blachieri* is very long: from May until September and according to Ragusa (1904) can be found as late as in October: it is most abundant in June. According to my observation *H. algirica blachieri* appears to be most common in the following localities: Madonie, Nebrodi, Etna, Monti Iblei (localised).

In the following localities *H. algirica blachieri* is found sympatric and partially synchronic with *H. semele wilkinsoni*: Madonie, Nebrodi, Etna.

Collected specimens: 65.

- 1) Palermo: Monreale: San Martino delle Scale: 580 m.: 11-7-1976: 1♂.
- 2) Palermo: Madonie: Isnello: Piano Zucchi: 1100 m.: 10-7-1976: 2♂♂; 15-7-1977: 1♂ & 1♀.
- 3) Palermo: Madonie: Polizzi Generosa: Piano Quacella: 1270 m.: 9-7-1976: 9♂♂ & 4♀; 14-7-1977: 30♂♂ & ♀♀.
- 6) Palermo: Madonie: Polizzi Generosa: Monte San Salvatore: 1300–1800 m.: 14-7-1977: 3♂♂.
- 7) Messina: Nebrodi: Novara di Sicilia: Cantoniera Vernita: 900 m.: 3-7-1976: 2♂♂ & 1♀.
- 8) Messina: Etna: Nicolosi: Bivio Serra la Nava: 1600 m.: 23-7-1976: 3♂♂; 29-7-1977: 1♂.
- 14) Siracusa: Avola Vecchia: 400 m.: 26-6-1976: 2♂♂; 6-7-1976: 2♂♂; 13-7-1977: 1♀.
- 12) Siracusa: Foce Fiume Cassibile: 0 m.: 17-7-1976: 1♂.
- 17) Siracusa: Monti Iblei: Palazzolo Acreide: 29-6-1976: 14♂♂; 19-7-1976: 3♀♀; 22-7-1977: 5♂♂ & 1♀.
- 18) Siracusa: Monti Iblei: Buccheri: 800 m.: 19-7-1976: 2♂♂ & 2♀♀.

Other specimens:

- 20) Palermo: Ficuzza: 600–1000 m.: August (Verity).
- 21) Palermo: Cefalù: 30-5-1977: 1♂ (leg. A. Casale).
- 22) Messina: Etna: Adrano: 580 m.: 2-6-1972: 2♂♂ & 2♀♀; 4-9-1971: 1♀ (leg. A. Buzzoni).

Hipparchia semele wilkinsoni Kudrna 1977

This species is in Sicily more restricted than *H. algirica blachieri*; it inhabits the following areas: Madonie, Nebrodi, Etna. It has been recorded from altitudes ranging from 400m. to 1600m., but frequents mostly altitudes from 1000m to 1400 m. The overall distribution of *wilkinsoni* is smaller than that of *blachieri* and my investigations appear to suggest that both species are often sympatric: *blachieri* inhabits all localities of *wilkinsoni*. Both species are very difficult to recognize on the wing as they have very similar behaviour and their flight periods overlap. However, it would appear that *wilkinsoni* concentrates in relatively more wooded habitats, with more vegetation. Where the two species live in proximity, *wilkinsoni* seems to be, according to my observation, more abundant than *blachieri*. All specimens of *wilkinsoni* available for my examination – whether collected by myself or not – were collected in July; this suggests that the flight period of *wilkinsoni* is much shorter than that of *blachieri* and its culmination – to say the least – takes place later in the season.

Material examined:

Collected specimens: 81.

- 2) Palermo: Madonie: Isnello: Piano Zucchi: 1100 m.: 10-7-1976: 1♂.
- 3) Palermo: Madonie: Isnello: Portella Colla: 1400 m.: 10-7-1976: 1♂.



Fig. 2. The distribution in sicily of *H. algerica blachieri*, *H. semele wilkinsoni* and *H. fagi fagi*.

- 4) Palermo: Madonie: Isnello: Piano Battaglia: 1600 m.: 10-7-1976: 2♂♂.
- 5) Palermo: Madonie: Polizzi Generosa: Piano Quacella: 1270 m.: 9-7-1976: 17♂♂ & 9♀♀; 1300–1400 m.: 14-7-1977: 30♂♂ & 9♀♀.
- 6) Palermo: Madonie: Polizzi Generosa: Monte San Salvatore: 1400–1500 m.: 9-7-1976: 1♂; 14-7-1977: 3♂♂ & 9♀♀.
- 7) Messina: Nebrodi: Novara di Sicilia: Cantoniera Vernita: 900 m.: 3-7-1976: 2♂♂ & 1♀.
- 8) Messina: Etna: Nicolosi: Bivio Serra la Nava: 1500–1700 m.: 23-7-1976: 13♂♂ & 9♀♀; 29-7-1977: 3♂♂ & 4♀♀.

Other specimens:

- 23) Palermo: Madonie: Petralia: Portella Manderini: 1206 m.: Pizzo Fao (Verity).
 - 24) Palermo: Madonie: Castelbuono: 425 m.: 19-7-1971: 1♂ (leg. E. Giay).
 - 25) Palermo: Madonie: Geraci Siculo: 1077 m.: 17-7-1971: 1♀ (leg. E. Giay).
 - 26) Messina: Nebrodi: Mistretta: 950 m.: VII-1971 (leg. E. Giay).
- Hipparchia semele leighebi* Kudrna 1976

This taxon does not inhabit Sicily proper, being endemic of some of Isole Eolie: Kudrna (1977) stated Vulcano and Panarea. This summer I found this species also on the Lipari and Stromboli Islands. It is hoped to deal with this taxon later, after the completion of my faunistic investigations of Isole Eolie. The following material from the two previously unpublished localities of *H. semele leighebi* was examined:

Isola Lipari: near Lipari village ca 150 m.: 16. VII. 1977: 3♂♂ & 2♀♀.

Isola Stromboli: north-eastern slopes of vulcan: ca 250 m.: 16. VII. 1977: 13♂♂ & 17♀♀

The small number of specimens found on the Lipari Island suggest rather the short time spent there (about 2 or 3 hours) than the abundance of *leighebi* there.

Hipparchia fagi fagi (Scopoli 1763)

This species is in Sicily localized, restricted only to certain mountains. However, in its localities *fagi* appear to be common (especially so in 1977). In all its localities *fagi fagi* is often sympatric and during its flight period also synchronic with both *wilkinsoni* and *blachieri*. *H. fagi* is more difficult to get as it settles usually very high on the tree trunks. The habitat is pine, chest nut and ilex woods; thus *fagi* differs in the choice of habitat from both previously named species. The flight period is similar to that of *wilkinsoni* and seems to culminate in the second half of July and—perhaps also—early August. Mariani (1938) recorded *fagi* also from Monti Nebrodi, but I did not visit this region in late July. Verity (1953) gave also S. Marco, regione Traversa (Palermo), but the name of the locality is probably confused.

Material examined:

- 2) Palermo: Madoni: Isnello: Piano Zucchi: 900–1100 m.: 15-7-1977: 3♂♂ & 1♀.
- 5) Palermo: Madonie: Polizzi Generosa: road Piano Quacella—Monte San Salvatore: 1400–1500 m.: 14-7-1977: 4♂♂ & 2♀♀.
- 8) Messina: Etna: Nicolosi: Bivio Serra la Nava: 1600–1700 m.: 23-7-1976: 1♂; 29-7-1977: 3♂♂ & 1♀.

This species – widespread and common in Sicily – is the most common Sicilian *Hipparchia*, as it finds its favourable xerothermic habitats with sparse vegetation and rocks all over the island. The flight period extends from late June until September with culmination in August. I have collected statilius in the following localities or areas: Palermo: Monreale; Palermo: Madonie; Messina: Nebrodi; Messina: Etna; Siracusa: Avola Vecchia and Noto; Siracusa: Monti Iblei; Palazzolo Acreide.

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Zusammenfassung

Die Verbreitung der sizilianischen Taxa der Gattung *Hipparchia* Fabricius unter besonderer Berücksichtigung sympatrischer und synchronischer Arten wird diskutiert. Darüber hinaus werden Angaben über Flugzeiten und Habitate gemacht. Außerdem ist eine kurze vorläufige Bemerkung über *H. semele leighebi* enthalten, eine Art, die direkt auf Sizilien fehlt, die aber einige der Isole Eolie (Eo-lischen Inseln) nördlich von Sizilien, bewohnt.

Résumé

La distribution des taxa siciliens du genre *Hipparchia* Fabricius est discutée avec une attention particulière pour les espèces sympatriques et synchroniques. Des données relatives aux périodes de vol et aux biotopes sont également fournies. Une brève étude sur *H. semele leighebi*, espèce absente de la Sicile elle-même mais présente dans quelques unes des Isole Eolie (Iles Eoliennes) au nord de la Sicile, est aussi donnée sous forme de note préliminaire.

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