

Lycaenid butterflies (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) of northwestern Turkey with notes on their ecology and current status

Licénidos (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) del noroccidente de Turquía con notas sobre su ecología y estado actual

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Abstract: Between 1995 and 2006, a total of 3280 lycaenid adults belonging to 47 species were collected in order to study their distribution and current status in Bursa, northwestern Turkey. Of these, *Tomares nogelii* is a newly recorded species for northwestern Turkey. The following lycaenid species had not been seen since the 1860s: *Aricia eumedon*, *Cupido osiris*, *Kretania eurypilus*, *Plebeius sephirus*, and *P. ripartii*. The endemic water dock plant species *Rumex olympicus* was recorded as a new host for the larvae of *Lycaena dispar*. Both *Aricia hyacinthus* and the endemic *Polyommatus ossmar olympicus* are under threat of extinction. In contrast, the status of some *Polyommatus* species changed from local to widespread. The highest number of lycaenid species was recorded in July with a total of 40 species per month. Widespread lycaenid species were generally caught at altitudes higher than 1000 m. Altitudinal distribution and phenology of lycaenid species as well as their new host plants found are discussed.

Key words: Adult flight activity. Elevation. Conservation. Host plants.

Resumen: Entre 1995 y 2006, se recolectaron un total de 3280 adultos de licénidos pertenecientes a 47 especies, con el fin de estudiar su distribución y estado actual en Bursa, en el noroeste de Turquía. De estos, *Tomares nogelii* es una especie recientemente registrada en el noroeste de Turquía. Las siguientes especies de licénidos no se habían visto desde la década de 1860: *Aricia eumedon*, *Cupido osiris*, *Kretania eurypilus*, *Plebeius sephirus*, y *P. ripartii*. La planta endémica de muelle *Rumex olympicus* fue registrada como un nuevo huésped para las larvas de *Lycaena dispar*. Tanto *Aricia hyacinthus* y la endémica *Polyommatus ossmar olympicus* están en peligro de extinción. En cambio, la distribución de algunas especies de *Polyommatus* ha cambiado de local a general. El mayor número de especies de licénidos se registró en julio con un total de 40 especies por mes. Especies de licénidos de amplia distribución fueron capturadas por lo general a alturas superiores a 1000 m. Se discute sobre la distribución altitudinal y la fenología de las especies de licénidos así como de sus nuevas plantas hospederas encontradas.

Palabras clave: Actividad de vuelo. Elevación. Conservación. Plantas hospederas.

Introduction

Lycaenids, also known as gossamer-winged butterflies because of their iridescent wings, are small-sized butterflies (< 5 cm). Lycaenidae comprises more than a third of the world's Papilionoidea with over 6000 different species (Robbins 1982; Ackery *et al.* 1999). Although both Africa (Ghana) and South America (Colombia) support a rich lycaenid fauna, the distribution of many lycaenid species are limited by their specialised habitat preferences (Legg 1978; Fiedler 1996). This characteristic makes them very vulnerable to habitat loss caused by human disturbance to the environment for agricultural and developmental purposes.

In fact, the loss of suitable habitat can be considered the most imminent threat to butterfly species' persistence (van Swaay and Warren 1999). Because of their habitat loss, many lycaenid species are listed as threatened in Red Data Books in many European countries (van Swaay and Warren 1999). A butterfly habitat includes not only larval hostplants and breeding resources, but also sites for roosting, hibernation and mate location outside the hostplant areas (Dennis 2004). For example, lycaenids such as *Plebeius argus* (L., 1758) and *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775) are known to roost and mate on taller vegetation substrates rather than their hostplants (Emmet and Heath 1990; Dennis 2004). Dennis (2004)

also noted the increasing importance of shrubs for lycaenid butterflies as the season progresses.

First reports on the lycaenid fauna of Turkey date back to the 1830s when Albert Kindermann started a comprehensive survey on Turkish Rhopalocera covering the provinces of Istanbul and Bursa (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995). Later, many European entomologists carried out seasonal butterfly surveys in different parts of the country (Zeller 1847; Mann 1862, 1864; Oberthur 1872; Staudinger 1878; Fontaine 1904; Graves 1911, 1912; Wagner 1929; De Lattin 1950; Higgins 1966; Betti 1989; Carbonell and Brevignon 1983; Carbonell 1992; Carbonell 2003). Turkish entomologists initiated their work on the local butterfly fauna from the early 1960s (Kansu 1961, 1963; Oktem 1962; Sengun and Guneyi 1968; Guneyi and Kirmiz 1971; Guneyi and Uyar 1972; Kocak 1975, 1976, 1989; Avci and Ozbek 1996; Akbulut *et al.* 2003). However, the Bursa region has been largely neglected in recent decades by collectors and researchers in favour of the central and eastern parts of Turkey where the chance to find undescribed Lycaenid taxa is believed to be greater.

There are 161 lycaenid species in Turkey according to the checklist of Kocak and Kemal (2006), but the total number of lycaenid species has recently increased to 164 based on the accounts of the Centre for Entomological Studies Ankara (CESA unpublished). Of these species, 54 have been

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recorded from the Bursa province of northwestern Turkey (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995). However, some species were only recorded in 1851 and 1863 by Mann and no specimens were collected after then (Mann 1862, 1864). It has been more than 100 years since some lycaenid species were last seen.

The objectives of this study were: 1) to investigate the changes in the distribution of lycaenid fauna in Bursa province of northwestern Turkey, 2) to assess their current geographical status (widespread or local) in order to identify sites where lycaenid conservation is necessary, and 3) to provide information about the ecological characteristics of the recorded species.

Material and Methods

During 1995-2006, lycaenid adults were collected from March until late October in Bursa province of northwestern Turkey. Using a sweep net, specimens were caught from 81 localities in 16 counties (Fig. 1). Localities were chosen depending on the ecosystem diversity and altitudinal variation. Altitudes, route tracks and directions of localities were measured with Magellan Sportrak Pro GPS (Thales Navigation, CA, USA).

The occurrence of each lycaenid species is determined by recording the total number of localities in which it occurs among all 81 localities visited. Species status was determined according to distribution in Bursa Province and presence in the localities. Species that were found in more than 20% of the examined localities were considered widespread. Subspecies' names, if determined, were also reported.

Each lycaenid specimen was collected from its harboring plant. Living specimens were killed with ethyl acetate after being captured and they were brought back to the laboratory for identification. Adults were mounted according to standard entomological procedures and stored as vouchers in the Plant Protection Department collection at Uludag University. Species were identified by Prof. Bahattin Kovanci according to the descriptions of Carter (1982), Higgins *et al.* (1991), and Hesselbarth *et al.* (1995). The scientific names of lycaenid species used in the annotated checklist was mainly based on the nomenclature of De Prins (2004) and Kocak and Kemal (2006). Both subspecies names and names of species that were not present in Europe were adopted from Hesselbarth *et al.* (1995).

Results

A total of 3280 lycaenid adults, representing 47 species were caught. *Polyommatus icarus* and *Lycaena phlaeas* (L., 1761) were the most widespread species in northwestern Turkey, followed by *Phebeius argus*, *Aricia agestis* (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775) and *A. anteros* (Freyer, 1838) (Table 1).

Adults of a few species such as *Lycaena dispar* (Haworth, 1802) emerged in April while most species appeared in May (Table 1). An increasing amount of adult flight activity during the summer months was observed. The highest number of lycaenid species was recorded in July with a total of 40 species per month. While the capture of some species continued until October, some were caught only in specific times. For example, adults of *Lycaena alciphron* (Rottemburg, 1775), *Lycaena virgaureae* (L., 1758) and *Satyrium acaciae* (Fabricius, 1787) were collected mainly in the summer whereas *Callophrys rubi* (L., 1758) adults occurred only in the spring.

Plebeius argus appeared to have two generations in northwestern Turkey, the first from May to June and the second from July to August. *Aricia agestis* had two generations at high altitudes, the first from April to June and the second from July to August but a third generation may occur at low altitudes from August to October. *A. anteros* may also complete two or three generations from April to September depending on the altitude.

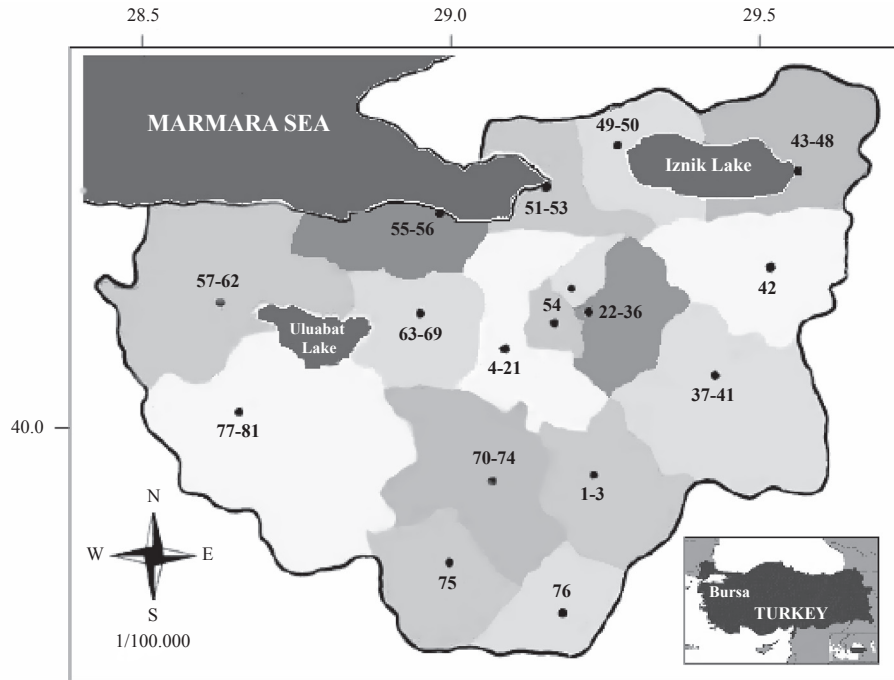
As far as habitat altitude is concerned, *P. icarus* had the greatest altitudinal range (15-2400 m) among all lycaenid species (Table 1). Widespread lycaenid species were generally distributed at altitudes higher than 1000 m. The species richness increased until 1500 m. Some species such as *A. agestis*, *L. phlaeas*, and *Polyommatus icarus* were eurytopic and found at altitudes of up to 2000, 2200, and 2400 m above sea level, respectively. *Plebeius argus* and *Polyommatus bellargus* (Rottemburg, 1775) varied in their altitudinal range between 300-2000 and 125-2200 m, respectively. Some lycaenids such as *Agriades pyrenaica* (Boisduval, 1840) and *Aricia hyacinthus* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1847) were restricted to the subalpine and alpine zones.

Detailed information on the distribution of local lycaenid species according to years and localities, and number of males and females caught at particular dates is presented in Table 2.

Discussion

During the 12-year survey in the Bursa province of northwestern Turkey, a total of 47 lycaenid species were collected of which 12 were widespread and 35 were more restricted species in their distribution (Table 1). The latter include *A. hyacinthus*, *Lycaena candens* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1844), *Pseudophilotes bavius* (Eversmann, 1832), *Polyommatus semiargus* (Rottemburg, 1775), *Polyommatus cornelia* (Gerhard, 1851), *Polyommatus ossmar olympicus* (Gerhard, 1853), *Polyommatus iphigenia* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1847), *Polyommatus menalcas* (Freyer, 1837) and *Tomares nogelii* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1851). *Aricia eumedon* (Esper, 1780), *Cupido osiris* (Meigen, 1829), *Kretania eurypilus* Freyer, 1851), *Plebeius sephirus* (Friedlitzky, 1835), and *Polyommatus ripartii* (Freyer, 1830) had not been seen since 1860s (Mann 1862, 1864). In addition, the last reported sightings of *Chilades trochylus* (Freyer, 1845), *Polyommatus semiargus* (Rottemburg, 1775), *P. bellargus*, *S. acaciae* and *Satyrium spini* (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775) in the area came from the early 1900s (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995). Until this study, all these species were regarded as extinct according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Butterflies because it had been more than 50 years since they were recorded in wild (Wells *et al.* 1983). These results highlight the importance of detailed sampling efforts to clear up the risk status of some species.

A. hyacinthus is present only in western Anatolia and was previously recorded at an altitudinal range of 1150-2350 m from eight provinces of Turkey including Bursa (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995). In this study, this species was only found at four localities at altitudes in the range of 1900-2400 m. The whole area containing the endemic larval food plant *Erodium olympicum* was covered with alpine grasslands used for sheep grazing. Likewise, the Ketenlik plateau of Sogukpinar village, which harbours the endemic *P. ossmar olympicus*, is under moderate to high grazing pressure. The larval host plant of this endemic lycaenid, *Coronilla varia* subsp. *varia* L., is



Keles	:	1-3	Gürsu	:	54
Osmangazi	:	4-21	Mudanya	:	55-56
Kestel	:	22-36	Karacabey	:	57-62
İnegöl	:	37-41	Nilüfer	:	63-69
Yenişehir	:	42	Orhaneli	:	70-74
Iznik	:	43-48	Harmancık	:	75
Orhangazi	:	49-50	Büyükorhan	:	76
Gemlik	:	51-53	M. kemalpaşa	:	77-81

Keles; 1: Kocayayla, 1215 m; 2: Beşikçi, 1510 m; 3: Epeçler, 1 km NE, 1300 m; **Osmangazi**, 4: Karaislah, 1 km N, 925 m; 5: Karaislah, 2 km W, 660 m; 6: Bağlı, 4 km NW, 1200 m; 7: Bağlı, 1 km NE, 1100 m; 8: Soğukpınar, 1 km NW, 1045 m; 9: Soğukpınar, 1 km E, 1030 m; 10: Soğukpınar-Gölcük, 1200 m; 11: Soğukpınar, 2 km NE, 1300 m; 12: Soğukpınar-ketenlik yaylası, 1430 m; 13: Uludağ-Aras valley, 2000 m; 14: Uludağ-Kuşaklıkaya, 2200 m; 15: Mt. Uludağ-near summit, 2400m; 16: Uludağ-near hotels region, 1900 m; 17: Uludağ-Kirazlıyayla, 1500 m; 18: Uludağ-Karabelen, 1300 m; 19: Kirazlı, 875 m; 20: Hüseyinalan, 1005 m; 21: Çağlayan, 100 m; 22: Dereköz, 2 km N, 300 m; 23: Dereköz, 2 km S, 515 m; 24: Saitabat, 640 m; 25: Osmaniye, 500 m NW, 600 m; 26: Osmaniye, 1,5 km W, 550 m; 27: Burhaniye, 2,5 km NW, 250 m; 28: Gözede, 3 km NE, 400 m; 29: Gözede, 2 km E, 560 m; 30: Alaçam, 1 km N, 775 m; 31: Alaçam, 100 m S, 1030 m; 32: Alaçam, 1 km S, 1110 m; 33: Şevketiye, 2 km N, 570 m; 34: Şevketiye, 1 km S, 800 m; 35: Şevketiye-near dam, 900m 36: Sayfiye, 1 km W, 830 m; **İnegöl**, 37: Şehitler, 2 km S, 370 m; 38: Çiftlikköy civarı, 875 m; 39: Edebey, 1 km W, 360 m; 40: Deydinler, 340 m; 41 Hamamlı, 100 m N, 330 m; **Yenişehir**, 42: Mecidiye, 3 km W, 490 m; **Iznik**, 43: İznik, 85 m; 44: Ömerli, 220 m; 45: Hisardere 2 km SE, 625 m; 46: İhsaniye, 3 km W, 865 m; 47: Sansarak canyon, 725 m; 48: Çamdibi, 120 m; **Orhangazi**, 49: Orhangazi, 10 km E, 95m; 50: Hamzalı, 2 km E, 355 m; **Gemlik**, 51: Karacaali, 500 m N, 80 m; 52: Kurşunlu, 15 m; 53: Hamidiye, 2 km W, 460 m; **Gürsu**, 54: Ericek 1 km E, 715m; **Mudanya**, 55: Altıntaş vicinity, 1 km NW, 60 m; 56: Zeytinbağ 3.5 km SW, 170 m; **Karacabey**, 57: Boğazköy, 50 m; 58: Çarık, 1 km SW, 15 m; 59: Malkara, 20 m; 60: Seyran, 500 m W, 40 m; 61: Hürriyet, 45 m; 62: Eskikaraağaç, 20 m; **Nilüfer**, 63: Gölyazı, 1 km N, 15 m; 64: Uludağ University, Görükle campus (UUGC) forest, Orman, 125 m; 65: UUGC, fruit orchard, 55 m, 66: Hasanağa, 3.5 km SW, 250 m; 67: Hasanağa, 6 km SW, 375 m; 68: Kayapa inlet, 180 m; 69: Maksempınar, 2 km NE, 390 m; **Orhaneli**, 70: Göktepe 4 km NE, 620 m; 71: Göktepe 3 km NW, 725 m; 72: Erenler, 600 m; 73: Sadağı canyon, 450 m; 74: Küçükorhan 2 km S, 945 m; **Harmancık**, 75: Central town, 11 km NW, 1010 m; **Büyükorhan**, 76: Büyükorhan vicinity, 700 m; **Mustafakemalpaşa**, 77: Körekem, 2 km E, 470 m; 78: Körekem, 1 km W, 485 m; 79: Körekem, 3 km W, 470 m; 80: Kayabaşı 1 km SW, 160 m; 81: Muradiyesarnıcı-Suuçtu falls, 405 m.

Figure 1. Map of Bursa, northwestern Turkey. Numbers within regions indicate the specific localities where the lycaenid species were collected.

grazed by sheep as well. Therefore, both *A. hyacinthus* and *P. ossmar olympicus* are believed to be under threat of extinction.

T. nogelii is found in Armenia, Lebanon, Romania, Syria, Palestine, Turkey, and Ukraine (Tuzov *et al.* 2000). It is now recorded in northwestern Turkey. The members of this species were caught only in the subalpine zone of Mt. Uludağ, which contains dry, stony slopes and hot ravines. The predominant plants in the habitat were *Astragalus angustifolius* Lam. and *Astragalus sibthorpianus* Boiss. but no larvae were

recovered from these plants. Since this species is monophagous and closely associated with its host plant, further studies can be directed toward potential *Astragalus* spp. hosts.

L. candens has a limited range which includes the area from the Balkan Peninsula and Turkey to Iran and the Caucasus (Martin and Pullin 2004). It was only caught in the mixed forest zone at an altitude of 1430 m. Unlike *L. candens*, *L. dispar* is widely distributed in Europe as far north as southern Finland, and across Asia but its populations are declining in many European countries. It is also a rare species in

Turkey and classified in the lower risk, near-threatened status by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Butterflies (Wells *et al.* 1983). The presence of *L. dispar* in Turkey has recently been reported by Akbulut *et al.* (2003). We recorded *L. dispar* at five localities in small populations. These populations breed in open grassy vegetation where the endemic water dock species, *Rumex olympicus* Boiss., grows at a high density in sunny areas.

Pseudophilotes bavius is very localised in the Balkans including Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (van Swaay and Warren 1999). The subspecies *P. bavius egea* is widespread in southern, central and parts of eastern Anatolia (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995) but it is restricted locally in northwestern Anatolia based on our observations. Some adults were collected from *Salvia argentea* L. plants on which larvae of this species develop (Higgins and Riley 1970).

Polyommatus menalcas, also known as Turkish furry blue, is endemic to Turkey (Balint 1999). It is present in all regions, except the southeast. *P. cornelia* is another endemic species and found in the rocky slopes of the mountains. Similarly, *P. iphigenia*, which occurs only in Turkey and the Balkans, prefers open subalpine slopes. Unlike the previous *Polyommatus* species, *P. semiargus* extends over a large area from Morocco, Europe, Turkey, Middle East, temperate parts of Asia to Kazakhstan, North China, and Korea (Kudrna 2002). In northwestern Turkey, it is a local species occurring in the Bursa plain where it is vulnerable due to urbanization. Adults were captured between May and July in meadows where hostplants *Trifolium repens* L. and *Trifolium pratense* L. are present.

Aricia anteros anteros is an Irano-Turanian species distributed locally from Lebanon to North Iran, Caucasus, Turkey, and the Balkan Peninsula (Hesselbarth *et al.* 1995).

Table 1. Occurrence, current status, altitudinal range, and flight period of lycaenid species in Bursa province, northwestern Turkey, between 1995 and 2006.

Species	Female	Male	Total	Occurrence*	Status**	Altitudinal range	Range of flying months
<i>Agriades pyrenaica</i> (Boisduval, 1840)	2	16	18	2	L	2000-2200	June – July
<i>Aricia agestis</i> (Denis and Schiffmüller, 1775)	42	119	161	33	W	15-2000	April – October
<i>A. anteros</i> (Freyer, 1838)	48	164	212	33	W	40-1430	April – September
<i>A. eumedon</i> (Esper, 1780)	10	19	29	1	L	1500	June
<i>A. hyacinthus</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1847)	25	30	55	4	L	1900-2450	July - August
<i>Callophrys rubi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	25	32	57	19	W	15-1100	April-June
<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	18	18	36	18	W	15-1300	April - September
<i>Chilades trochylus</i> (Freyer, 1845)	8	11	19	2	L	220-625	June - September
<i>Cupido osiris</i> (Meigen, 1829)	-	3	3	2	L	450-460	May - July
<i>Everes alcetas</i>	6	13	19	8	L	20-875	May - August
<i>E. argiades</i> (Palas, 1771)	15	32	47	12	L	250-1200	May - September
<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> (Poda, 1761)	33	55	88	19	W	60-1200	April - June
<i>Kretania eurypilus</i> (Freyer, 1851)	3	1	4	3	L	180-900	June - July
<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	8	9	17	9	L	300-2000	June - September
<i>Leptotes pirithous</i> (Linnaeus 1767)	12	47	59	13	L	15-1430	July - September
<i>Lycaena alciphron</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)	6	13	19	7	L	390-1430	June - July
<i>L. candens</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1844)	-	1	1	1	L	1430	July
<i>L. dispar</i> (Haworth, 1802)	3	18	21	5	L	250-775	May - August
<i>L. phlaeas</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	57	107	164	47	W	15-2200	April - October
<i>L. thersamon</i> (Esper, 1784)	12	14	26	12	L	60-1100	May - September
<i>L. tityrus</i> (Poda, 1761)	34	54	88	24	W	250-1430	April - October
<i>L. virgaureae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	14	24	38	9	L	875-1510	June - August
<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	8	15	23	8	L	405-1200	June - September
<i>Plebeius argus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	114	182	296	33	W	300-2000	May - August
<i>P. idas</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	8	15	23	6	L	925-2000	May - July
<i>P. sephirus</i> (Frivaldzky, 1835)	-	6	6	3	L	125	May - June
<i>Polyommatus semiargus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)	14	15	29	13	L	125-1200	May- July
<i>P. amandus</i> (Schneider, 1792)	10	33	43	10	L	560-1430	May - July
<i>P. cornelia</i> (Gerhard, 1851)	-	9	9	2	L	560-1300	July
<i>P. dorylas</i> (Denis and Schiffmüller, 1775)	6	33	39	4	L	1430-2200	July - August
<i>P. icarus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)	378	430	808	70	W	15-2400	April - September
<i>P. thersites</i> (Cantener, 1835)	8	11	19	13	L	125-1430	May - September

(Continue)

(Continuation Table 1)

Species	Female	Male	Total	Occurrence*	Status**	Altitudinal range	Range of flying months
<i>P. bellargus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)	30	110	140	23	W	125-2200	May - September
<i>P. daphnis</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)	36	71	97	20	W	515-2000	June - September
<i>P. ossmar olympicus</i> (Gerhard, 1853)	114	88	202	7	L	515-1430	July- September
<i>P. admetus</i> (Esper, 1785)	7	20	27	5	L	300-1050	June - August
<i>P. iphigenia</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1847)	19	64	83	4	L	1430-2400	July - August
<i>P. menalcas</i> (Freyer, 1837)	1	-	1	1	L	1045	July
<i>P. ripartii</i> (Freyer, 1830)	-	1	1	1	L	2200	August
<i>Pseudophilotes bavius</i> (Eversmann, 1832)	8	28	36	6	L	60-1005	May - July
<i>P. vicrama</i> (Moore, 1865)	3	9	12	6	L	125-900	May - July
<i>Satyrium acaciae</i> (Fabricius, 1787)	5	1	6	6	L	15-1045	June - July
<i>S. ilicis</i> (Esper, 1779)	37	97	134	28	W	14-1430	May - July
<i>S. spini</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)	-	1	1	1	L	300	June
<i>S. w-album</i> (Knoch, 1782)	-	1	1	1	L	1100	July
<i>Tarucus balkanica</i> (Freyer, 1844)	11	28	39	4	L	15-300	April - September
<i>Tomares nogelii</i> (Herrich Schäffer, 1851)	-	14	14	1	L	1200	June

* The total number of localities in which particular lycaenid species occurs among all 81 localities visited. ** W = Widespread, L = local.

Although widespread, this subspecies is restricted to a small territory (e.g. a mountain range). Both larvae and adults were seen on *Geranium pusillum* L.

Plebeius idas baldur was reported from the mountains of the Balkan Peninsula, Turkey and Caucasia. *P. i. baldur* adults are monophagous on the *Chamaecytisus absinthioides* (Janka) Kuzm., which is a Balkan endemic plant, in Bulgaria (Kolev 2005) and the geographical ranges of the plant and the lycaenid coincide significantly. This strict regional monophagy differs from the relatively wide polyphagy on the nominotypical *Chamaecytisus absinthioides idas*, which suggests that the latter may be a separate species as asserted by Kolev (2005). In this case, there must be another host plant, which remains to be identified in Turkey.

According to Pollard and Yates (1993), the presence of a food plant is essential for the presence of a breeding population of a species at any site. In fact, many widespread butterfly species have higher diversity of larval foodplants than the local and localised butterflies (Hodgson 1993). For example, the plant flora of the study area is rich in Fabaceae, Rhamnaceae and Rosaceae (*Rubus* spp., *Potentilla* sp.), which are the common hostplants of many lycaenids such as *C. rubi*. The main hostplants of *S. ilicis* larvae are *Quercus* spp. predominantly found in Mts. Uludag, Katirli and Samanlı. In addition, *Astragalus* spp. is common in Mt. Uludag and provides a suitable habitat for *P. daphnis* and possibly for *T. nogelii*. Proactive efforts of growing butterfly food plants near urban areas are recommended to increase their chance of survival in Santiago de Cali, Colombia (Ramírez *et al.* 2007) but similar actions are also needed for mountain villages in northwestern Turkey to protect the natural habitat of lycaenid butterflies where their food plants thrive.

Both habitat altitude and connectivity are important variables because most lycaenids are small and sedentary species with a small breeding areas (Dennis 1992). Some lycaenids such as *Aveexcrenota anna* (Druce, 1907) can only be found at hilltopping sites at or near the mountain peak as observed in the Cerro San Antonio (2200 m) near the City of Cali, Co-

lombia (Balint *et al.* 2006). Similarly, *Agriades pyrenaica* and *Aricia hyacinthus* were only captured in the hilltop areas of flat terrain covered with shrubs at or near Mt. Uludag's peak (2345 m). *A. pyrenaica* is known to be strictly confined to its barren habitat containing the larval host plant *Androsace villosa* L. (Tolman and Lewington 1997). The local species are more or less confined to restricted areas, which provide the specific resources that they require. Individual populations may be large, but nevertheless, when a species becomes restricted in this way to a limited number of more or less isolated localities, it must be regarded as endangered (Pollard and Yates 1993). Since *A. eumedon*, *P. cornelia* and *C. trochylus* were found at only one or two localities, they are considered to be endangered. *A. eumedon* specimens were collected in June from subalpine grasslands near a public picnic area while *C. trochylus* occurred from June to September in a garrigue shrubland around fruit orchards. In contrast to these rare species, some local species expanded their habitat ranges and their status changed from local to widespread. These species include *P. semiargus*, *P. amandus* and *P. bellargus*.

Development and implementation of management plans for existing rare colonies of lycaenid butterflies such as *A. hyacinthus* and *P. ossmar olympicus* are necessary. Special importance should be given to the protection of essential habitats of lycaenids from adverse development within and outside mountainous areas. Suitable secure habitats should be established for self-sustaining viable populations of lycaenids feeding on endemic host plants as in the cases of *L. dispar* and *L. candens* larvae on *Rumex* species. Very little information on the host plants of lycaenids, which is needed for both conservation and ecological studies, from the world has been published. The occurrence of some lycaenid species may be limited by their habitat and altitude preferences so some lycaenid species may become extinct while others can expand their habitat ranges in response to the occurrence of environmental degradation.

Table 2. Temporal distribution of local lycaenid species according to years and localities, and number of males and females caught at particular dates in Bursa province, northwestern Turkey between 1995 and 2006.

Local Species	Year, Date, No. of males/females captured and Locality*
<i>Agrion pyrenaica</i>	2001: 23.06, 10 ♂, 1 ♀ (14); 19.07, 2 ♂ (13), 1 ♀ (14); 2003: 19.06, 4 ♂ (14)
<i>A. eumedon</i>	2003: 7.06, 1 ♂ (17); 19.06, 18 ♂, 10 ♀ (17);
<i>A. hyacinthus</i>	1999: 27.07, 2 ♂, 2 ♀ (13), 2001: 19.07, 5 ♂, 1 ♀ (13), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (14), 2 ♂ (16); 8.08, 1 ♂, 5 ♀ (13), 4 ♂, 1 ♀ (14); 16.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (15); 2002: 13.08, 1 ♂ (14); 2003: 23.07, 9 ♂, 5 ♀ (13), 1 ♀ (14); 13.08, 1 ♂, 5 ♀ (13); 2004: 13.08, 3 ♂, 3 ♀ (13)
<i>Chilades trochylus</i>	2002: 6.08, 1 ♂ (39); 20.09, 10 ♂, 7 ♀ (39); 2004: 29.07, 1 ♀ (40)
<i>Cupido osiris</i>	2004: 10.06, 1 ♂ (73); 2006: 22.05, 1 ♂ (53); 25.07, 1 ♂ (53)
<i>Everes alcetas</i>	2001: 5.05, 1 ♂ (22); 14.07, 2 ♀ (29); 23.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (30); 28.08, 2 ♂, 2 ♀ (34), 1 ♂ (36); 2002: 3.06, 1 ♂ (59); 2003: 26.07, 3 ♂ (29); 9.08, 1 ♂ (29), 3 ♂ (33); 2006: 28.05, 1 ♀ (38)
<i>E. argiades</i>	2001: 23.06, 1 ♂ (29); 28.08, 5 ♂ (27), 2 ♂ (28), 8 ♂, 2 ♀ (29), 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (30), 1 ♀ (31); 31.08, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (35), 2 ♂ (36); 6.09, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (24); 9.09, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (25); 2003: 17.05, 1 ♀ (10); 15.06, 1 ♂, 3 ♀ (28); 5.07, 1 ♂ (20); 26.07, 2 ♀ (28), 1 ♂ (29), 1 ♂ (33); 9.08, 1 ♂ (28), 1 ♂ (33); 23.08, 2 ♂ (29); 2006: 24.08, 1 ♀ (25)
<i>Kretania eurypilus</i>	2000: 27.07, 1 ♀ (35); 2003: 17.07, 1 ♀ (68); 2006: 23.06, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (53)
<i>Lampides boeticus</i>	2001: 9.06, 1 ♀ (30); 30.06, 1 ♀ (22); 14.07, 1 ♂ (29), 1 ♀ (30); 4.08, 1 ♂ (10); 8.08, 1 ♂ (13); 11.08, 1 ♂ (12); 23.08, 1 ♀ (30); 28.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (30); 6.09, 1 ♂ (24); 9.09, 1 ♂ (29); 2003: 13.07, 1 ♀ (29); 9.08, 1 ♂ (29); 23.08, 1 ♀ (29); 20.08, 1 ♀ (74); 2006: 3.07, 1 ♂ (38)
<i>Leptotes pirthous</i>	2001: 14.07, 3 ♂, 1 ♀ (29), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (30); 2.08, 1 ♂ (3); 11.08, 1 ♂ (4), 1 ♂ (12); 23.08, 4 ♂, 2 ♀ (30); 28.08, 4 ♂ (27), 5 ♂ (28), 10 ♂ (29), 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (31); 31.08, 2 ♂ (28), 1 ♀ (33); 6.09, 2 ♀ (24); 9.09, 1 ♀ (23), 4 ♂, 2 ♀ (29); 29.09, 4 ♂, 1 ♀ (43); 2006: 24.08, 2 ♂ (25), 3 ♂ (32)
<i>Lycaena alciphron</i>	2000: 8.07, 1 ♂ (7); 2001: 8.07, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (12); 2003: 7.06, 1 ♂ (8); 21.06, 1 ♀ (8), 1 ♀ (20); 5.07, 1 ♂ (7); 2004: 10.06, 1 ♂ (73); 19.07, 4 ♂, 1 ♀ (73); 2005: 9.07, 1 ♀ (7), 1 ♀ (12); 2006: 20.06, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (5); 29.06, 1 ♂ (69)
<i>L. candens</i>	1997: 30.07, 1 ♂ (12)
<i>L. dispar</i>	1999: 10.06, 1 ♂ (28); 2000: 17.05, 1 ♂ (27), 3 ♂ (28); 25.07, 1 ♂ (27); 3.08, 1 ♂ (29); 2001: 26.05, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (27); 23.08, 1 ♂ (28); 2003: 1.06, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (28), 1 ♂ (30); 15.06, 1 ♂ (28); 26.07, 1 ♂ (28); 03.08, 1 ♂ (23); 9.08, 1 ♂ (30); 23.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (30)
<i>L. thersamon</i>	1998: 14.08, 1 ♀ (65); 2000: 15.07, 1 ♀ (7); 2001: 21.07, 1 ♂ (7); 23.08, 3 ♂, 2 ♀ (27), 3 ♂ (33); 1.09, 1 ♂ (8); 9.09, 1 ♀ (29); 2003: 20.05, 1 ♂ (61); 28.08, 1 ♂ (25), 1 ♂ (28), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (29); 30.08, 1 ♀ (7); 2004: 8.07, 1 ♀ (68); 2005: 6.06, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (80); 2006: 29.06, 1 ♂ (66); 5.07, 2 ♀ (80)
<i>L. virgaureae</i>	1995: 13.08, 1 ♂ (17); 10.07, 1 ♀ (12); 17.07, 1 ♂ (7), 3 ♂ (10); 25.07, 1 ♂ (7); 1 ♂ (12); 2000: 15.07, 1 ♀ (7); 2001: 8.07, 1 ♂ (6), 3 ♂ (7); 21.07, 1 ♀ (7); 4.08, 1 ♀ (12); 2003: 30.05, 1 ♀ (7); 22.06, 1 ♂ (12); 5.07, 2 ♂ (7), 1 ♂ (8); 13.07, 2 ♂ (17); 19.07, 1 ♂ (7), 3 ♂ (12); 22.07, 1 ♂ (7); 2.08, 1 ♀ (12); 21.08, 2 ♀ (12); 25.08, 4 ♀ (19); 30.08, 1 ♂ (8); 2004: 14.08, 1 ♀ (31); 2005: 9.07, 1 ♂ (7); 2006: 24.08, 1 ♀ (2)
<i>Neozephyrus quercus</i>	1997: 25.07, 1 ♂ (6), 1 ♂ (7), 1 ♂ (10); 2.08, 1 ♀ (10); 1998: 1.08, 3 ♂ (8); 2003: 19.07, 1 ♂ (9); 23.07, 1 ♀ (9); 2.08, 2 ♀ (9); 16.08, 3 ♂ (4); 2004: 9.07, 1 ♀ (73); 2005: 6.06, 1 ♀ (71); 3.08, 4 ♂, 2 ♀ (76); 8.09, 1 ♂ (73)
<i>Polyommatus semiargus</i>	2000: 4.06, 1 ♀ (8); 21.06, 1 ♀ (23); 2001: 17.05, 2 ♂ (64); 18.5, 1 ♀ (13); 22.05, 1 ♂ (64); 1.06, 1 ♂ (7); 8.07, 1 ♀ (6); 2003: 23.05, 1 ♂ (68); 29.05, 1 ♂ (64); 2.06, 1 ♀ (64); 16.06, 1 ♂ (67); 2006: 30.05, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (73); 3.06, 1 ♂ (4), 1 ♂ (10); 6.06, 3 ♂, 7 ♀ (66); 15.06, 2 ♂ (66), 24.06, 1 ♀ (76)
<i>P. amandus</i>	1997: 21.06, 1 ♀ (7); 28.06, 4 ♂ (10); 3.07, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (10); 10.07, 1 ♂ (10); 1999: 29.05, 1 ♂ (12); 2000: 31.05, 3 ♂ (29); 4.06, 2 ♂ (10); 17.06, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (8); 2001: 26.05, 1 ♂ (30); 1.06, 1 ♀ (7); 23.06, 1 ♂ (10); 2003: 7.06, 1 ♂ (8); 2004: 5.06, 1 ♀ (8); 10.06, 1 ♂ (70); 2005: 7.06, 2 ♂, 2 ♀ (10); 10.06, 2 ♂ (71); 25.06, 1 ♂ (8); 2006: 30.05, 3 ♂ (71); 3 ♂ (73); 3.06, 4 ♂, 1 ♀ (10); 20.06, 2 ♀ (5)
<i>P. cornelia</i>	2003: 19.07, 5 ♂ (11); 26.07, 4 ♂ (29)
<i>P. dorylas</i>	2001: 19.07, 1 ♂ (13), 1 ♂ (14); 4.08, 1 ♀ (12); 8.08, 1 ♂ (13), 2 ♂ (14); 28.08, 1 ♂ (31); 2002: 13.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (13); 9 ♂, 1 ♀ (14); 2003: 23.07, 5 ♂, 1 ♀ (13); 13.08, 1 ♀ (13), 10 ♂, 1 ♀ (14); 2004: 13.08, 1 ♂ (13), 1 ♂ (14)
<i>P. thersites</i>	1998: 10.06, 1 ♀ (1); 2001: 4.08, 1 ♂ (11); 18.08, 2 ♂ (12); 25.08, 2 ♂ (7); 30.08, 1 ♂ (20); 9.09, 1 ♂ (25); 1 ♀ (38); 2003: 3.07, 1 ♀ (64), 1 ♂ (68); 2004: 27.07, 1 ♂ (81); 2005: 10.05, 2 ♀ (80); 2006: 28.05, 1 ♀ (38); 20.06, 1 ♀ (5), 23.06, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (53); 5.07, 1 ♀ (80)
<i>P. ossmar</i>	1997: 2.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (12); 1999: 7.08, 3 ♂, 1 ♀ (12); 2001: 26.07, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (12); 4.08, 4 ♂, 8 ♀ (11); 4 ♂, 4 ♀ (12); 11.08, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (12); 18.08, 3 ♂, 5 ♀ (11), 5 ♂, 3 ♀ (12); 28.08, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (31); 30.08, 1 ♂, 5 ♀ (10); 1.09, 1 ♀ (9); 2003: 19.07, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (11), 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (12); 22.07, 6 ♂, 6 ♀ (11), 1 ♂ (12); 2.08, 5 ♂, 11 ♀ (11), 14 ♂, 12 ♀ (12); 9.08, 1 ♀ (25), 3 ♂, 1 ♀ (31); 16.08, 20 ♂, 30 ♀ (12); 21.08, 7 ♂, 9 ♀ (12); 23.08, 1 ♂, 4 ♀ (31), 3 ♂ (34); 29.08, 5 ♀ (23); 2004: 14.08, 1 ♂ (31)
<i>P. admetus</i>	2001: 30.06, 1 ♂ (22); 18.08, 1 ♀ (9); 2003: 13.07, 1 ♀ (22); 2006: 23.06, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (53); 23.07, 11 ♂, 1 ♀ (38); 25.07, 4 ♂, 2 ♀ (53); 27.07, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (40)

(Continue)

(Continuation Table 2)

Local Species	Year, Date, No. of males/females captured and Locality*
<i>P. iphigenia</i>	1997: 19.07, 1 ♂ (13); 1999: 27.07, 1 ♂ (13); 2000: 13.08, 1 ♂ (13); 2001: 19.07, 1 ♂ (12), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (13), 26.07, 1 ♂ (12); 8.08, 5 ♂, 3 ♀ (13), 5 ♂, 2 ♀ (14); 16.08, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (14), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (15); 2002: 13.08, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (13); 8 ♂, 1 ♀ (14); 2003: 23.07, 4 ♂ (13); 13.08, 3 ♂, 4 ♀ (13); 20 ♂, 3 ♀ (14); 25.08, 2 ♂, 2 ♀ (14); 2004: 13.08, 5 ♂ (13), 2 ♂ (14)
<i>P. menalcas</i>	2001: 21.07, 1 ♀ (8)
<i>P. ripartii</i>	2001: 8.08, 1 ♂ (14)
<i>Pseudophilotes bavius</i>	2001: 22.05, 1 ♂ (64); 18.06, 4 ♂, 1 ♀ (64); 25.06, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (64); 28.06, 1 ♂ (64); 6.07, 1 ♂ (64), 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (65); 2002: 6.08, 1 ♀ (44); 2003: 11.06, 10 ♂ (64); 23.06, 5 ♂, 1 ♀ (64); 2.07, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (64); 5.07, 1 ♂ (20); 2006: 7.06, 1 ♀ (80); 23.06, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (53)
<i>P. vicrama</i>	2001: 30.05, 1 ♂ (64); 2003: 11.05, 2 ♂ (22); 15.06, 1 ♂ (35); 2004: 9.07, 1 ♂ (73); 2006: 7.06, 3 ♂, 1 ♀ (80); 23.06, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (53)
<i>P. idas</i>	1997: 17.07, 2 ♂ (7), 1 ♂ (8); 2000: 22.05, 1 ♂ (10); 4.06, 2 ♂ (10); 2001: 23.6, 1 ♂ (10); 8.07, 3 ♂ (10); 2003: 7.06, 1 ♂ (4); 19.07, 1 ♂ 4 ♀ (12); 23.07, 2 ♂ (7), 1 ♂, 3 ♀ (12); 23.07, 1 ♀ (13)
<i>P. sephirus</i>	2003: 7.05, 1 ♂ (64); 2006: 23.06, 4 ♂ (53), 1 ♂ (54)
<i>Satyrium acaciae</i>	2000: 16.06, 1 ♀ (65); 21.06, 1 ♀ (29); 1.07, 1 ♂ (8); 2001: 1.06, 1 ♀ (64); 8.06, 1 ♀ (63); 2003: 5.07, 1 ♀ (20)
<i>S. spini</i>	2003: 15.06, 1 ♂ (22)
<i>S. w-album</i>	2003: 19.07, 1 ♂ (7)
<i>Tarucus balkanica</i>	2001: 27.04, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ (64); 22.05, 2 ♂ (64); 30.05, 2 ♂ (64); 8.06, 1 ♂ (63); 18.06, 1 ♂ (64); 13.07, 2 ♂, 3 ♀ (63); 17.08, 2 ♂ (64); 2003: 4.06, 6 ♂ (63); 11.06, 1 ♂ (64); 23.06, 4 ♂ (64); 28.06, 2 ♂ (64); 13.07, 1 ♀ (22); 2004: 12.05, 1 ♀ (64); 2006: 7.06, 2 ♂, 4 ♀ (80); 5.07, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (80)
<i>Tomares nogelii</i>	2006: 20.06, 14 ♂ (1)

* Locality numbers are noted in parentheses.

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