

BUTTERFLIES OF THE ŠAR MOUNTAINS

in the Republic of North Macedonia



Boloria graeca
Šar Mountains - 5 August 2012

MLD

This Šar mountain range is called differently according to different authors and common uses of language. Here are the different names, all designating the same mountain range:

- *Shar Mountains*
- *Sharr Mountains*
- *Shara Mountains*
- *Šar Mountains*
- *Šar planina*
- *Malet e Sharrit*
- *Шар Планина*

FOREWORD

The authors of this book hope that its content will be of great interest to all nature lovers. The book presents this group of insects, certainly the most interesting for a wide audience, from the youngest to the oldest. Butterflies always fascinate with their appearance: small and large, with one or more colours, with particular, complex and unique shapes and patterns.

Photos of all Šar Mountains butterflies species, for easier recognition, are shown in real size with the upper wings on the left and the under wings on the right. In case of different appearance or colour between male and female (sexual dimorphism), both sexes are represented.

The book should also be very useful to researchers in lepidopterology, in particular because of the existing legislation applied to the protection of the national natural heritage.

Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) is the best studied order of insects in North Macedonia, represented by 2,638 species.

Butterflies (Lepidoptera, Rhopalocera) are represented by 204 species in North Macedonia, including 179 taxa reported on the Šar Mountains. They belong to 6 families: Hesperidae with 21 species, Papilionidae with 6 species, Pieridae with 20 species, Riodinidae with 1 species, Lycaenidae with 51 species and Nymphalidae with 80 species.

Vladimir Krpač



Erebia cassioides
Ljuboten - 6 August 2012

MLD

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HISTORY OF RESEARCH

The first butterflies data on the Šar Mountains have been published just before the World War I by Rebel in 1913.

Then, the following authors have published data:

Doflein (1921), Rebel and Zerny (1931); Daniel et al. (1951); Lorković (1953); Michieli (1963); Thurner (1964), Dufay (1973, 1977), Arnscheid and Arnscheid (1980); De Freina (1983); Schaidler (1980, 1984); Jakšić (1988; 1989, 1998a, 1998b, 2001); Schaidler and Jakšić (1989); Kocak (1989); Beshkov (1996); Melovski (2002, 2004); Abadjiev (2006); Krpač et al. (2008); Kolev (2010); Huemer et al. (2011); Krpač and Darcemont (2012); Krpač et al. (2013); Abdija et al. (2013a; 2013b; 2013c; 2013d; 2017; 2019a; 2019b); Louy et al. (2013; 2014); Varga (2014), Melovski and Božinovska (2014).

All references can be found here: <http://www.geem.org/SharMt/references.html>



Paul Schaidler — Vortrag Jakšić
**Die Tagfalter von jugoslawisch
Mazedonien**



Books published in 1964 (↑) and 1989 (→) including data from Sharr Mountain.

THE ŠAR MOUNTAINS

LOCATION AND MAPS

The following link gives access to an open map located in the center of the mountain (near Popova Shapka). This map includes asphalt roads, dust roads and some paths by zooming on some parts.

From a computer, the link is the following:

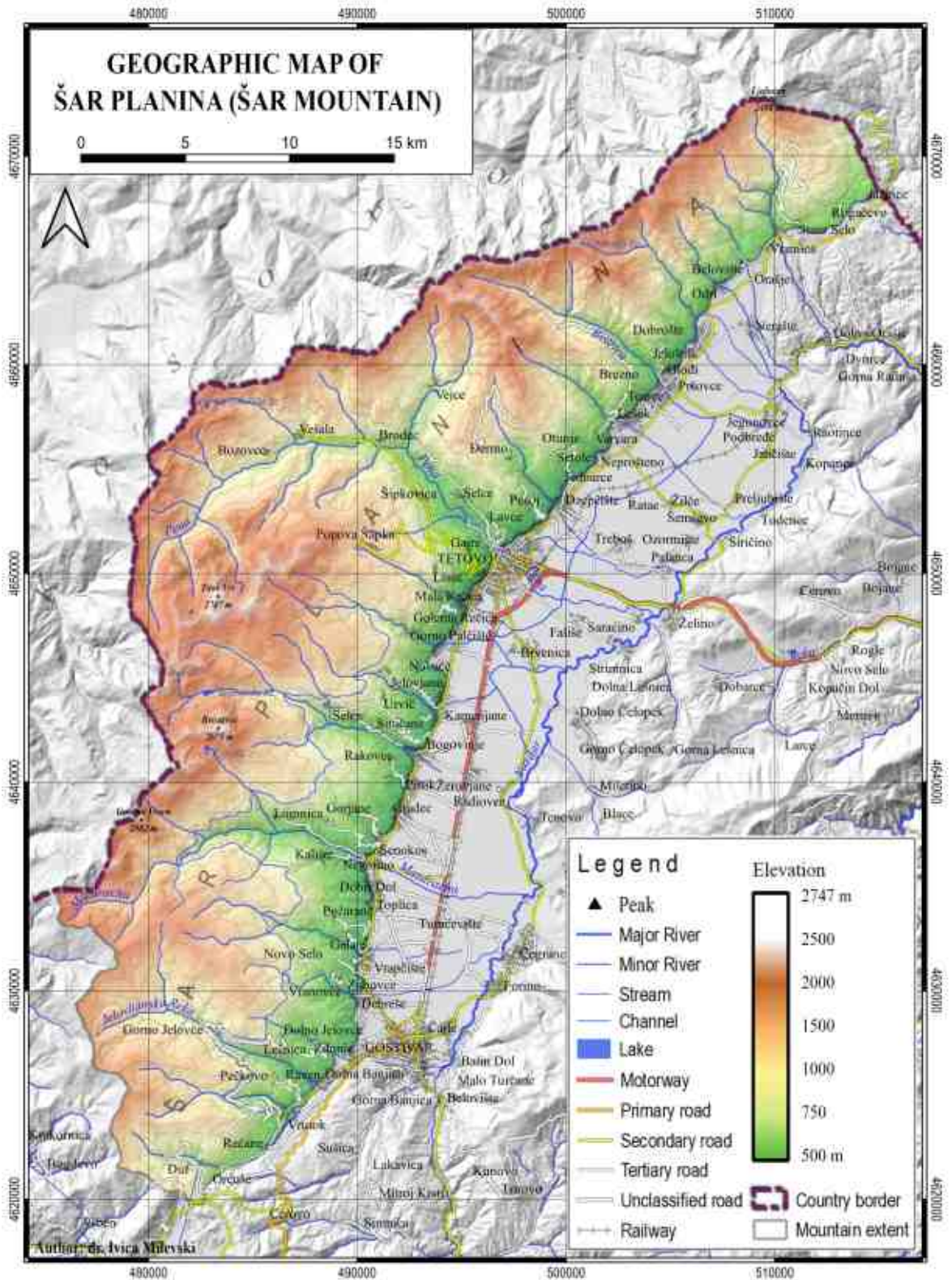
<https://www.openstreetmap.org/#map=13/42.0228/20.8987&layers=CN>

and with a mobile phone the following QR-Code performs this link:



If you prefer to use another software, the following code includes only the GPS data and your phone will ask you which software you would like to use.





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SUBALPINE ZONE

This higher altitudinal belt covers a significant part of the Šar mountain range. Above 1800 m, more or less grazed pastures are predominant. In some places, they form macro-mosaics with mainly thickets with *Juniperus communis nana* or heaths with *Vaccinium myrtillus*.

There is enough water on all the mountains and the overflows of the high lakes favour the formation of small more humid areas where grows a more dense herbaceous vegetation.



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Zootoca vivipara

PIERIDAE

Swainson, 1820

It is a family of butterflies with about 1,100 species worldwide.

In Europe, this family is divided into three sub-families: Dismorphiinae (Wood whites) whose host plants are Fabaceae, Pierinae (Whites and Orange-tips) whose host plants are mainly Brassicaceae and Coliadae (Sulfurs) whose host plants are mainly Fabaceae and Rhamnaceae.

Twenty species fly on the Šar Mountains, among the twenty three species reported for the whole country.

A lot of species of this family of butterflies have a powerful and fast flight and some species are migratory. Many of these species have sexual dimorphism (difference in wing colour between males and females) and some species show seasonal dimorphism (differences between generations along the year).

Page	Sub-family	Tribe	Species
86	Dismorphiinae	Leptideini	<i>Leptidea duponcheli</i> (Staudinger, 1871)
87	Dismorphiinae	Leptideini	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
88	Dismorphiinae	Leptideini	<i>Leptidea juvernica</i> Williams, 1946
89	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Aporia crataegi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
90	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris krueperi</i> Staudinger, 1860
91	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris rapae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
92	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris manni</i> (Mayer, 1851)
93	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris ergane</i> (Geyer, 1828)
94	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris napi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
95	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris balcana</i> Lorković, 1969
96	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pieris brassicae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
97	Pierinae	Pierini	<i>Pontia edusa</i> (Fabricius, 1777)
98	Pierinae	Anthocharini	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i> (Hübner, 1804)
99	Pierinae	Anthocharini	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
100	Pierinae	Anthocharini	<i>Anthocharis gruneri</i> Herrich-Schäffer, 1851
101	Coliadae	Coliadini	<i>Colias crocea</i> (Geoffroy, 1785)
102	Coliadae	Coliadini	<i>Colias alfacariensis</i> Ribbe, 1905
103	Coliadae	Coliadini	<i>Colias caucasica</i> Staudinger, 1871
104	Coliadae	Gonepterygini	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
105	Coliadae	Gonepterygini	<i>Gonepteryx farinosa</i> (Zeller, 1847)

PIERIDAE > DISMORPHIINAE > Leptideini

MLD

Leptidea duponcheli

(Staudinger, 1871)

Leptidea duponcheli lorkovici Pfeiffer, 1932

Red list Status:  LC  LC 



1st generation



2nd generation



CD

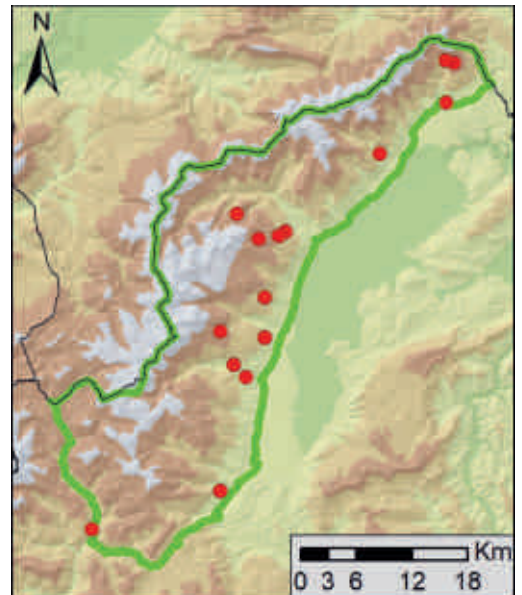
The species is present in open habitats of the Šar Mountains, and has been reported from 700 to 1800 m elevation, in June and July.

MAIN HOST PLANTS: FABACEAE:

Onobrychis sp., *Lathyrus* sp., *Lotus* sp.

Onobrychis sp.

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RIODINIDAE

Grote, 1895

It is a family of butterflies containing more than 1,500 species worldwide, but in Europe we find only one species belonging to the subfamily Nemeobiinae.

This species flies on the Šar Mountains.

This family of butterflies is very close to the family Lycaenidae and in the past it was considered as a subfamily (called Riodininae) of Lycaenidae.

Page	Sub-family	Species
108	Nemeobiinae	<i>Hamearis lucina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)



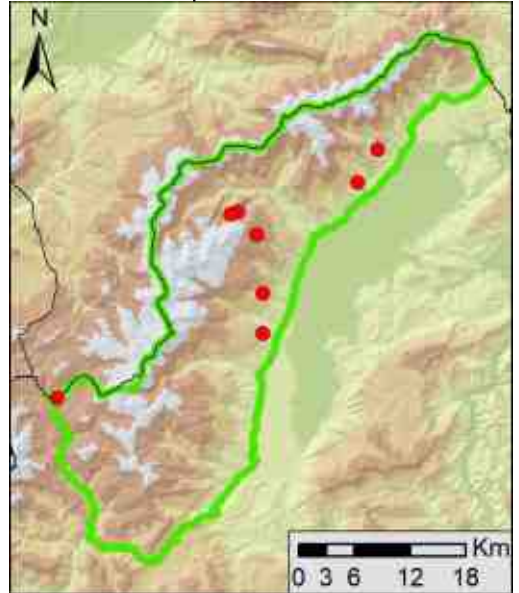
Hamearis lucina

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Red list Status:  LC  LC 



The species occurs in habitats of the Šar Mountains close to forests, and has been reported from 750 to 1800 m elevation, from May to July, in edge of beech and mixed spruce-beech forests.



MAIN HOST PLANTS: PRIMULACEAE: *Primula* sp.



LYCAENIDAE

Leach, 1815

It is a large family of butterflies with more than 6,000 species worldwide.

In Europe, this family is divided into three sub-families: Theclinae (Hairstreaks) related to various families of plants, Lycaeninae (Coppers) linked to Polygonaceae, and Polyommatinae (Blues) whose host plants are mainly Fabaceae.

Fifty one species fly on the Šar Mountains, among the fifty five species reported nationwide.

They are small butterflies with an impressive bright colour on their wings. They were named according to their colour, some colored in brilliant blue while others in copper colour. Most species have sexual dimorphism, males differ from females in colour. For some species the caterpillar and nymph stages live protected in ant nests.

Page	Sub-family	Tribe	Species
111	Theclinae	Theclini	<i>Favonius quercus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
112	Theclinae	Theclini	<i>Thecla betulae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
113	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Callophrys rubi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
114	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Satyrrium acaciae</i> (Fabricius, 1787)
115	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Satyrrium ilicis</i> (Esper, 1779)
116	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Satyrrium spini</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
117	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Satyrrium w-album</i> (Knoch, 1782)
118	Theclinae	Eumaeini	<i>Satyrrium pruni</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
119	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)
120	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena dispar</i> (Haworth, 1802)
121	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena candens</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1844)
122	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i> (Esper, 1784)
123	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena alciphron</i> (Rottenburg, 1775)
124	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena virgaureae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
125	Lycaeninae	Lycaenini	<i>Lycaena tityrus</i> (Poda, 1761)
126	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
127	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
128	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Cupido alcetas</i> (Hoffmannsegg, 1804)
129	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Cupido argiades</i> (Pallas, 1771)
130	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Cupido decoloratus</i> (Staudinger, 1886)
131	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Cupido osiris</i> (Meigen, 1829)
132	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Cupido minimus</i> (Fuessly, 1775)
133	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Iolana iolas</i> (Ochsenheimer, 1816)
134	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i> (Poda, 1761)
135	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Phengaris alcon</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
136	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Phengaris arion</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
137	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
138	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Scolitantides orion</i> (Pallas, 1771)
139	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i> (Moore, 1865)
140	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Kretania sephirus</i> (Frigivaldsky, 1835)
141	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Plebejus argus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
142	Polyommatinae	Polyommatini	<i>Plebejus idas</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)

LYCAENIDAE

Leach, 1815

Page	Sub-family	Tribe	Species
143	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i> (Bergsträsser, 1779)
144	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Agriades optilete</i> (Knoch, 1781)
145	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Agriades dardanus</i> (Freyer, 1844)
146	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Eumedonia eumedon</i> (Esper, 1780)
147	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Aricia agestis</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
148	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
149	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Aricia anteros</i> (Freyer, 1838)
150	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
151	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus amandus</i> (Scheider, 1792)
152	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus dorylas</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
153	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
154	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus thersites</i> (Cantener, 1835)
155	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus eros</i> (Ochsenheimer, 1808)
156	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus daphnis</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
157	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus ripartii</i> (Freyer, 1830)
158	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus admetus</i> (Esper, 1783)
159	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Polyommatus damon</i> (Denis and Schiffermüller, 1775)
160	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Lysandra bellargus</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
161	Polyommatainae	Polyommataini	<i>Lysandra coridon</i> (Poda, 1761)



VK

Favonius quercus

(Linnaeus, 1758)

Red list Status:



LC



LC



In the Šar Mountains, the species occurs in edge of forests and clearings, but has been reported only once in 2013 from Rakovec at about 950 m elevation.

MAIN HOST PLANTS: FAGACEAE: *Quercus* sp.



NYMPHALIDAE

Rafinesque, 1815

It is a large family of butterflies of medium-sized to large butterflies containing more than 6,000 species worldwide. Most species have a reduced pair of forelegs, supposed to be used to amplify the sense of smell or to improve communication.

This family is divided into several sub-families. The Satyrinae sub-family (Satyrs and Browns) is the largest, and was earlier treated as distinct family (Satyridae).

Eighty species fly on the Šar Mountains, among the hundred and four species reported for the whole country.

Page	Sub-family	Tribe	Species
165	Libytheinae		<i>Libythea celtis</i> (Laicharting, 1782)
166	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Kirinia roxelana</i> (Cramer, 1777)
167	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Kirinia climene</i> (Esper, 1783)
168	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Pararge aegeria</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
169	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Lasiommata maera</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
170	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Lasiommata petropolitana</i> (Fabricius, 1787)
171	Satyrinae	Elymniini	<i>Lasiommata megera</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
172	Satyrinae	Coenonymphini	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i> (Linnaeus, 1760)
173	Satyrinae	Coenonymphini	<i>Coenonympha leander</i> (Esper, 1784)
174	Satyrinae	Coenonymphini	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
175	Satyrinae	Coenonymphini	<i>Coenonympha rhodopensis</i> Elwes, 1900
176	Satyrinae	Maniolini	<i>Pyronia tithonus</i> (Linnaeus, 1771)
177	Satyrinae	Maniolini	<i>Maniola jurtina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
178	Satyrinae	Maniolini	<i>Hyponephele lycaon</i> (Kühn, 1774)
179	Satyrinae	Maniolini	<i>Hyponephele lupina</i> (Costa, 1836)
180	Satyrinae	Maniolini	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
181	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia ligea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
182	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia euryale</i> (Esper, 1805)
183	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia epiphron</i> (Knoch, 1783)
184	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia albergana</i> (Prunner, 1798)
185	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia medusa</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
186	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia gorge</i> (Hübner, 1804)
187	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia rhodopensis</i> Nicoll, 1900
188	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia cassioides</i> (Hochenwarth, 1792)
189	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia ottomana</i> Herrich-Schäffer, 1847
190	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia melas</i> (Herbst, 1796)
191	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia pronoe</i> (Esper, 1780)
192	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia oeme</i> (Hübner, 1804)
193	Satyrinae	Erebiini	<i>Erebia pandrose</i> (Borkhausen, 1788)
194	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Chazara briseis</i> (Linnaeus, 1764)
195	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Brintesia circe</i> (Fabricius, 1775)
196	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Hipparchia semele</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
197	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Hipparchia volgensis</i> (Mazokhin-Porshnyakov, 1952)
198	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Hipparchia fagi</i> (Scopoli, 1763)
199	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Hipparchia syriaca</i> (Staudinger, 1871)
200	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Hipparchia statilinus</i> (Hufnagel, 1766)
201	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Arethusana arethusana</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
202	Satyrinae	Satyrini	<i>Satyrus ferula</i> (Fabricius, 1793)
203	Satyrinae	Melanargiini	<i>Melanargia galathea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
204	Satyrinae	Melanargiini	<i>Melanargia larissa</i> (Geyer, 1828)

NYMPHALIDAE

Rafinesque, 1815

Page	Sub-family	Tribe	Species
205	Apaturinae	Apaturini	<i>Apatura ilia</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
206	Apaturinae	Apaturini	<i>Apatura iris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
207	Limenitidinae	Limenitidini	<i>Limenitis populi</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
208	Limenitidinae	Limenitidini	<i>Limenitis reducta</i> Staudinger, 1901
209	Limenitidinae	Limenitidini	<i>Neptis rivularis</i> (Scopoli, 1763)
210	Limenitidinae	Limenitidini	<i>Neptis sappho</i> (Pallas, 1771)
211	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Araschnia levana</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
212	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
213	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
214	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Polygonia c-album</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
215	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Polygonia egea</i> (Cramer, 1775)
216	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Aglais io</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
217	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Aglais urticae</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
218	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
219	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Nymphalis xanthomelas</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
220	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Nymphalis vaualbum</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
221	Nymphalinae	Nymphalini	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
222	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
223	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Fabriciana adippe</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
224	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Speyeria aglaja</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
225	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Argynnis paphia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
226	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Argynnis pandora</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
227	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Brenthis ino</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
228	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Brenthis daphne</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
229	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Brenthis hecate</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
230	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Issoria lathonia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
231	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
232	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Boloria dia</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
233	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Boloria pales</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
234	Heliconiinae	Argynnini	<i>Boloria graeca</i> (Staudinger, 1870)
235	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
236	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea arduinna</i> (Esper, 1783)
237	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea didyma</i> (Esper, 1778)
238	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea trivialis</i> (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)
239	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea diamina</i> (Lang, 1789)
240	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea aurelia</i> Nickerl 1850
241	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea athalia</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
242	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
243	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Rottemburg, 1775)
244	Melitaeinae	Melitaeini	<i>Euphydryas maturna</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

NYMPHALIDAE > LIBYTHEINAE

Libythea celtis

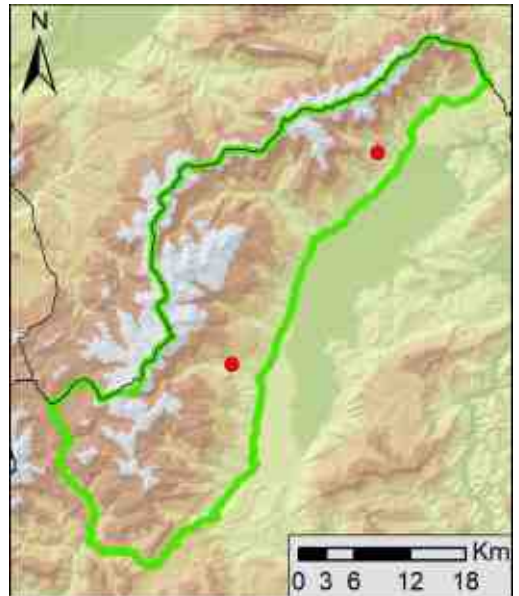
(Laicharting, 1782)

Red list Status:  LC  LC 



This species is present in open and semi-open habitats at lower altitude of the Šar Mountains. It was reported around 750 m elevation.

MAIN HOST PLANTS: ULMACEAE: *Celtis* sp.

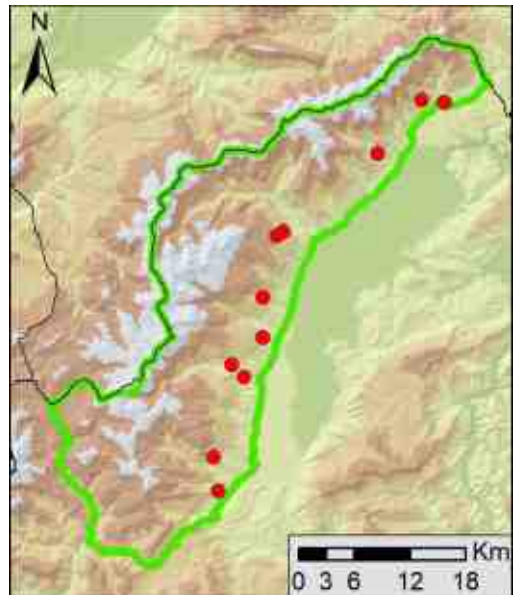
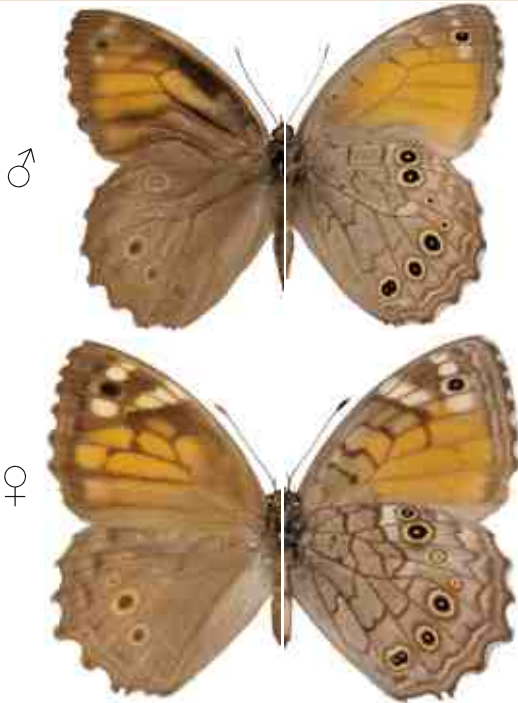


NYMPHALIDAE > SATYRINAE > Elymniini

Kirinia roxelana

(Cramer, 1777)

Red list Status:  LC  LC 



This species occurs in forest and forest edge habitats of the Šar Mountains, mainly at low altitude. Reported from June to August, from 700 to 1450 m.

MAIN HOST PLANTS: POACEAE: *Poa* sp., *Anthoxanthum* sp., *Lolium* sp., *Milium* sp..

