

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## New data on the butterflies fauna (Insecta: Lepidoptera, Papilionoidea & Hesperioidea) of Iraqi Kurdistan

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The article gives a list of Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea & Hesperioidea), including 8 species of 5 families, collected in April 2017 in the north of Iraqi Kurdistan. *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linnaeus, 1758) is for the first time reliably given for the fauna of Iraqi Kurdistan.

**Key words:** entomology, Iraqi Kurdistan, new records, fauna, Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea

Butterflies (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea & Hesperioidea) of Iraq are studied very fragmentary for objective reasons. The only serious summary on the fauna was made by Wiltshire (1957). A major milestone in studying Butterflies of Middle East was the publication of all known data on Iran and Iraq (Tshikolovets, Naderi & Eckweiler, 2014).

In April 2017, I and my postgraduate student Alexander Fomichev, managed to visit Iraqi Kurdistan (Dohuk Province, Zakho city) (Fig. 1). Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control, we were able to carry out only fragmentary collections on butterflies and spiders, and the materials on spiders have already been published. (Fomichev, 2018). In the course of our work, 8 species have been collected. Despite the meager collections, it was decided to publish the data on them due to the inaccessibility of the study area. The list of species found is given below.

### Materials and methods

The material was collected with a butterfly net in April 2017, in two localities:

1. Iraqi Kurdistan, Dohuk Province, S slope Chiaye-Dairi Range, 17 km E Zakho, 5 km E Bersivi vill., 37°11'12"N, 42°54'55"E, h= 760–820 m, 26.04.2017, R. Yakovlev;
2. Iraqi Kurdistan, Dohuk Province, 16 km SE Zakho, 37°03'55"N, 42°52'23"E, h= 650–700 m, 28.04.2017, R. Yakovlev (Fig. 2).

The collected material is deposited in the author's collection.



**Figure 1.** Iraqi Kurdistan, Dohuk Province, near New Zakho, (photo by A. Fomichev).



**Figure 2.** Iraqi Kurdistan, Dohuk Province, 16 km SE Zakho, 37°03'55"N, 42°52'23"E (photo by A. Fomichev).

## Results

Family Hesperidae

***Carcharodus alceae* (Esper, [1780])**

Material examined: 1 male (1).

Reported for different localities of Iraq (Peile, 1922; Wiltshire, 1957).

Family Papilionidae

***Allanacstria deyrollei* (Oberthür, 1869)**

Material examined: 4 males, 1 female (1); 1 male (2).

Reported for NW Iraq (Mosul, Doruk (sic!)) (Peile, 1921; Wiltshire, 1957; Tshikolovets, Naderi & Eckweiler, 2014).

Family Pieridae

***Antocharis gruneri* Herrich-Schäffer, [1851]**

Material examined: 1 female (1).

Reported for Shaqlawa (Wiltshire, 1957).

***Pieris napi* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 1 female (1).

Reported for different localities of Iraq (Wiltshire, 1957; Higgins, 1958; Warren, 1961).

Family Lycaenidae

***Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemburg, 1775)**

Material examined: 2 males (1).

Reported for different localities of Iraqi Kurdistan (Wiltshire, 1957; Higgins, 1958).

***Glaucopteryx alexis* (Poda, 1971)**

Material examined: 3 males, 5 females (1); 7 males, 4 females (2).

Reported for different localities of Iraqi Kurdistan (Wiltshire, 1957; Higgins, 1958).

***Aricia agestis* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775)**

Material examined: 3 males (1).

Reported for different localities of Iraqi Kurdistan (Wiltshire, 1957; Higgins, 1958).

Family Nymphalidae

***Coenonympha pamphilus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 4 males (1); 1 male, 1 female (2).

Reported for Iraq (Wiltshire, 1957). New record for Iraqi Kurdistan.

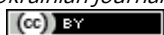
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