

## A record of the Plain Tiger, *Danaus chrysippus*, in Western Anatolia

by Max Kasperek

**Abstract:** The Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus* was recorded in Western Anatolia in 1993 for the first time. There are only a few records from Turkey.

**Kurzfassung:** Der Tagfalter *Danaus chrysippus* wurde 1993 erstmals in Westanatolien festgestellt. Es gibt nur wenige Nachweise dieser Art in der Türkei.

**Key words:** Lepidoptera, Turkey, zoogeography, insect migration.

### Introduction

The Plain Tiger, *Danaus chrysippus* Linnaeus, 1758, is widely distributed from the Canary Islands through Africa to tropical Asia and Australia. In Africa, it occurs mainly south of the Sahara, but is also found regularly in North Africa (Egypt, Tunisia, etc.) and even in the Levant countries (HIGGINS & RILEY 1978, HASSELBACH 1986). Only a few records are available from Turkey.

### New records

I observed a Plain Tiger in olive orchards on the southern shore of Lake Bafa in southwestern Turkey on 10 October, 1993. Although the butterfly was not caught, it seemed to be in good condition. It was the only individual to be seen during a two week stay in this area.

Another new record is by H.-M. KOCH (pers. comm.) from Greece: he observed and photographed an individual between Skala and Githio on the southern Peloponnes on 8 August, 1990.

In Egypt, we observed hundreds of Plain Tigers at Lake Maryut near Alexandria in July 1993 (M. KASPAREK, M. BRÄNDLE, A. HACHENBERG).

### Discussion

Turkey has been included in general statements about the distribution of the Plain Tiger, suggesting that there are unpublished records (cf. HASSELBACH 1986). However, I could find only two records: KOSSWIG (1949) observed an individual on the banks of River Euphrates near Elazig in August 1938, and HASSELBACH (1986) an individual on the banks of River Seyhan near Tuzla (Adana prov.) on 14 September, 1982.

All three records are thus from between August and October, and there are no spring records yet. The Plain Tiger is also not included in the list of the butterflies from Lake Bafa, which were thoroughly studied by HEMBERGER (in: KASPAREK 1988) in May and June 1987. This may

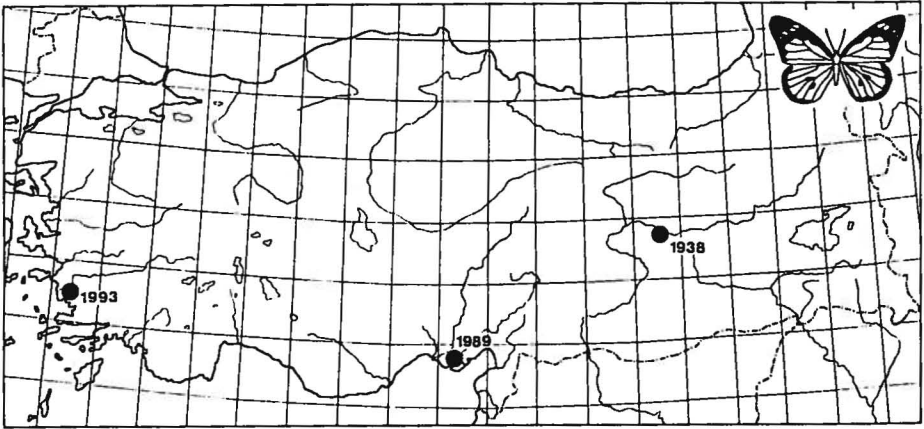


Fig. 1. Map showing the location of three records of the Plain Tiger, *Danaus chrysippus*, in Turkey. The year of each record is indicated.

suggest that the Plain Tiger is not autochthonous at Lake Bafa, but a casual visitor from a northward autumn migration. This migration seems to take place irregularly, and Plain Tigers reach Western Anatolia only from time to time.

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**Author's address:** Max Kasparek, Bleichstr. 1, 69120 Heidelberg, Germany.