



ISSN-Nr. 1614-5178

Publisher: NAOM eV ● Public relation, H. EIKAMP / U. KLUGE ☎ +49 (0)6104 - 490614 / Fax: +49 (0)6104 – 408735
 Internet: www.kreta-umweltforum.de / www.nluk.de; E-mail: klugesei@gmx.de

Alexanderstraße 42
 63179 Obertshausen

Informationen zur Umwelt und für Naturreisende auf Kreta:
 Information about the Environment and for travellers in Crete:



Jeep-Tour to Monastery Koudoumà / South Crete
Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*)

The monastery complex **Koudoumà** is located on the southern coast of Crete and currently accessible only via a 14-miles-long trail from the village **Sternes**, on the rim of the **Messara-Plain**, over the **Asteroussia Mountains**. The tour⁽¹⁾ is recommended only with a Jeep, not only because the southern descent down to the Libyan sea is very curvy and plunges (after you past the highest point, the **Kofinas** with 1231 m ASL) but also here and there crush gravelled and stabilized with concrete cast at particularly tough passages. You must calculate about 3-4 hours pure travel time for this tour. An opportunity for refreshment is after about 4.5 miles (approx. one hour drive) past **Sternes**. There is a spring case with stone on the hillside of the trail.

⁽¹⁾ Note: During the past 12 years with 24 visits of Crete, we drove about 26000 miles all over the island, 30% of this on country roads. The trail to **Koudoumà** was by far the worst.

Many monasteries of Crete are located at lonely coastal regions but **Koudoumà** is one of the loneliest. The **Asteroussia Mountains** tower up behind **Koudoumà** and cut off from the densely populated **Messara-Plain**. However, from the mountain of **Kofinas** there is a fantastic view to the **Dikti Mountains** in the north and the steep coast in the south, even the monastery is to be seen from here. A small black colour sandy beach, protected by the headland of **Akrotiri Martelos**, is directly below the monastery with its chapel from the 19th Century. Remains of a ruin, probably belonged to the old part of the monastery, point to a former settlement. The monks of the Abbey wear blue cowls and are very hospitable.



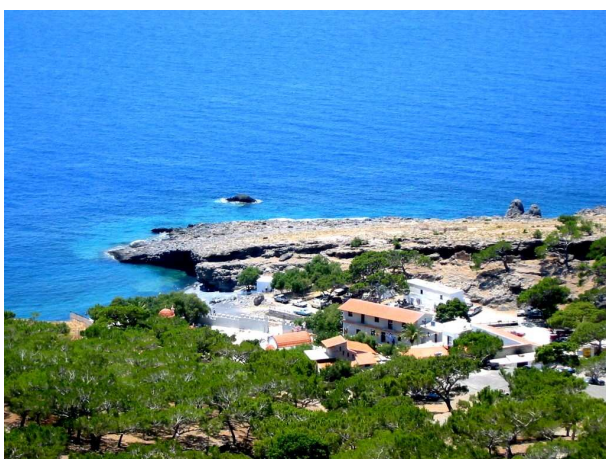
The figure left shows the trail from **Sternes** to **Koudoumà**.

Right: land breeze to the south affects the growth of trees.

Below left: the monastery seen from the trail coming from **Kofinas**.

Below right: Ruin of the old monastery

Pictures: H. Eikamp 2003



Scarce Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*)

The Scarce Swallowtail occurs from North Africa through Southern and Central Europe up to the temperate regions Asia. Scarce Swallowtails search (much like the "Old World Swallowtail" (*Papilio machaon*)) hilltops and rock peaks for their "Peak courtship display". Woody muck plants in extremely warm micro-climatic conditions are needed for the caterpillars' growth. The eggs are spherical, freshly laid white, later brownish and before the hatching dark blue. The young Caterpillar (black with white saddle) sits on the leaf topside along the midrib. It changes to green after the 2nd ecdysis. Adult it sits on a silvery spun. 1st Generation flies in May, the second from the end of July.



The top row of pictures shows the single phases: Eggs, Butterfly, Caterpillar and Doll of *Iphiclides podalirius*.

Pictures left show bush and flower of *Euphorbia acanthothamnus*. This 20-30 cm tall, strongly ramified Euphorbie forms round, spiky bushes. Cylindrical, red, thorny branches with lance styled, rigid leaves. The flowers are combined to three-radial fluorescence's and include green bracts and yellow, oval, warty glands. The fruits are small, green, membrane-like capsule. These plants prefer the limy rocky shores of the island.

Pictures: U. Kluge 2003

For more information about the Scarce Swallowtail see: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iphiclides_podalirius

[Art.-No. 2.777, Cit.No. 4.773]

Translated by Michael Bloechinger-Daeumling

At this point tips for accommodation and property search on the north coast of the island



Ktimatoemporiki Kritis

Property agency, in Chania, offers not only real estate of any kind but is endeavours to find the right solution and the right real estate for their customers.

Ktimatoemporiki Kritis
Sfakion 10-12
73134 Chania
Tel. +30 28210 56600
Fax +30 28210 58881

