

FIRST RECORD OF THE LONG-TAILED BLUE, *LAMPIDES BOETICUS* (LINNAEUS 1767) (LEPIDOPTERA: LYCAENIDAE) IN TYROL, AUSTRIA

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ABSTRACT:

The Long-tailed Blue, *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus 1767) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) is a migratory butterfly that occurs only sporadically in Central Europe. In June 2025, it was recorded for the first time in Tyrol near Innsbruck. The occurrence of multiple records in adjacent regions during the summer of 2025 indicates a pronounced migration year of this species.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG:

Der Große Wander-Bläuling, *Lampides boeticus* (Linnaeus 1767) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae), ist ein Wanderfalter, der in Mitteleuropa nur sporadisch auftritt. Im Juni 2025 wurde die Art erstmals in Tirol in der Nähe von Innsbruck nachgewiesen. Das Auftreten mehrerer Individuen in angrenzenden Regionen während des Sommers 2025 weist auf ein ausgeprägtes Wanderfalterjahr dieser Art hin.



Figure 1: Record photo of *Lampides boeticus*, Lanser Kopf, Tyrol, Austria on 2025-06-22. This observation marks the first record of the species in Tyrol.

Keywords: *Lampides boeticus*, first record, Tyrol, Austria, Lepidoptera, migration, Lycaenidae, climate change

INTRODUCTION

Lampides boeticus (Linnaeus 1767) is a butterfly inside the family Lycaenidae with a wide distribution across the tropical and subtropical regions of the Old World (Kudrna 2019). In Southern Europe, the species is common, whereas in Central Europe it occurs only as a sporadic migrant (Stettmer et al. 2022). Permanent reproduction appears to be restricted to the warmest regions of Europe, as the species lacks a diapause in its developmental cycle and consequently depends on the continuous availability of its larval host plants (Tolman & Lewington 2012). Within its permanent range, *L. boeticus* produces multiple generations annually, with adults recorded from February to November. The species inhabits a wide range of xerothermic and flower-rich habitats. In Europe, larvae feed on several Fabaceae species, with *Colutea arborescent* representing the principal host plant (Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz 1997, Stettmer et al. 2022, Tolman & Lewington 2012).

PREVIOUS RECORDS FROM AUSTRIA

In Austria, records of *L. boeticus* have been highly sporadic. According to Huemer (2013), the species has been documented

from Vorarlberg, Vienna, Salzburg, and Lower Austria, with additional records from Carinthia, Styria, and Burgenland (Rabl et al. 2017). In contrast, no prior records existed from Tyrol (Huemer et al. 2024).

FIRST RECORD FOR TYROL

The first record for Tyrol originates from the summit of Lanser Kopf at 930 m a.s.l. (N 47,245216 E 11,418141; Figure 2) on 2025-06-22. The site is situated at the confluence of the Wipp Valley to the west and the Inn Valley to the north. The habitat is characterized by shrub-dominated, early-successional vegetation within a clear-cut area for a power line, surrounded predominantly by coniferous montane forest.

DISCUSSION

During the summer of 2025, the species was observed repeatedly in adjacent regions, including Vorarlberg, South Tyrol, and East Tyrol as well as in Lower Austria and Styria (gbif.org 2025, Gunczy 2025). The observation from East Tyrol by Norbert Bergmeister on 2025-08-30 represents the first record of *L. boeticus* for this region. The specimen was photographed in the Drau valley, approximately 10 km east of Lienz, at an elevation of 650 m a.s.l. (Deutsch 2025). In combination with the new record from

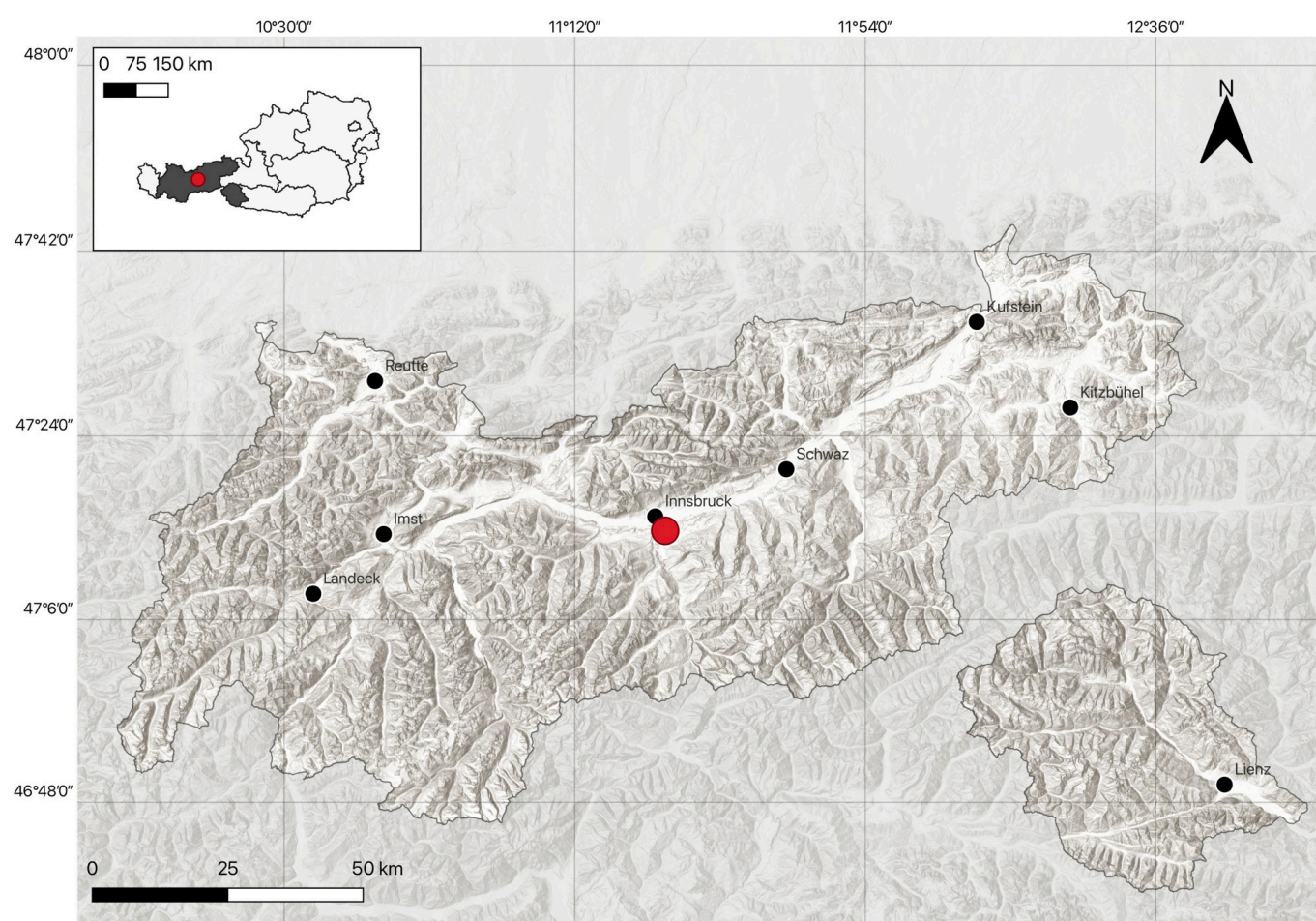


Figure 2: Location of the first record of *Lampides boeticus* (red dot) in Tyrol. Background Map: © ESRI World Hillshade

North Tyrol, these observations suggest a pronounced migratory movement of the species during 2025. Comparable mass-migration events, such as that documented in Switzerland in 1958, are well known for *L. boeticus* (Schweizerischer Bund für Naturschutz 1997). The occurrence at the summit may be explained by the pronounced hill-topping behavior this species exhibits in Southern Europe (Gros 2013). Although permanent establishment remains improbable even in Austria's warmest regions (Rabl et al. 2017), the increasing frequency of records under ongoing climatic warming indicates a rising potential for more regular occurrences in Tyrol and neighboring areas. Therefore, increased attention should be given to *L. boeticus*, including in regions beyond its currently known distribution range.

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