

Nature as a compiler of emotions with...

## *Daphnis nerii* and *Nerium oleander*

<https://www.env.aegean.gr/news-post/oi-πεταλούδες-της-λέσβου-joan-caronil-2024/>



*Daphnis nerii* or " **Oleander Hawk-moth** " is a large migratory African moth of the family Sphingidae, it can be seen during the summer in southern Europe. Stunning huge sized and colourful wings in greenish/earth tones, makes it one of the most beautiful moths in the world.

Caterpillars feed mainly on leaves of " **Oleander** ", *Nerium oleander*, and adults love the nectar of fragrant species such as *Lonicera* sp. ( honeysuckle ) and *Jasminum* sp. )

Because oleander is a small shrub cultivated worldwide in temperate and subtropical areas, in Lesvos I can relate this beautiful moth to the evenings at the warm region of Polichnitos, by the Kalloni gulf, close to the ancient city of " **Πύρρα** ". Providing visually a great surprise and amaze of its shape, colours and presence.

Like the Greek local poet **Άλκαίος**, " Alkaios ", this moth migrates among Lesvos and Africa like an awesome "mythological" being. Alkaios asserts through his poems the right of power and competitive, using them as weapons against tyranny in Lesvos and referring them to hymns to Gods and heroes, as well as mythology.