

Nature as a compiler of emotions with...

## *Vanessa cardui* and *Onopordum acanthium*

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



*Vanessa cardui*, or "Painted Lady" is the most widespread of all butterfly species found on every continent except of Antarctica and South America. For the courtship among them they tend to fly in circles for few seconds before separating.

Larvae and adults feed on a wide range of plants of the Asteraceae family. They love the nectar of thistles and "Cotton thistle or Scottish thistle", *Onopordum acanthium*, is one of their favourites.

It is a cosmopolitan & common butterfly in Lesvos. I can remember this beautiful butterfly in the region of Kalloni and the salt-mashes area, where I saw them fluttering around in groups and sipping nectar onto the purple thistles, providing with their colours, a theatrical representation of joy, grace and happiness.

Being a cosmopolitan butterfly, like the Greek poet Νίκος Καββαδίας, "Nikos Kavvadias", also writer and sailor, that uses his travels around the world and his adventures as a powerful **metamorphose** to escape of his era's ordinary people, outside the boundaries of reality. " Travelling is the authentic path for learning..." "