

# LAMPIDES BOETICUS AND OTHER LEPIDOPTERA ON WAIHEKE ISLAND

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During a casual ramble on 7th January, 1973, in the Onetangi area of Waiheke Island I observed the Lepidoptera frequenting this beautiful spot. There were countless numbers of cabbage whites, **Pieris rapae** (Linnaeus), also sailing around, with characteristic swooping flight were many Monarchs (**Danaus plexippus**) (Linnaeus) although I saw no sign of the normal food plant.

Along the roadside were tracts of wild honeysuckle in flower, which were being visited by the New Zealand Blue, **Zizina labradus** (Godart) and quite a few scattered New Zealand Coppers, **Lycaena salustius** (Fabricius), but gradually amongst the numerous blues appeared several with much stronger swifter flight, which on meeting each other joined in aerial dogfights to a considerable height. Having only a short-handled small net I had to stalk with considerable caution until I finally caught one of the swift flyers and to my surprise I found it to be the Long-Tailed Blue, **Lampides boeticus** (Linnaeus). In a few more minutes I managed to find a further pair in copulation, plus several more singles.

The next day I visited several more areas and to my amazement I discovered a great many **Lampides boeticus** flying in company with **Zizina otis labradus** in a great many places. There appeared to be no less than one hundred individuals. They were easily separated from **Zizina otis labradus** by their quite different flight pattern. It would appear that the Long-Tailed Blue is now firmly established on Waiheke Island and is breeding there. As my specimens were rather worn, and caught in January, while earlier reports are in March, two broods at least would seem to have been produced. Further observations are needed to confirm this.

During February and March I regularly found adults of **L. boeticus** on my property at Mt. Roskill. They were particularly common round dwarf and runner beans. Oviposition on the flowers was observed frequently.