



France

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Butterfly list	Please refer to the Lepinet site for departmental species lists: Lepinet departmental species list

The country is vast and varied with a significantly richer butterfly fauna than the UK. We have asked a number of local experts to contribute information about their particular area and have received contributions on the Dordogne, la Brenne, Midi-Pyrénées; Lot, Hautes-Pyrénées, southern Loire, Poitou-Charentes, Var and Vaucluse. Please contact us if you wish to assist by contributing information on additional areas of France.

Books (Further information can be found on the News page of the website)

Until recently the best book on French butterflies was Tristan Lafranchis' *Les Papillons de jour de France, Belgique et Luxembourg et leurs chenilles* (Collection Parthenope 2000 in French). This shows the distribution of each species by department but is now slightly dated and does not reflect the latest nomenclature nor the various splitting and lumping of species which has occurred since 2000.

La Vie des Papillons by Tristan Lafranchis, David Jutzeler, Pieter and Brigitte Kan and Jean-Yves Guillosson covers the ecology, biology and behaviour of the 260 butterflies of France, (published March 2015, Diatheo) 752 pages, over 3,000 photos. CD (windows only), with distribution maps. The book is designed to complement butterfly identification guide books. Text in French.



Available from [Diatheo](#) or British booksellers such as [Pemberley books](#)

Tristan Lafranchis' book ***Butterflies of France*** (published February 2014, second edition 2017 Diatheo, in French) is a field identification guide to the butterflies of France. Format of one species per page, distinctive features are indicated with arrow markings with a key for difficult groups. It contains maps and distribution information on all French species. There is a chapter devoted to Burnet moths and day-flying moths of France.

The standard field guides in English such as Tom Tolman and Richard Lewingtons' ***Butterflies of Britain and Europe*** (Harper Collins, 1997 and updated 2008), and Tristan Lafranchis' ***Butterflies of Europe: new field guide and key*** (Diatheo, 2004) cover all the French species, text in English. This book is out of print, but has been updated and is available as a PDF from Diatheo, price 15€. [Butterflies of Europe / Diatheo](#)

Butterflies of Britain and Europe a photographic field guide (A & C Black London 2011) by Tari Haahtela, Kimmo Saarien, Pekka Ojalainen and Hannu Aarnio, is also a useful guide book from a team of Finnish naturalists, text in English.

Paolo Paolucci's book ***Butterflies and Burnets of the Alps and their larvae, pupae and cocoons*** (WBA Handbooks, 2013) has colour drawings of 254 butterfly species and 27 Burnet species, with concise information about distribution, habitat, host plants and flight period also a set of illustrations of larvae, pupae and cocoons for most species. Text in English.

Dr Otakar Kudrna's ***Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies*** (Oedipus 2002 and revised and updated in 2011) is a useful distribution guide. The third and updated Distribution Atlas (co-authored with Josep Pennerstorfer and Kristian Lux) published October 2015.

Available from: [nhbs Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies and Skippers](#), containing new distribution maps of all European species, with updated and rewritten species accounts. Hardback.

Online distribution maps from the LepiDiv project can be seen here: [Index European butterflies](#) text in English.

Butterflies of Europe and neighbouring regions (including North Africa) by Patrice Leraut, publication date May 2016, NAP Editions. The book covers all European butterfly species and their variations, 4800 photos, 500 colour plates and 800 pages of text.

Bibliography of the Lepidoptera of France (1593-2015) Sylvain Delmas, in French. This work analyses all bibliographical references (over 18,000) in connection with the Lepidoptera of France, from 1593 to



2015 and is published jointly by the journals *Alexanor* (vols. I-III) and *oreina*, with the support of the Natural History Society Alcide-d'Orbigny and the Entomological Society of Limousin.

References include articles from French and foreign journals, books, study reports, theses etc. Volume I: Index authors. Volume II: Systematic index. Volume III: Geographic and thematic index. Volume IV: includes corrections and additions to the previous 3 volumes and an update, to cover the period from 2011 - 2015. Available from *oreina* 29, rue de Flagy, 77940, Thoury-Férottes, France. email :[administration\(at\)oreina.org](mailto:administration(at)oreina.org).

Butterflies of the Iberian Peninsula. A photographic field guide, by Paul Browning. (2011) This book covers Spain and Portugal.

Éléments d'identification des Pyrgus de France métropolitaine (Identification key for the *Pyrgus* species of France) by Cédric Jacquier. [Version 1.1 January 2017](#). (PDF download).

Alain Hérès' book ***Guide des Zygènes de France*** (ARE 2011) has an identification key, photographs of adults and larvae, species description and details on host plants. Text in French.

Regional atlases (Information on new atlases can be found on the website)

In some regions an atlas has already been produced. The ***Atlas des papillons de jour et zygènes de Bourgogne et Franche-Comté*** is available from [Bourgogne Nature](#). There is a review of this book by Dudley Cheesman in Newsletter 16, November 2014. Two of the atlas coordinators, Frédéric Mora and Alexandre Ruffoni, are our partners for Franche-Comté and Bourgogne respectively.

Papillons du Loiret GIL (Groupe d'Inventaire des Lépidoptères en région Centre). This departmental atlas was published in 2015. Details and extract here: www.cen-centre.org

l'Atlas des papillons diurnes de Bretagne was published in 2017. The atlas project was instigated by Bretagne Vivante, details here: www.bretagne-vivante.org

The ***Atlas des Papillons « de jour » du Nord – Pas--de--Calais. 2000- – 2014. Lépidoptères Papilionoidea***, also published in 2017 (Groupe Ornithologique et Naturaliste du Nord-Pas-de-Calais) www.gon.fr/gon/faune-du-nord-pas-de--calais/

An updated ***Regional Butterfly Atlas for Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur*** is due for publication in 2019. www.cen-paca.org

The Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de **Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon** are working together to produce a combined Atlas for the new region of Occitanie which is due to be published in 2018.

Butterfly and Burnet Moth Atlas of the Aquitaine. The Atlas is being developed in collaboration with the LPO Aquitaine (Ligue pour la protection des oiseaux Aquitaine) and is due to be published in 2019.



Websites and links. (Additional links can be found on the website)

Roger Gibbons' website Butterflies of France www.butterfliesoffrance.com is an excellent photographic website with numerous photographs and some helpful advice on identifying blues and Pyrgus skippers. This website also has many links to other sites of interest to visitors to France.

Matt Rowlings' excellent photographic website Matt's European Butterflies www.eurobutterflies.com covers many of the species you will encounter and the iPhone and iPad app *Butterflies of Europe* by Chris Manley, Matt Rowlings, Guy Padfield and Simon Coomes www.lepidapp.co.uk covers France and will be a very useful portable guide in the field.

Diatheo Tristan Lafranchis' website with videos, articles, distribution maps, downloads and news – www.diatheo.weebly.com

Lepinet (in French) Philippe Mothirons' extremely comprehensive site by French departments www.lepinet.fr/lep

Another delightful and comprehensive site by Philippe Bricaire, fleeting wonders (in French and English) with identification guide for Burnet moths www.fleetingwonders.com

Pathpiva the lepidoptera of Southern France and Corsica, an extremely comprehensive photographic site of butterflies with an extensive section on macro and micro moths www.pathpiva.fr

Butterflies of the Rhône (69) and *Colias* study Timothy Cowles, photos and information of the butterflies and their habitat in the Rhône <http://felixthecatalog>

Videos

The lifecycle of butterflies in the Var Provence, exceptional videos and scientific publications by Brigitte and Pieter Kan, Filming VarWild (in French and English) www.filming-varwild.com

European butterfly websites (Please refer to the links pages on the EIG website for additional links)

Moths and Butterflies of Europe and North Africa (English version) www.leps.it

Lepiforum Probably the most comprehensive European website (in German) www.lepiforum.de

European Lepidoptera and their ecology www.pyrgus.de (in English and German)

Partners

Our partners the association Oriena www.oreina.org and Proserpine www.proserpine.org.

Le sentier des papillons de Digne-les-Bains (Jardin des papillons) was created in 1999 in partnership with Proserpine. [Musée promenade - le sentier des papillons](#) 139 butterfly species have been recorded at



this site since 2002. *La saison des papillons de Provence*, second edition 2014, by Nicolas Maurel and Yves Doux, available from Proserpine. www.proserpine.org/boutique

French national or regional or departmental websites (in French)

MNHN National Museum of Natural History, Paris www.inpn.mnhn.fr Inventaire Nationale du Patrimoine naturel (national inventory of natural heritage) enter species name under 'rechercher une espèce'. The species pages are in the process up being updated with the help of regional partners of the SINP scheme.

Noé Conservation The garden butterfly scheme was created in 2006 in collaboration with the MNHN. <http://noe.org/programme/observatoires-de-la-biodiversite-des-jardins/>

Vigie Nature (Coordinated by the MNHN) Garden butterfly count <http://vigienature.mnhn.fr/page/operation-papillons>

CEN - MP. The Midi-Pyrénées Butterfly atlas website . <http://www.webobs.cen-mp.org/>

OPIE – Office for the protection of insects and their environment www.insectes.org/opie/monde-des-insectes

Papillons de l'Indre. Dept. 36 (Centre), the site covers all the Lepidoptera of the department. Online Atlas. <https://obsindre.fr>

Les papillons de la Vienne www.6pattes.fr, Dept. 86 (Poitou-Charentes)

Zygaenidae GIRAZ – Groupe d'Information de Recherche et d'Animation sur les Zygaenidae www.giraz.fr

Mini site for Zygaenidae, Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon.

An online version of the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Midi-Pyrénées booklet "Les zygènes en Midi-Pyrénées et Languedoc-Roussillon.

The site contains a brief guide to the Zygaenidae family (of the MP and LR) and a step by step aid to identification. Site in English and French zygenes-mplr.eu



ASNAT. Les Amis des Sciences de la Nature. Les carnets nature, is a free digital magazine to enable fast dissemination of articles in all areas of natural sciences. Of particular interest in the regions of the Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi- Pyrénées asnat.fr/dossier-carnetsnatures

Conservatoire des espaces naturels, there are 29 CEN's in France. [Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de France](#)

Conservatoire Botanique National (11 regional botanical conservatoires in France) [Fédération des Conservatoires botaniques nationaux](#)

There are seven National Parks within Metropolitan France www.Parcs nationaux.fr

Presentation of the Natura 2000 network on the INPN/MNHN site. [Natura 2000](#)

Requests (Please refer to the Requests page on the website)

Sites and Species

France covers an area of just over 550,000 km² and is the third largest country in Europe, metropolitan France is one of only three countries to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. It is a country with a wide variety of landscapes and a very rich flora, with coastal plains in the north and west, mountain ranges of the Alps comprising mainland Europe's highest mountain (Mont Blanc 4.810 m), the Massif Central in the south-central and the Pyrenees in the south-west forming the boundary with Spain. Forests account for approximately 25% of the land mass. The area along the Mediterranean coast has a different climate and is dominated by maquis vegetation.

There are ten Parcs nationaux (National Parks) in France, seven within metropolitan France: Vanoise (1963), Port-Cros (1963), Pyrénées (1967), Cévennes (1970), Écrins (1973), Mercantour (1979), Guadeloupe (1989), La Réunion (2007), Guyane (2007) et les Calanques (2012).

The Réserves Naturelles de France also manage 296 sites of over 30 000 km².

France (including Corsica) is home to 260 butterfly species, with 16 species considered critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. (See the IUCN Red List link below) France has 26 Prime Butterfly Areas principally located in a belt stretching from Bordeaux across to the Alps with only two PBA's in the north and one in Corsica.

The national butterfly recording scheme is in the process of being updated with records from the SINP scheme. (See below).

With the effect from 1 January 2016 the number of metropolitan regions was reduced from 22 to 13 (12 mainland and Corsica), with 96 departments.



Map before the 2016 reorganisation of regions, showing mountainous areas.



Butterfly Red List

Metropolitan France – you can see the IUCN red list at the bottom of the document - La liste rouge des espèces menacées en France: [Red List France](#)

According to this report, 16 species are at risk in France and another 18 species threatened in the categories CR, EN and VU (critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable).

The conservation status of butterflies in France based on the European Red List is relatively good since approximately 88% of the species are classified as Least Concern. However, butterflies have very specific food and habitat requirements at different stages of their lifecycle so they are very sensitive to changes in their environment, especially to habitat management such as overgrazing, undergrazing or changes in forestry practices. For example, butterfly populations fell substantially in the 1970s and 1980s due to an intensified agricultural policy and developing urbanism.

The Hermit (*Chazara briseis*) which was once widespread has regressed by 30% over the last 10 years and is now considered Vulnerable. (Source IUCN)

Mediterranean Red List

The status and distribution of Mediterranean butterflies, can be consulted in the IUCN [Red List of Mediterranean butterflies](#)

Recording groups, schemes, and partners in France:

It is European Butterflies Group's policy to refer data to the most local of recording schemes – the equivalent of the UK's county recorders. Please see the list below.

The partners listed below are a selection of local experts working in the field, many of whom are working on a butterfly atlas, the PNA (national plan of action), regional red lists and PRA (regional plan of action) and other butterfly monitoring schemes.

Our partners welcome records from European Butterflies Group members for their regions, so that they can be incorporated into the atlas and the PNA / PRA projects.

The Plan National d'Actions en faveur des *Maculinea* (PNA), National Plan of Action for *Maculinea* (*Phengaris*) was instigated in 2009, and was presented at the EIG-Proserpine conference in Digne-les-Bains in 2013. The PNA report 2011 - 2015, can be downloaded from the [Website](#) dedicated to the National Plan of Action.

Please do send in your records using the European Butterflies Group recording form to the departmental partner (list below). Please contact Jude if she can be of assistance with the transfer of records, Jude is happy to correspond in French, she can provide a covering note and liaise with European Butterflies Group partners. In some cases, records should be entered on the online recording schemes.



Photographic evidence is always useful in support of records, especially for the difficult species such as *Pyrgus*.

There have been issues with collectors when the exact site details of very rare species have been published. A certain amount of caution is advised but only for exceptionally local species, species such as *E. maturna*.

For a list of departmental species please refer to the Lepinet link: [Lepinet departmental species list](#)

For all Ringlet (*Erebia*) records please send details to Michel Savourey [savourey73\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:savourey73(at)gmail.com) (see Rhône-Alpes – Savoie). Michel is responsible for the inventory of *Erebia* of France. He is particularly interested in receiving recent records (from 2000) across the Pyrenean range also photographs including eggs, caterpillars, species habitat, and host plants.

The records submitted by European Butterflies Group members will be transferred to Pascal Dupont at the MNHN ([National Museum of Natural History](#)) National Inventory of Natural Heritage, by the SINP scheme. ([Système d'information sur la Nature et les Paysages](#)) This scheme was set up by the Minister of Ecology to structure the data on a regional and national level.

It is European Butterflies Group's policy to always refer data to the most local of recording schemes – the equivalent of the UK's county recorders. We believe that this gives the best chance for accurate determinations and that contact between European Butterflies Group members and local recorders will be to mutual advantage.

Alsace: ODONAT Office des Données Naturalistes d'Alsace
Raynald MORATIN [raynald.moratin\(at\)odonat-alsace.org](mailto:raynald.moratin(at)odonat-alsace.org)
Online recording scheme www.faune-alsace.org

Aquitaine: CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
David SOULET [d.soulet\(at\)cen-aquitaine.fr](mailto:d.soulet(at)cen-aquitaine.fr)
European Butterflies Group (Dordogne) David Simpson [audave\(at\)2505@yahoo.fr](mailto:audave(at)2505@yahoo.fr)

Auvergne: Association entomologique d'Auvergne
Philippe BACHELARD [pbachelard\(at\)shnao.net](mailto:pbachelard(at)shnao.net)

Basse-Normandie et Pays-de-Loire: GRETIA Groupe d'Etude des Invertébrés Armoricaïns
Claire MOUQUET [direction\(at\)gretia.org](mailto:direction(at)gretia.org)



Additional departmental contacts for GRETIA:

La Bretagne (iles anglo-normandes)

Maël GARRIN [mael.garrin\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mael.garrin(at)gmail.com)

Pays de la Loire Franck HERBRECHT [f.herbrecht\(at\)gretia.org](mailto:f.herbrecht(at)gretia.org)

Jean-Alain GUILLON/AER Dept. 44 and 85 [ja.guilloton\(at\)hotmail.fr](mailto:ja.guilloton(at)hotmail.fr)

Marc NICOLLE Nicolle Dept. 49 [marc.nicolle\(at\)sfr.fr](mailto:marc.nicolle(at)sfr.fr)

Rodolphe BECAN Dept. 72 [rodolphe.becan\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:rodolphe.becan(at)wanadoo.fr)

Olivier DUVAL Dept. 53 [duvalolivierpascale\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:duvalolivierpascale(at)orange.fr)

Bourgogne: Société d'histoire naturelle d'Autun

Alexandre RUFFONI [shna.ruffoni\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:shna.ruffoni(at)orange.fr)

Centre: GIL Centre Groupe d'Inventaire des Lépidoptères en région Centre

Antoine LEVEQUE [archiearis\(at\)yahoo.fr](mailto:archiearis(at)yahoo.fr)

La Brenne (**Centre**): LPO Ligue pour la protection des Oiseaux

European Butterflies Group Tony WILLIAMS [lpo.brenne\(at\)aliceadsl.fr](mailto:lpo.brenne(at)aliceadsl.fr)

Champagne-Ardenne: CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels

Romarc LECONTE [rlaconte\(at\)cen-champagne-ardenne.org](mailto:rlaconte(at)cen-champagne-ardenne.org)

Corse: Office de l'Environnement de Corse

Marie-Cécile Andrei-Ruiz [mcruiz\(at\)oec.fr](mailto:mcruiz(at)oec.fr)

Franche Comté: Conservatoire Botanique National Franche Comté - Observatoire Régionales Invertébrés

Frédéric MORA [frederic.mora.ori\(at\)cbnfc.org](mailto:frederic.mora.ori(at)cbnfc.org)

Haute Normandie: CREN Conservatoire Regional d'espaces naturels

Matthieu LORTHIOIS [m.lorthiois\(at\)cren-haute-normandie.com](mailto:m.lorthiois(at)cren-haute-normandie.com)

Also to the MNHN partner at the CREN, Adrien SIMON [a.simon\(at\)cren-haute-normandie.com](mailto:a.simon(at)cren-haute-normandie.com)

Ile de France: OPIE Office pour les insectes et leur environnement

To the MNHN partner for the OPIE- Ile de France

Florence MERLET [florence.merlet\(at\)insects.org](mailto:florence.merlet(at)insects.org)



Languedoc-Roussillon: CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels

Alexis RONDEAU [conservation\(at\)cenlr.org](mailto:conservation(at)cenlr.org) Also to the MNHN partner at the OPIE-LR Office pour les insectes et leur environnement

Stéphane JAULIN [stephane.jaulin\(at\)insects.org](mailto:stephane.jaulin(at)insects.org)

Limousin: Société Entomologique du Limousin

Romain CHAMBORD [romain.chambord\(at\)selweb.fr](mailto:romain.chambord(at)selweb.fr)

Lorraine: Société Lorraine d'Entomologie

André CLAUDE [lor.lepido\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:lor.lepido(at)orange.fr)

Also to the MNHN partner at the CREN-Lorraine, Julien DABRY [j.dabry\(at\)cren-lorraine.fr](mailto:j.dabry(at)cren-lorraine.fr)

Midi-Pyrénées: CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels

David DEMERGES [david.demerges\(at\)espaces-naturels.fr](mailto:david.demerges(at)espaces-naturels.fr)

European Butterflies Group Jude LOCK [jude.lock\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:jude.lock(at)orange.fr)

Nord-Pas-de-Calais: GON Fédération Nord-Nature, Groupe Ornithologique et Naturaliste du Nord-Pas-de-Calais

Robin QUEVILLART [robin.quevillart\(at\)gon.fr](mailto:robin.quevillart(at)gon.fr) please use the online recording scheme www.sirf.eu

Picardie: Picardie Nature

Sebastien MAILLIER [sebastien.maillier\(at\)picardie-nature.org](mailto:sebastien.maillier(at)picardie-nature.org)

Online recording scheme obs.picardie-nature.org

Poitou-Charentes: Deux-Sèvres Nature Environnement (Regional coordinator)

Nicolas COTREL [nicolas.dsne\(at\)laposte.net](mailto:nicolas.dsne(at)laposte.net) (Nicolas works in collaboration with Neil Wilding)

3 of the 4 departments have online recording schemes:

Deux-Sèvres : www.nature79.org/

Charente: www.faune-charente.org/

Charente-Maritime www.faune-charente-maritime.org/

European Butterflies Group: Neil WILDING [neil.wilding\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:neil.wilding(at)wanadoo.fr)

Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur (PACA): Conservatoire d'espaces naturels

Stéphane BENCE [stephane.bence\(at\)cen-paca.org](mailto:stephane.bence(at)cen-paca.org)

Rhône-Alpes – Savoie (73) and Erebia of France: Société d'histoire naturelle de la Savoie

Michel SAVOUREY [savourey73\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:savourey73(at)gmail.com)



Rhône-Alpes – Isère: FLAVIA Association pour les papillons et leur étude

Dept. Ain (01), Ardèche (07), Drôme (26), Isère (38), Loire (42), Rhône (69), et Haute-Savoie (74)

Yann BAILLET [quenseli\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:quenseli(at)hotmail.com)

Zygaenidae France: GIRAZ Groupe d'Information de Recherche et d'Animation sur les Zygaenidae

Eric DROUET [edrouet.zyg\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:edrouet.zyg(at)wanadoo.fr)