

Butterflies IN EUROPE

WHERE TO FIND :: RECORDING & CONSERVATION

EIG Anniversary Magazine :: MAY 2017

*Including an updated
checklist of species*



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Front cover:
Spanish Fritillary (*Euphydryas desfontainii*),
photographed in Andalusia, Spain,
by Nigel Peace.

Welcome

Welcome to the EIG's Anniversary Magazine. The first EIG Newsletter was issued in April 2007, and has been published electronically every six months since then. There is a wealth of information in the Newsletters, and apart from the most recent they are available on the EIG website. However we wonder whether members refer back to electronic issues after their initial browse. So this time we have decided to mark our tenth anniversary by publishing a magazine. We hope it will endure a bit longer and find a place on members' bookshelves.

The object of the magazine is to reflect the EIG's work over the first ten years, and to provide guidance on where it is possible to see a good proportion of Europe's butterflies. There are articles on many of the best butterfly regions in Europe, arranged geographically in an arc from Greece in the south east to Spain in the south west.

There is also an up-to-date checklist of European butterfly species which incorporates the latest taxonomic changes. 'New' species include the race *feisthamelii* of Scarce Swallowtail and the race *beckeri* of Marsh Fritillary, both attractive taxa found in Spain and Portugal and now elevated to full species status.

The magazine not only provides a steer on where to look for Europe's butterflies, it also reflects two important roles of EIG, namely surveying, and supporting conservation. For example, EIG survey work has been the first step towards conserving the Danube Clouded Yellow (*Colias myrmidone*) in Romania, and EIG members took part in fieldwork which was the basis for Species Recovery Plans for endangered endemics in the Sierra Nevada in southern Spain. Both projects are reported on in this magazine. We always encourage members to submit their records, and full information on how and where to do so can be found on the country pages of the EIG website (www.bc-eig.org.uk).

We hope to enthuse you about Europe's butterflies,



Simon Spencer (Chairman)
cerisyi@btinternet.com



Nigel Peace (Editor)
liz-nigel@hotmail.co.uk

Contact details

Chairman: Simon Spencer

Email: cerisyi@btinternet.com

Tel No: 01691 648339

Vice-Chairman/Secretary: Mike Prentice

Email: mike.prentice@cbre.com

Membership Secretary: Anne Spencer

Email: Rhoslan.anne@gmail.com

Tel No: 01691 648339

Treasurer: Dudley Cheesman

Email: dudleycheesman@icloud.com

Tel No: 01458 251451

Newsletter Editor: Nigel Peace

Email: liz-nigel@hotmail.co.uk

Tel No: 01420 85496

BC Europe liaison: Paul Kirkland

Email: pkirkland@butterfly-conservation.org

Tel No: 01786 447753

Other Committee Members:

Martin Davies

Email: mdavies854@btinternet.com

Nick Greatorex-Davies

Email: nickgdlepman@googlemail.com

Roger Gibbons

Email: gjbfam@ntlworld.com

Marian Thomas

Email: bc.brd-nlc-824181@virginmedia.com

Bernard Watts

Email: br.watts@btinternet.com

Mike Williams

Email: mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk

EIG WEBSITE: www.bc-eig.org.uk

Website content: Jude Lock

Email: lock.jude@gmail.com

EIG Facebook Page:

Matt Berry and Valerie Penny

Email: facebook@bc-eig.org.uk

Company limited by guarantee, registered in England (2206468)
Registered office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP.
Charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SC039268)





Butterfly Conservation's European Interests Group (EIG) promotes the enjoyment, conservation and study of butterflies, moths and their habitats in Europe. Our mandate is as follows:

- To circulate information on European butterflies and moths to members and partners in Europe.
- To encourage recording of butterflies and moths in Europe and facilitate contact with recording schemes and encourage the local atlases that are planned in several parts of Europe.
- To publicise the plight of butterflies and moths in Europe where changes in agriculture, particularly land abandonment, are a huge threat.
- To help set up projects with partners in Europe.
- To provide a skilled volunteer resource for European nature conservation organisations such as national parks.
- To assist the work of Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE) and act as ambassadors for BC in Europe with partner organisations.
- To work with partner organisations in lobbying in Europe.

EIG website:

<http://www.bc-eig.org.uk>

The EIG website is updated regularly. In addition to news features, it contains a wealth of information about butterflies in individual countries, and a listing of tour operators who provide butterfly holidays.

EIG on social media

Follow the EIG at
<https://www.facebook.com/BC.EuropeanInterestsGroup>.

Membership

The EIG currently has more than 400 members. A members' day is held annually, sometimes jointly with another Butterfly Conservation Branch.

EIG is a branch of Butterfly Conservation and as such membership of EIG is only open to members of Butterfly Conservation. An additional subscription of £10 is payable at the time of a member's normal subscription renewal. For more details, see Butterfly Conservation's website butterfly-conservation.org.

For people who are resident in Europe and do not have a local BC Branch they can have EIG as their local branch if they join Butterfly Conservation, in which case they do not need to pay the additional £10.

Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE)

The EIG maintains close links with Butterfly Conservation Europe (www.bc-europe.eu), a partnership organisation comprising Butterfly Conservation and representatives of most other European countries. BCE seeks to influence EU policies and to secure funding to undertake work focused on halting and reversing the decline of butterflies, moths and their habitats throughout Europe.

A major aim is to collect data online via its webpage www.butterfly-recording.eu. Other projects include rare species surveys, identifying prime butterfly areas and advising on policy.