

## Romania

### Danube Clouded Yellow: *Colias myrmidone*



*Colias myrmidone* Photos Keith Woonton

In May 2023 after a gap of several years we once again visited Romania for survey work on Danube Clouded Yellow *Colias myrmidone*. Earlier surveys in 2015 had helped to promote the designation of three areas as Natura 2000 sites; one in the centre of the country, one to the south of Cluj-Napoca and one to the west. After consultation with our German and Romanian colleagues who are also interested in this species, the decision was taken to concentrate EBG's survey work on the populations to the west of Cluj-Napoca.



EBG team surveying for *Colias myrmidone*. Apuseni Mountains, Romania Aug 2024



EBG team with László Rákósy - Surveying for *Colias myrmidone*. Apuseni Mountains, Romania August 2024

Surveys were carried out in this area in May and August 2023, May and August 2024 and August 2025. The trip in May 2023 found a large population of *myrmidone* in a new location unknown even to local experts. The subsequent trips reconfirmed the importance of this site and further surveys on new sites nearby, discovered more new colonies, leading to the view that this is a newly-discovered metapopulation. Through contact with local expert Professor László Rákósy, the area (which also hosts five other EU Habitat Directive species – Large Blue *Phengaris arion*, Alcon Blue *P. alcon*, Scarce Large Blue *P. telejus*, Large Copper *Lycaena dispar* and Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*) is currently being proposed by the Romanian Government for designation as a new Natura 2000 site. Further surveys are planned for 2026. A report on the earlier surveys can be found in [Newsletter 36](#).



László Rákósy. Apuseni Mountains, Romania