



Cyprus

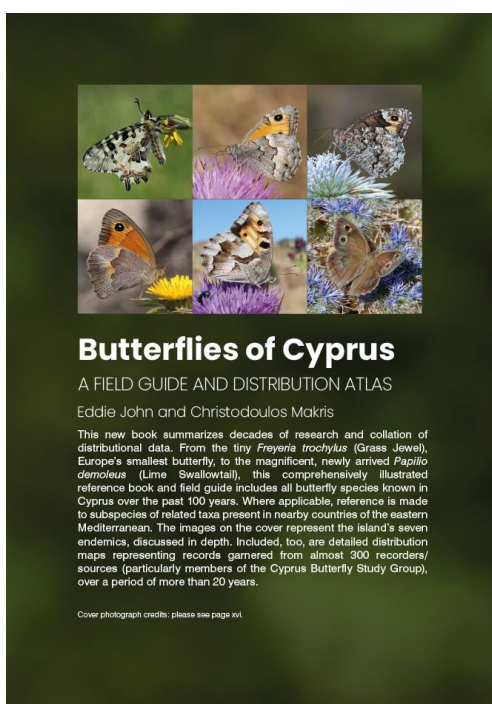
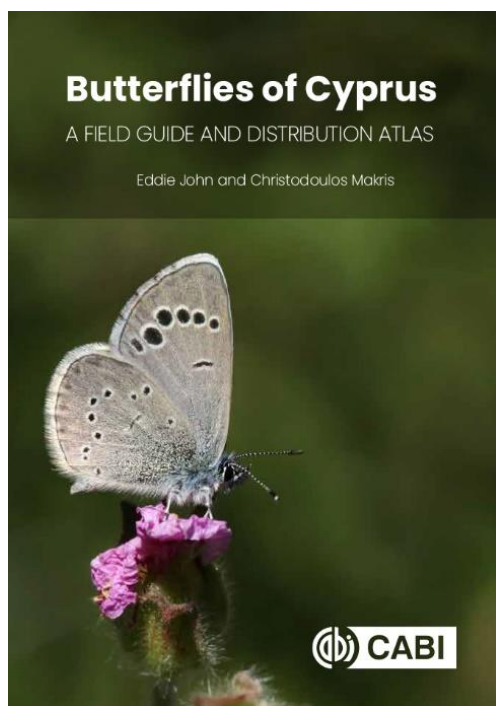
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Local Recording Scheme	Cyprus Butterfly Recording Scheme (CBRS) Eddie John (eddiejohn100@gmail.com)
Butterfly List	Please see the website http://www.cyprusbutterflies.co.uk/page3.html for a species checklist

Books

BUTTERFLIES OF CYPRUS

A Field Guide and Distribution Atlas (2022)

Eddie John & Christodoulos Makris





BUTTERFLIES OF CYPRUS: A Field Guide and Distribution Atlas

Summarising decades of research and collation of data on distribution, this new book has 15 chapters that include: A review of butterfly research in Cyprus since the first documented account by Julius Lederer in 1855; Biogeography; Habitats; Butterfly behaviour (with an emphasis on migration); Phenology; Biodiversity and Endemics.

Chapter 12 presents the species, each well illustrated with ca. six photographs of each species of butterfly and an example or two of hostplants. The text is fully up-to-date, comprehensive and, where relevant, refers to: i) the presence of the species in nearby countries of the eastern Mediterranean; ii) Distribution in Cyprus (each species having a detailed 5-km² map, defining records from 2010 to date, 2000–2009, 1990–1999 and pre-1990, each shown as differently coloured dots); iii) Phenology; iv) Larval hostplants; v) Ecology and behaviour; vi) Description / identification aids; vii) Similar species and viii) Conservation status in Cyprus.

Potential species, i.e., those species yet to be confirmed for Cyprus such as *Cacyreus marshalli* (Geranium Bronze) and *Gegenes nostrodamus* (Mediterranean Skipper), both of which are possibly already present, and other species likely to appear due to range expansion or migration, are discussed.

Target audience: the text takes an academic approach with many citations and a bibliography running to 21 pages; thus, it is aimed at the serious amateur and those in academia.

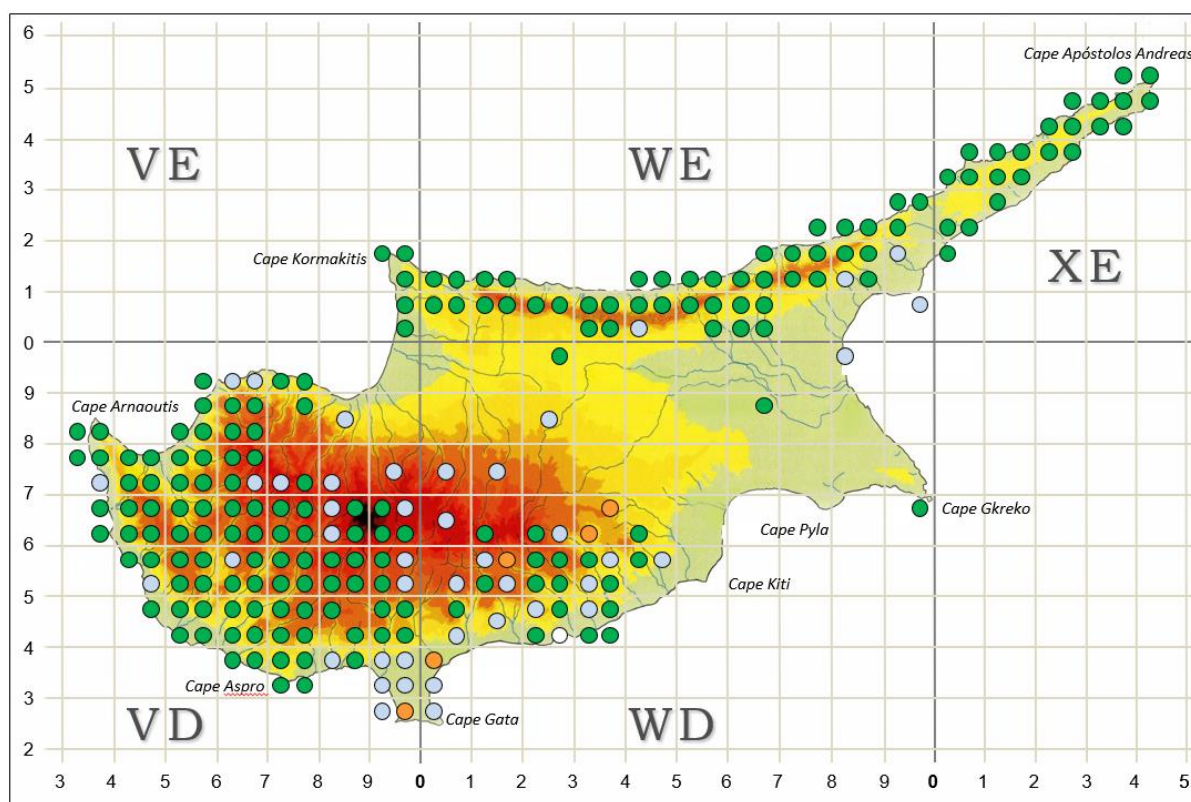
The book includes an extensive entry detailing the recently arrived *Papilio demoleus* (Lime Swallowtail) that appears to have successfully become established in Cyprus and in nearby eastern Mediterranean mainland countries (John *et al.*, 2021., 2022)



Papilio demoleus (Lime Swallowtail) male. Photo: Hasan Bağlar

Distribution Maps:

An example of a distribution map, as used in the book, is shown here:



Glauopsyche paphos (Paphos Blue) distribution map showing 5 km² observations within 10 km² squares. © Eddie John.

Reviews of 'Butterflies of Cyprus' by Eddie John & Christodoulos Makris:

To date, four reviews have been written, extracts from which include:

1. 'This excellent field guide is a prerequisite to anyone entertaining a butterfly hunting expedition to Cyprus; even at nigh on £100 (books are becoming increasingly expensive these days) I would thoroughly recommend this book. With this to hand, one cannot fail to identify any butterfly that you may come across in Cyprus.' (*Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation* 134(5): 228–229, by Peter Russell).
2. 'This comprehensive and authoritative source of available information is a truly excellent addition to the ever-growing number of books about butterflies, for which Eddie John, Christodoulos Makris, the many volunteers of the Cyprus Butterfly Study Group (including its joint chair, Elli Tzirkalli), and the CABI production team, can all justifiably be very proud.' (*Entomologist's Gazette* 73(4) *In press*: by Dick Vane-Wright.)



3. *European Butterflies Group Newsletter* (see Issue 32, November 2022).

4. 'The book is much more than an illustrative field guide and the presentation of distribution data of butterflies in Cyprus. It consists of 15 chapters that could be considered as separate educational information blocks...'

'No doubt the book will be of great interest among our society members and quite a number of them were impatiently awaiting its publication.' (*Phegea* 50: 4:168, by Jurate de Prins.)

Books (Cont.)

Sparrow, D. J. & John, E. (Eds.) 2016. *An Introduction to the Wildlife of Cyprus*. Terra Cypria, Cyprus. xxv + 870 pp.

Benyamini, D. & John, E. 2020. *Butterflies of the Levant* (and neighbouring areas). Vol. II Papilionidae, Pieridae & Hesperidae. 4D MicroRobotics Ltd., Israel. 208 pp.

The butterfly fauna of Cyprus

Although a relatively large island (9253 km²) the location of Cyprus on the crossroads of Europe and Asia, 70 km from the nearest mainland country (Southern Turkey) and with a typically arid eastern Mediterranean summer climate, combine to restrict the number of confirmed butterfly species to 56 (changes to the checklist for Cyprus are fully detailed in the aforementioned book), although not all are resident.

Nevertheless, the island is relatively rich in endemics, which represent ca. 12% of the island's butterfly fauna.

	ENDEMIC SPECIES	ENDEMIC SUBSPECIES
Papilionidae		<i>Allanastria cerisyi cypria</i> ¹
Lycaenidae	<i>Glaucopsyche paphos</i> ²	
Nymphalidae (Satyrinae)	<i>Hipparchia cypriensis</i> ³	<i>Hipparchia syriaca cypriaca</i> ⁴
	<i>Maniola cypricola</i> ⁵	<i>Chazara briseis larnacana</i> ⁶
		<i>Hyponephele lupina cypriaca</i> ⁷

The endemic butterfly species and subspecies of Cyprus, with references to original descriptions or further supporting work: ¹ Stichel (1907), Nazari & Carbonell (2018); ² Chapman (1920); ³ Kudrna, (1986: 184), Jutzeler *et al.* (2019); ⁴ Olivier (1993: 196, 222); ⁵ Graves (1928), Thomson (1987: 12); ⁶ Olivier (1993: 196, 221); ⁷ Eckweiler & Bozano (2011: 49), Lukhtanov & Pazhenkova (2021).

Photographs of the endemics are depicted on the book's covers and are comprehensively discussed within.



Phenology

The following text, table and figure are further extracts from *Butterflies of Cyprus* (2022):

‘The Cyprus climate, with warm days possible at low elevations even in winter, allows some species to remain on the wing for much of the year and in some years encourages earlier than usual emergence of spring-flying species such as *Allanastria cerisyi cypria* Stichel, 1907 (Eastern Festoon) and *Euchloe ausonia* (Eastern Dappled White).’

Species recorded in every week/month

Aggregated data over more than 20 years of recording show seven species to have been noted in all weeks of the year and a further ten species recorded at some point in every month (Table 8.1), but again it should be emphasised that these data represent aggregated records and are not typical of a single year.

SPECIES	RECORDED IN EVERY WEEK	RECORDED IN EVERY MONTH
<i>Papilio machaon</i> (Swallowtail)		*
<i>Pieris brassicae</i> (Large White)	*	*
<i>Pieris rapae</i> (Small White)	*	*
<i>Pontia daplidice</i> (Bath White)	*	*
<i>Colias croceus</i> (Clouded Yellow)	*	*
<i>Gonepteryx cleopatra</i> (Cleopatra)		*
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i> (Small Copper)		*
<i>Lampides boeticus</i> (Long-tailed Blue)	*	*
<i>Leptotes pirithous</i> (Lang’s Short-tailed Blue)	*	*
<i>Zizeeria karsandra</i> (Dark Grass Blue)		*
<i>Vanessa atalanta</i> (Red Admiral)		*
<i>Vanessa cardui</i> (Painted Lady)	*	*
<i>Pararge aegeria</i> (Speckled Wood)		*
<i>Lasiommata maera</i> (Large Wall Brown)		*
<i>Lasiommata megera</i> (Wall Brown)		*
<i>Carcharodus alceae</i> (Mallow Skipper)		*
<i>Gegenes pumilio</i> (Pigmy Skipper)		*

Table 8.1. Butterfly species recorded in every week/month in Cyprus (aggregated CBRS data).

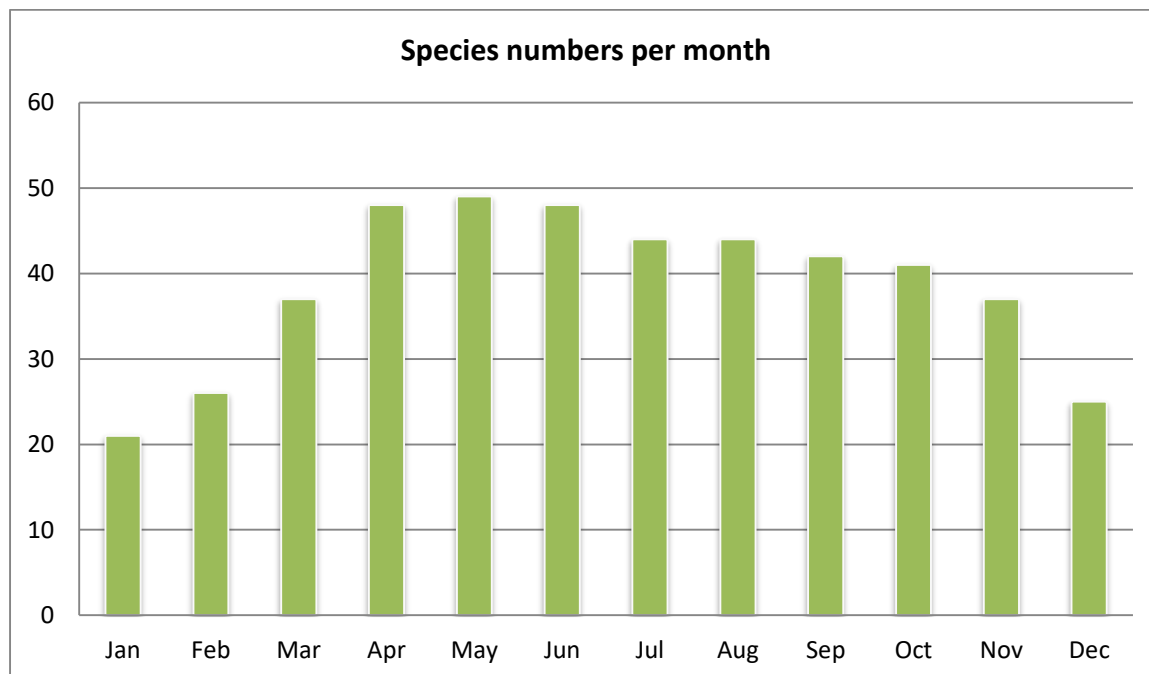


Fig. 8.1. Temporal activity of butterfly species in Cyprus, with a slight peak shown in May.’

Where to see butterflies in Cyprus

While some species are confined to lowland areas (e.g., *Tarucus balkanicus* (Little Tiger Blue), *Chilades galba* (Small Desert Blue) and *Pelopidas thrax* (Millet Skipper)), others may only be encountered at higher altitudes (e.g., *Limenitis reducta* (Southern White Admiral), *Pseudochazara anthelea* (White-banded Grayling) and *Kirinia roxelana* (Lattice Brown)). Prime sites are generally to be found at the intermediate to higher altitudes of the Troodos and Pentadaktylos (Kyrenia) Mountain ranges and in lowland areas in the vicinity of water. The absence of records of *Aporia crataegi* (Black-veined White) and *Libythea celtis* (Nettle-tree Butterfly) from northern Cyprus seems to indicate the presence of a greater number of species in the higher mountains of the Troodos Mountain range (Mount Olympos 1951 m) in the south of the island. However, it should also be recognized that, even now, the Pentadaktylos Mountain range (highest peak Kyparissiovounos 1024 m), may not be as well researched as the Troodos range in south of the island. Certainly, the geology of the two described mountain ranges is dissimilar, perhaps contributing to the absence in the north of species such as *Pontia chloridice* (Small Bath White) (John *et al.*, 2008).

Cyprus Butterfly Recording Scheme

At the time of writing, the CBRS has records from over 300 contributors. These comprise published records and unpublished data from visiting and resident lepidopterists, some of



whom report their sightings each month. Recorders are encouraged to report sightings within a 5 km square.

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Website

Please refer to the website 'Butterflies of Cyprus' for further details:
<http://www.cyprusbutterflies.co.uk>

The aims of the website are:

- to provide an accurate Cyprus butterfly species list, accompanied by brief notes on all species.
- to aid identification by listing key distinguishing characters of certain species, especially the smaller lycaenids.
- to provide photographs of the less familiar butterflies such as the Levantine Leopard (*Cigaritis acamas*), Small Desert Blue (*Chilades galba*) and the endemic species, e.g., the Cyprus Meadow Brown (*Maniola cypricola*) which are rarely, if ever, referred to in the popular European butterfly books.
- to offer assistance to visitors and a point of reference for our network of existing recorders and future contacts.
- to provide guidance on obtaining a **Permit** to allow the study of butterflies (and all other invertebrates) in Cyprus, following the introduction of a law which prohibits collection of invertebrates without a Permit.