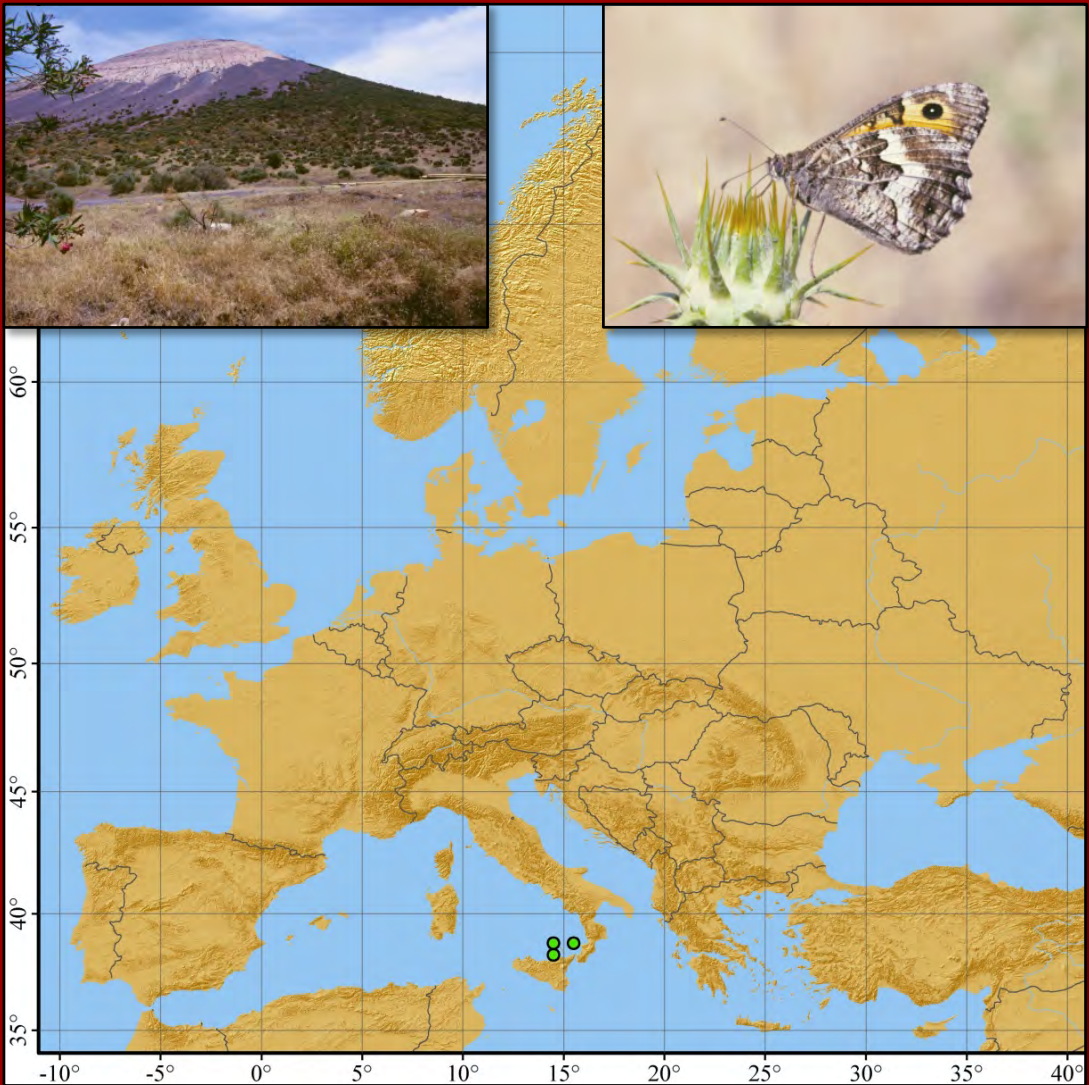


# Distribution Atlas of Butterflies in Europe

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Josef Pennerstorfer Oliver Schweiger  
Josef Settele Martin Wiemers



Gesellschaft für Schmetterlingsschutz e.V.

Mapping European Butterflies

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Key Words:

Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea (butterflies and skippers); Europe; Checklist of species; Distribution maps; Zoogeography; Conservation.

Abstract:

The present atlas is based on about 655.000 data records contributed by recorders, co-ordinators and all major data banks of European countries (except Russia and Kazakhstan). The Atlas contains annotated computer aided distribution maps of all European butterfly species.

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Photos:

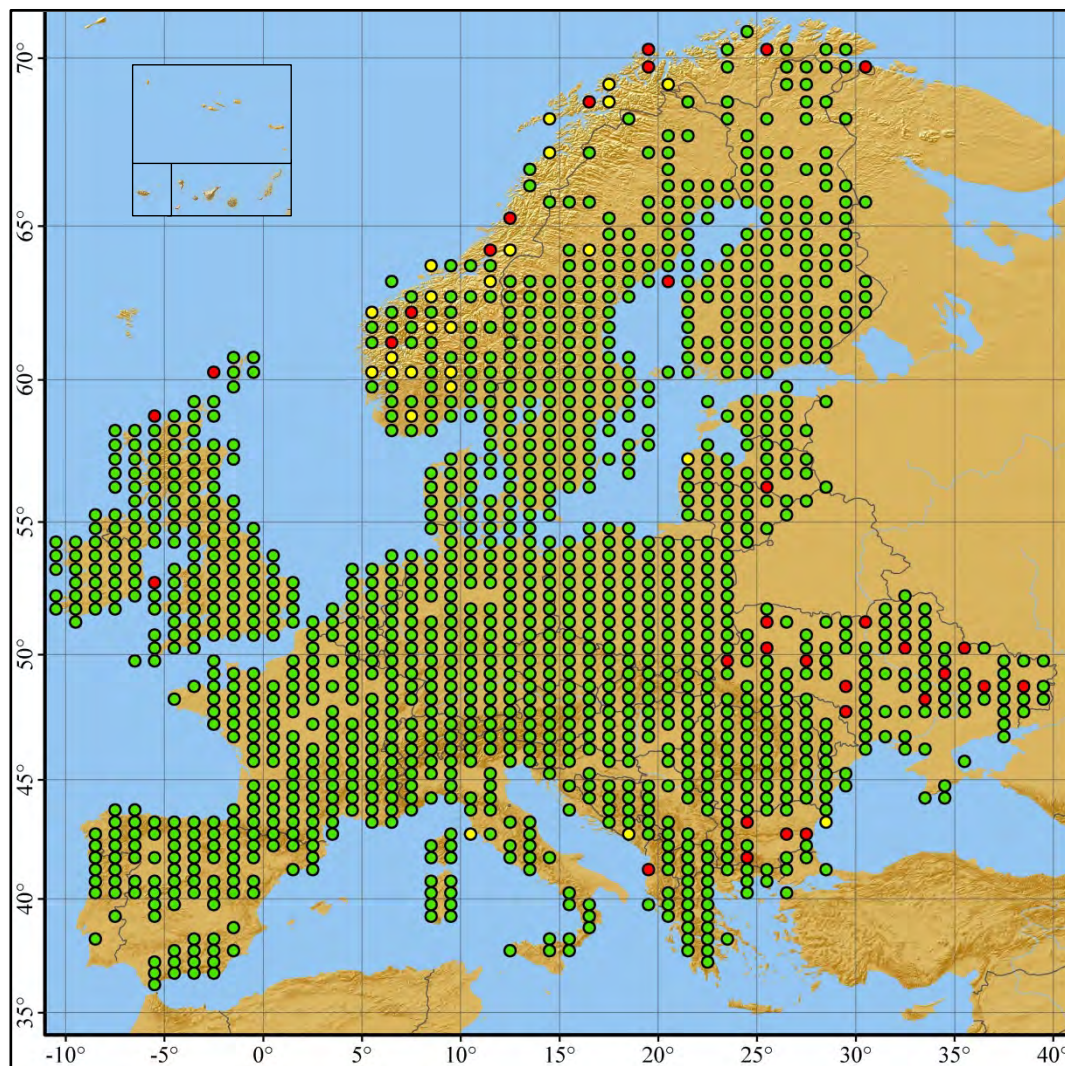
Front cover: *Hipparchia leighebi* KUDRNA, 1976: Distribution map, male, type-locality – Italy: Isole Eolie: Vulcano (photo: O. Kudrna).

Back cover: *Argynnis paphia* (LINNAEUS, 1758) – Slovenia: Kranjska Gora (photo: J. Settele).

All maps: A. Harpke.

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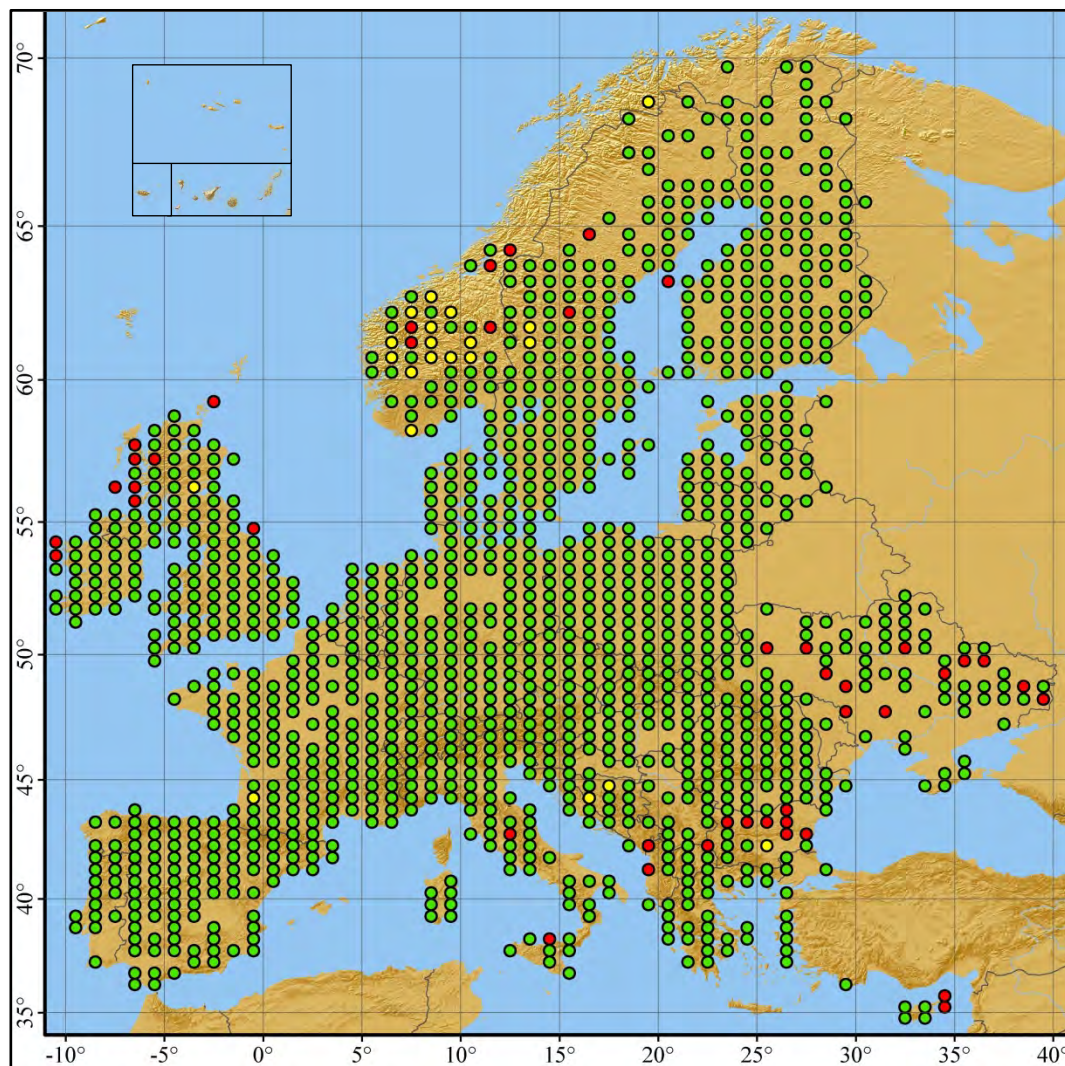
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***Aglais urticae* (LINNAEUS, 1758)**

Zoogeography: All Europe, eastwards through Asia Minor to C. Asia and across Siberia to the Far East as far as Korea. – ZS: Euro-Siberian species.

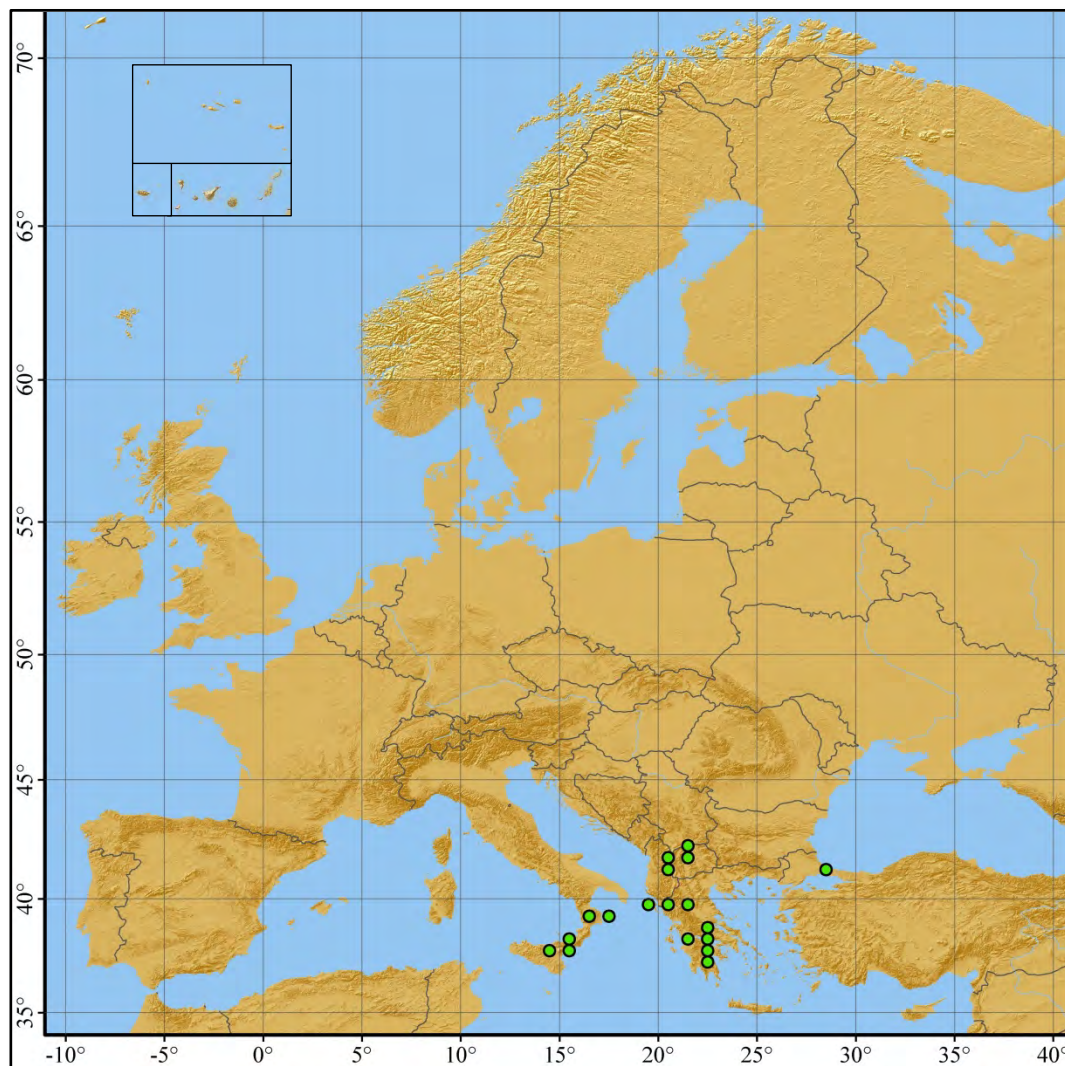
Conservation: RA 2. – BRF 1390. – DI 74.73 %. – IUCN RL 2010: Europe LC, EU27 LC. – FFH 93/43: NL. – CRAEB: R.

Taxonomy: *A. ichnusa* (BONELLI, 1826) is now regarded as conspecific with *A. urticae* and worthy of recognition as its distinct subspecies restricted to Corsica and Sardinia (VANDEVOENSTIJNE et al. 2003 and N. WAHLBERG pers. comm.).

***Anthocharis cardamines* (LINNAEUS, 1758)**

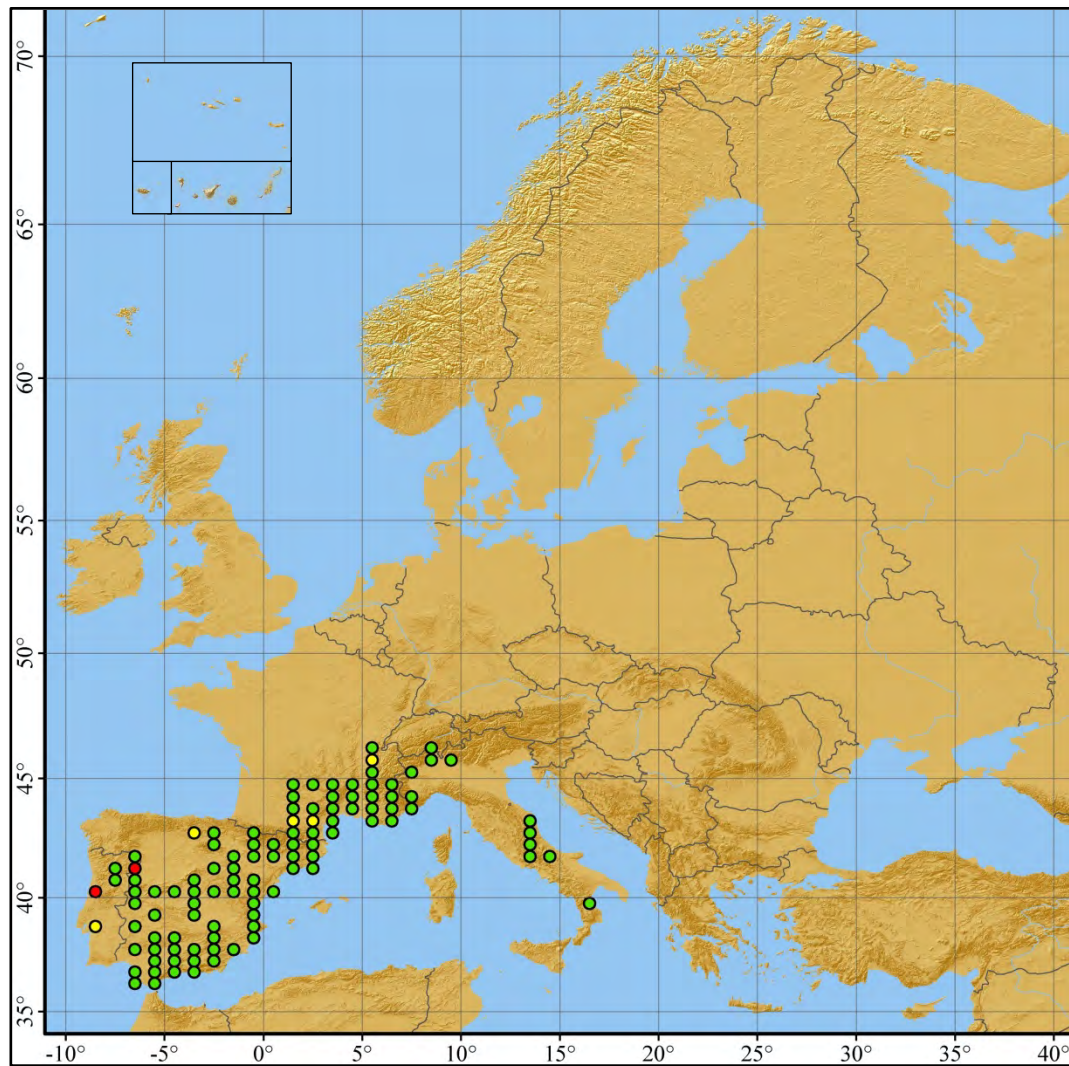
Zoogeography: From the Iberian Peninsula through nearly all Europe and across temperate Asia to China. – ZS: Euro-Siberian species.

Conservation: RA 2. – BRF 1342. – DI 72.15. – IUCN RL 2010: Europe LC, EU27 LC.  
– FFH 93/43: NL. – CRAEB: PR.

***Anthocharis damone* (BOISDUVAL, 1836)**

Zoogeography: From Sicily and S. Italy through S. Balkans eastwards to Syria and Iran. – ZS: Euro-Oriental species.

Conservation: RA 2. – BRF 18. – DI 0.97 %. – IUCN RL 2010: Europe LC, EU27 LC. – FFH 93/43: NL. – CRAEB: PR.

***Anthocharis euphenoides* STAUDINGER, 1869**

Zoogeography: Confined to Iberian Peninsula, S. France and Italy. – ZS: Mediterranean species.

Conservation: RA 4. – BRF 104. – DI 5.59 %. – IUCN RL 2010: Europe LC, EU27 LC.  
– FFH 93/43: NL. – CRAEB: HHRH.



Range size is generally underestimated as a potential threat to any butterfly species. Of the total of 441 European butterfly species as many as 132 species, i.e. 29.80 %, are restricted to not more than 18 BRF corresponding to not more than 1 % of the European territory. In other words: Every third butterfly species inhabits 1 % or less of the territory of Europe.

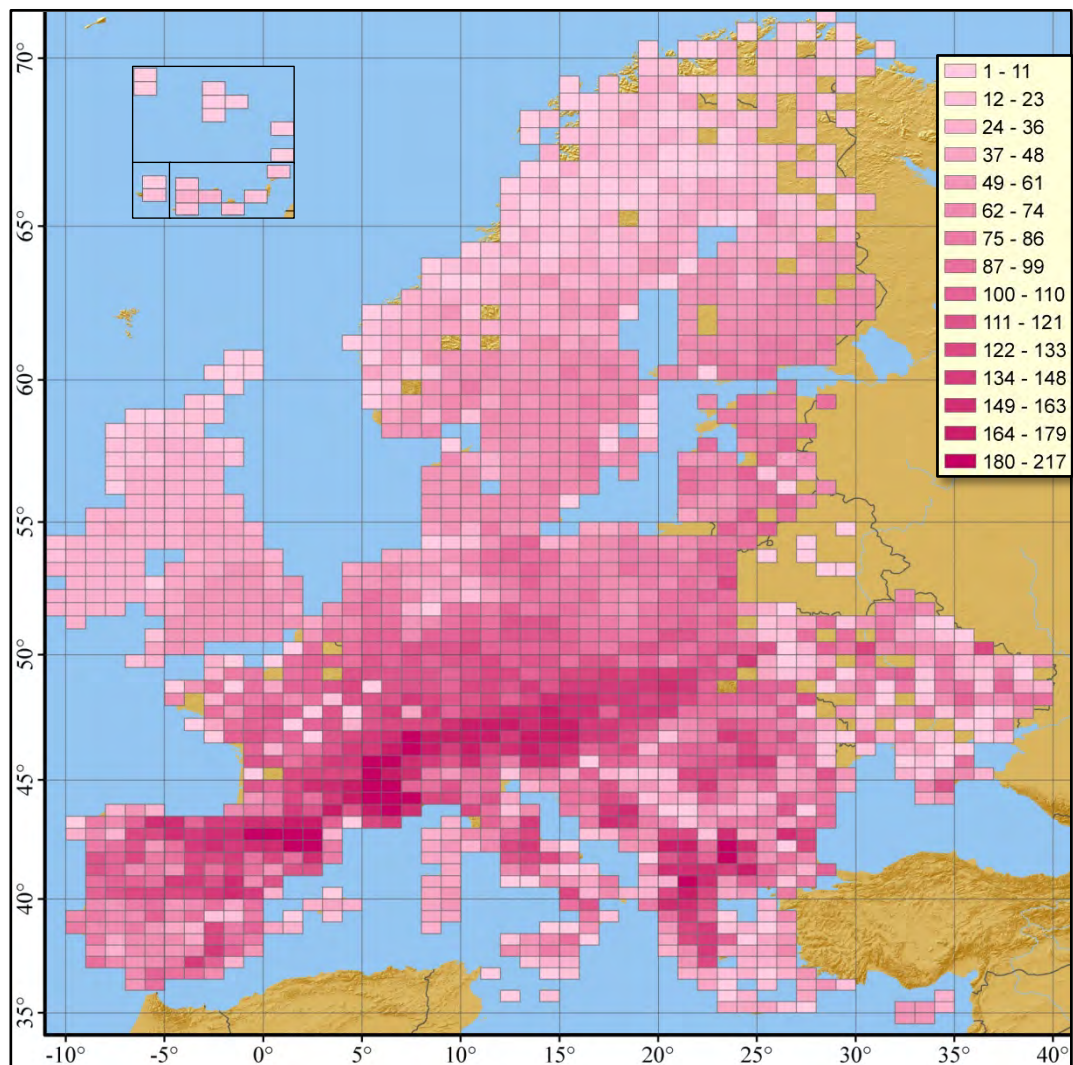


Fig. 7. Coincidence map showing the concentration (“hot spots”) of butterfly diversity.

A small range size is a particularly threatening factor in the species-rich Mediterranean region. For many farmers and land owners, arson is in a short term much better and perhaps even safer source of profit than deceit by reporting false (unrealistically high) numbers of sheep or olive trees: Burned-down pastures may become attractive to developers. Extensive summer fires due to arson are reported every year from various Mediterranean countries. CUVÉLIER (2008) reported a drastic decline of *Hipparchia*



Nine years have elapsed since *The Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies* appeared back in March 2002, the first distribution atlas of the butterflies of any continent. The present book is more than a new edition. The number of data records has almost trebled to about 655.000 and the distribution maps reflect the progress of computer-aided cartographical techniques. The atlas contains full colour distribution maps of all 441 European butterfly species. Apart from providing comprehensive chorological data for taxonomists and biogeographers, the prime purpose of the Atlas is to aid and promote the conservation of European butterflies. The analysis and evaluation of the distribution data, graphically shown on coincidence maps, facilitates the identification of priorities in selecting species and areas of European significance for conservation purposes from a truly European perspective. The new *Distribution Atlas of Butterflies in Europe* constitutes a major contribution towards the advancement of our knowledge of European butterflies.