



Second Edition

# BUTTERFLIES OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE

## A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE

Tari Haahtela, Kimmo Saarinen,  
Pekka Ojalainen and Hannu Aarnio



BLOOMSBURY



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OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE

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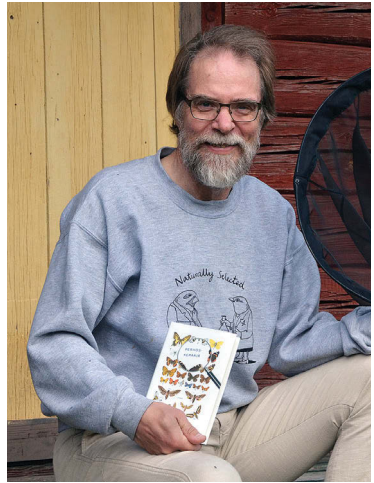
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## FOREWORD

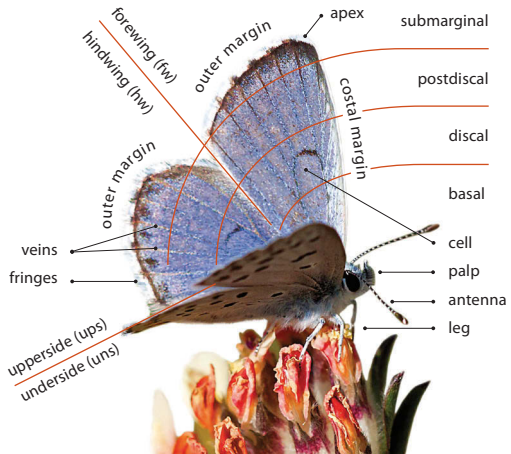
Butterflies account for only a small part of all insect species in Europe, but they are tremendously important for conservation and research - and for everyone who likes nature. My own favourite is the Glanville Fritillary (see p. 220), which I have studied for 20 years, and which has helped to establish an entirely new field of research, metapopulation biology. Observing and photographing butterflies has become an increasingly popular pursuit for thousands of people. The records made by butterfly enthusiasts add greatly to our knowledge of butterflies as sensitive indicators of what is happening in our environment. This comprehensive and delightful book is your reliable guide to butterflies wherever you are in Europe.



ILKKA HANSKI (1953–2016),  
Professor of Animal Ecology,  
University of Helsinki

### SYMBOLS AND THE TERMINOLOGY FOR IDENTIFICATION USED IN THIS GUIDE

- ① identification mark in the photo
- ★ general identification (not in the photo) or additional information
- Ⓢ classification of threatened species by IUCN (see p. 9)
- 🦋 flying period and habitat
- ⊕ distribution
- 🌿 larval host plant
- 🔄 compare to other species
- ♂ male
- ♀ female



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## PREFACE

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**O**ur ever-shrinking world puts Europe into perspective. It is the second smallest of the seven continents, comprising the westernmost peninsula of Eurasia, an area of 10.3 million square kilometres with around 700 million people. The butterfly fauna is modest compared to the tropics but still fascinating with almost 500 species living in diverse natural habitats.

The evolution of this book started in 1985, when we published a photographic book of the butterflies of southeastern Finland, one of northern Europe's prime butterfly sites. At that time, photographing butterflies in the wild was not an easy task. Over time the equipment improved and the digital revolution revealed the beauty of the butterfly world in a way that was never possible before. This field guide was first published in 2011, and a year later in French and Finnish. The present second edition is fully revised and updated with many new photos but the structure is kept the same. The section concerning European islands, much visited for holidays, and adjacent areas has been enlarged.

Although Europe extends to the Urals and Caucasus in the east, our emphasis is on the region west to Ukraine and Belarus. The guide focuses on observation and identification of butterflies in their own environment with the help of close-focusing binoculars and digital photography. Some collecting is necessary for scientific purposes, but treating butterflies like stamps is not acceptable. Overcollecting is still threatening some local butterfly populations. Butterflies are also actively protected, and a partnership organisation, Butterfly Conservation Europe (BCE), aims to stop the decline of butterflies and their habitats throughout Europe.

Many skippers, blues, fritillaries and graylings are difficult to identify in the field, and even experts make mistakes.

Frequently, our senses are simply not sufficient to detect tiny external differences of sibling species. However, with experience a diagnosis can be made with reasonable accuracy, and while relaxing after a hard day in the field, digital photos can be checked for a second opinion. It would take a lifetime to photograph all of the European species, something no-one has managed to do. This work is a result of collaboration with a wide network of butterfly enthusiasts and colleagues.

We have followed the list of European butterflies by Karsholt & Razowski (1996) but updated the nomenclature according to the Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies and Skippers (Kudrna, Pennerstorfer & Lux 2015). The European Red List of Butterflies has also been an important source (van Swaay et al. 2010). Several species have been downgraded to subspecific level while some former subspecies have received full species status. With new genetic characterisation techniques, this debate is lively and highlights the problems of man-made definitions of species, subspecies and forms.

The organisation of the species is different from any other book. In a given genus, the butterflies that have a wide range and are most likely to be seen come first, followed by those with a more restricted distribution from west to east. If the observer is somewhere in the Pyrenees, for example, what would be the local speciality? And what could we expect in Cyprus? The major islands have been treated individually, as have the adjacent regions of northern Africa, Mediterranean Turkey and Eastern Europe. Finally, there are bonuses waiting for the butterfly enthusiast: the hotspot of the Alps and an Arctic touch of Lapland. They are fascinating places for a butterfly trip.

The world's butterfly fauna is in a state of constant change, increasingly driven by human impact, which usually means habitat destruction. The vitality of a

population weakens if local populations become extinct more often than new colonies emerge. The fragmentation becomes crucial when distances between the colonies increase resulting in poor gene flow between isolated colonies. The disequilibrium becomes a doomed spiral and sooner or later the species is lost. This was shown

by Ilkka Hanski (1953–2016), the father of metapopulation ecology, who wrote the foreword for our guide. Protecting butterflies by restoring habitats, favouring flower-rich gardens and other environments, and simply by letting them fly free, is preserving the crucial biodiversity on which human life also depends.

TARI HAAHTELA, KIMMO SAARINEN  
PEKKA OJALAINEN & HANNU AARNIO

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The old drawings of larvae are taken from *Hofmann E, & Spuler A. Die Raupen der Schmetterlinge Europas. E. Schweizerbartsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart 1904.*

Special thanks go to TOM NYGAARD KRISTENSEN for all his expertise and photos of European butterflies. The expert help of AHMET BAYTAS, JUHA JANTUNEN, DAVID JUTZELER, ZRADKO KOLEV, JAAKKO KULLBERG, TRISTAN LAFRANCHIS, ALBERT MIGUEL LOEWE, LAZAROS PAMPERIS, MATT ROWLINGS, RUDI VEROVNIK, OLLI VESIKKO and OLCAY YEGIN has been essential. They have also guided us, and sometimes joined us, to the finest butterfly sites in Europe. Any errors that remain in the book are ours.

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## EUROPEAN BUTTERFLIES

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**F**AUNA · There are more or less 500 butterfly species in Europe. This number varies as our knowledge grows, and as butterflies' distribution changes over time. Species in the eastern parts of the continent and those confined to the North Caucasus countries in particular are less well documented than the traditionally well-known fauna in the western range. In addition, there are dozens of species of Africa and Asia whose ranges just reach Europe, or they appear as migrants or irregular vagrants in marginal areas of the continent. Finally, recent molecular and chromosome studies have revealed important differences between certain taxa. Thus many subspecies or geographical forms have now been reclassified as full species, such as Brimstones in the Canary Islands. Conversely, some taxa have lost their specific status, such as *Phengaris (Maculinea) rebeli* and *Polyommatus menelaos*.

European butterflies represent six families. Almost half of the species belong to the family Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies), which contains the previous families and current subfamilies of Satyrinae (browns, heaths, graylings and ringlets) and Libytheinae (snout butterflies). The family Lycaenidae (blues, coppers and hairstreaks) is represented by more than 100 species. The remaining 110 or so species are representatives of the families Pieridae (whites, yellows), Hesperidae (skippers), Papilionidae (apollos, festoons, swallowtails) and Riodinidae (metalmarks).

One third of Europe's butterfly species (approximately 140) are endemic to the continent; in other words, these particular species are found nowhere else in the world. Most endemics are alpine or montane species with a restricted distribution in the Pyrenees, the Alps and the highest mountains of the Balkans. Endemism is most characteristic among ringlets of the genus *Erebia*, but endemics are also frequent among blues and graylings.

This high rate of endemism is one of the reasons for the high diversity of butterfly fauna in the mountain ranges in the south. As far as the European Union is concerned, the butterfly species richness is highest in Italy, France, Greece, Spain and Bulgaria (Table 1).

**Table 1. Number of butterfly species in 36 European countries. The numbers compiled from various sources should be treated only as indicative.**

Italy	252	Czech Republic	157
France	237	Portugal	147
Greece	233	Lithuania	124
Spain	229	Finland	122
Bulgaria	222	Sweden	122
Austria	207	Belgium	116
Rep N Macedonia	203	Latvia	116
Switzerland	200	Estonia	112
Serbia	199	Andorra	106
Albania	196	Norway	100
Montenegro	192	Denmark	99
Romania	188	Netherlands	91
Germany	187	Luxembourg	78
Croatia	182	United Kingdom	59
Slovenia	176	Cyprus	53
Slovakia	166	Malta	41
Hungary	164	Ireland	34
Poland	159	Iceland	6

Europe is the most densely populated continent in the world. More than 80% of the land is under some form of direct management and only a tiny fraction of the land surface can be considered as wilderness. However, many butterflies thrive in semi-natural habitats created and maintained by human activity, especially non-intensive forms of land management such as livestock grazing. Extensive intensification of agriculture and other anthropogenic activities are the main cause for butterfly decline. The most important factor throughout Europe is the loss of habitat or connectivity between patches of habitat, mostly due to changes in agricultural practices. Global warming (climate change) is already challenging the Arctic and alpine species and increased frequency and intensity of fires and tourist development particularly affects species in the Mediterranean region.

**T**HREATENED SPECIES · According to the latest European Red List of Butterflies (van Swaay et al. 2010), a declining trend predominates in butterflies: 31% of our species have declining populations. Half of the species are more or less stable, and only 4% are increasing. At the time of writing, almost a tenth of European butterfly species (37) are classified as Endangered or Vulnerable (Table 2). In addition, 44 species are considered Near Threatened. The 33 strictly protected species are listed in Table 3.

**Table 2. Critically Endangered** 🚫, **Endangered** 🟡 and **Vulnerable** 🟠 butterfly species in Europe (van Swaay et al. 2010).

<b>Hesperiidae</b>	
<i>Pyrgus cirsii</i> – Cinquefoil Skipper	🟡
<b>Pieridae</b>	
<i>Pieris wollastoni</i> – Madeiran Large White	🚫
<i>Colias myrmidone</i> – Danube Clouded Yellow	🟡
<i>Gonepteryx maderensis</i> – Madeiran Brimstone	🟡
<i>Pieris cheiranthi</i> – Canary Islands Large White	🟡
<i>Colias chrysotheme</i> – Lesser Clouded Yellow	🟡
<i>Euchloe bazae</i> – Spanish Greenish Black-tip	🟡
<i>Gonepteryx cleobule</i> – Canary Brimstone	🟡
<b>Lycaenidae</b>	
<i>Agriades zullichi</i> – Zullich's Blue	🟡
<i>Lycaena helle</i> – Violet Copper	🟡
<i>Phengaris arion</i> – Large Blue	🟡
<i>Polyommatus humedasaе</i> – Piedmont Anomalous Blue	🟡
<i>Turanana taygetica</i> – Odd-spot Blue	🟡
<i>Phengaris teleius</i> – Scarce Large Blue	🟡
<i>Polyommatus galloii</i> ** – Higgin's Anomalous Blue	🟡
<i>Polyommatus golgus</i> – Sierra Nevada Blue	🟡
<i>Polyommatus orphicus</i> – Kolev's Anomalous Blue	🟡
<i>Polyommatus violetae</i> – Andalusian Anomalous Blue	🟡
<i>Tomares nogelii</i> – Nogel's Hairstreak	🟡
<b>Nymphalidae</b>	
<i>Coenonympha phryne</i> *	🚫
<i>Pseudochazara cingovskii</i> – Macedonian Grayling	🚫
<i>Boloria improba</i> – Dusky-winged Fritillary	🟡
<i>Coenonympha oedippus</i> – False Ringlet	🟡
<i>Pararge xiphia</i> – Madeiran Speckled Wood	🟡
<i>Pseudochazara euxina</i> *	🟡
<i>Boloria polaris</i> – Polar Fritillary	🟡
<i>Coenonympha hero</i> – Scarce Heath	🟡
<i>Coenonympha orientalis</i> – Balkan Heath	🟡
<i>Coenonympha tullia</i> – Large Heath	🟡
<i>Erebia christi</i> – Rätzer's Ringlet	🟡
<i>Erebia sudetica</i> – Sudeten Ringlet	🟡
<i>Euphydryas maturna</i> – Scarce Fritillary	🟡
<i>Hipparchia bacchus</i> – El Hierro Grayling	🟡
<i>Hipparchia tilosi</i> – La Palma Grayling	🟡
<i>Lopinga achine</i> – Woodland Brown	🟡

*Pseudochazara amydone* – Brown's Grayling 🟡  
*Pseudochazara orestes* – Dils' Grayling 🟡

\* Eastern species not included in the species section of this guide

\*\* According to Kudrna et al. (2015), a junior subjective synonym of *Polyommatus ripartii*

**Table 3. The following 33 species are strictly protected by an EU directive (92/43, 2003) and the Bern Convention. The directive has been implemented in member states according to the national legislation.**

<i>A. aquilo</i>	<i>E. maturna</i>	<i>P. mnemosyne</i>
<i>A. metis</i>	<i>H. comma</i>	<i>P. arion</i>
<i>A. elisa</i>	<i>ssp. catena</i>	<i>P. nausithous</i>
<i>B. improba</i>	<i>L. morsei</i>	<i>P. teleius</i>
<i>C. hero</i>	<i>L. achine</i>	<i>P. eros</i>
<i>C. oedippus</i>	<i>L. dispar</i>	<i>ssp. eroides</i>
<i>C. myrmidone</i>	<i>L. helle</i>	<i>P. golgus</i>
<i>E. calcaria</i>	<i>M. arge</i>	<i>P. humedasaе</i>
<i>E. christi</i>	<i>N. l-album</i>	<i>P. ripartii</i>
<i>E. polaris</i>	<i>P. alexanor</i>	<i>ssp. galloii</i>
<i>E. sudetica</i>	<i>P. hospiton</i>	<i>S. bavius</i>
<i>E. aurinia</i>	<i>P. apollo</i>	<i>Z. polyxena</i>

**S**IZE · Most European butterflies are small to average in size. The average wingspan of the 440 European butterfly species described in more detail is 41 mm, about the size of the Wood White (*Leptidea sinapis*), Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*) or Ringlet (*Aphantopus hyperantus*). The extremes are represented by the Grass Jewel (*Chilades trochylus*) with its 10 mm span, and the impressive 110 mm of the Monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). It would take more than 30 Grass Jewels to cover the wings of just one Monarch! The majority of species, including coppers, blues and most *Erebia* species, are somewhere between 30 and 40 mm.

**The average wingspan of butterflies by groups**

Skippers (Hesperiidae)	28 mm
Swallowtails (Papilionidae)	65 mm
Whites and yellows (Pieridae)	47 mm
Coppers and hairstreaks (Lycaenidae)	31 mm
Blues (Lycaenidae)	29 mm
Fritillaries and allies (Nymphalidae)	47 mm
Heaths, browns, ringlets and graylings (Satyrinae)	45 mm

**Butterfly size chart**



>60 mm | 45-60 mm | 35-44 mm | 25-34 mm | <25 mm

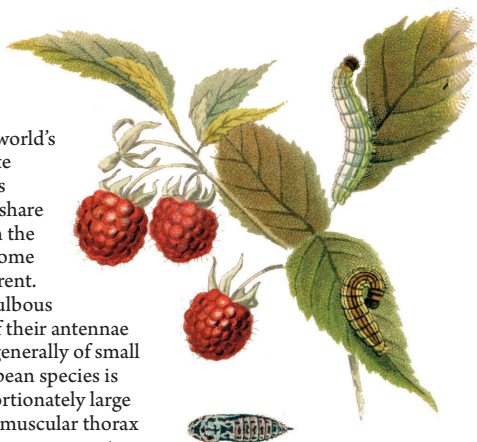
# HESPERIIDAE

## SKIPPERS

DINGY SKIPPER · *Erynnis tages* – MILLET SKIPPER · *Pelopidas thrax*

A total of 46 species in Europe · 10 endemics, 5 Threatened or Near Threatened

Skippers are a group of day-flying, moth-like butterflies, which have traditionally been considered distinct from the rest of the world's butterfly fauna. These two separate lineages, namely the superfamilies Hesperioidea and Papilionoidea, share many characteristics, especially in the egg, larval and pupal stages, but some adult features are noticeably different. Most obviously, skippers lack a bulbous club-like antennal tip; the ends of their antennae are hooked backwards. They are generally of small size (the mean wingspan of European species is only 28 mm), and have a disproportionately large head with large eyes and a strong muscular thorax providing extra power to their wing movements. It is no wonder that most skippers are very fast on the wing and some resemble flies as they skip rapidly from one flower to the next. Many species of skippers look frustratingly alike, brown and grey tints predominating. In many cases the resting position is also a distinctive feature of many, the forewings being slightly angled upwards while the hindwings are kept flat – reminiscent of a jet fighter. The caterpillars are also large-headed with a distinctive pinched-in 'neck'. However, they are not easily seen, feeding mainly at night and living inside a shelter constructed from fragments of a leaf or grass blade. Most skippers depend on either grasses or rosaceous plants during the larval stage.



Grizzled Skipper · *Pyrgus malvae*



Dingy Skipper · *Erynnis tages*

**Erynnis**  
*tages* · 12  
*marlyoi* · Balkans · 13

**Carcharodus**  
*alceae* · 14  
*lavatherae* · 15  
*flociferus* · 16  
*baeticus* · 17  
*tripolinus* · Iberia · 17  
*orientalis* · SE Europe · 18  
*stauderi* · Greek islands · 18

**Spialia**  
*sertorius* · 19  
*orbifer* · 20  
*therapne* · Corsica, Sardinia · 21  
*phlomidis* · Balkans · 21

**Syrichthus**  
*proto* · 22  
*tessellum* · SE Europe · 23  
*cribrellum* · SE Europe · 23

**Pyrgus**  
*carthami* · 24  
*sidae* · 25  
*malvae* · 26  
*malvoides* · 27  
*serratulae* · 27  
*alveus* · 28  
*bellieri* · 29  
*onopordi* · 29  
*armoricanus* · 30  
*cirsii* · 31  
*carlinae* · 31  
*cacaliae* · 32  
*andromedae* · 32  
*warrenensis* · Alps · 33  
*cinarae* · 33  
*centaureae* · Fennoscandia · 34

**Heteropterus**  
*morpheus* · 35

**Carterocephalus**  
*palaemon* · 36  
*silvicola* · 37

**Thymelicus**  
*lineola* · 38  
*sylvestris* · 39  
*acteon* · 40  
*christi* · Canary Islands · 40  
*hyrax* · Greece · 41

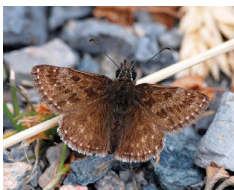
**Hesperia**  
*comma* · 42

**Ochlodes**  
*sylvanus* · 43

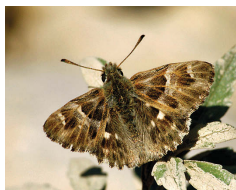
**Gegenes**  
*pumilio* · 44  
*nostrodamus* · 44

**Orbore**  
*borbonica* · S Spain · 45

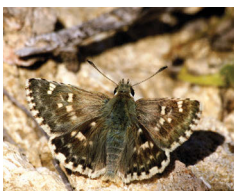
**Pelopidas**  
*thrax* · Greek islands, Cyprus · 45



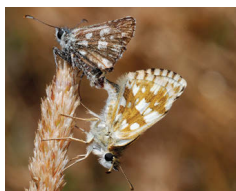
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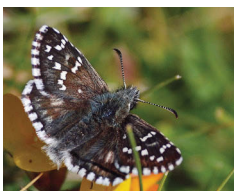
CARCHARODUS ORIENTALIS PO



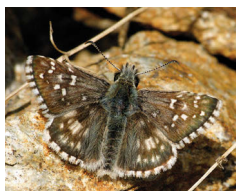
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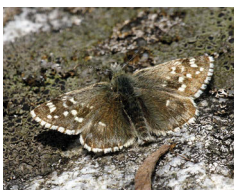
PYRGUS SERRATULAE HA



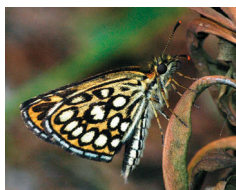
PYRGUS CIRSIII HA



PYRGUS ARMORICANUS PO



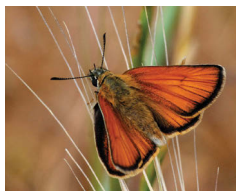
PYRGUS ANDROMEDAE PO



HETEROPTERUS MORPHEUS HA



CARTEROCEPHALUS PALAEMON TH



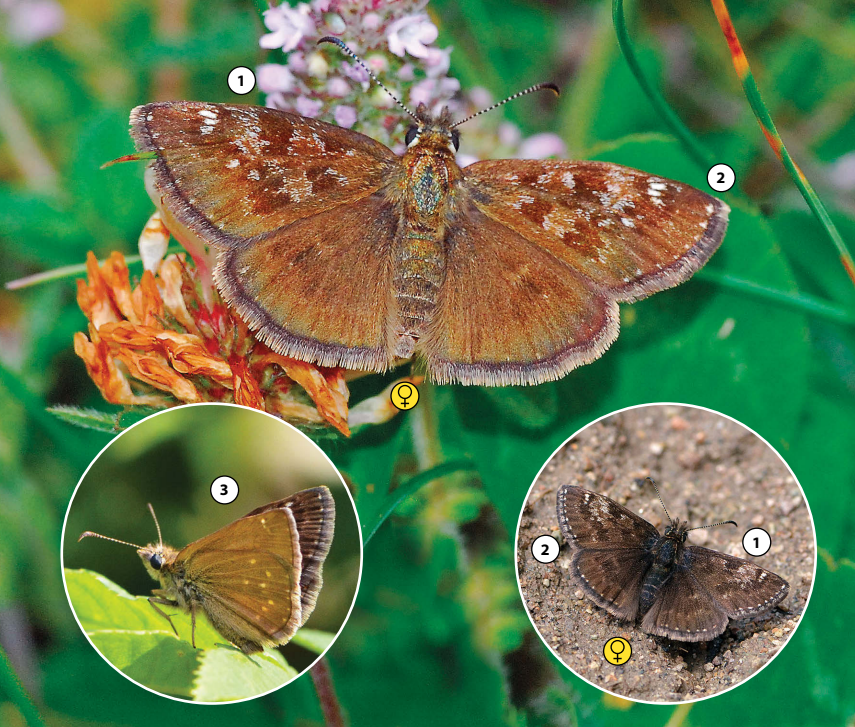
THYMELICUS SYLVESTRIS HA



HESPERIA COMMA HA



PELOPIDAS THRAX PO



## DINGY SKIPPER · *Erynnis tages*

Visit a warm meadow with plenty of bare earth or patches of limestone and there you may find this fast skipper on the wing. Resting with wings fully open, it spends long periods basking on soil or stones, but in bright sunshine it is flighty and difficult to approach. Although the larval host plants are also good nectar sources for the adults, male butterflies are frequently disturbed by rival suitors defending their territories. Individuals normally show very little variation. Subspecies *baynesi* in western Ireland, however, has a brownish-black upper-side and very pale markings.

☉ *Erynnis marloyi*



- ① Ups dark greyish-brown with grey bands on fw
- ② Ups a series of small pale dots in outer margin of both wings
- ③ Uns pale brown with small white dots around the outer margins
- ☉ Sexes similar
- ☉ Flies like a moth



- ☉ Mostly one generation from late April to mid-June; a 2<sup>nd</sup> brood rather common in July–August in S Europe. Calcareous rocky meadows and grasslands, coastal landslips, abandoned quarries, limestone pavements, woodland clearings and rides up to 2,000 m.
- ☉ Widespread and common through most of Europe except Mediterranean islands (excl. Corfu) and N Fennoscandia. Has declined in many countries in the northern range, including the British Isles, Netherlands and Baltic states.
- ☉ Low-growing legumes, mainly *Lotus* species, *Coronilla varia* and *Hippocrepis comosa*.



## INKY SKIPPER • *Erynnis marloyi*

A second European representative of a widespread genus ranging from the main regions of North America, throughout Asia and into eastern Europe. Greece is the best place to encounter the species, whose habits resemble those of the Dingy Skipper. Individuals fly rapidly in open, barren country, but despite resting constantly on white limestone rocks, they are easily disturbed even if approached with great care. They become more approachable when making a nectar stop, becoming particularly settled when feeding on *Thymus*. Sometimes males gather in large numbers at the summits of hills (so-called hilltopping).

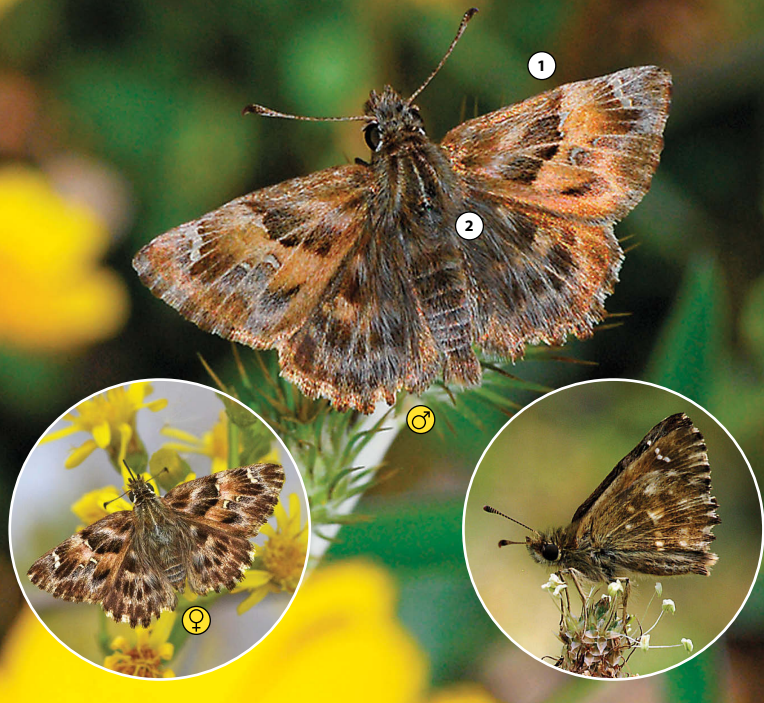
☞ *Erynnis tages*



- ① Fw ups grey/blackish/brownish with two black bands
- ② Hw ups uniform dark
- ③ Uns uniform brown with a white streak or a few dots near to the tip on fw
- ☼ Sexes similar

- ☞ One or two generations between late March and August; sometimes as late as October. Hot and dry stony slopes, dried-up riverbeds and rocky calcareous mountains between 600 and 2,100 m, in Bulgaria even lower altitudes.
- ☉ Restricted to SE Europe; Albania, Greece (including islands of Corfu, Chios, Lesbos, Samos), Rep N Macedonia, Bulgaria and Turkey. Distribution patchy but locally common.
- ☞ Small, bushy Rosaceae, such as *Pyrus spinosa*, *Prunus cocomilia*.





## MALLOW SKIPPER • *Carcharodus alceae*

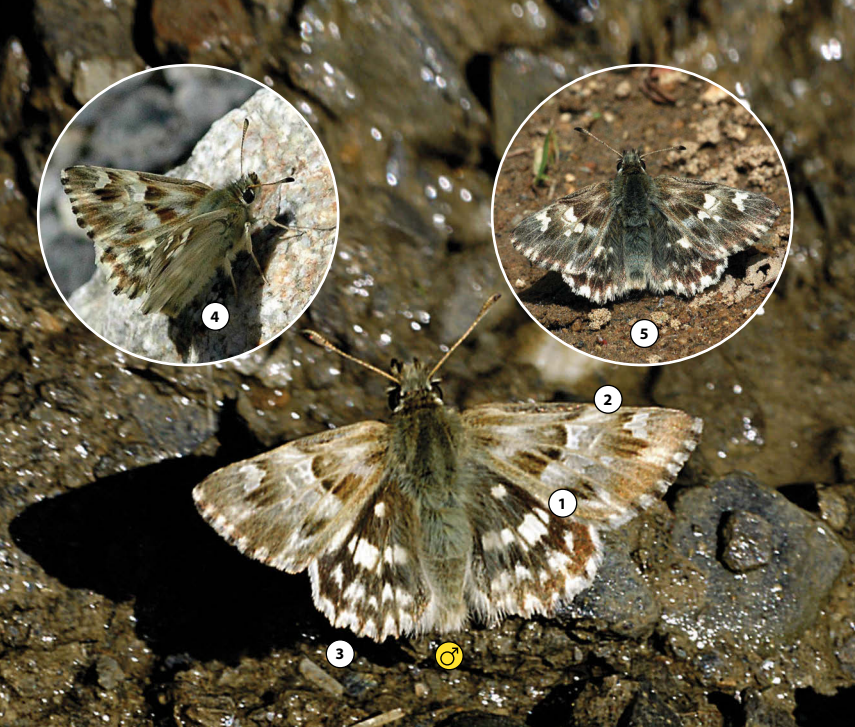
**T**he Mallow Skipper usually starts the skipper season off in Europe. Once the first individuals emerge in March, there may be three or even more generations over the next eight months. In contrast to most other skippers, this one flies vast distances, thereby easily colonising new regions. It also loves warmth and, together with its larval foodplants, it is well adapted to harsh terrain. Due to individual, ecological and seasonal variation in size and colour, several subspecies have been described, notably in Asia.

➤ *Carcharodus tripolinus*  
*Carcharodus lavatherae*



- ① Ups brown with pink or purple tinge
- ② Hw ups white spot small or missing
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ♂ Closely resembles *C. tripolinus*
- 🕒 Several generations from March to October, disappearing between the broods; recorded all year round on Cyprus. Various habitats from lush to very dry, but mostly on dry flower-rich grasslands and south-facing slopes, also amongst scrub or woodland, up to 2,000 m.
- 🌐 Widespread and common in S and C Europe, including most Mediterranean islands. No records from SW Iberian Peninsula inhabited by *C. tripolinus*, which is externally inseparable.
- 🌿 Mallows and related species, such as *Malva*, *Althaea*, *Lavatera* and *Hibiscus*.





## MARBLED SKIPPER · *Carcharodus lavatherae*

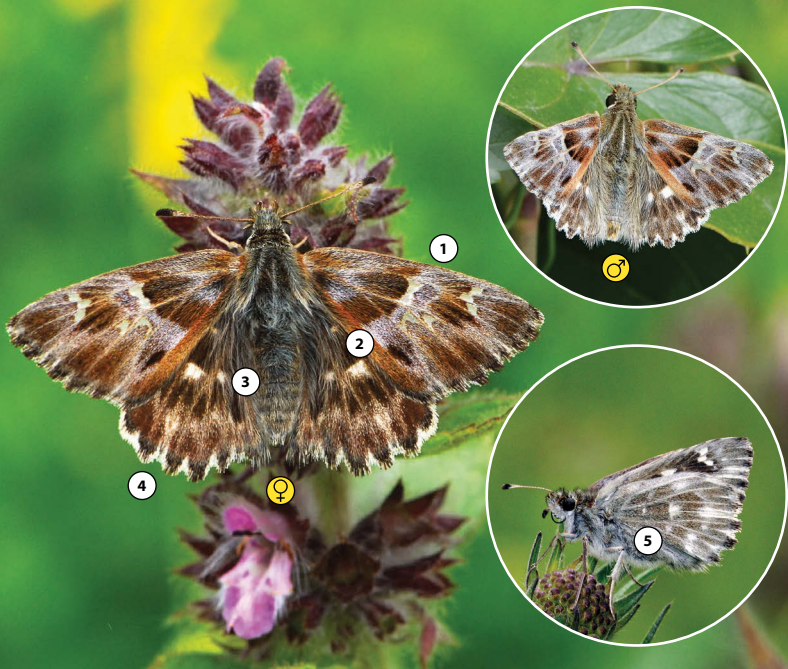
**M**any skippers of the *Carcharodus* genus look alike, but in the field their behaviour provides some clue as to their identity. 'Puddling' is particularly typical of Marbled Skippers; lots of males can be seen at the same time sucking vital salts and minerals from the damp ground. These valuable substances are passed to the female during mating, improving mating success and subsequent egg survival. Another typical feature is the conspicuous resting position, the wings being wrapped around the body and the abdomen curving high up in the air.

☞ *Carcharodus alceae*  
*Carcharodus flocciferus*



- ① Ups olive-brown, a row of white spots across the centre of hw
- ② A transparent spot on the fw cell
- ③ Triangular white spots around the outer margin
- ④ Uns pale grey
- ⑤ ssp. *tauricus*
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ☞ One generation from mid-May to late July; 2<sup>nd</sup> brood possible in favourable conditions. Rocky gullies, dry grassy banks and hot dusty tracks, often on limestone in plains and mountains up to 1,600 m.
- ⊕ Rather widespread but patchy and local in S Europe from Spain to most of Balkans (ssp. *tauricus*); a few distinct populations in W Germany. Evaluated as Near Threatened in Europe.
- ⊕ Several woundworts, such as *Stachys recta*, *S. germanica* and *S. arvensis*.





## TUFTED MARBLED SKIPPER • *Carcharodus flocciferus*

This species is named for the dark tuft of hair on the underside of each forewing, which guides the forewing and hindwing during flight. Males are very territorial, constantly perching on flower heads or grass heads, where they are ready to dash after all butterflies intruding on their territory. Individuals tend to be smaller in size and lighter in colour in the more southern regions, where they may be easily confused with the Southern Marbled Skipper and Oriental Marbled Skipper. In hot conditions, however, the latter species prefers to sit on stones or soil.

☉ *Carcharodus baeticus*  
*Carcharodus orientalis*

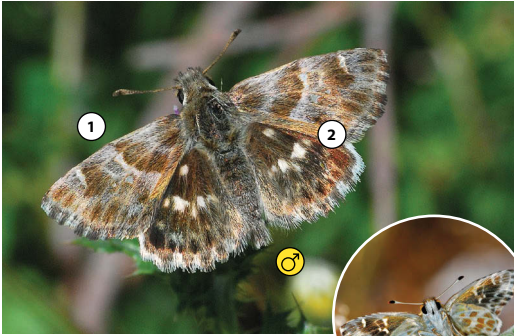


- ① Ups greyish-brown
- ② Fw ups a dark patch and white spots in the middle
- ③ Hw ups dark with two or more white spots in the middle, discal spot prominent
- ④ Wing margins toothed
- ⑤ Hw uns white spots well defined
- ⊕ Sexes similar



- ☞ Two generations; 1<sup>st</sup> brood in late May–June, 2<sup>nd</sup> brood in August, but univoltine in Greece in July–August. Various grasslands rich in flowers, railway banks, forest edges and clearings, warm slopes on plains and damper places in the mountains up to 2,000 m.
- ⊕ Rather widespread but patchy and generally uncommon in S Europe; mainly a mountain species from Spain to France, throughout the Alps and the Balkans. In E Europe the distribution extends to lowlands in Poland and all Baltic countries. Evaluated as Near Threatened in Europe.
- ☞ Mainly woundworts (*Stachys*), but also *Marrubium* species and *Ballota nigra*.

## SOUTHERN MARBLED SKIPPER · *Carcharodus baeticus*



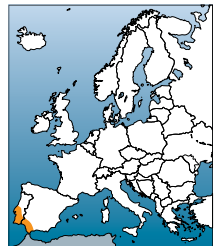
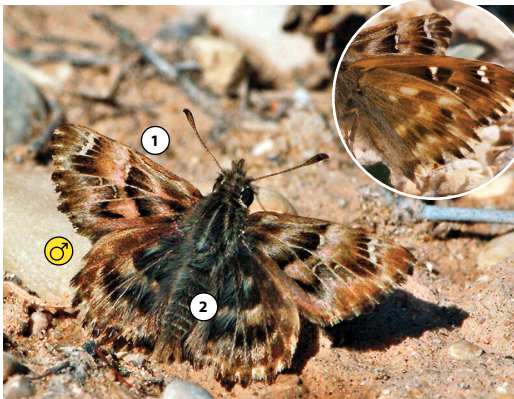
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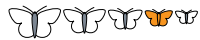
**E**ndemic to Europe; common in the Iberian Peninsula. Up to three broods per season; 1<sup>st</sup> brood in May, 2<sup>nd</sup> brood in June–July and 3<sup>rd</sup> brood in August–September. Sporadic distribution in the eastern range, often with one brood in July. Dunes, rocky slopes and other hot and dry environments up to 1,600 m. Larva feeds on horehounds (*Marrubium*). The species has been imported into Australia in order to control horehounds.

- ① Male fw ups greyish-brown
- ② Hw ups dark with two white bands; the outer one wavy
- ③ Hw uns pale brown or yellowish with a characteristic network of white bands and veins
- ★ Sexes similar

## FALSE MALLOW SKIPPER · *Carcharodus tripolinus*



HA W MOROCCO AGADIR 109 · MO MOROCCO 314

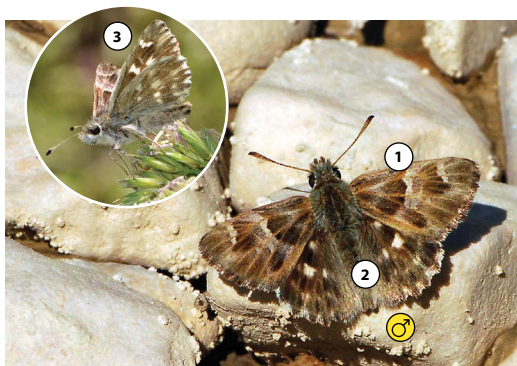


**S**pecies status in relation to *C. alceae* has been uncertain, but stable genital differences are present. Distribution confined to a narrow strip along the coast of SW Portugal and Spain. Several broods from March to September, usually on rocky gullies and other hot and dry environments. Larva feeds on *Malva sylvestris*.

- ① Ups ground colour brown
- ② Hw ups white spot weak or missing
- ★ Inseparable from *C. alceae* in the field; identification based on male genitalia
- ★ Sexes similar

## ORIENTAL MARBLED SKIPPER · *Carcharodus orientalis*

HN GREECE 9/08 · MH TURKEY 03/JUL/ELI 6/11



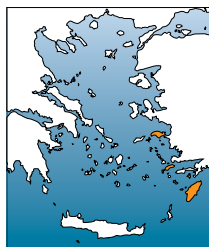
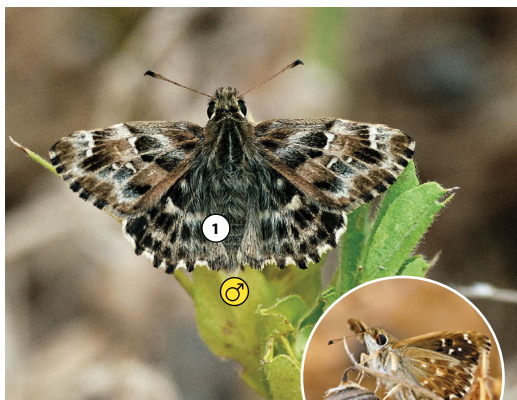
**R**esembles *C. flocciferus*; no feature of the wing pattern is constant enough as a discriminating character. Mainly restricted to S Balkans and Greece, where it is widespread and locally common; the distribution extends via E Europe to Ukraine and Asia. Two or three broods between March and October in hot dry grasslands of steppe or mediterranean types up to 2,000 m. Larva feeds on woundworts (*Stachys*).



- ① Fw ups a dark band in the middle and a few light spots
- ② Hw ups an arc of white spots in the centre
- ③ Hw uns pale greyish-brown, white markings indistinct (cf. *C. flocciferus*)
- ★ Sexes similar

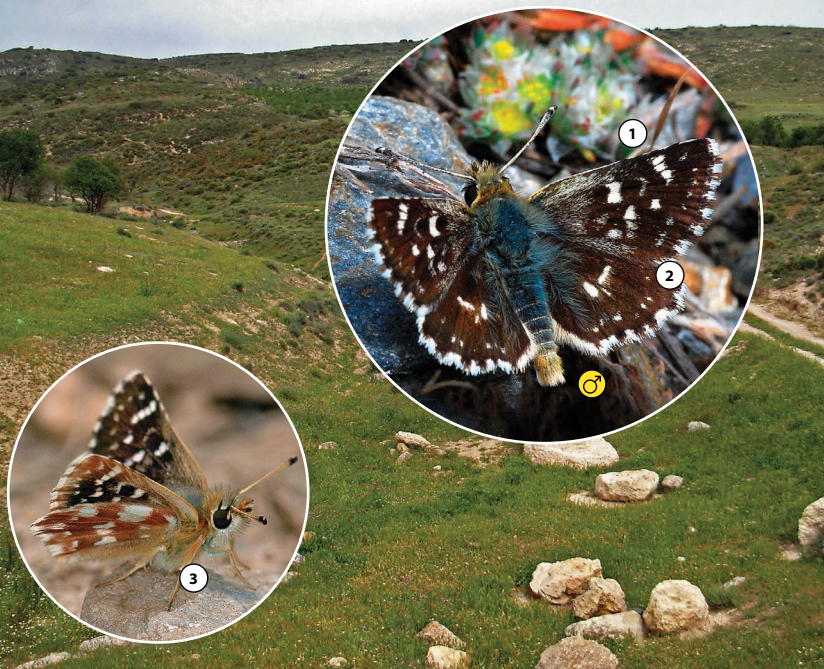
## EASTERN MARBLED SKIPPER · *Carcharodus stauderi*

HN GREECE SAMOS 5/09 · 4/09 · PG GREECE SAMOS 5/09



- ① Hw ups two white bands; the outer one wavy
- ② Hw uns light grey, reticulate pattern poorly developed
- ★ Sexes similar

**A**rare species recorded only in some Greek islands (Kos, Symi, Rhodes, Samos). Mostly one brood in May–June in hot and dry shrubland and rocky landscapes near to sea level (<450 m). Larva probably feeds on *Marrubium* and *Nepeta* species.



## RED UNDERWING SKIPPER • *Spialia sertorius*

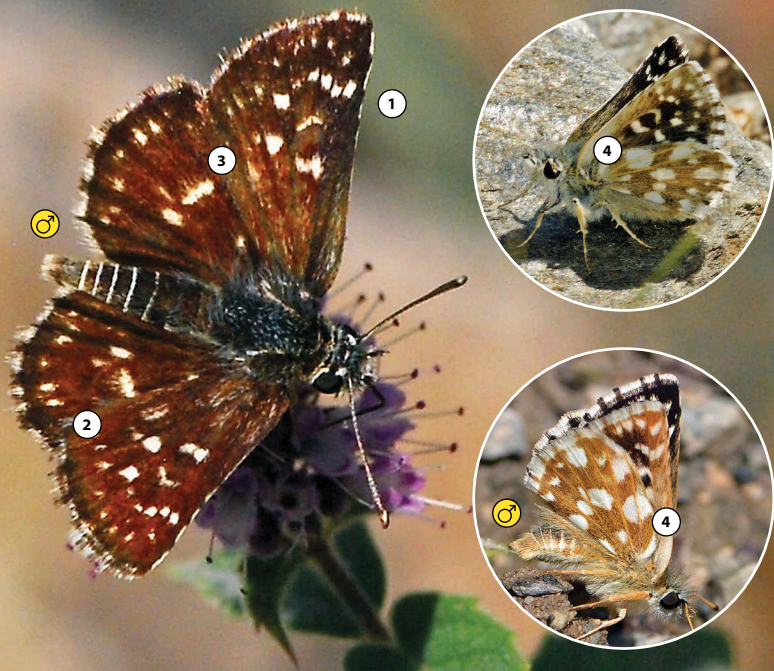
*Spialia* is a widespread skipper genus of the Old World, with its centre of diversity in Africa. All four species in Europe are rather similar in appearance, but identification is made easier by their differing geographical locations. In western Europe, the small Red Underwing Skipper flies very fast close to the ground, thereby easily escaping detection. Every now and then it settles on hot ground. However, females are more often seen on burnet plants (*Sanguisorba*). The species can reproduce only during the flowering season of its host plant, as it lays its eggs solely on the flower buds.

☉ *Spialia therapne*  
*Spialia orbifer*



- ① Ups dark brown with scattering of white spots
- ② A row of submarginal small white spots on both wings
- ③ Hw uns reddish with ragged large white spots
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ☞ Two generations; 1<sup>st</sup> brood from April to June, 2<sup>nd</sup> brood in July–August. Representatives of the latter are generally smaller. Various grassy habitats in scrubland, woodland clearings and flower-rich meadow slopes up to 1,600 m.
- ⊕ Widespread and common in W Europe from Portugal to France, Germany, Italy and Slovakia in the east. A few records around the Balkans may be confused with *S. orbifer*.
- ⊕ Mainly salad burnet (*Sanguisorba minor*), occasionally other rosaceous plants.





## ORBED RED UNDERWING SKIPPER · *Spialia orbifer*

This species is named for the rounded white markings on its underside – it otherwise resembles the Red Underwing Skipper. The two species have only recently been separated, but they are unlikely ever to be seen at the same site. This is the more eastern species, and flies very fast and low in hot places, typically in the Balkan region. Dried-up riverbeds in particular are worth checking. In bright sunshine, hot rocks are irresistible and both males and females continuously rest on these with open wings. Mallow Skippers, White-banded Graylings and Freyer's Graylings are typical companions in the same sites.

♂ *Spialia sertorius*



- ① Ups dark brown or black with scattered white spots
  - ② Ups a row of submarginal white spots on both wings
  - ③ A narrow white spot in the middle of hw
  - ④ Hw uns olive-green or reddish with a conspicuous round white spot on the front margin
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ☞ Two generations; 1<sup>st</sup> brood from April or May to June, 2<sup>nd</sup> brood from mid-July to August. Various warm and open environments usually in uplands, such as roadside verges, scrubby grassland and steppe rivulet valleys up to 2,000 m.
- ⊕ Rather widespread and common in E Europe; Greece, including most of Aegean Islands, most of Balkans, extending to Slovakia in north. A few isolated populations on Sicily and possible records from coastal Cyprus.
- ♁ Usually *Sanguisorba minor*, seldom other rosaceous plants (*Rubus*, *Potentilla*).



## CORSICAN RED UNDERWING SKIPPER · *Spialia therapne*



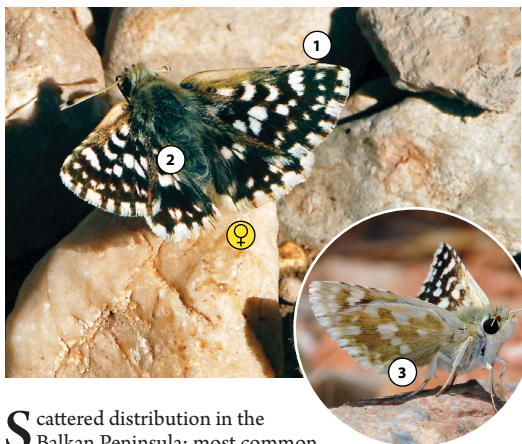
**E**ndemic to Europe; sometimes regarded only as a small-sized subspecies of the very similar *S. sertorius*. Restricted to Corsica and Sardinia; two broods from late April to early September in various grassy and calcareous habitats up to 1,500 m. Larva feeds on *Sanguisorba* and other rosaceous plants.



- ★ Closely resembles *S. sertorius* but more colourful
- ★ Very small
- ★ Sexes similar

ITALY SARDINIA GENNANGENTI 8098 • ITALY SARDINIA GENNANGENTI 8098

## PERSIAN SKIPPER · *Spialia phlomidis*

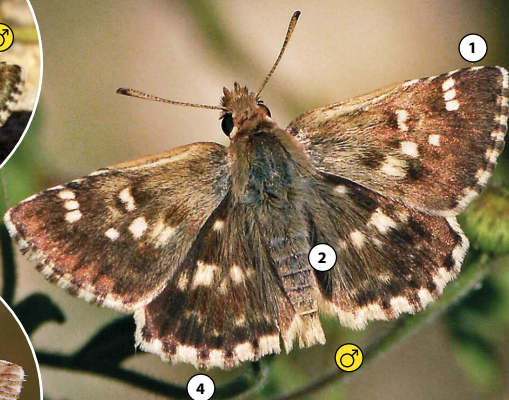
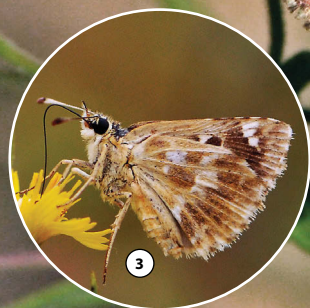
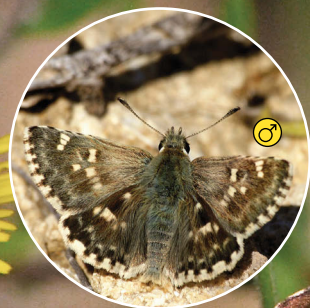


**S**cattered distribution in the Balkan Peninsula; most common but local in Greece. Mostly one brood in June–July, sometimes two broods between May and October, in dry scrub, hot rocky slopes and dry steppe habitats and grasslands at moderate elevations up to 2,200 m. Larva probably feeds on bindweeds (*Convolvulus*).



- ① Ups dark brown with a complete series of submarginal pale spots
  - ② Hw ups a large rectangular white spot in the centre
  - ③ Hw uns olive-green or grey with unbroken white discal band
- ★ Sexes similar

TURKEY ANATOLIA 6710 • OR 5 TURKEY 7109



## SAGE SKIPPER · *Syrichtus proto*

The Sage Skipper is a true dry habitat specialist with a predilection for bleak, sparsely vegetated places, which look at first glance to be unsuitable spots for any butterfly. The Sage Skipper is generally one of the few species that may be seen in such situations, its only companions being one or two species of graylings (subfamily Satyrinae). Some authors describe the species as having a soft, furry appearance, a distinctive feature of *Pyrgus* species. In other respects the butterfly varies throughout its range from North Africa to Palestine and Iran, and there are several recorded subspecies.

☞ *Syrichtus tessellum*

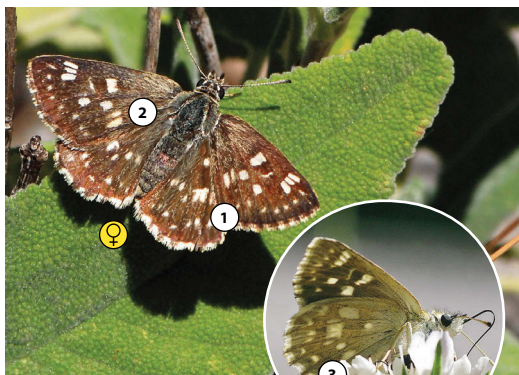


- ① Ups grey or brownish, fw hairy, submarginal spots obscure or missing
- ② Hw ups rectangular spots link up to form cross-lines
- ③ Hw uns brownish with light veins
- ④ Fringes chequered
- ★ Sexes similar



- ☞ A long flight period from April to September with one or two generations depending on the locality; individuals in the late summer are usually smaller in size. Various xerophytic habitats both on plains and in the mountains up to 1,800 m.
- ⊕ Restricted to S Europe from Portugal to S France in the west and from S Italy to Greece in the east, including islands of Karpathos, Kithira and Symi. Widespread and common in Spain, sporadic and rare elsewhere. Replaced by *S. proteides* in Asian Turkey, Ukraine and eastwards.
- ⊕ Several *Phlomis* species and *Hypogomphia purpurea*.

## TESSELLATED SKIPPER · *Syrichthus tessellum*



**R**estricted to SE Europe with sporadic distribution in N Greece (and the island of Symi), Rep N Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania and eastwards. A locally common species with one brood from late April to early July, sometimes prolonged to August, in dry grassland slopes with scrubby patches up to 1,900 m. Larva feeds on *Phlomis samia*.

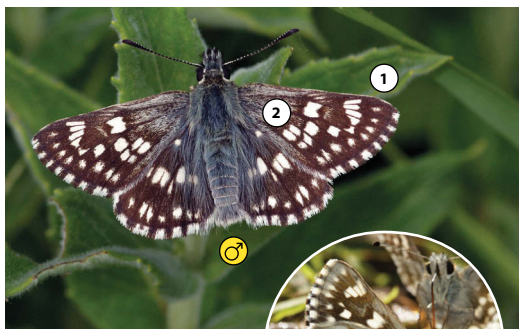


THE TURKEY ANATOLIA 6/10 - ONS TURKEY ANATOLIA 6/07



- ① Ups grey or brownish with a row of submarginal white spots on both wings
- ② Fw ups a single pair of elongated white spots
- ③ Hw uns yellowish-green with a broad white discal band and a white outer margin
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Large for a skipper

## SPINOSE SKIPPER · *Syrichthus cribrellum*



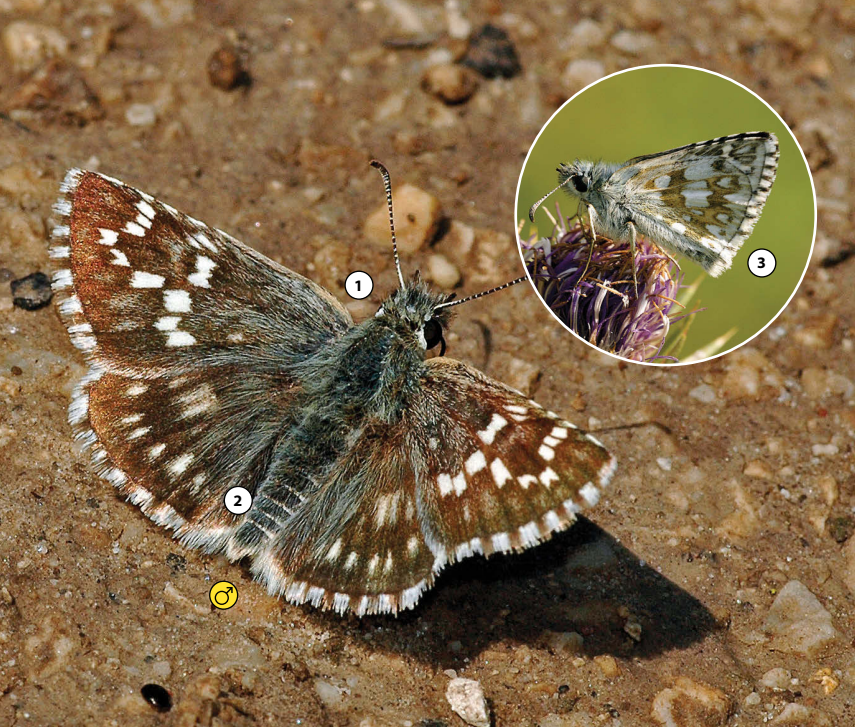
**A**n eastern steppe species with a few relict isolates in SE Europe (E Serbia, Romania, Rep N Macedonia, Bulgaria). Evaluated as Near Threatened in Europe; a very local and rare species with one brood from mid-May to July in dry meadows, grassy slopes and river valleys in the mountains up to 1300 m. Larva may feed on cinquefoils (*Potentilla*), unconfirmed.



ZKS 5 BULGARIA 6/09 - ZKS 5 BULGARIA 6/09



- ① Ups dark grey with a row of submarginal white spots on both wings
- ② Male fw ups two pairs of elongated white spots, usually one pair in female
- ③ Uns yellowish-grey with large white markings and white border
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Smaller than *S. tessellum*



## SAFFLOWER SKIPPER · *Pyrgus carthami*

HA HUNGARY 2006 · PHO. SÁMÁN PYRIGES 708

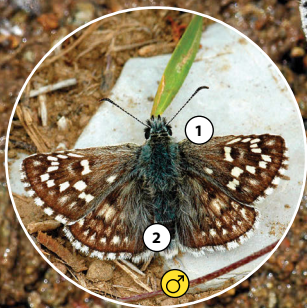
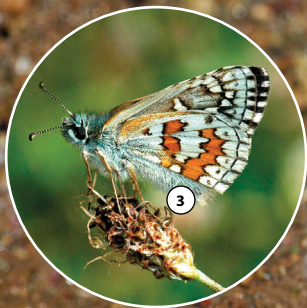
Identifying individuals from the genus *Pyrgus* in the wild is difficult, and sometimes impossible without capturing individuals for a closer peek. The Safflower Skipper, however, is one of the less frustrating subjects. Its most characteristic feature is an unbroken white margin on the hindwing underside, this being incomplete in all the other species. It is also noticeably robust for a skipper. It inhabits the warm, sheltered fringes of woods. In the eastern parts of the range the subspecies *moeschleri* is transitional to the nominate subspecies in Europe.

♂ *Pyrgus alveus*  
*Pyrgus sidae*



- ① Ups brownish-grey with dense grey hair at the wing base
  - ② A well-marked row of white elongated spots on hw outer margin
  - ③ Hw uns yellowish-brown with white marginal spots linked up to produce a pale border
- ★ Sexes similar
  - ★ Large for a skipper
  - ☞ One generation with a long flight period from May to August depending on the location. Sheltered grasslands, open grassy slopes, meadows and steppe habitats usually between 600 and 1,800 m.
  - ⊕ Widespread through most of S and C Europe except British Isles, extending to S Lithuania in the north. Usually common but not seen in great numbers.
  - ♣ Many cinquefoils (*Potentilla*), sometimes mallows (*Malva sylvestris*, *Althaea officinalis*, etc.).





## YELLOW-BANDED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus sidae*

Despite variability in its size and white markings, this skipper is unmistakable. The name says it all: two yellow or orange bands on a white background on the underside hindwing make it completely unlike any other *Pyrgus*. Unfortunately, this distinctive feature is obvious only in over-cast weather when individuals are sitting with closed wings. Some experts say that males patrol particular areas in flowery grasslands. This may indicate territorial behaviour or they may just prefer sites where females stay close to the larval foodplants.

➤ *Pyrgus carthami*



- ① Ups sooty brown with greyish hair at the base
- ② Hw ups a series of white submarginal spots
- ③ Hw uns two black-bordered yellow or orange bands and white margins
- ♀ Sexes similar
- ♀ Large for a skipper
- 🌿 One generation from mid-May to early July depending on the altitude; April–May in Greece. Grasslands characterised by scrub or light woodland, usually rich in flowers including cinquefoils; rocky gullies and sunny slopes up to 1,800 m.
- 🌐 Rather widespread but patchy in S Europe from SE France to Turkey; some isolated colonies in W Spain (ssp. *occiduus*). Locally common especially in the Balkans; populations usually tied to larval foodplants.
- 🌱 Cinquefoils, especially *Potentilla recta*.





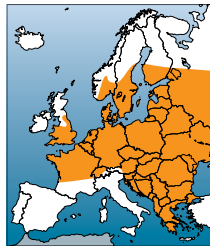
## GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus malvae*

**F**ast and small, giving the impression of an erratic fly as it dashes conspicuously about, the Grizzled Skipper is the spring's first skipper in the northernmost parts of its range. It is often seen in the company of the Green Hairstreak. Sometimes dozens of individuals are zooming around wild strawberries and other nectar sources blooming on warm rocky slopes in woodland. It is not uncommon in peat bogs either. Able to withstand the cold spring nights of the north, this is the most widespread *Pyrgus* in Europe.

➤ *Pyrgus malvoides*



- ① Ups almost black
- ② Numerous white spots, often with submarginal series on both wings
- ③ Hw ups a large rectangular spot near to the centre
- ④ Hw uns brownish with white ragged spots and brown veins (cf. *P. centaureae*)
- ⑤ f. *taras*; fw ups extended white markings
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ♂ Small for a skipper
- 🗓️ Mainly one generation from April to June; a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> brood in July–August in favourable conditions (cf. *P. malvoides*). Dry meadows and rocky slopes, forest edges and clearings up to 2,000 m.
- ⊕ Widespread though not always common through most of Europe from C France to S Britain and C Fennoscandia, but absent from the Iberian Peninsula and Italy. Has declined in many countries.
- 🌱 Many low-growing rosaceous species (*Fragaria*, *Potentilla*, *Comarum*, *Rubus*, etc.).



## SOUTHERN GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus malvoides*



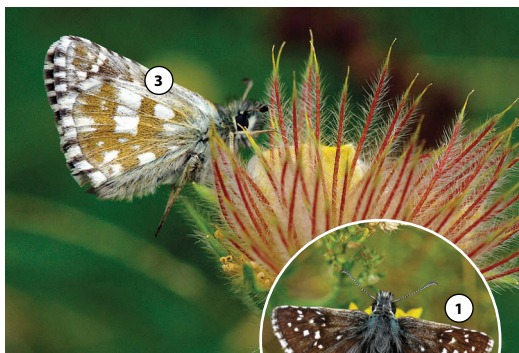
PH: ITALY SICILIA 5/10



- ★ Externally inseparable from *P. malvae*; identification based on genitalia

**E**ndemic to Europe; sometimes regarded as a double-brooded subspecies of *P. malvae*. The range extends from Portugal and Spain to peninsular Italy. It flies in April–June and again from late July to September (2<sup>nd</sup> brood not in high altitudes) in flower-rich meadows up to 2,500 m. Larva feeds on many rosaceous plants.

## OLIVE SKIPPER · *Pyrgus serratulae*



PH: ITALY 6/06 - TH: GREECE VARIOUS 6/06



- ① Ups dark brown with a variable number of white spots
  - ② Hw ups with some obscure pale patches or without markings
  - ③ Hw uns yellowish-green, an oval spot near costa and quadrangular central spot
- ★ Sexes similar

**W**idespread through most of Europe except all Mediterranean islands, Britain and Fennoscandia. One brood in May–July on south-facing slopes, warm grasslands and scrub in river valleys, typically between 1,000 and 2,600 m; also damp woodland clearings. Larva feeds on various cinquefoils (*Potentilla*).



## LARGE GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus alveus*

One of the largest *Pyrgus* species, this is also one of the most confusing due to its erratic arrangements of spots, not to mention its variable size. The Large Grizzled Skipper is probably a superspecies containing several elements which have not yet reached a stage of complete differentiation. Sometimes authors describe these as being closely related species like *P. accretus* and *P. trebevicensis*, while others regard them as subspecies, *scandinavicus* in Fennoscandia being one such example. Many more forms of the butterfly occur within its eastern haunts in Asia.

☉ *Pyrgus armoricanus*  
*Pyrgus cinarae*  
*Pyrgus bellieri*

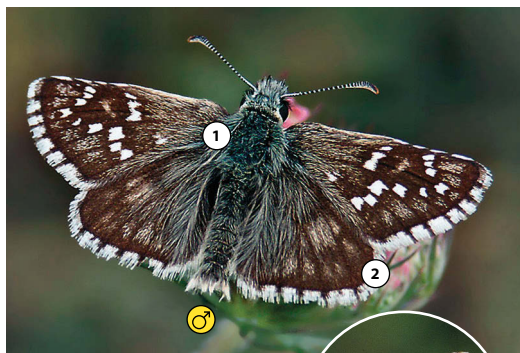


- ① Ups grey-brown with variable pattern of white spots
- ② Hw ups markings faint
- ③ Hw uns brownish-green with large white spots (f. *centralhispaniae*)
- ④ Male has a short tuft of white hairs at the anal tip of abdomen
- ⑤ f. or ssp. *scandinavicus*
- ★ Sexes similar

- ☞ Mainly one generation with a prolonged emergence between May and August, but usually in late June–August. Meadows and other grassy habitats, forest edges and clearings especially in uplands between 1,000 m and 2,000 m. A lowland species in the northern range.
- ⊕ Widespread but local and scarce throughout most of Europe; absent from the British Isles, Mediterranean islands and N Fennoscandia.
- ⊕ Various low-growing species in the genera of *Fragaria*, *Agrimonia*, *Helianthemum* and *Potentilla*.



## FOULQUIER'S GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus bellieri*



**E**ndemic to Europe; an alpine species with a limited distribution in NE Spain, SE France and C Italy. Very local but sometimes abundant populations with one brood from mid-July to August in alpine meadow slopes between 500 and 2,000 m. Larva feeds on cinquefoils (*Potentilla*).

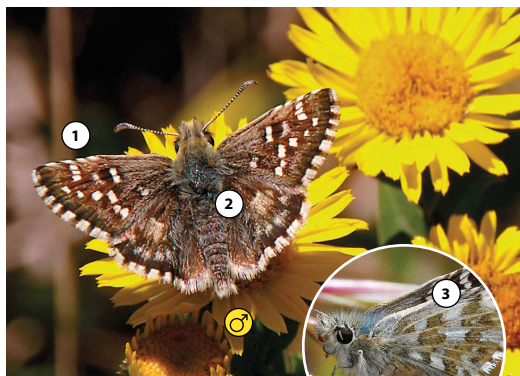


JMS N SPAIN, VENTOLA 7/08 · TJK FRANCE PROVENCE 11/13



- ① Fw ups hairy wing base
- ② Hw ups markings complete but suffused
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Closely resembles *P. alveus*
- ★ The name *P. folquieri* has also been used

## ROSY GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus onopordi*



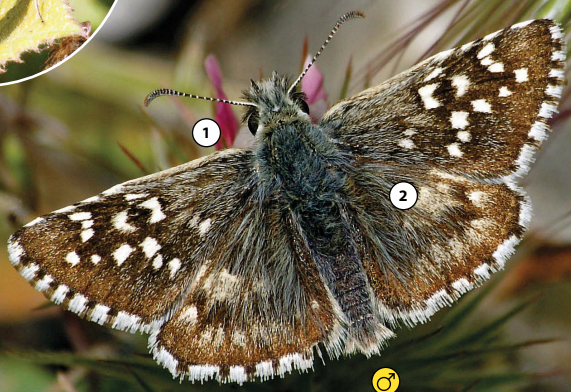
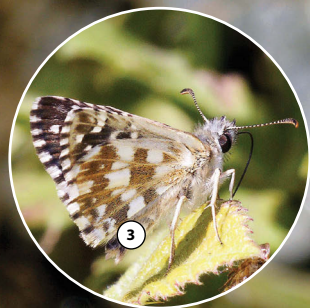
**W**idespread and locally common in SW Europe from Portugal to Switzerland and peninsular Italy. Either two or three broods between April and September in dry grasslands and meadows up to 2,000 m, late summer broods usually more abundant. Larva feeds on mallows, rockroses and cinquefoils.



PO S FRANCE PROVENCE 7/07 · HKS S SPAIN 5/08



- ① Ups sooty brown or reddish with white spots on both wings
- ② Hw ups a pale spot near costa
- ③ Hw uns a discal white area anvil-shaped
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Small for a skipper



## OBERTHÜR'S GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus armoricanus*

Identification problems with skippers cannot be avoided, especially in this case. Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper breeds over vast areas of Europe throughout the summer from April to October and inhabits various dry environments, causing confusion as some of its relatives also have a preference for such habitats. More abundant during the late summer, members of the second generation are easily confused with the Large Grizzled Skipper. Adults of later generations, however, are usually smaller. A characteristically bright upper-side and underside, with light veins on the underside, is also indicative of Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper in the southern regions.

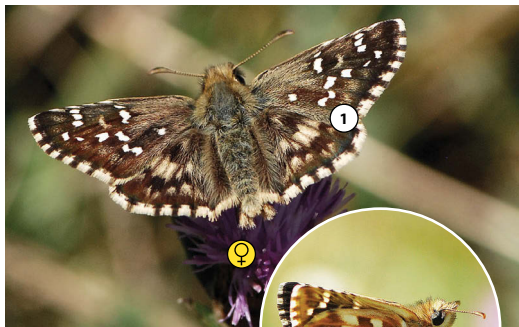
⊖ *Pyrgus alveus*



- ① Ups brown, wing base covered with pale scales
- ② Hw ups markings faint, a faint rectangular spot near to the centre
- ③ Hw uns two white arc-shaped spots near to the anal angle
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ☞ Mostly two generations; 1<sup>st</sup> brood in May–June, 2<sup>nd</sup> brood from July to October. In favourable conditions there may be three generations, but there is only one between June and July in the northern range. Hot and rocky habitats with scrub such as meadows, steppe and dry slopes, usually in lowlands, but up to 1,600 m.
- ⊕ Widespread and rather common in S and C Europe, including many Mediterranean islands, the range extending to southernmost Scandinavia in the north. Very sporadic and local in the northern range.
- ⊕ Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), several *Potentilla* species and *Helianthemum nummularium*.



## CINQUEFOIL SKIPPER · *Pyrgus cirsii*



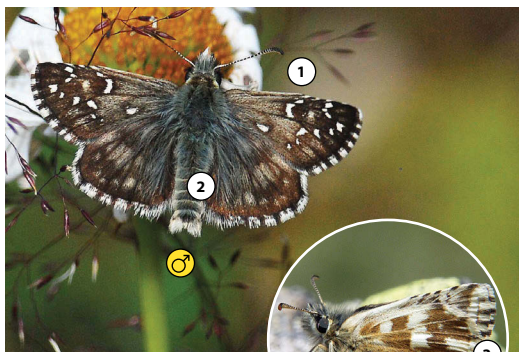
Sometimes regarded as a subspecies of *P. carlinae*; endemic to Europe, the range extending from Iberian Peninsula to S Germany in the north, with some marginal colonies in decline. Evaluated as Vulnerable in Europe. One brood from mid-July to early September in similar habitats to those of *P. carlinae* at lower altitudes (<1,306 m). Larva feeds on cinquefoils (*Potentilla*).



- ① Fw ups postdiscal white spots joined together in a sinuous mark
- ② Hw uns reddish, no white patch on hw outer margin
- ★ Sexes similar

THN SPAIN 8018 · THN SPAIN 8018

## CARLINE SKIPPER · *Pyrgus carlinae*



Endemic to Europe; a rare alpine species confined to Switzerland and border districts of France and Italy, overlapping with very similar *P. cirsii* in the French Alps. One brood between late July and August in meadows, woodland clearings and south-facing slopes at high altitudes between 600 and 2,500 m. Larva feeds on various cinquefoils (*Potentilla*).

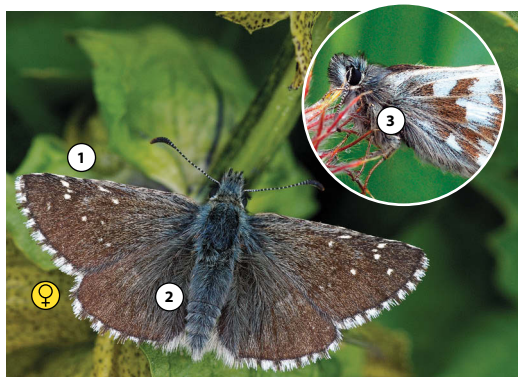


- ① Fw ups C-shaped white spot
- ② Hw ups faintly marked
- ③ Hw uns reddish-brown with a white patch on hw outer margin
- ★ Sexes similar

THN ITALY MONTE BALDO 8019 · MRS SWITZERLAND 7016

## DUSKY GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus cacaliae*

MAN SWITZERLAND 7009 · 4007 · MAN SWITZERLAND 7009



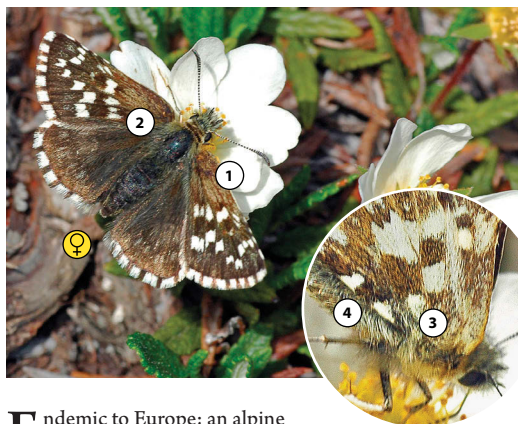
**E**ndemic to Europe; its range extends from SE France to Austria in the Alps; very sporadic in the highest mountains in SE Europe. Newly reported from Bosnia–Herzegovina. One brood from July to August in dry alpine grassland and screes on slopes, often near lakes and streams, typically between 1,000 and 2,800 m. Larva feeds on alpine *Potentilla* and *Sibbaldia* species.



- ① Fw ups small white spots
- ② Hw ups white markings weak or missing
- ③ Hw uns no white spot at the base (cf. *P. andromedae*)
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Only on alpine grasslands

## ALPINE GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus andromedae*

MAN ITALY 6006 · MAN ITALY 6006

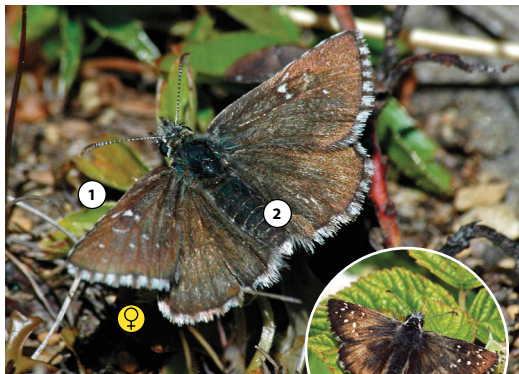


**E**ndemic to Europe; an alpine species with a scattered distribution in the Pyrenees, C European Alps, SW Bulgaria, the Carpathians and N Fennoscandia. One brood in June–July in alpine grasslands and moorlands between 1,000 and 2,700 m. Sporadic but locally common, often with *P. cacaliae* in the Alps. Larva feeds on *Dryas octopetala*.



- ① Ups dark brown with abundant pale hairs
- ② Fw ups three discal white spots below the cell
- ③ A white spot at base of hw uns (cf. *P. cacaliae*)
- ④ A white streak and a spot (a horizontal exclamation mark) on hw inner margin
- ★ Sexes similar
- ★ Only in the mountains

## WARREN'S SKIPPER · *Pyrgus warrenensis*



**E**ndemic to Europe; a very local alpine species in C European Alps from SW Switzerland to Slovenia. One brood between late June and early August in montane grasslands, sheltered alpine meadows and embankments beside streams, usually above 1,800 m. Larva feeds on rockroses (*Helianthemum*).

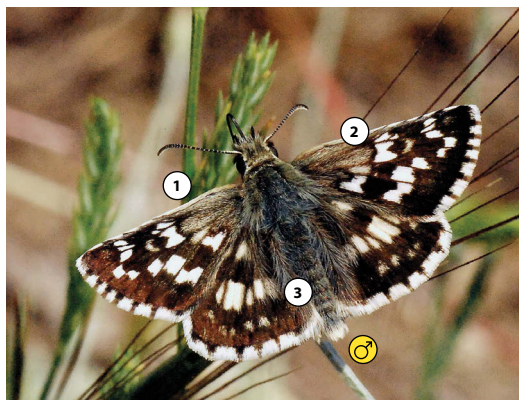


HA AUSTRIA 707 · HW SWITZERLAND VALAIS 707



- ① Ups dark brown with small white markings
- ② Hw ups with faint grey patches and without white spots
- ♂ Sexes similar
- ♂ Small for a skipper
- ♂ Only in the high Alps

## SANDY GRIZZLED SKIPPER · *Pyrgus cinarae*



TH TURKEY ANATOLIA 607



- ① Ups white markings very large
- ② Fw ups white cell-spot broad and constricted in the middle
- ③ A white band near to the centre on hw ups
- ♂ Basal and discal white markings well defined on hw uns
- ♂ Sexes similar, but white markings smaller and more numerous on female

**A**rare and local species in S Balkans and N Greece; isolated populations in E Spain are regarded as a smaller subspecies, *clorinda*. One brood from early July to early August in woodland clearings, rocky terrain and stony slopes, grassy hillsides and dry steppe habitats up to 1,900 m. Larva feeds on *Potentilla recta*.





## LARGE CHEQUERED SKIPPER • *Heteropterus morpheus*

This is often described as the most striking skipper in Europe, primarily because of two distinctive characteristics. Firstly, it is instantly identified by its unusual, characteristic bounding flight, as though the insect was bouncing up and down at the end of a piece of elastic just above some lush vegetation. Secondly, even in flight the dozen strong white ovals on the hindwing underside are obvious. As these features are relatively constant throughout the species' range, the Large Chequered Skipper is unlikely to be confused with any other skipper species.



- ① Ups dark brown with a few small white or yellowish spots on fw, more in female
- ② Hw uns yellowish with large black-bordered white spots
- ⊛ A bouncing flight pattern
- ⊛ Sexes rather similar

- ☞ One generation from late June to early August. Damp meadows and other sheltered grasslands in the transition between forest and high moorland, river banks, forest edges and clearings with tall grasses up to 1,000 m.
- ⊕ Scattered distribution in C Europe from the Pyrenees and C Italy to S Scandinavia and Estonia in the north. Very sporadic and local with low density of individuals throughout the range, in particular in the west; widely threatened by the drainage of the habitat.
- ⊕ Several tall grasses of the genera *Calamagrostis*, *Molinia*, *Phragmites*, etc.





## CHEQUERED SKIPPER · *Carterocephalus palaemon*

HA SC09EV 706 • HA N17ALV 708

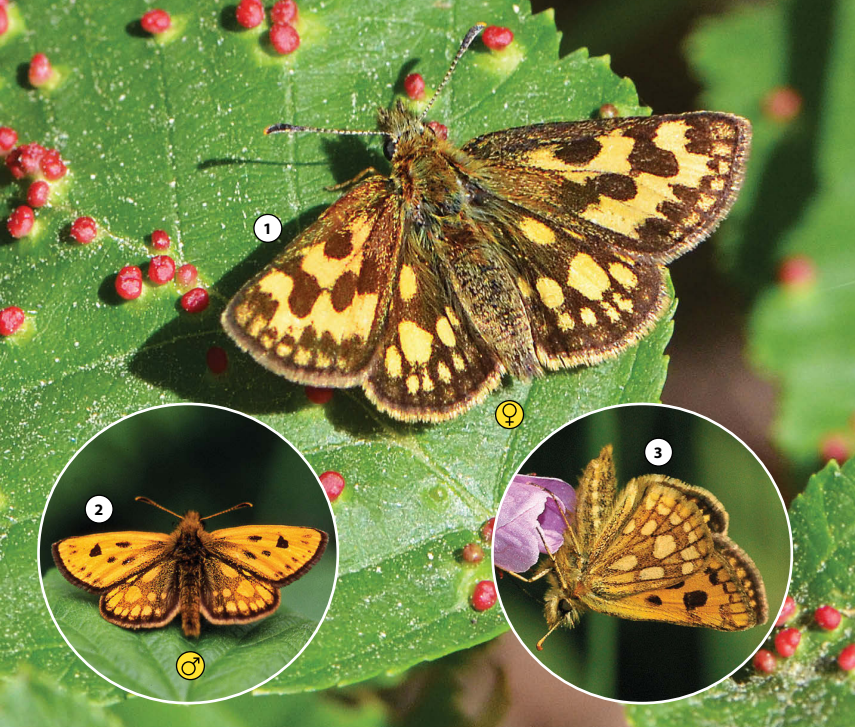
**C**hequered Skippers live in grasslands and swamps sheltered by nearby woodland, in cold and temperate regions right across the northern hemisphere. Males tend to congregate in small patches, making frequent short, investigative sorties from convenient perches. Females are unlikely to fly far from their natal habitat patch either. As with the larvae of the Large Chequered Skipper, it may be more than ten months before caterpillars are large enough to pupate. Fresh, growing food for a period of this length is provided only by favourably humid conditions.

➔ *Carterocephalus silvicola*



- ① Ups dark brown with yellow patches
- ② Fw ups yellow patches divided by black veins (cf. *C. silvicola*)
- ③ Hw uns dark-ringed white or light spots (cf. *C. silvicola*)
- ♂ Sexes rather similar
- ☞ One generation between May and June, at high altitudes till the end of July. Various semi-shaded environments, such as forest edges and clearings, grassy damp meadows and river valleys. In the southern range often in uplands above 1,000 m.
- ☞ Widespread all over C and N Europe except most of the British Isles and the surroundings of the Baltic Sea. Sporadic with local populations in calcareous and alpine regions; has declined in many countries. Extinct in England 1976, but reintroduced in Rockingham Forest, Northamptonshire, 2018.
- ☞ A wide range of grasses of the genera *Molinia*, *Calamagrostis*, *Brachypodium*, *Bromus*, *Dactylis*, *Alopecurus*, etc.





## NORTHERN CHEQUERED SKIPPER · *Carterocephalus silvicola*

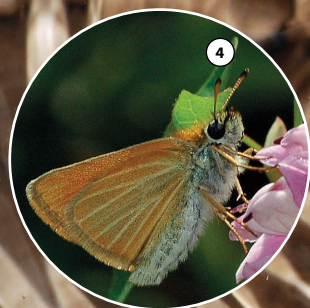
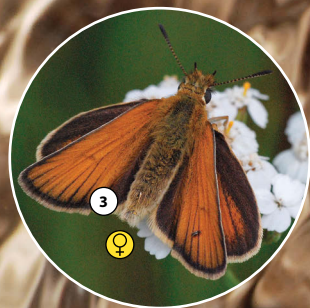
In Finland one can hardly miss this common species during the early summer. It is inevitably found visiting wood cranesbill flowers in precisely the same spot from one butterfly season to the next, although its numbers tend to vary between years. Males are more noticeable than females, which like to hide in the shadows between forest and meadow. Although eggs are laid on different grass species, one easily gets the impression that the nectar-giving wood cranesbill is the most important thing for the Northern Chequered Skipper – at least as far as the adults are concerned.

☞ *Carterocephalus palaemon*



- ① Female ups yellow with dark patches, yellow areas not divided by black veins
  - ② Male ups yellow with four black spots
  - ③ Hw uns with yellow spots (cf. *C. palaemon*)
- ☞ One generation from late May to late June. Luxuriant forest edges and clearings, woodland rides, damp meadows with tall grasses and river valleys in lowlands below 200 m.
- ⊕ Rather widespread around the Baltic Sea, including most Baltic islands, from NE Germany and Poland to C Fennoscandia. Common and abundant in Finland and the Baltic countries, endangered in Denmark.
- ⊕ A range of grasses such as *Milium effusum*, *Calamagrostis*, *Elytrigia*, *Cynosurus*, etc.





## ESSEX SKIPPER · *Thymelicus lineola*

This is a widespread 'golden skipper'. Male Essex Skippers, as with many other butterfly species, frequently congregate at muddy puddles, stream edges, carrion and animal droppings, where they imbibe moisture with minerals dissolved in it. In particular, they are taking in sodium ions. During their first mating, males transfer 32% of their abdominal sodium to virgin females, causing both increased fecundity and longevity. Access to sodium ions increases the total number of matings by 50% for males living more than two weeks.

☞ *Thymelicus sylvestris*



- ① Ups smooth brown (cf. *O. sylvanus*)
- ② Male sex brand short and broken
- ③ Fw ups a diffuse dark marginal border extends along veins (cf. *T. hyrax*)
- ④ Antennal tip black underneath (cf. *T. sylvestris*)

- ☞ Mainly one generation between May and August depending on the locality, mostly in June–July. All kinds of grass-dominated habitats; hayfields, meadows, roadsides and other human biotopes, forest edges and clearings up to 2,200 m.
- ⊕ Widespread and very common through most of Europe except many Mediterranean islands, N British Isles and N Fennoscandia; distribution expanded recently northwards in Britain and Finland. Introduced to N America, where it is a pest of hayfields.
- ⊕ A wide variety of grasses, including *Agropyron repens*, *Phleum pratense*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Holcus*, *Calamagrostis*, *Agrostis*, *Brachypodium*, etc.





## SMALL SKIPPER · *Thymelicus sylvestris*

To separate this species from Essex Skipper, check the undersides of the antennae tips – they are light orange-brown in this species but jet black in Essex Skipper. Both species are sometimes so numerous that they become pests of cultivated grasslands, most unusual in butterflies. Their larvae are small and largely nocturnal. Although these can survive on an array of grass species, the adult females fastidiously choose the right place and plant – probably according to their own experience during the larval stage. The problem is that timothy grass is among their favourite species. A well-irrigated and fertilised field of it is irresistible to these skippers.

➤ *Thymelicus lineola*  
*Thymelicus hyrax*



- ① Male sex brand long and curved
- ② Female fw ups a well-defined dark marginal border, not extending along veins (cf. *T. lineola*)
- ③ Antennal tip orange beneath (cf. *T. lineola*)
- ④ Uns orange with dusting of greyish scales at the tip of the fw and much of the hw

- ☞ One generation between late April and July, depending on the location. Usually emerges slightly earlier than *T. lineola*. Various grass-dominated habitats, dry grasslands and meadows, sunny slopes, forest edges and clearings up to 2,000 m.
- ☞ Widespread and very common through much of Europe, but absent from most Mediterranean islands, northern parts of the British Isles and Fennoscandia except Denmark.
- ☞ A wide variety of grasses, including *Phleum pratense* (timothy grass), *Holcus*, *Brachypodium*, *Festuca*, etc.

