



Eddie John and Christodoulos Makris: Butterflies of Cyprus: a field guide and distribution atlas

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Cyprus is the third-largest island of the Mediterranean Sea, and although it hosts just 56 butterfly species, several of those are endemic due to the peculiar geological history of this island. When I learned about this book, I expected a traditional field guide. However, this book is not merely a comprehensive species checklist but also a precious testament of how evolutionary biologists, entomologists, and conservation biologists work together to understand and safeguard biodiversity. I loved the book, which mainly consists of short, fluid, and well-written chapters, but I admit that I found the order of the initial eleven chapters funny. It would have been more logical to start with the evolution (Ch.1) and biological cycle (Ch.4) of butterflies, the biogeography (Ch.3) and habitats of Cyprus (Ch.5), followed by butterfly behaviour (e.g., migration, dispersal, aestivation, overwintering, mating, and nutrition, Ch.6), and phenology (Ch.8) in Cyprus. Then, I would have introduced the history of butterfly research on the island (Ch.2), its butterfly diversity (Ch.9), the known forms (Ch.7), the checklist (Ch.10), and residency (Ch.11). Over half of the book (Ch.12) is devoted to the description of the species, which include excellent photos of live individuals, updated maps, and detailed information about their distribution. Each description is accompanied by information about the species' phenology, larval hostplants, ecology and behaviour, and its conservation status in Cyprus. The final chapters cover potential changes to the checklist (Ch.13), the status of butterflies in Cyprus, some threats (Ch.14), and an overview of the conservation

efforts (Ch.15). I would not recommend this book to someone looking for an easy-to-carry field guide, but every butterfly lover should read it before visiting Cyprus. Some potential buyers may be discouraged by its price, but I found it justified by many beautiful colour photos. The book is a treasure for butterfly enthusiasts in Cyprus and the Middle East, and a beautiful example of how we can communicate butterfly research to the public. Ecologists and butterfly enthusiasts could only wish for other authors to follow the road paved by this book and produce similar outstanding material covering other islands and regions.

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