

Dear colleagues,

Well, here it is: the first issue of the "Maculinea Newsletter". We would like to start by wishing you a very happy New Year! We hope that many successful studies into Maculinea biology will be carried out in 1997. With pleasure we look back to the first International Maculinea Workshop in November last year. We hope - and think - that everyone enjoyed it as much as we did.

Homework

As you might recall, everyone received some homework at the end of the workshop. First of all, we asked you to carefully read and comment upon the introductory papers that Irma wrote for the "workshop book". This holds especially, of course, for the chapters that deal with your papers and study species. Secondly, we agreed to compile as much literature as possible on Maculinea distribution. All maps, papers reports, observations, etc. are needed to get a good picture of distribution patterns. Please send us everything you have. If the work is not in German, French, Spanish or English, please add a short summary of the contents of the information you are sending. To avoid extremely long delays, we would like to urge you to send your comments and information to us as soon as possible. February 1 is a good deadline, don't you think?

Maculinea

Network As we already let you know at the workshop, Dutch Butterfly Conservation wants to set up a network of Maculinea (-related) specialists in Europe. We are currently trying to draw up the first outlines of such a "Maculinea Network". Any suggestion or other contribution from your side is very welcome, of course. More news will follow in the coming issues of this Newsletter.

Publication of the workshop papers

One of the most important things that follows from the workshop is to get the results published in a peer-reviewed scientific book or journal. After consulting various editors and publishers, we came to the conclusion that the best option is to publish the contributed papers to the Workshop as a special issue of the new "Journal of Insect Conservation", published by Chapman and Hall. This choice will mean that your manuscripts will be refereed by an editorial board which is partly fixed and partly based on our own suggestions. Papers for a special issue are generally accepted more easily than manuscripts for a regular issue. However, please be aware that you should have a clear message, which is communicated through a concise style of writing, a good statistical treatment of your results, and try to avoid using too many graphs and diagrams. The entire special issue may comprise about 70 printed pages, so try to keep your contributions as short as possible.

Let's strive for a "Maculinea-issue" of high quality! The proceedings will be published not earlier than the beginning of January 1998. For a large part, the date of publication depends on the time it will take you to write your papers, and subsequently for the board of editors to realise the review

process. A copy of the Journal of Insect Conservation's Guidelines for Authors is added to this Newsletter. Please follow these guidelines closely.

Methods of Maculinea-research

Another thing we agreed upon at the end of the workshop is to compile a small booklet with "Standard guidelines for Maculinea-research". We have some suggestions for possible chapters : "Methods of studying Myrmica-populations" (Graham Elmes & Judy Wardlaw), "Standard methods for analysis of genetic variation in Maculinea species" (Koos Boomsma & Rebekka Gadeberg), "Methods of estimating population size" (Josef Settele), "Monitoring host plant populations" (Gerard Oostermeijer). Of course many more methodological chapters are possible. We invite you to send us your suggestions, along with a name for the most appropriate author.

Where to send your reactions to this newsletter, your manuscripts and reactions in general We prefer to receive your response by e-mail, if you have this available. However, fax, telephone, or regular mail will also do. All our numbers and addresses are given in the colofon on page 1. On the "Dutch Butterfly Conservation Homepage" on Internet you can also find the contents of this newsletter, along with other information about our organisation. Of course, we desperately need your contributions to this Maculinea Newsletter. Please, write to us if you have :

- ideas for research
- questions you would like to see answered by a Maculinea, Myrmica, Gentiana, Sanguisorba, or Thymus specialist.
- intentions for new research projects
- new observations
- distribution data
- new literature references (your own papers or any other refs you found).
- reports of successful or non-succesful conservation efforts.
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We look forward to receive your reactions!

With many greetings,

Dutch Butterfly Conservation

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