

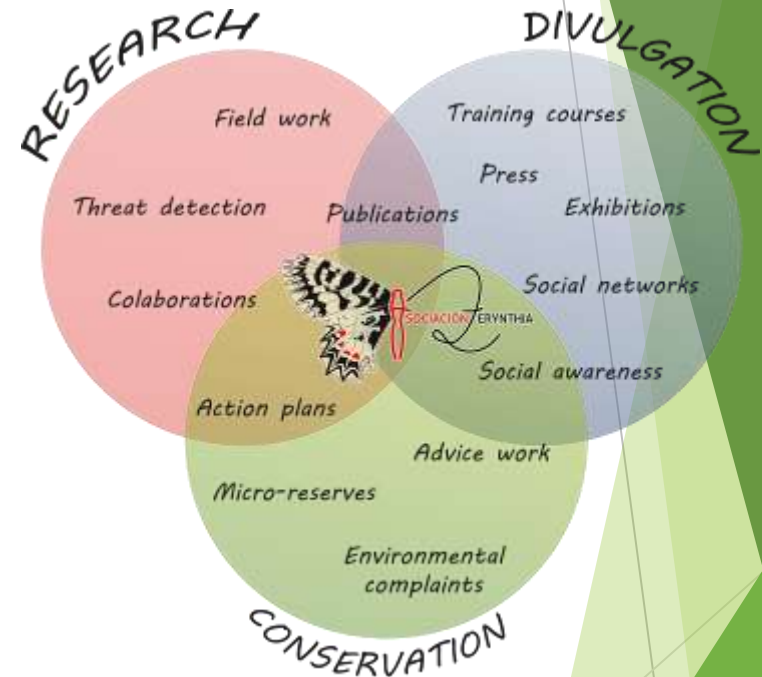
# ZERYNTHIA

## Spain



# ZERYNTHIA Association

- ▶ ZERYNTHIA was founded in 2006. It is the only national organization (NGO) which works for the Spanish butterflies and moths conservation.
- ▶ It takes its name from the *Zerynthia rumina* butterfly, a very representative butterfly of the Iberian fauna. It is very beautiful, almost endemic, and its colours are similar to those of the Spanish flag.
- ▶ Our association has three working lines:
  - Research
  - Divuligation
  - Conservation



# DIVULGATION

- ▶ We use, as much as we can, press, radio and publication of informative articles to transmit our projects, or significant aspects of the butterflies and their conservation.
- ▶ Usually this divulgation work is related to present the most representative or threatened butterflies in our country. We have published news related to species as *Euchloe bazae*, *Lemonia philopalus*, *Lemonia dumi*, *Actias isabelae*, *Proserpinus proserpina*, and others.





- ▶ **Website:** our website offers information about the organization, ongoing and already completed projects, photos, etc. It is possible to read our Twitter messages on the main page in real time.  
>>[www.asociacion-zerynthia.org](http://www.asociacion-zerynthia.org)<<



- ▶ **Videos:** although photographs are great to transmit the beauty of Nature in general and butterflies in particular, video goes further, allowing us to appreciate and to transmit the behaviour of both adults and immature stages of lepidoptera. We use this technology through Youtube and we include QR codes both on books and information panels to allow people to access to them with phones or tablets anywhere.



# CURSES AND EXHIBITIONS

- ▶ ZERYNTHIA organizes numerous **courses** to introduce butterflies to the general population. In these activities people learn how to distinguish the most common species and field trips are made to observe both butterflies and moths.
- ▶ We also organize **exhibitions**, in which we try to raise awareness of the need to conserve butterflies. In order to do this, these exposures include texts, photos and videos



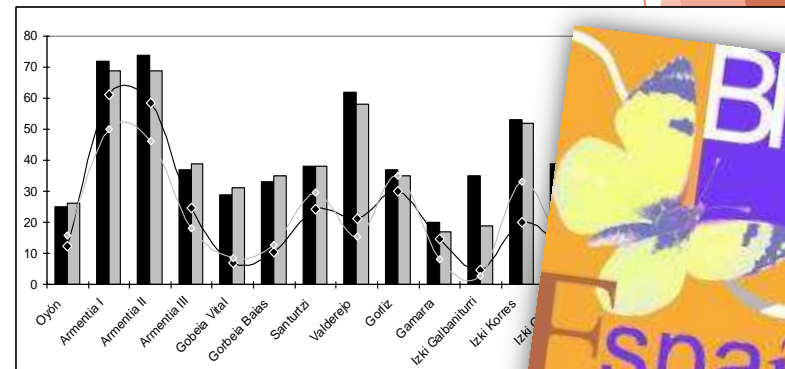
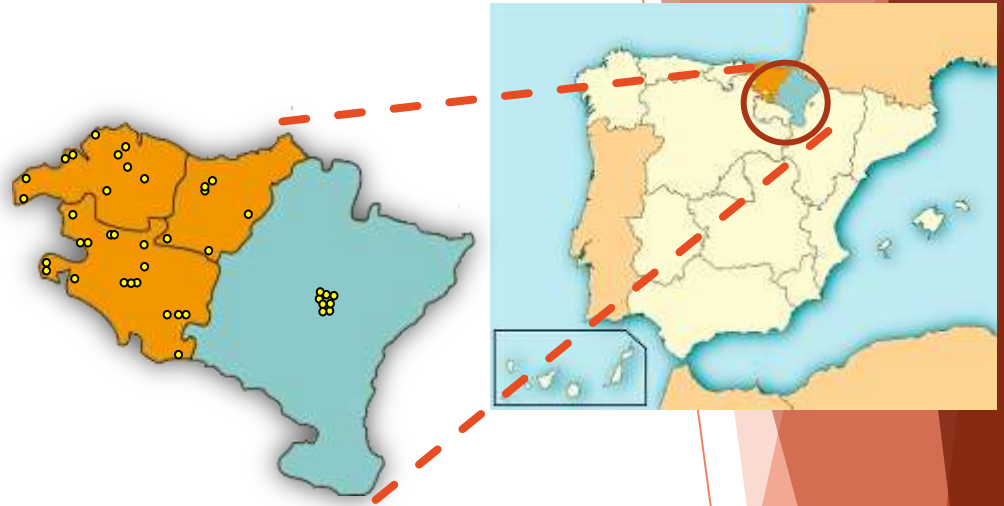
# SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- ▶ Our association has organized four editions of a national meeting for Spanish lepidopterologists so far.
- ▶ Last September we organized the first seminar focused on Spanish butterflies and moths conservation, with the invaluable help of BCE. As a result of this meeting, we have published the first **“National Action Plan for Spanish butterflies and moths conservation”**. Very important scientifics of our country have participated in this.



# BUTTERFLY MONITORING

- ▶ ZERYNTHIA is coordinating two projects for butterfly monitoring at the moment. One in the **Basque Country** and another one in **Navarre**. It also participates in the “BMS Spain”, assuming the coordination of a large area of the north of the country.
- ▶ The BMS program of the Basque Country started in 2008. This project has the larger number of transects and volunteers in Spain following the one working in Catalonia. In 2014 we had 33 working transects in this region.





# PUBLICATIONS

- ▶ There have been published several **articles** in professional journals, and some **books** with regional information about Spanish butterflies:
- ✓ “Mariposas Diurnas de la Comunitat Valenciana”
- ✓ “Mariposas Diurnas de La Rioja”
- ✓ “Mariposas del Valle de Aranguren (Navarre)”.





# CITIZEN SCIENCE

- ▶ People are very important in order to get interesting sightings about butterflies and moths.
- ▶ We are starting now to work with **Inaturalist**, creating some projects in which people will be able to report us data about Lepidoptera with precise coordinates and pictures directly from their phones.



# ENDANGERED SPECIES

► Our work has usually been focused on the most endangered species:

- We have written an “*Action Plan for the conservation of Lopinga achine and Carterocephalus palaemon*”. It has been the result of 3 years of field work in which we have collected a lot of data.
- *Pieris cheiranthi cheiranthi*: protected by the Canary Government as “*in danger of extinction*”.
- *Rhagades predotae*, an Spanish endemic Zygaenoidea.
- *Satyrrium pruni*, one of the most endangered species, with only 12 locations in our country and virtually without recent data. We are now studying a recently discovered population, and we are working on its conservation.
- *Actias isabelae*. Of course, it is one of our jewels. Last year we started a monitoring program of a population in Navarre.
- *Euchloe bazae*: a very scarce species, restricted to two desertic regions of Spain. It is in danger for the over-collecting and the expansion of irrigated crops.



# MICRORESERVES

- ▶ The first butterfly microreserve in Spain was created in 2009 in Huesca (Aragón, north of Spain) to protect a *Phengaris arion* population.
- ▶ We created another this year for *Phengaris nausithous* in Soria (Castilla y León). This is the type locality of this species in Spain and its conservation status was quite worrying because of the cow overgrazing. After just a year of management results are very evident and satisfactory.
- ▶ Next year we are planning to create the first microreserve for *Actias isabelae* in Navarre and we hope to continue working on this line with other endangered populations (and which usually are not legally protected) in the future.





# Thank you!

