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Mapping European Butterflies

Distribution Atlas of Butterflies in Europe

Otakar Kudrna Alexander Harpke Kristian Lux Josef Pennerstorfer Oliver Schweiger Josef Settele Martin Wiemers

Gesellschaft für Schmetterlingsschutz e.V. Halle 2011



Nine years have passed since the publication of 'The Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies' by the Naturschutzbund Deutschland (NABU) and the Gesellschaft für Schmetterlingsschutz e.V. (GfS) in March 2002.

The Atlas, the first distribution atlas of butterflies of any continent ever published, was then based on nearly a quarter of a million data records and contained dot based black and white distribution maps of all butterflies recorded in Europe. In his critical book review, the late C.M. Naumann called the Atlas "a milestone in the history of European lepidopterology".

Mapping European Butterflies (MEB) is a permanent task. Thus, the Atlas has given an impulse to form a small group of experts around the author of the "first edition", based at the Helmholtz UFZ in Halle. The MEB data bank has grown to contain at present almost 750,000 data records, of which over 650,000 can be utilized for the "second edition", constituting hitherto a completely new work of reference.

The new atlas, **'Distribution Atlas of Butterflies in Europe'** has been produced by the most up-to-date techniques, and been given a new title to distinguish it from the relatively simple first edition. All maps will be GIS based and printed in full colour and the zoogeographical analysis of the distribution data will be even better suited to serve scientific and conservation tasks targeting European butterflies.

The new Atlas will have around 600 pages in a slightly smaller format, about 16 x 24 cm, but with one map per page only, in full colour throughout. The publisher will be the Gesellschaft für Schmetterlingsschutz e.V. and all profit from the sale of the atlas will go to the continuation of the Mapping European Butterflies Project.

The recommended retail price will be €5 for a well bound hardback. The scheduled publication date is 28 September 2011. The prepublication offer is postage and packing free for orders received before 31 July 2011.

Parnassius phoebus (FABRICIUS, 1793)



Zoogeography: Restricted to mountains in the Alps, Urals, and Siberia, eastwards to Kamchatka; N. America: British Columbia and Rocky Mountains. – Holarctic FE.

- Conservation: RA 2. IUCN RL 2010: Europe NT, EU27 NT. FFH 93/43: NL. CRAEB: HR.
- Taxonomy: According to SHEPARD & MANLEY (1998) the European populations of *P. phoebus* deserve a species-rank and are to be called *Parnassius sacerdos* STICHEL, 1906 (Alpine FE, restricted to Europe, RA 4). MICHEL et al. (2008) reject this claim. HANUS & THEYE (2010) claim that the specimen described and figured as *P. phoebus* is in fact *P. ariadne* (LEDERER, 1853) and that the valid name of the species commonly known as *P. phoebus* should be *P. corybas* FISCHER VON WALDHEIM, 1823. We think that this case should be referred to the ICZN for their decision.