



France

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Butterfly list	Please refer to the Lepinet site for departmental species lists: Lepinet departmental species list

The country is vast and varied with a significantly richer butterfly fauna than the UK. We have asked a number of local experts to contribute information about their particular area and have received contributions on the Dordogne, la Brenne, Midi-Pyrénées; Lot, Hautes-Pyrénées, southern Loire, Poitou-Charentes, Var and Vaucluse. Please contact us if you wish to assist by contributing information on additional areas of France.

Books

Until recently the best book on French butterflies was Tristan Lafranchis' *Les Papillons de jour de France, Belgique et Luxembourg et leurs chenilles* (Collection Parthenope 2000 in French). This shows the distribution of each species by department but is now slightly dated and does not reflect the latest nomenclature nor the various splitting and lumping of species which has occurred since 2000.

La Vie des Papillons by Tristan Lafranchis, David Jutzeler, Pieter and Brigitte Kan and Jean-Yves Guillosson covers the ecology, biology and behaviour of the 260 butterflies of France, (published March 2015, Diatheo) 752 pages, over 3,000 photos. CD (windows only), with distribution maps. The book is designed to complement butterfly identification guide books. Text in French. Review in the EIG Newsletter No 18, November 2015. Available from [Diatheo](#) or British booksellers such as [Pemberley books](#)

Tristan Lafranchis' book ***Butterflies of France*** (published February 2014, Diatheo, in French) is a field identification guide to the butterflies of France. Format of one species per page, distinctive features are indicated with arrow markings with a key for difficult groups. It contains maps and distribution information on all French species. There is a chapter devoted to Burnet moths and day-flying moths of France.

The standard field guides in English such as Tom Tolman and Richard Lewington's ***Butterflies of Britain and Europe*** (Harper Collins, 1997 and updated 2008), and Tristan Lafranchis' ***Butterflies of Europe: new field guide and key*** (Diatheo, 2004) cover all the French species, text in English. This book is out of print, but has been updated and is available as a PDF from Diatheo, price 15€. [Butterflies of Europe / Diatheo](#)

Butterflies of Britain and Europe a photographic field guide (A & C Black London 2011) by Tari Haahtela, Kimmo Saarien, Pekka Ojalainen and Hannu Aarnio, is also a useful guide book from a team of Finnish naturalists, text in English.

Paolo Paolucci's book ***Butterflies and Burnets of the Alps and their larvae, pupae and cocoons*** (WBA Handbooks, 2013) has colour drawings of 254 butterfly species and 27 Burnet species, with concise information about distribution, habitat, host plants and flight period also a set of illustrations of larvae, pupae and cocoons for most species. Text in English.

Dr Otakar Kudrna's ***Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies*** (Oedipus 2002 and revised and updated in 2011) is a useful distribution guide. The third and updated Distribution Atlas (co-authored with Josep Pennerstorfer and Kristian Lux) published October 2015.

Available from: [nhbs Distribution Atlas of European Butterflies and Skippers](#), containing new distribution maps of all European species, with updated and rewritten species accounts. Hardback.

Online distribution maps from the LepiDiv project can be seen here: [Index European butterflies](#) text in English.

Butterflies of Europe and neighbouring regions (including North Africa) by Patrice Leraut, publication date May 2016, NAP Editions. The book covers all European butterfly species and their variations, 4800 photos, 500 colour plates and 800 pages of text.

Bibliography of the Lepidoptera of France (1593-2010) Sylvain Delmas, in French, published March 2015. This work analyzes all bibliographical references (over 18,000) in connection with the Lepidoptera of France, from 1593 to 2010 and is published jointly by the journals *Alexanor* and *Oreina*, with the support of the Natural History Society Alcide-d'Orbigny and the Entomological Society of Limousin. References include articles from French and foreign journals, books, study reports, theses etc. Three volumes. Volume I: Index authors. Volume II: Systematic index. Volume III: Geographic and thematic index.

Price of the three volumes 36 euros, excluding postage, from oreina, 29, rue de Flagy, 77940, Thoury-Férottes, France. email : [administration\(at\)oreina.org](mailto:administration(at)oreina.org).

Alain Hérès' book **Guide des Zygènes de France** (ARE 2011) has an identification key, photographs of adults and larvae, species description and details on host plants. Text in French.

Regional atlases

In some regions an atlas has already been produced, for example in 2009 both the **Atlas papillons de jour de Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur** and the **Atlas papillons du Puy-de-Dôme** were published. The recently published **Atlas des papillons de jour et zygènes de Bourgogne et Franche-Comté** is available from Bourgogne Nature. There is a review of this book by Dudley Cheesman in Newsletter 16, November 2014. Two of the atlas coordinators, Frédéric Mora and Alexandre Ruffoni, are our partners for Franche-Comté and Bourgogne respectively.

The Butterfly Atlas for Bretagne is due for publication in 2016. The atlas project was instigated by Bretagne Vivante www.bretagne-vivante.org

The **Atlas for the Nord-Pas-de-Calais** is under preparation by the GON organisation. (Groupe Ornithologique et Naturaliste) www.GON.fr

The Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de **Midi-Pyrénées** (more below) and **Languedoc-Roussillon** Atlas Languedoc-Roussillon are working together to produce a combined Atlas for the two regions. With an expected initial timescale of two years.

Papillons du Loiret GIL (Groupe d'Inventaire des Lépidoptères en région Centre). This departmental atlas is scheduled to be published at the end of 2015. The fruit of eight years work, illustrated with numerous photos and 60 original watercolours by Frédérick Archaux. Details and extract here: www.cen-centre.org

Websites and links

Roger Gibbons' website Butterflies of France www.butterfliesoffrance.com is an excellent photographic website with numerous photographs and some helpful advice on identifying blues and Pyrgus skippers. This website also has many links to other sites of interest to visitors to France. Matt Rowlings' excellent photographic website Matt's European Butterflies www.eurobutterflies.com covers many of the species you will encounter and the iPhone and iPad app *Butterflies of Europe* by Chris Manley, Matt Rowlings, Guy Padfield and Simon Coomes www.lepidapp.co.uk covers France and will be a very useful portable guide in the field.

Diatheo Tristan Lafranchis' website with videos, articles, distribution maps, downloads and news – www.diatheo.weebly.com

Lepinet (in French) Philippe Mothirons' extremely comprehensive site by French departments www.lepinet.fr/lep

Another delightful and comprehensive site by Philippe Bricaire, fleeting wonders (in French and English) with identification guide for Burnet moths www.fleetingwonders.com

Pathpiva the lepidoptera of Southern France and Corsica, an extremely comprehensive photographic site of butterflies with an extensive section on macro and micro moths
<http://pathpiva.wifeo.com>

Butterflies of the Rhône (69) and *Colias* study Timothy Cowles, photos and information of the butterflies and their habitat in the Rhône <http://felixthecatalog>

Videos

The lifecycle of butterflies in the Var Provence, exceptional videos and scientific publications by Brigitte and Pieter Kan, Filming VarWild (in French and English) www.filmimg-varwild.com

European butterfly websites

Moths and Butterflies of Europe and North Africa (English version) www.leps.it

Lepiforum Probably the most comprehensive European website (in German) www.lepiforum.de

European Lepidoptera and their ecology www.pyrgus.de (in English and German)

Peter Groenendijk's website has superb butterfly photographs, taken throughout Europe, including many from France <http://www.anythingbutcommon.nl/>

Partners

Our partners the association Oriena www.oreina.org and Proserpine www.proserpine.org.

Le sentier des papillons de Digne-les-Bains (Jardin des papillons) was created in 1999 in partnership with Proserpine. [Musée promenade - le sentier des papillons](http://www.musee-promenade-le-sentier-des-papillons.com) 139 butterfly species have been recorded at this site since 2002. **La saison des papillons de Provence**, second edition 2014, by Nicolas Maurel and Yves Doux, available from Proserpine.

www.proserpine.org/boutique

French national or regional or departmental websites (in French)

MNHN National Museum of Natural History, Paris www.inpn.mnhn.fr Inventaire Nationale du Patrimoine naturel (national inventory of natural heritage) enter species name under 'rechercher une espèce'. The species pages are in the process up being updated with the help of regional partners of the SINP scheme.

Noé Conservation The garden butterfly scheme was created in 2006 in collaboration with the MNHN. <http://noe.org/programme/observatoires-de-la-biodiversite-des-jardins/>

Vigie Nature (Coordinated by the MNHN) Garden butterfly count

<http://vigienature.mnhn.fr/page/operation-papillons>

CEN - MP. The Midi-Pyrénées Butterfly atlas website – Updated to include moths.

www.cen-mp.org/observations/atlasPapillons/

OPIE – Office for the protection of insects and their environment

www.insectes.org/opie/monde-des-insectes

Tela Insecta réseau de l'entomologie (Entomological network) www.tela-insecta.net

Papillons de l'Indre. Dept. 36 (Centre), the site covers all the Lepidoptera of the department. www.papillonsindre.fr

Les papillons de la Vienne www.6.pattes.fr, Dept. 86 (Poitou-Charentes)

Zygaenidae GIRAZ – Groupe d'Information de Recherche et d'Animation sur les Zygaenidae www.giraz.fr

Mini site for Zygaenidae, Midi-Pyrénées and Languedoc-Roussillon.

An online version of the Conservatoire d'espaces naturels de Midi-Pyrénées booklet "Les zygènes en Midi-Pyrénées et Languedoc-Roussillon".

The site contains a brief guide to the Zygaenidae family (of the MP and LR) and a step by step aid to identification. Site in English and French zygenes-mplr.eu

ASNAT. Les Amis des Sciences de la Nature. Les carnets nature, is a free digital magazine to enable fast dissemination of articles in all areas of natural sciences. Of particular interest in the regions of the Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi- Pyrénées asnaf.fr/dossier-carnetsnatures

Conservatoire des espaces naturels, there are 29 CEN's in France. [Conservatoire naturels d'espaces de France](http://Conservatoire_naturels_d'espaces_de_France)

Conservatoire Botanique National (11 regional botanical conservatoires in France) [Fédération des Conservatoires botaniques nationaux](http://Fédération_des_Conservatoires_botaniques_nationaux)

There are seven National Parks within Metropolitan France [www.Parcs nationaux.fr](http://www.Parcs_nationaux.fr)

Presentation of the Natura 2000 network on the INPN/MNHN site. [Natura 2000](http://Natura_2000)

Projects

The association **Gard Nature** <http://gard-nature.com> (Languedoc-Roussillon) is working on a project to produce a pocket photographic guide to the butterflies of France for the general public. They are looking for good quality photos, taken within metropolitan France, and welcome participation from EIG members. If you wish to assist please send photos by WeTransfer (<https://www.wetransfer.com/>) to the authors and coordinators, Jean-Laurent Hentz and Jean-Pierre D'Hondt at papillons@gard-nature.com

All photographs will be credited to the photographer in a section at the end of the book.

Invitation to assist with the Red List for the Lepidoptera of Corsica

We have been contacted by our colleague Marie-Cécile Ruiz from the Corsican Environment Office. The OEC-OCIC (the Observatoire for the Insects of Corsica of the Corsican

Environmental Office) is working towards a Red List of the Lepidoptera of Corsica. This comprises all butterflies, and several macro-moth groups. In the initial stages, they are looking for information and records on the distribution of Corsican Lepidoptera, particularly after 2004, in order to centralise existing records. The records will be rigorously evaluated and used to establish a working list of the distribution of butterflies, population sizes, eventual threats etc. They hope to obtain IUCN status for this list. Please send records to Marie-Cécile using the EIG recording form.
[Marie-cecile.Ruiz\(at\)oec.fr](mailto:Marie-cecile.Ruiz(at)oec.fr)

Invitation to participate in the Atlas of Butterflies and Burnet Moths for the Aquitaine

The Aquitaine comprises 5 departments: the Dordogne, Lot and Garonne, Pyrénées-Atlantique, Landes and the Gironde. David Soulet, our colleague from the CEN Aquitaine, (Conservatoire d'espaces naturels) is coordinating the Butterfly Atlas project of the Aquitaine. Together with the LPO Aquitaine (Ligue pour la protection des Oiseaux) the CEN are working on a preliminary synthesis. This documented synthesis of the status of the butterflies and burnet moths of the Aquitaine will serve as a framework from which regional surveys can be implemented.

The CEN welcomes the assistance of EIG to work in collaboration for specific surveys during 2016 / 2017. In the meantime, please send records, using the EIG recording form, to David : d.soulet@cen-aquitaine.fr with a copy to Thomas Gachet, the geographic engineer for the CEN Aquitaine : t.gachet@cen-aquitaine.fr

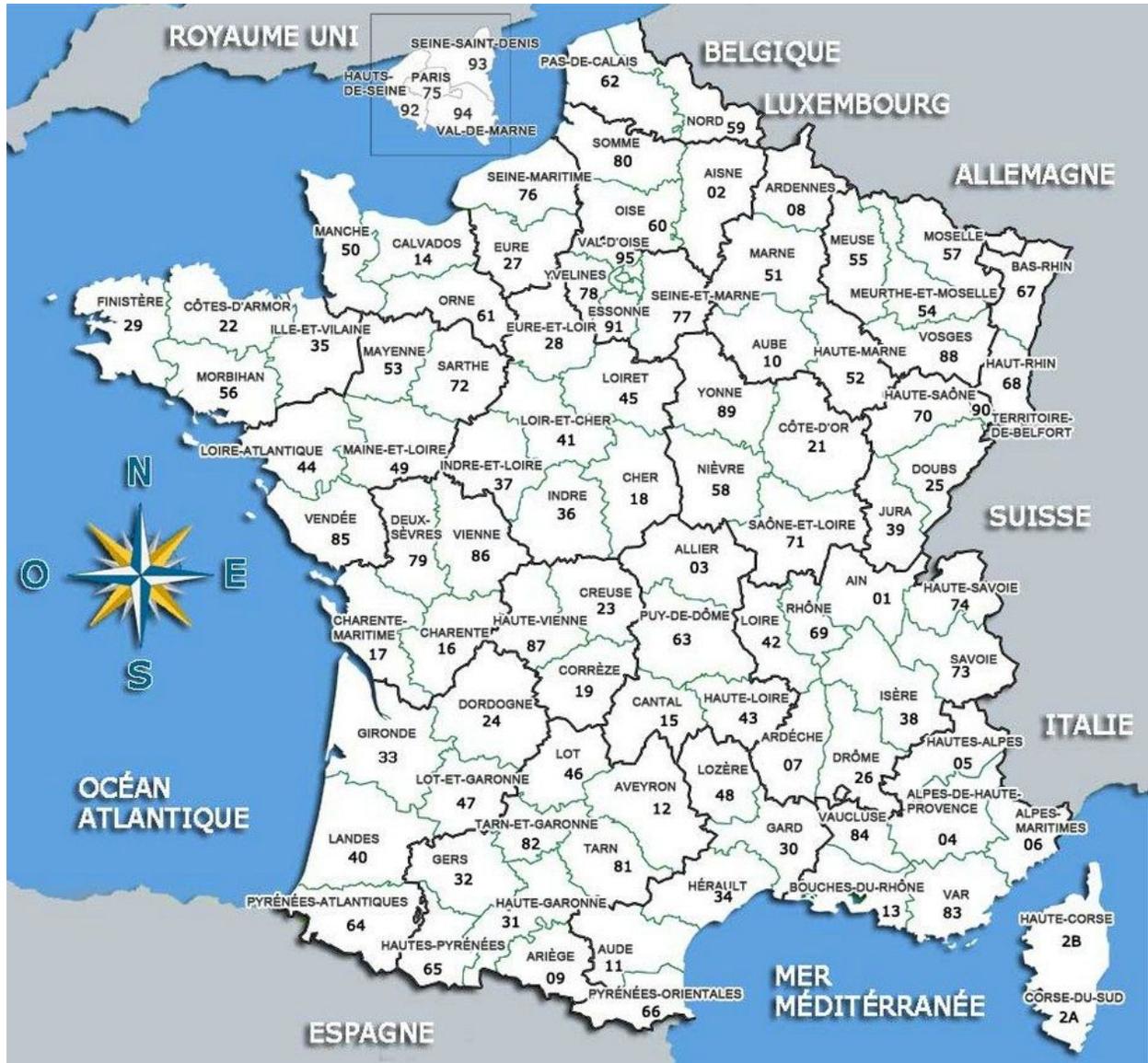
Sites and Species

France covers an area of just over 550,000 km² and is the third largest country in Europe, metropolitan France is one of only three countries to have both Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines. It is a country with a wide variety of landscapes and a very rich flora, with coastal plains in the north and west, mountain ranges of the Alps comprising mainland Europe's highest mountain (Mont Blanc 4.810 m), the Massif Central in the south-central and the Pyrenees in the south-west forming the boundary with Spain. Forests account for approximately 25% of the land mass. The area along the Mediterranean coast has a different climate and is dominated by maquis vegetation.

There are ten Parcs nationaux (National Parks) in France, seven within metropolitan France : Vanoise (1963), Port-Cros (1963), Pyrénées (1967), Cévennes (1970), Écrins (1973), Mercantour (1979), Guadeloupe (1989), La Réunion (2007), Guyane (2007) et les Calanques (2012).

The Réserves Naturelles de France also manage 296 sites of over 30 000 km².

France (including Corsica) is home to 260 butterfly species, with 16 species considered critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. (See the IUCN Red List link below) France has 26 Prime Butterfly Areas principally located in a belt stretching from Bordeaux across to the Alps with only two PBA's in the north and one in Corsica.



Endemics

There are no species wholly endemic to France although there are a number of 'near endemics' – species shared with only one other country – the species on Corsica as an example which are shared with Sardinia or False Dewy Ringlet (*Erebia sthenyo*) which flies on both the French and Spanish slopes of the Pyrenees.

Butterfly Red List

Metropolitan France – you can see the IUCN red list at the bottom of the document - La liste rouge des espèces menacées en France: [Red List France](#)

According to this report, 16 species are at risk in France and another 18 species threatened in the categories CR, EN and VU (critically endangered, endangered and vulnerable).

The conservation status of butterflies in France based on the European Red List is relatively good since approximately 88% of the species are classified as Least Concern. However, butterflies have very specific food and habitat requirements at different stages of their lifecycle so they are very sensitive to changes in their environment, especially to habitat management such as overgrazing, undergrazing or changes in forestry practices. For example, butterfly populations fell substantially in the 1970s and 1980s due to an intensified agricultural policy and developing urbanism.

The Hermit (*Chazara briseis*) which was once widespread has regressed by 30% over the last 10 years and is now considered Vulnerable. (Source IUCN)

Recording groups, schemes, and partners in France:

The partners listed below are a selection of local experts working in the field, many of whom are working on a butterfly atlas and the PNA (national plan of action) *Maculinea* (*Phengaris*). Our partners welcome records from EIG members for their regions, so that they can be incorporated into the atlas and the PNA / PRA.

The PNA (national plan of action) for the *Maculinea* species which are found in France was instigated in 2009. The PRA (regional plan of action) for *Maculinea* and other threatened species is being implemented in regions where one or more *Maculinea* species are present. Please do send in your records using the EIG recording form to the departmental partner (list below) with a copy to [info\(at\)eig.org.uk](mailto:info(at)eig.org.uk)

Please contact me if I can be of assistance with the transfer of records, I am happy to correspond in French, I can provide a covering note and liaise with EIG partners.

In some cases records should be entered on the online recording schemes.

There have been issues with collectors when the exact site details of very rare species have been published. A certain amount of caution is advised but only for exceptionally local species, species such as *E. maturna*.

Photographic evidence is always useful in support of records, especially for the difficult species such as *Pyrgus*.

For a list of departmental species please refer to the Lepinet link: [Lepinet departmental species list](#)

For all Ringlet (*Erebia*) records please send details to Michel Savourey [savourey73\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:savourey73(at)gmail.com) (see Rhône-Alpes – Savoie). Michel is responsible for the inventory of *Erebia* of France. He is particularly interested in receiving recent records (from 2000) across the Pyrenean range also photographs including eggs, caterpillars, species habitat, and host plants.

The records submitted by EIG members will be transferred to Pascal Dupont at the MNHN ([National Museum of Natural History](#)) National Inventory of Natural Heritage, by the SINP scheme. ([Système d'information sur la Nature et les Paysages](#)) This scheme was set up by the Minister of Ecology to structure the data on a regional and national level.

It is EIG's policy to always refer data to the most local of recording schemes – the equivalent of the UK's county recorders. We believe that this gives the best chance for accurate determinations and that contact between EIG members and local recorders will be to mutual advantage.

Alsace : ODONAT Office des Données Naturalistes d'Alsace
Raynald MORATIN [raynald.moratin\(at\)odonat-alsace.org](mailto:raynald.moratin@odonat-alsace.org)
Online recording scheme www.faune-alsace.org

Aquitaine : CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
David SOULET [d.soulet\(at\)cen-aquitaine.fr](mailto:d.soulet@cen-aquitaine.fr)
EIG (Dordogne) David Simpson [audave\(at\)2505@yahoo.fr](mailto:audave(at)2505@yahoo.fr)

Auvergne : Association entomologique d'Auvergne
Philippe BACHELARD [pbachelard\(at\)shnao.net](mailto:pbachelard@shnao.net)

Basse-Normandie et Pays-de-Loire : GRETIA Groupe d'Etude des Invertébrés Armoricaux
Claire MOUQUET [direction\(at\)gretia.org](mailto:direction@gretia.org)

Additional departmental contacts for GRETIA:

La Bretagne (iles anglo-normandes)

Maël GARRIN [mael.garrin\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:mael.garrin@gmail.com)

Pays de la Loire Franck HERBRECHT [f.herbrecht\(at\)gretia.org](mailto:f.herbrecht@gretia.org)

Jean-Alain GUILLOTON/AER Dept. 44 and 85 [ja.guilloton\(at\)hotmail.fr](mailto:ja.guilloton@hotmail.fr)

Marc NICOLLE Nicolle Dept. 49 [marc.nicolle\(at\)sfr.fr](mailto:marc.nicolle@sfr.fr)

Rodolphe BECAN Dept. 72 [rodolphe.becan\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:rodolphe.becan@wanadoo.fr)

Olivier DUVAL Dept. 53 [duvalolivierpascale\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:duvalolivierpascale@orange.fr)

Bourgogne : Société d'histoire naturelle d'Autun
Alexandre RUFFONI [shna.ruffoni\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:shna.ruffoni@orange.fr)

Centre : GIL Centre Groupe d'Inventaire des Lépidoptères en région Centre
Antoine LEVEQUE [archiearis\(at\)yahoo.fr](mailto:archiearis@yahoo.fr)

La Brenne (**Centre**) : LPO Ligue pour la protection des Oiseaux
EIG Tony WILLIAMS [lpo.brenne\(at\)aliceadsl.fr](mailto:lpo.brenne@aliceadsl.fr)

Champagne-Ardennes : CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
Romain LECONTE [rlaconte\(at\)cen-champagne-ardenne.org](mailto:rlaconte@cen-champagne-ardenne.org)

Corse : Office de l'Environnement de Corse
Marie-Cécile Andrei-Ruiz [mcruiz\(at\)oec.fr](mailto:mcruiz@oec.fr)

Franche Comté : Conservatoire Botanique National Franche Comté – Observatoire Régionales
Invertébrés
Frédéric MORA [frederic.mora.ori\(at\)cbnfc.org](mailto:frederic.mora.ori@cbnfc.org)

Haute Normandie : CREN Conservatoire Regional d'espaces naturels
Matthieu LORTHIOIS [m.lorthiois\(at\)cren-haute-normandie.com](mailto:m.lorthiois@cren-haute-normandie.com)
Also to the MNHN partner at the CREN, Adrien SIMON [a.simon\(at\)cren-haute-normandie.com](mailto:a.simon@cren-haute-normandie.com)

Ile de France : OPIE Office pour les insectes et leur environnement
Raphaëlle Itrac-Bruneau [raphelle.itrac-bruneau\(at\)insects.org](mailto:raphelle.itrac-bruneau@insects.org)
Also to the MNHN partner for the OPIE- Ile de France
Florence MERLET [florence.merlet\(at\)insects.org](mailto:florence.merlet@insects.org)

Languedoc-Roussillon : CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
Alexis RONDEAU [alexis.rondeau\(at\)cenlr.org](mailto:alexis.rondeau@cenlr.org)
Also to the MNHN partner at the OPIE-LR Office pour les insectes et leur environnement
Stéphane JAULIN [stephane.jaulin\(at\)insects.org](mailto:stephane.jaulin@insects.org)

Limousin : Société Entomologique du Limousin
Romain CHAMBORD [romain.chambord\(at\)selweb.fr](mailto:romain.chambord@selweb.fr)

Lorraine : Société Lorraine d'Entomologie
André CLAUDE [lor.lepido\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:lor.lepido@orange.fr)
Also to the MNHN partner at the CREN-Lorraine, Julien DABRY [j.dabry\(at\)cren-lorraine.fr](mailto:j.dabry@cren-lorraine.fr)

Midi-Pyrénées : CEN Conservatoire d'espaces naturels
David DEMERGES [david.demerges\(at\)espaces-naturels.fr](mailto:david.demerges@espaces-naturels.fr)
EIG Jude LOCK [jude.lock\(at\)orange.fr](mailto:jude.lock@orange.fr)

Nord-Pas-de-Calais : GON Fédération Nord-Nature, Groupe Ornithologique et Naturaliste du
Nord-Pas-de-Calais
Robin QUEVILLART [robin.quevillart\(at\)gon.fr](mailto:robin.quevillart@gon.fr) please use the online recording scheme
www.sirf.eu

Picardie : Picardie Nature

Sebastien MAILLIER [sebastien.maillier\(at\)picardie-nature.org](mailto:sebastien.maillier@picardie-nature.org)

Online recording scheme obs.picardie-nature.org

Poitou-Charentes : Deux-Sèvres Nature Environnement (Regional coordinator)

Nicolas COTREL [nicolas.dsne\(at\)laposte.net](mailto:nicolas.dsne@laposte.net) (Nicolas works in collaboration with Neil Wilding)

3 of the 4 departments have online recording schemes:

Deux-Sèvres : www.nature79.org/

Charente: www.faune-charente.org/

Charente-Maritime www.faune-charente-maritime.org/

EIG Neil WILDING [neil.wilding\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:neil.wilding@wanadoo.fr)

Provence-Alpes-Côtes d'Azur (PACA) : Conservatoire d'espaces naturels

Stéphane BENCE [stephane.bence\(at\)cen-paca.org](mailto:stephane.bence@cen-paca.org)

Rhône-Alpes – Savoie (73) and Erebia of France : Société d'histoire naturelle de la Savoie

Michel SAVOUREY [savourey73\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:savourey73@gmail.com)

Rhône-Alpes – Isère : FLAVIA Association Dauphinoise d'Entomologie

Dept. Ain (01), Ardèche (07), Drôme (26), Isère (38), Loire (42), Rhône (69), et Haute-Savoie (74)

Yann BAILLET [quenseli\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:quenseli@hotmail.com)

Zygaenidae France : GIRAZ Groupe d'Information de Recherche et d'Animation sur les Zygaenidae

Eric DROUET [edrouet.zyg\(at\)wanadoo.fr](mailto:edrouet.zyg@wanadoo.fr)

www.bc-eig.org.uk

Jude Lock December 2015