

Owing to the importance of butterflies as indicators of environmental quality and their usefulness as model systems to address ecological and evolutionary questions, butterfly biology has become a focus of research, especially within Europe. This book synthesizes all relevant and recent knowledge in the field, making this a definitive work for those making use of this taxonomic group as a model system. It is divided into five major parts which deal with habitat use, population ecology and genetics, evolutionary ecology, distribution and phylogeny, and global change and conservation. There are growing numbers of scientific projects and networks in Europe in which the use of butterflies as tools and targets for conservation is central, and application of knowledge is closely related to European cultural landscapes. However, the material can also be applied to a wide geographic scope. Written by an international team of experts, this timely book is suitable for students, researchers and enthusiasts.

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Cover illustration (front) "the Small Copper (*Lycena phlaeas*) – a still widespread European grassland butterfly" (copyright: J. Settele); (back) "the Short-tailed Blue (*Capula argyrea*) – which presently increases its range under climate warming" (copyright: J. Settele); (spine) "the specialist larval-pupal parasitoid wasp (*Trigona lupulator*) after emergence from the pupa of the Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*)" (copyright: J. Settele).

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