

## Lepidopterofaunistic Observations in the Peri-Urban Area of Bistrița

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**Abstract:** The Bistrița area encompasses habitats classified under the pan-European EUNIS system: from forests and meadows to surface waters and built-up areas, where (so far) a total of 124 species of diurnal and nocturnal butterflies have been recorded.

Of these, 84 belong to the superfamily Papilionoidea. A few of the species with endangered or Natura 2000 status include: *Cupido alcetas* (EN), *Argynnis laodice* (VU), *Pieris brassicae* (NT), *Aglais io* (NT), *Phengaris alcon* (NT), *Cupido osiris* (NT), *Parnassius mnemosyne* (LC), *Lycaena dispar* (LC), *Lopinga achine* (NT).

Nocturnal butterflies have been relatively recently observed (starting in 2024), with some species of particular interest: *Dysgonia algira* (NT), *Eriogaster catax* (NT).

All of these 124 species have been observed and photographed using a mobile phone, with field work carried out either solo or in groups (e.g., Ruralis Association).

Habitat degradation through deforestation, construction of houses in natural areas, and pollution (from household waste or chemicals) may lead to the loss of important butterfly species.

The number one solution to counter these phenomena is raising public awareness about the degradation of these habitats, as well as the beauty and importance of these local treasures.

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