



Ionian Butterfly Conservation (IBC) Code of conduct

This code of conduct is offered as a helpful, non-exclusive set of guidelines intended to support the aims of IBC. The group is comprised of experts, enthusiasts and beginners based in the Ionian, the UK and elsewhere and we kindly request that you are considerate and supportive to other users in the group. IBC welcomes new members and is keen to expand and engage with local residents of all ages from across the whole Ionian archipelago and to encourage their active involvement in the group.

- **Behaviour – in relation to the well-being of the butterflies, moths, other fauna and their habitats**

The aim of IBC is to foster a greater awareness and understanding of the butterflies, moths and their habitats in the Ionian, to maintain and enhance biodiversity on the island and to ensure its presence for ever and in perpetuity. Furthermore, to this end the group seeks to help inform residents, visitors and planning authorities of the importance of butterflies and moths as part of a balanced and healthy ecosystem.

Whether you are a beginner, an enthusiast or an expert, we suggest the same guidelines apply when observing butterflies. It does not matter if you are in your own garden, in a park or on a remote Ionian island, if you are on your own or part of a group, it is always important to consider the well-being of the butterflies, moths and their associated habitats at all times. Members should take care to minimise disturbance and avoid damage to habitats, food plants and nectar sources.

The netting and collecting of butterflies is forbidden in the Ionian and elsewhere in Greece and is only allowed under very specific circumstances for scientific research and with the appropriate license from the relevant government authorities.

- **Behaviour – in relation to environment and land owners**

When visiting a site, please take care to park sensibly and responsibly, preferably off-road. Do not block entrances and always take note of any notices or signs where you park.

Take special care when entering areas with livestock, especially cattle, sheep and goats. Herds of sheep and goats are usually attended by a shepherd and one or more dogs. Greek mountain dogs are very protective of their flocks and can be very aggressive. Simple rules for responding to troublesome dogs are:

- Don't run, just walk away calmly as possible facing the dog.
- Do not shout or wave your arms if the dog jumps up
- If the shepherd is around follow their orders as directed.
- If you take pet dogs with you these should be under your control.

When out in the countryside it is best to keep to recognised paths where possible. We know the pursuit of a specimen can lead us on a merry dance across the fields, but remember it may well be private land so please treat it with respect. Try to cause minimum damage to the vegetation.

● **Personal Safety**

Due to changes in climate it is more important than ever to be aware of weather conditions. Summer temperatures can reach 40° but even in spring and autumn the sun is very strong. It is easy to get burnt without realising and sunstroke is a potential hazard. To avoid this, it is best to wear a hat and protect the neck and exposed limbs with sun cream. Some mountain terrains can be quite rough so wear sensible shoes or boots.

Take regular breaks, it is particularly important to take shade in hot weather.

Always take a bottle of water (preferably not plastic) to avoid dehydration and a couple of high energy fruit bars for sustenance. A packet of band aid plasters and some paracetamol are useful to carry with you to deal with blisters, grazes and headaches.

Always carry a phone and make sure the battery is fully charged before you go out and carry a whistle. If you plan to go on your own it is good practice to let someone know where you are going and what time you expect to return just in case you get into difficulties.

Please note that mobile phones may not work in some remote areas. In case of an emergency remember that the European Emergency Number is (112). The what3words app is an excellent addition to your phone that helps to locate exactly where you are if injured or lost: www.what3words.com/products/what3words-app

● **Responsibility to the IBC.**

The aim of the IBC is to contribute to the awareness and understanding of the butterfly and moth populations in the Ionian region in order to maintain a healthy level of bio-diversity on the island. As a member of the group, your contribution to the recording of sightings is welcomed and indeed essential in mapping and monitoring the butterfly population. These recorded sightings will provide important data from which it is hoped to eventually produce an atlas of species present on the island. The species guide on the website: www.ionianbutterflyconservation.org

has a lot of detailed information to assist with identification and members of our various Facebook groups are always helpful in responding to members enquiries about their sightings.



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