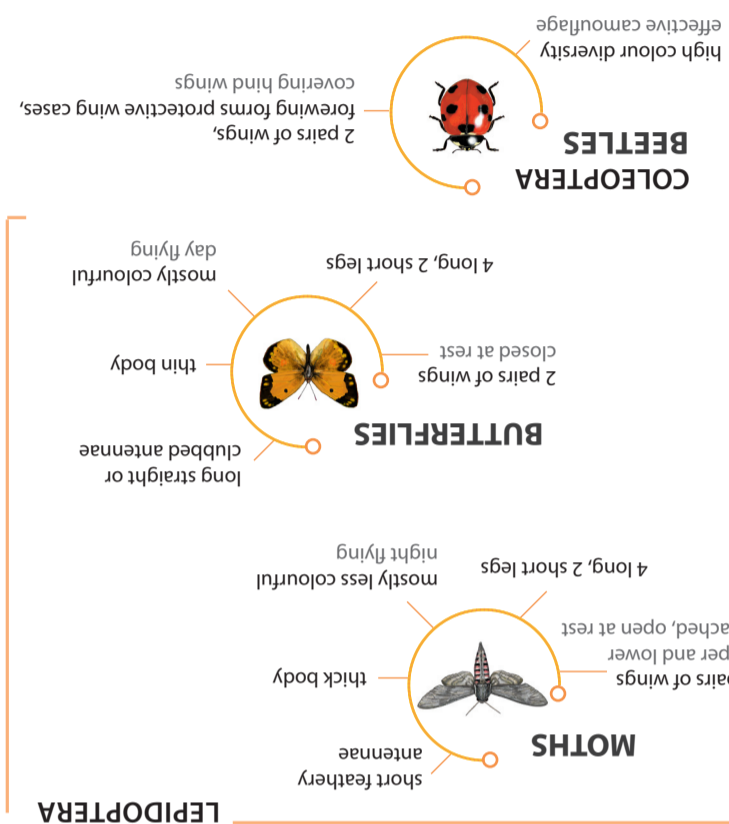


MOTHS

BUTTERFLIES



POLLINATING INSECTS

BUTTERFLIES AS POLLINATORS

Due to their great aesthetic value and their transformation of metamorphosis that they undergo in their life cycle, butterflies are possibly one of the groups of insects most appreciated by naturalists and the general public. There are butterflies of many colors and sizes and, unlike their sisters the moths, they tend to have daytime activity. Adult Lepidoptera (which also include moths) have a lick-sucking mouthpart called a proboscis, which serves to feed on the nectar of flowers. This characteristic makes them insects that play a fundamental role in plant-animal interactions, and therefore pollination. Like the rest of the groups of pollinators, very important declines have also been registered in their populations in recent decades, which has led them to gain special attention not only for the fact that they are very efficient pollinators but also for being excellent bioindicators of ecosystem health.

MOTHS AS POLLINATORS

Moths have been frequently ignored as pollinators due to the lack of knowledge about their biology, but recent studies place them as a very important group of pollinating insects, with plant species that depend exclusively on them to be able to reproduce. Apart from suffering the same threats as other groups of pollinators (climate change, loss of habitat, use of pesticides,...), nocturnal pollinators such as moths are also affected by light pollution, increasing their vulnerability especially in areas urban or interurban, so conservation efforts need to be intensified for this group.

LIFE 4 POLLINATORS

The aim of the project is to improve pollinator conservation by creating a virtuous circle leading to a progressive change in practices across the Mediterranean region.



In Mediterranean countries (Spain, Italy, France and Greece) there is inadequate awareness about the role of wild pollinators and the importance of conserving their diversity. This knowledge gap is one of the main obstacles to proper planning of successful programmes to address the main drivers behind pollinator decline and ensure sustainable management and restoration of the remaining high-value pollinator habitats.

The project will contribute to a range of EU policy and legislation, including amongst others the biodiversity strategy, the pollinators initiative and biodiversity protection under the common agricultural policy.



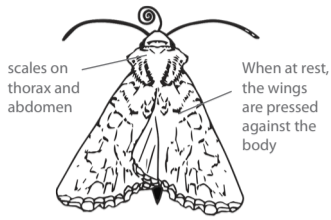
The LIFE 4 POLLINATORS project (LIFE 18 GIE/IT/000755) has received funding from the LIFE Programme of the European Union



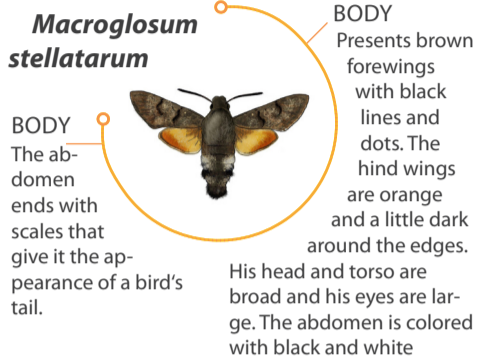
MOTHS

IDENTIFYING MOTHS

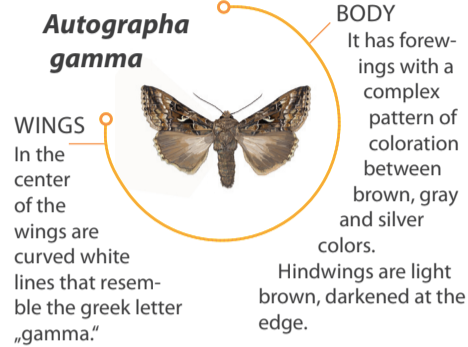
Moths are nocturnal, so during the day it will be difficult to see them flying. Traditionally they have been classified in the Heterocera group of Lepidopterans and are the largest group of Lepidopterans. In general, moths differ from butterflies by the following features:



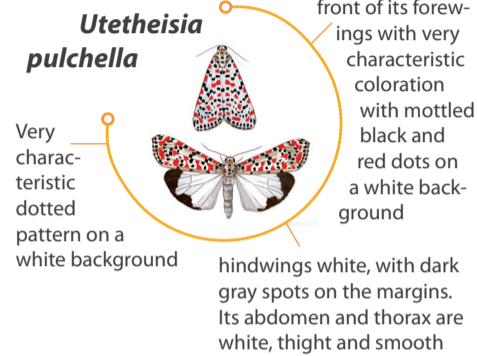
1. Moths have feathery or sharp-edged antennae while butterfly antennae are usually smoother
2. When at rest, moths are prone to hold the wings down, pressed against your body and parallel to the ground. On the other hand, butterflies are prone to holding their wings in an upright position.
3. Generally, moths have much duller colors than butterflies and their bodies are shorter and wider, and they often have scales on their thorax and abdomen.



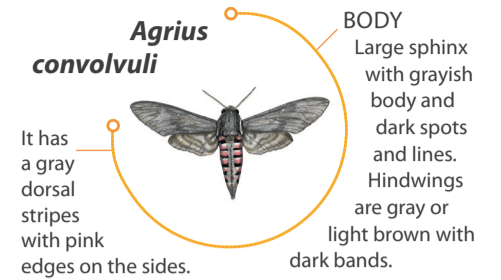
DIMENSIONS: 40–45 mm



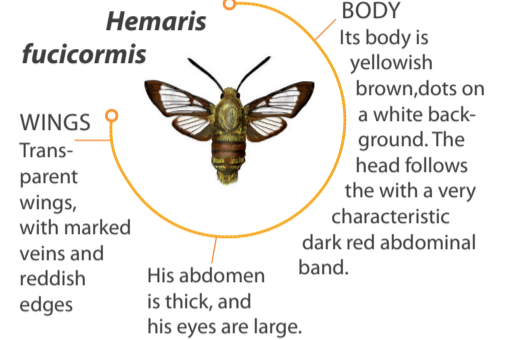
DIMENSIONS: 40–55mm



DIMENSIONS: 29–42mm



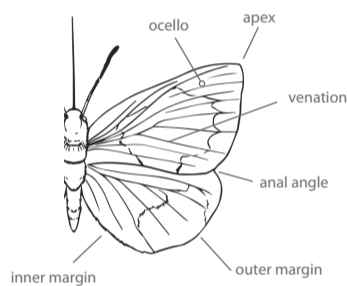
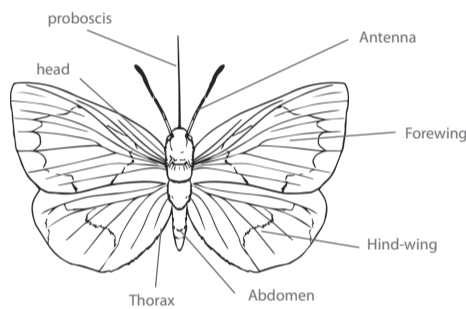
DIMENSIONS: 80–105mm



DIMENSIONS: 40–45mm

BUTTERFLIES

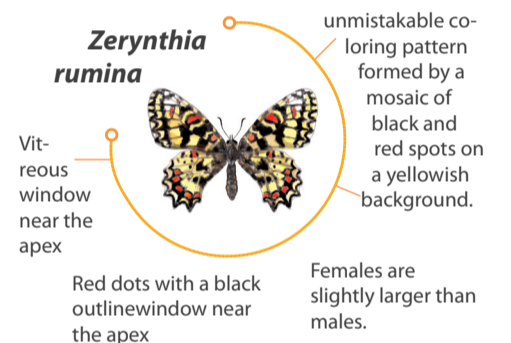
IDENTIFYING BUTTERFLIES



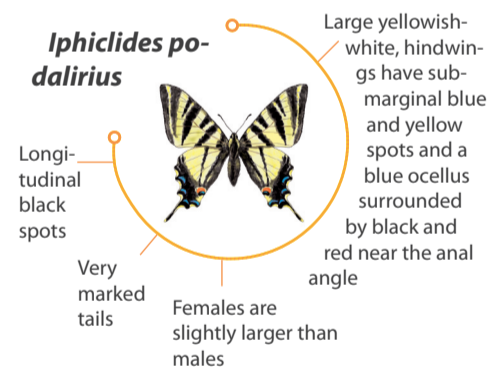
SUBMIT YOUR IMAGES TO:
www.life4pollinators.eu/submission

For more information on pollinators, please visit:

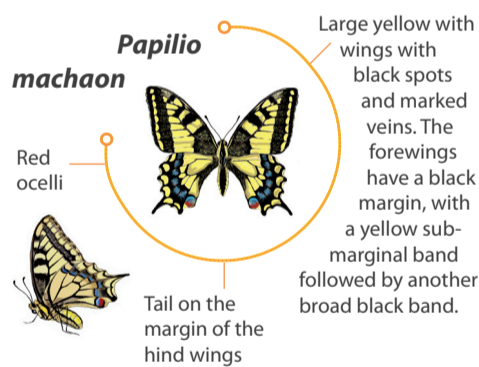
www.life4pollinators.eu



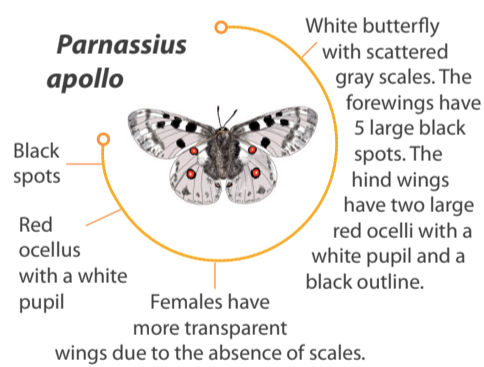
DIMENSIONS: 18–29mm



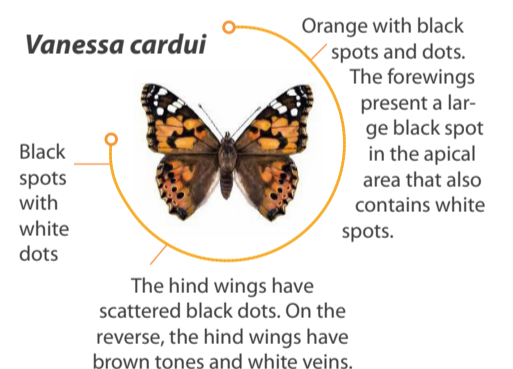
DIMENSIONS: 31–46mm



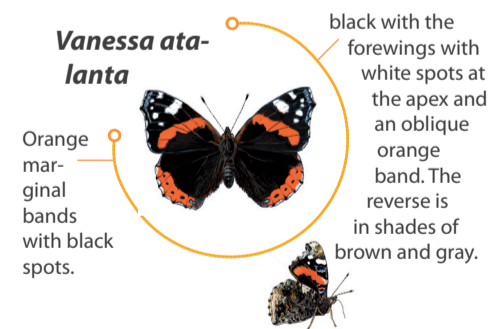
DIMENSIONS: 32–47mm



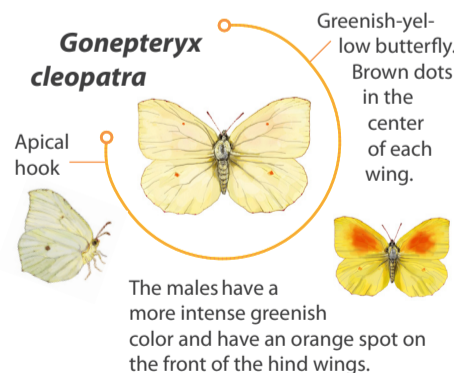
DIMENSIONS: 28–46mm



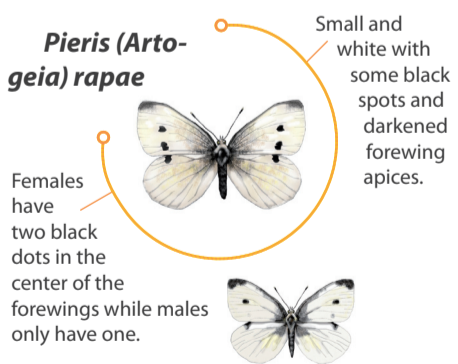
DIMENSIONS: 21–34mm



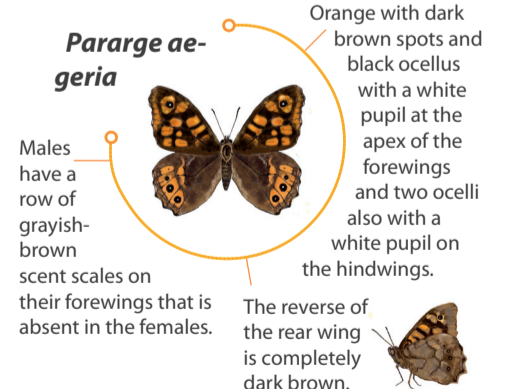
DIMENSIONS: 25–32mm



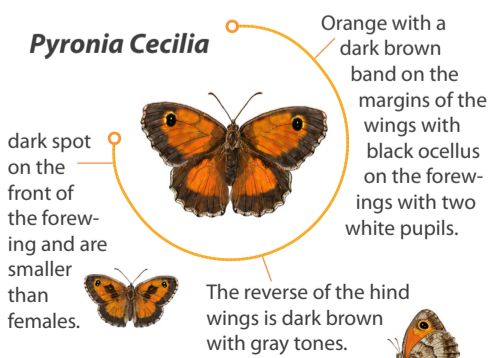
DIMENSIONS: 23–33mm



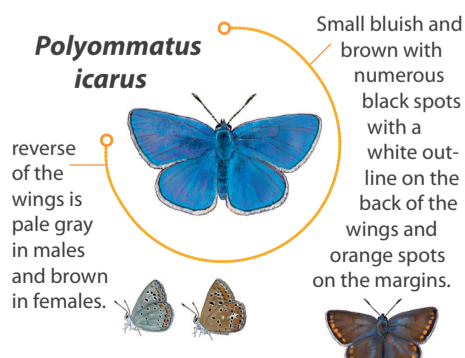
DIMENSIONS: 16–27mm



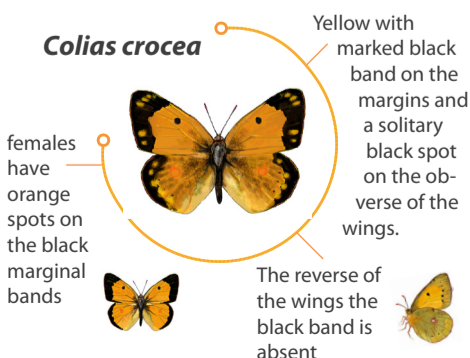
DIMENSIONS: 19–23mm



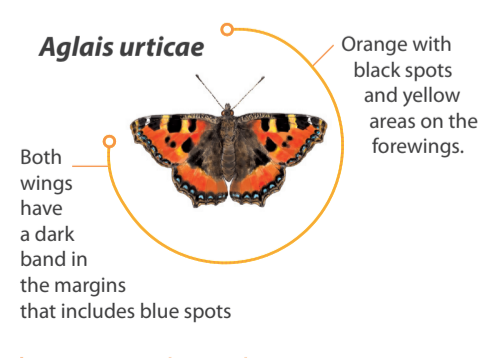
DIMENSIONS: 15–21mm



DIMENSIONS: 9–17mm



DIMENSIONS: 22–26mm



DIMENSIONS: 20–30mm