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An annotated Checklist of the Italian Butterflies and Skippers (Papilionoidea, Hesperioidea)

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Abstract

We present here an updated checklist of the Italian butterflies (Lepidoptera: Hesperioidea and Papilionoidea) organised in the following sections (tables):

1. Introduction, providing a broad outline of the paper.
2. Checklist proper, summarised in a table, listing, in separate columns:
 - a. Indications of endemicity (sub-endemic, Italian endemic).
 - b. The relevant Annex in the Habitats Directive (legally protected species).
 - c. Threat levels (in Europe: for threatened species only).
 - d. A serial number (whose format is uniform across all Italian animal groups). This number runs throughout all the following tables (see 3, 4).
 - e. Name, author, date of publication.
 - f. Schematic overall indication of each specie's Italian range (N[orth], S[outh], Si[cily], Sa[rдинia]).
3. Nomenclature, containing basic nomenclatural details for all listed genera, species and some of the generally or historically recognised subspecies and synonyms.
4. Notes, where a variety of other information is provided, on a name by name (family, subfamily, genus, species, subspecies) basis. All remaining doubts as concerns each individual case are clearly stated.

The number of nominal species listed in the previous edition of this checklist, published almost 20 years ago, was 275, whereas it has raised to 290 in the current list. The status of about a dozen of these remains controversial, as discussed in the text. The present checklist is meant to provide an update of the Italian butterfly fauna, taking into account all relevant publications, and tries to explain all nomenclatural changes that had to be introduced, in the appropriate section. Many detailed comments are offered, when necessary or useful, in the notes.

Key words: biodiversity, taxonomy, nomenclature, conservation

Introduction

This Checklist of the Italian butterflies inevitably derives from, and tries to maintain continuity with, the former and much simpler edition which some of us published almost 20 years ago (Balletto & Cassulo 1995). Since all checklists of the Italian fauna, listing almost 60,000 nominal species in total, are based on an identical format (Minelli *et al.* 1993–1995), also this new edition retains all the original basic features, even though it is now organised in three main tables, namely:

Checklist at-a-glance, where genera are listed by the original taxonomic order and species alphabetically, apart from a few cases where a name change has occurred with respect to the former edition of this checklist. For each taxon we have maintained i) indications of endemicity; ii) of conservation status iii) a number of order, as a string of 7 (genus group names), or 11 digits (species group names), thereby providing compatibility with the previous edition, as well as for insertions or deletions becoming necessary along time. The same numerical order is maintained throughout the tables; iv) name authorship/date of publication and v) Italian general distribution, indicated by the acronyms N [orth Italy], S [outh Italy, comprised central Italy], Si [cily], Sa [rдинia] (Balletto & Cassulo, 1995).

Nomenclature, where all nomenclatural details of each name are provided. Many more names are listed in this

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