

Summary Butterfly Interim Report 2019

Within the framework of the Interreg project AgriNatur AT-HU, the butterfly fauna on arable land and associated marginal areas in the Danube Floodplain National Park (Vienna part) was investigated in the project year 2019.

Butterflies are a good indicator for the overall floristic and faunistic biodiversity due to their easy detectability and their close connection to different environmental factors.

On six arable land areas and their margins and two reference areas (fallow and semi-arid grassland) recordings were carried out on 10 dates between April and September. The methodology of the survey followed the guidelines of the European Butterfly Monitoring Scheme.

A total of 41 different butterfly species were found in the investigated areas. This corresponds to 40% of the 105 butterfly species currently occurring in Vienna. The field margin transects, in which 33 butterfly species were found, proved to be particularly species rich. The six field transects were relatively poor in species with 14 species recorded, 15 species were found on the investigated fallow land.

The Habitats Directive species Large Copper (*Lycaena dispar*) was found on the project sites, as was the Sail Swallowtail (*Iphiclides podalirius*), which is considered endangered in Vienna. In addition to the 2 mentioned species, another 14 species that are endangered or threatened in Vienna were found in the study area.

In the project year 2019, the Painted Lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*) was by far the most common species in the recorded transects. In total, five species accounted for about 60% of all individuals observed on the project sites:

Painted Lady butterfly (*Vanessa cardui*) 21 %, Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*) 12 %, Cabbage White (*Pieris rapae*) 10 %, Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*) 9 %, Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*) 8 %.