





# The most remarkable migrants

Why migratory insects are  
vital for our ecosystem

Will Hawkes

[@Hawkes\\_Will](https://twitter.com/Hawkes_Will)



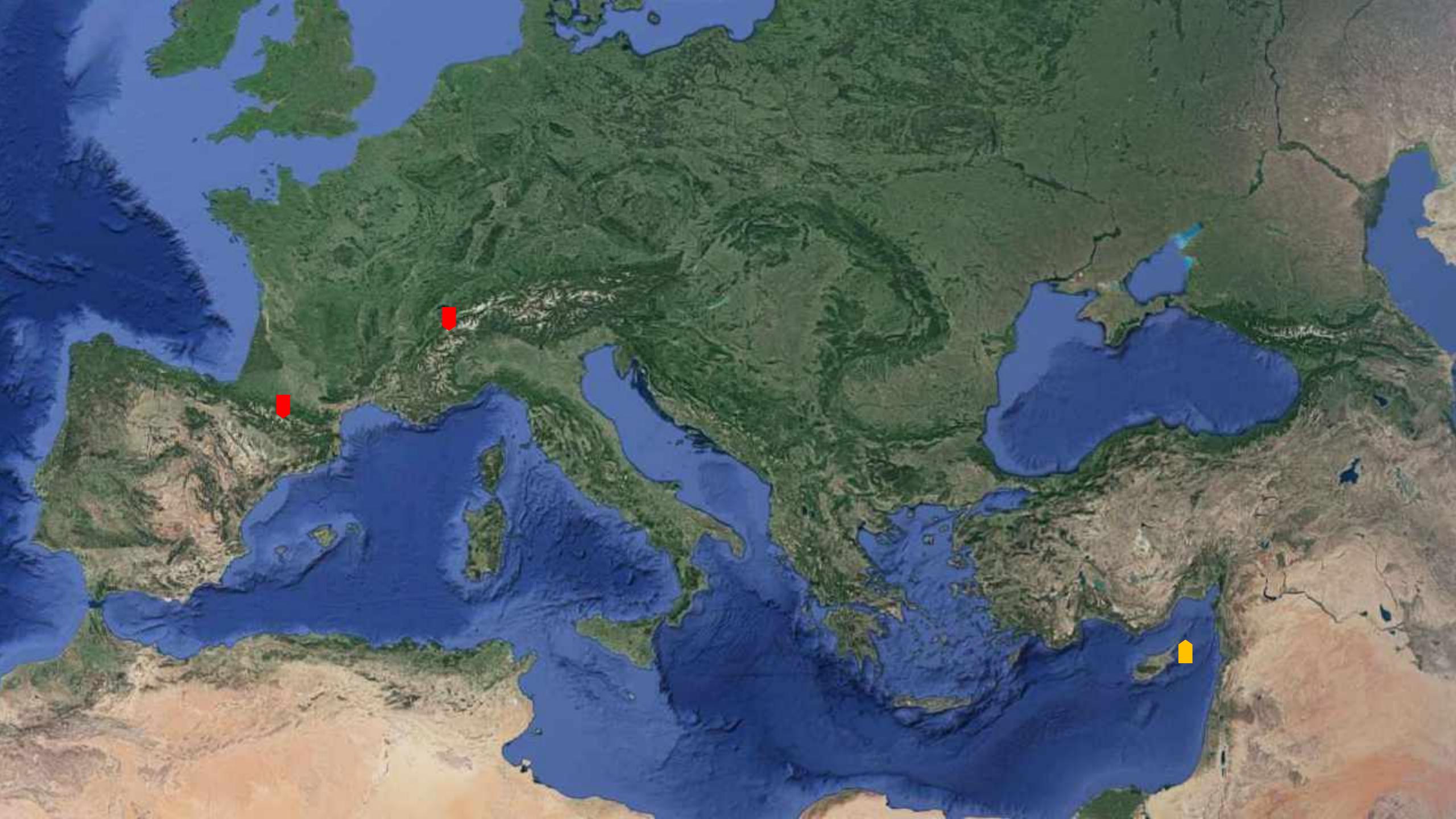
THE ROYAL SOCIETY













# Identifying the insects

Pyrenees/Alps



# Identifying the insects

Cyprus



# Counting the insects







Pyrenees

11,400

23,400



2.28 million



A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene in Cyprus. In the foreground, a sandy beach is scattered with numerous small, reddish-brown objects, likely dried fish or coral. The beach meets a rocky shoreline where the sea is visible. Behind the shore, there's a steep, rocky cliff covered in sparse green vegetation and shrubs. A small, rectangular stone building with a tiled roof sits atop the cliff on the left side. The sky is a clear, vibrant blue with a few wispy white clouds.

Cyprus





**11.1 million...**  
in just 6 hours!

47.5 million overall

A scenic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with warm, golden clouds. In the foreground, a black and white dog sits on a grassy hillside, looking towards the horizon. The middle ground shows rolling green hills and fields. In the distance, there's a small building and more hills under the dramatic sky.

3,500,000,000

Flies are the most  
numerous migrant







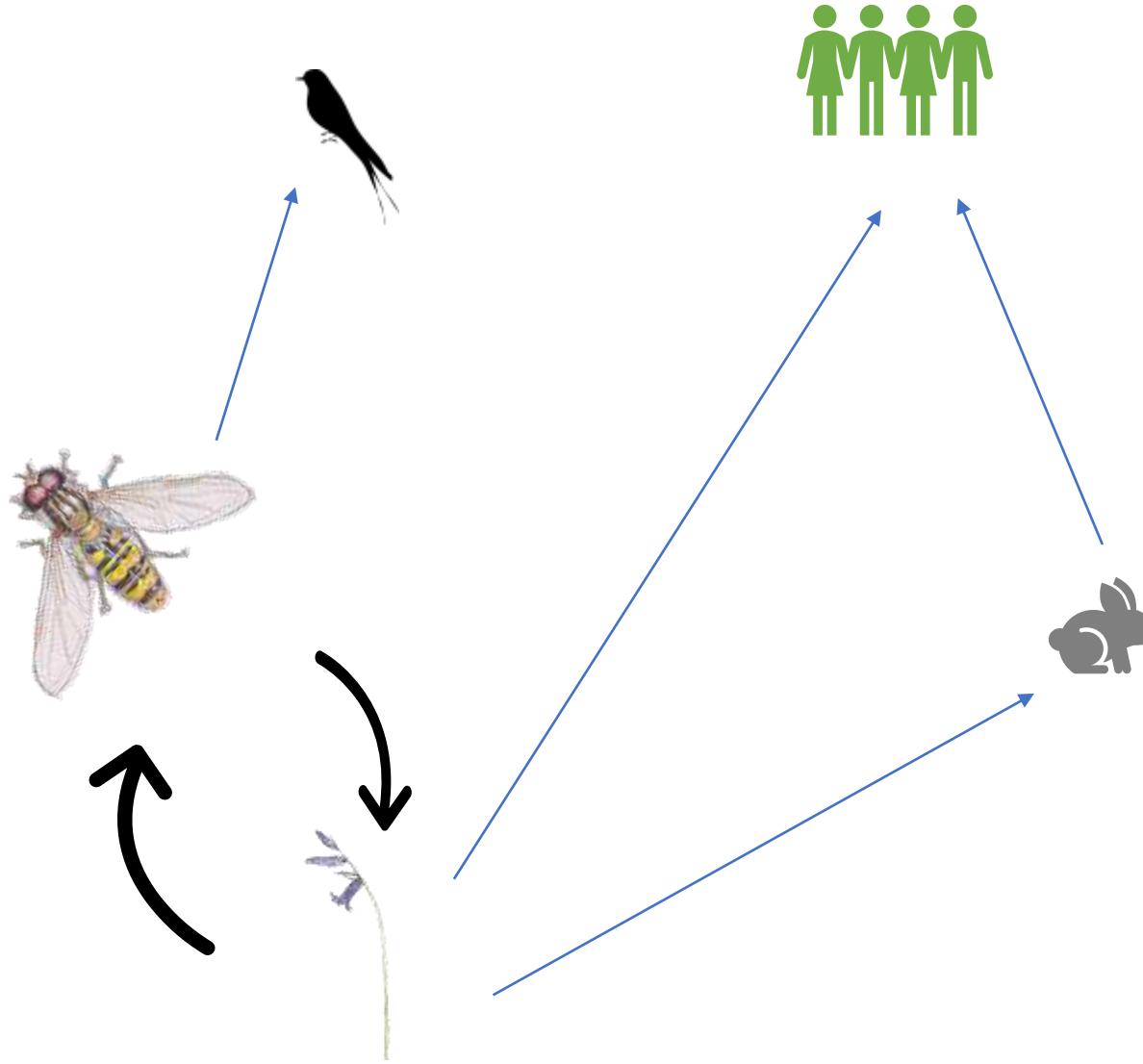




Wotton *et al.* 2019











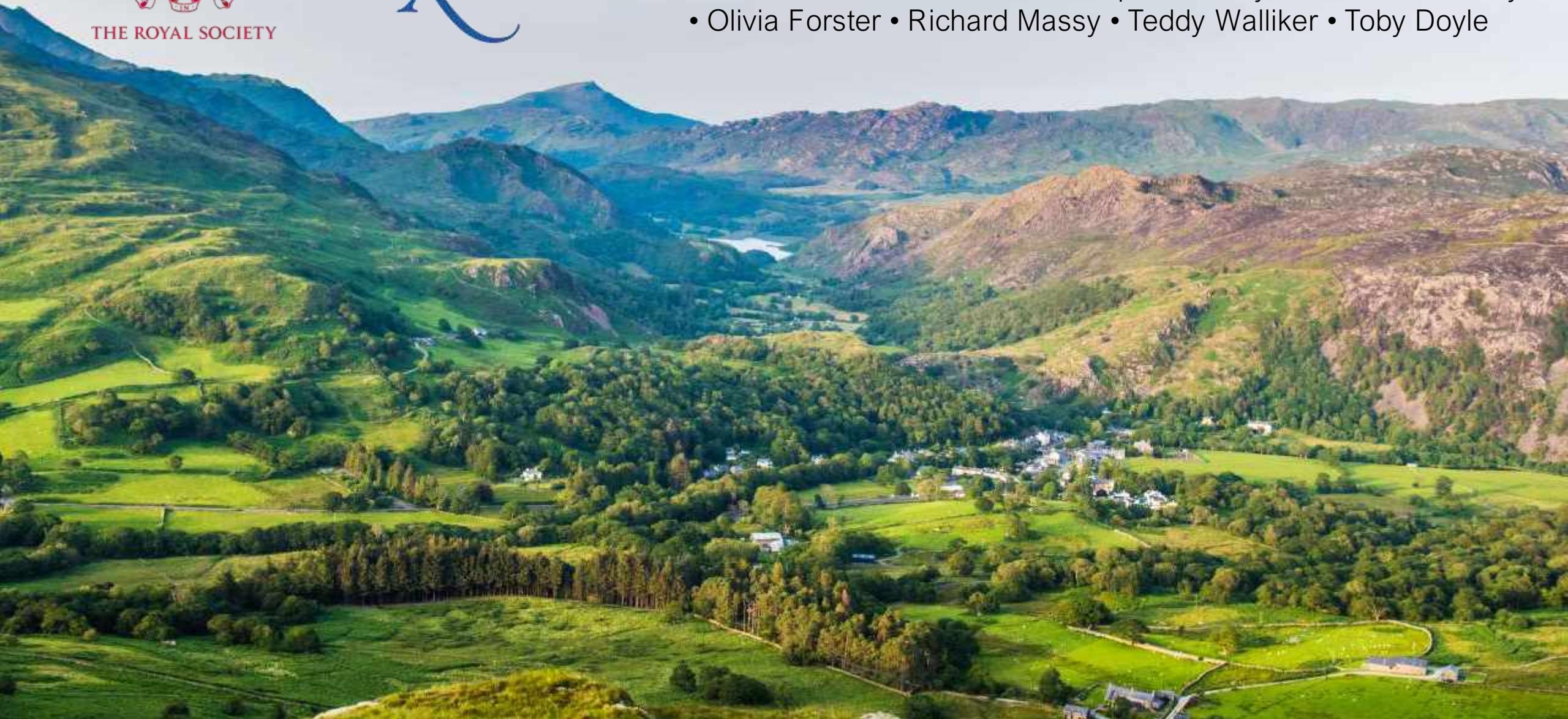


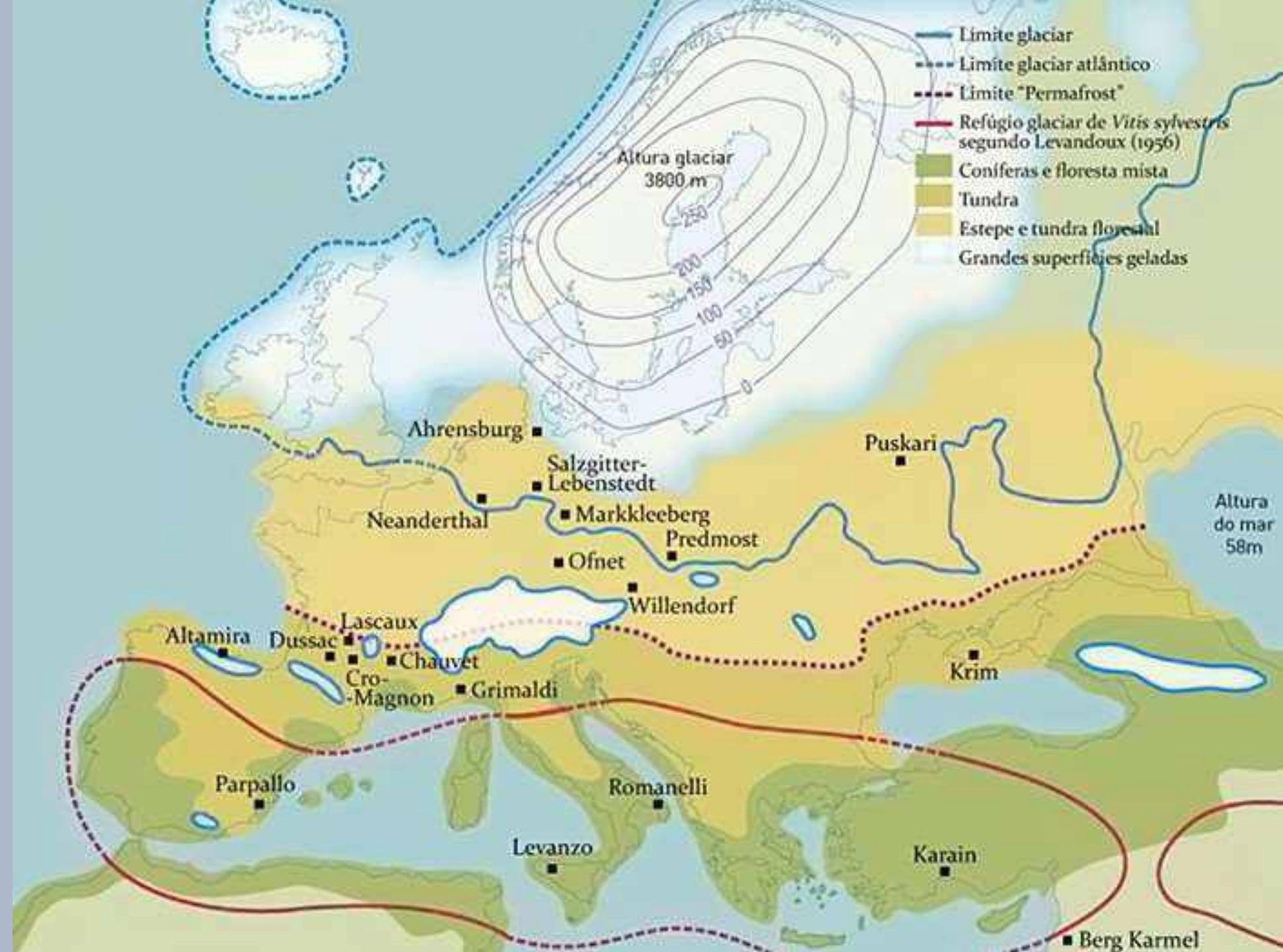
THE ROYAL SOCIETY

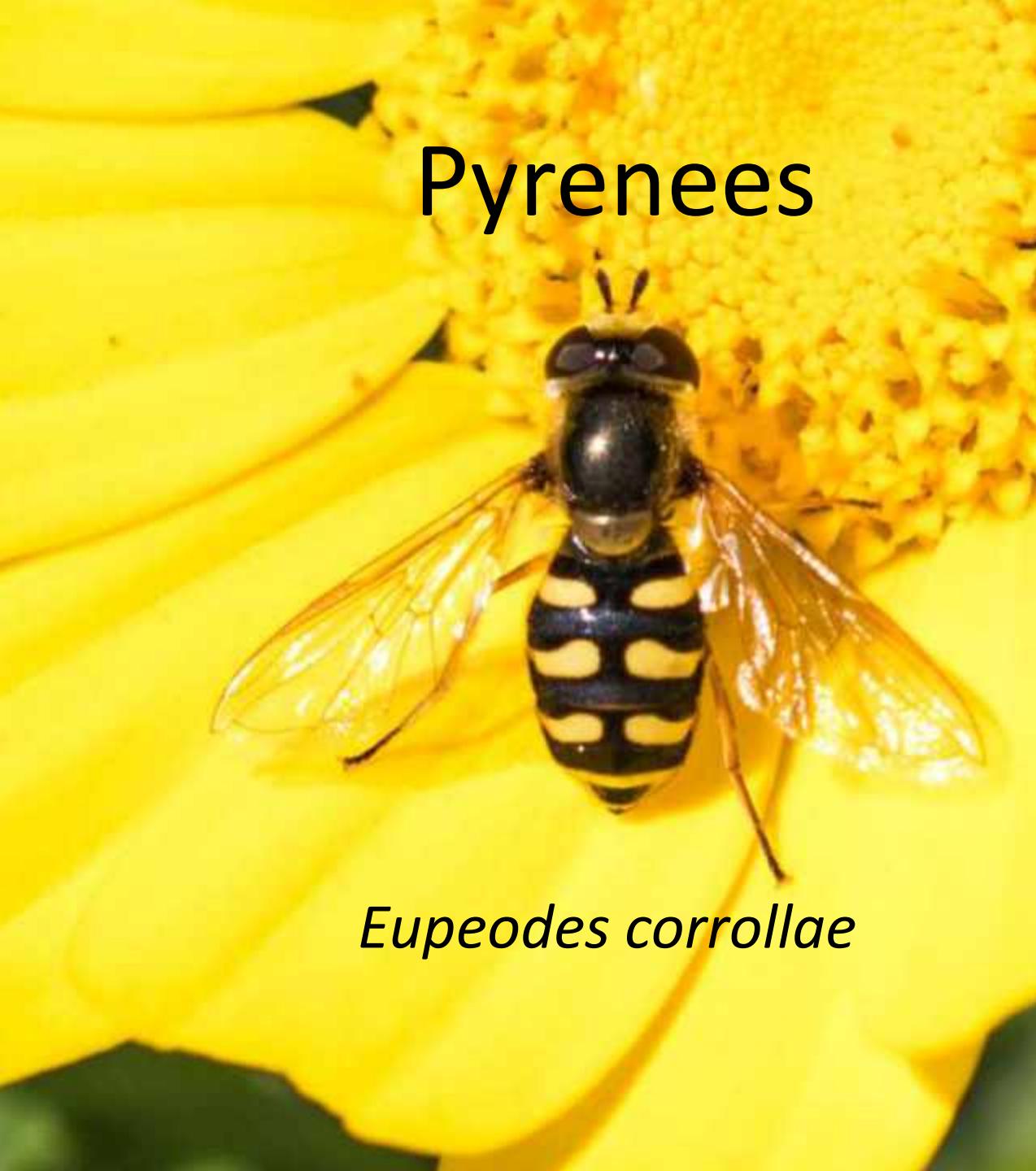


## Acknowledgements

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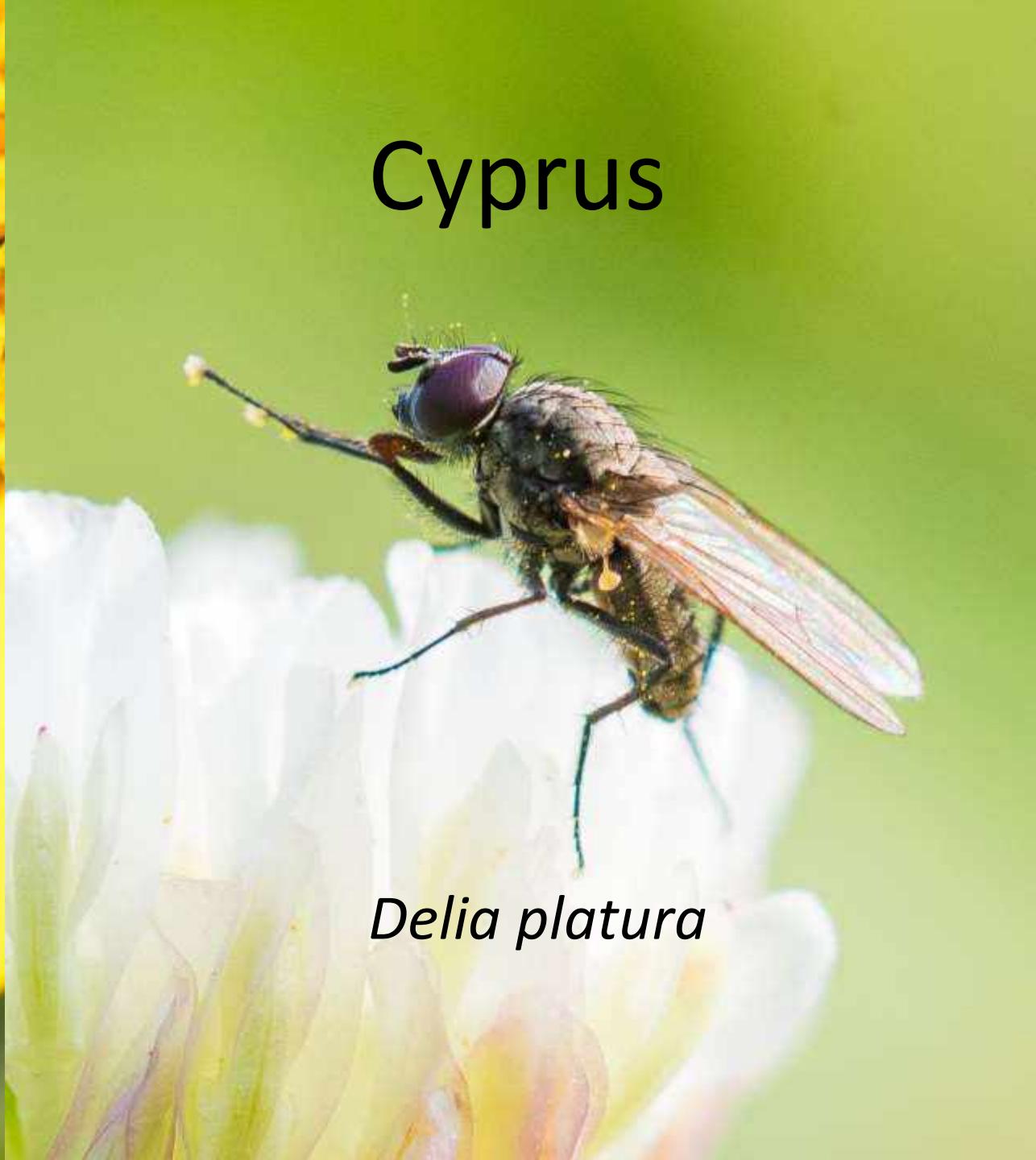




Pyrenees



*Eupeodes corrollae*



Cyprus



*Delia platura*

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. The sky is filled with vibrant colors of orange, yellow, and pink, transitioning into a darker blue. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the water. In the foreground, there's a rocky shoreline with patches of green grass and some low-lying vegetation. A small, shallow pool of water is visible on the left. The middle ground shows a sandy beach curving along the coastline, leading to a rocky island or peninsula in the distance. The water is relatively calm with some small waves breaking near the shore.

Where do they come from?



