Biodiversity Conservation Lab
BAT Department
University of Ioannina

Orthoptera of Epirus

A field guide for identifying common Orthoptera species

Orthoptera include grasshoppers, crickets, and katydids. They are not just familiar sights in nature but also essential players in ecosystems. As **biodiversity indicators**, they help scientists track environmental health through their sensitivity to habitat changes. They are also key links in **food webs**, providing food for many birds, reptiles, and mammals and play a vital role in **nutrient cycling**. Beyond their ecological role, these insects are simply fascinating, as their diverse songs and unique behaviors offer a glimpse into the complexity and beauty of the natural world.

The guide aims to help identify the most common Orthoptera species in the Epirus region in NW Greece. You can download the guide's PDF from the BCL website: https://bc.lab.uoi.gr/en/research/fieldguides/

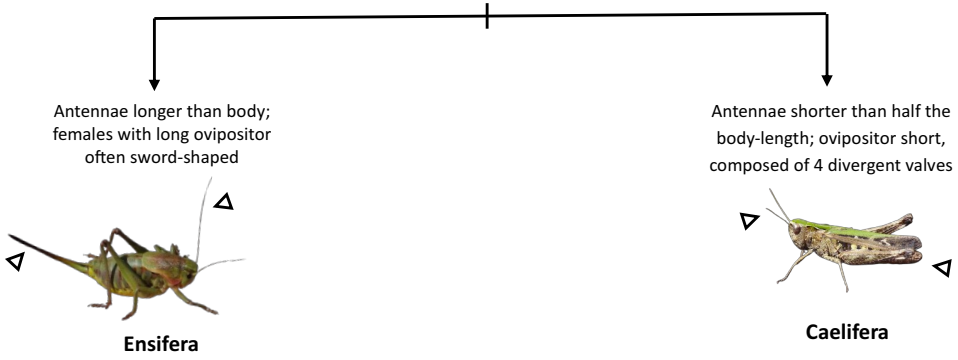
Orthoptera of Greece

Greece is a **biodiversity hotspot** for Orthoptera, home to around **400 species**, representing **35% of Europe's total**. Among these, **140 species are endemic**, found nowhere else on Earth. The country's **diverse landscapes**, from mountain tops to the many isolated islands, provide ideal habitats for these insects. However, this remarkable richness is under threat, as **nearly half of the endemic species face extinction** due to habitat destruction and degradation, land abandonment, climate change, insecticides and inadequate grazing regimes, making conservation efforts more urgent than ever.

Orthoptera taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order
Animalia	Arthropoda	Insecta	Orthoptera

Orthoptera species are divided into two main groups (suborders): **Ensifera** are crickets and katydids, and **Caelifera** are grasshoppers and locusts. These groups differ in appearance and behavior and ecology.

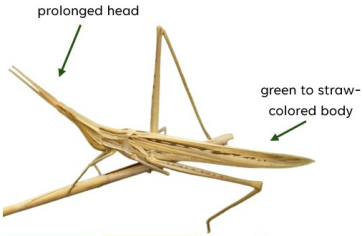


How to use the guide

This guide presents 30 common Orthoptera genera of Epirus. The genera are organized by suborder (Ensifera & Caelifera). For each genus, a representative species is shown (usually the most common). Pay attention to phenology: the months when the species are in adult form in Epirus. The grasshopper shape symbol indicates the relative size of the species (small, medium, or large). Check the key features highlighted in each species to help with identification. You can assist with identification by capturing Orthoptera for closer examination and photography. On the last page of this guide, you will find a summary of the symbols used.

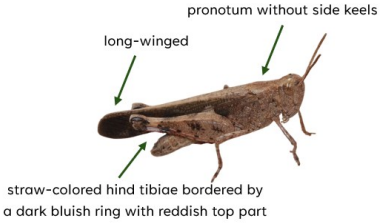
Caelifera

Acrida (*A. ungarica*)



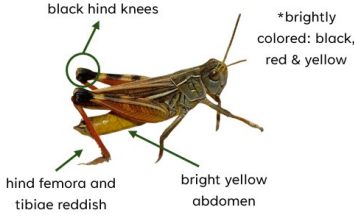
Altitude	0-600 m
Phenology	Jul - Oct

Aiolopus (*A. strepens*)



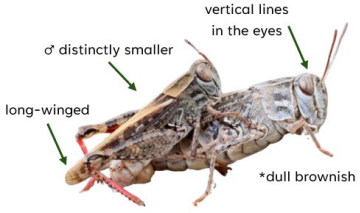
Altitude	0-980 m
Phenology	Apr - Dec

Arcyptera (*A. microptera*)



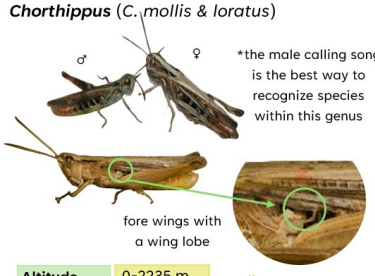
Altitude	5-1790 m
Phenology	Apr - Oct

Calliptamus (*C. italicus*)



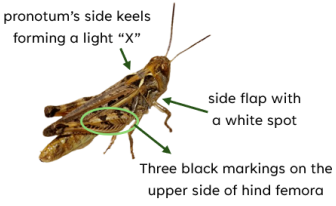
Altitude	0-1700 m
Phenology	May - Nov

Chorthippus (*C. mollis & loratus*)



Altitude	0-2235 m
Phenology	Apr - Nov

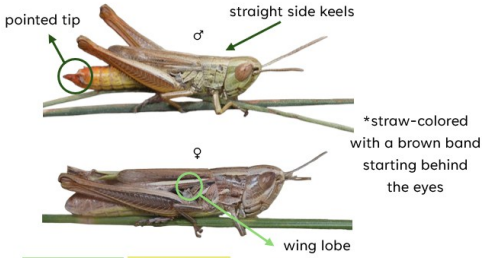
Dociostaurus (*D. brevicollis*)



Altitude	0-1700 m
Phenology	May - Nov

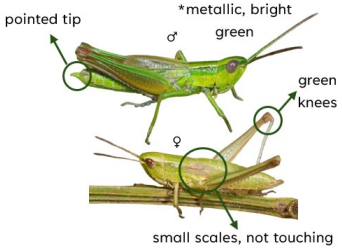
Caelifera

Euchorthippus (*E. declivus*)



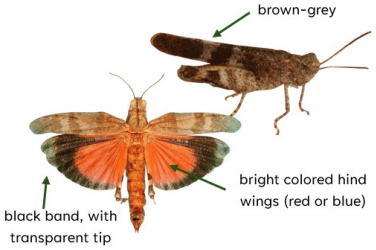
Altitude	0-1800 m
Phenology	May - Nov

Euthystira brachyptera



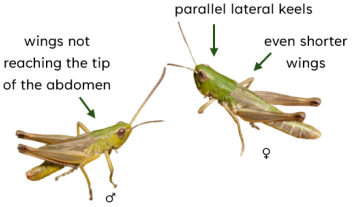
Altitude	800-2100 m
Phenology	Jun - Oct

Oedipoda (*O. germanica*)



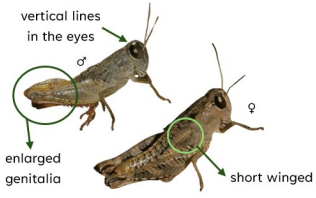
Altitude	0-1725 m
Phenology	May - Nov

Pseudochorthippus parallelus



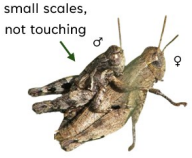
Altitude	0-2000 m
Phenology	May - Aug

Paracaloptenus caloptenoides



Altitude	0-1800 m
Phenology	May - Nov

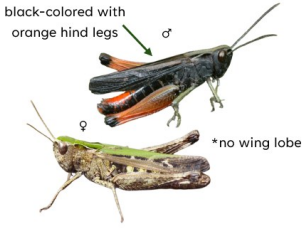
Pezotettix (*P. giornae*)



*easily distinguished

Altitude	0-1500 m
Phenology	Jun - Oct

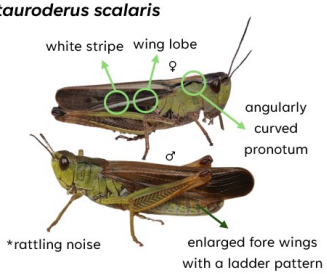
Omocestus (*O. rufipes*)



Altitude	0-2100 m
Phenology	Feb - Nov

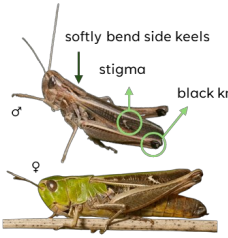
Caelifera

Stauroderus scalaris



Altitude	1240–2100 m
Phenology	Jun – Aug

Stenobothrus *(S. lineatus)*

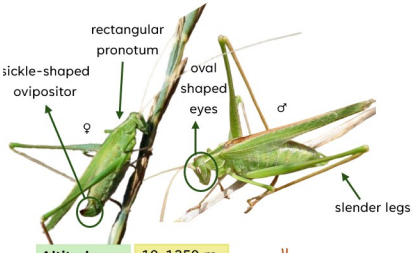


*no wing lobe

Altitude	135–2160 m
Phenology	May – Sep

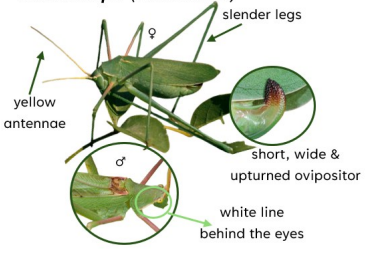
Ensifera

Tylopsis lilifolia



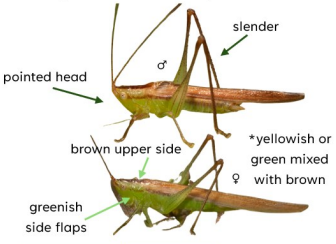
Altitude	10–1350 m
Phenology	Jun – Sep

Acrometopa *(A. servillea)*



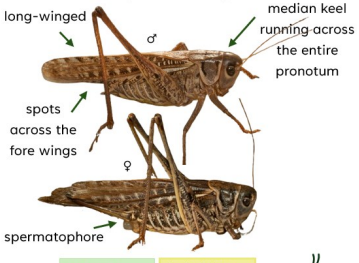
Altitude	5–1600 m
Phenology	May – Aug

Conocephalus *(C. conocephalus)*



Altitude	0–1050 m
Phenology	May – Sep

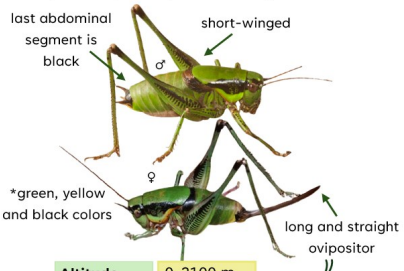
Decticus *(D. albifrons)*



Altitude	0–2100 m
Phenology	May – Sep

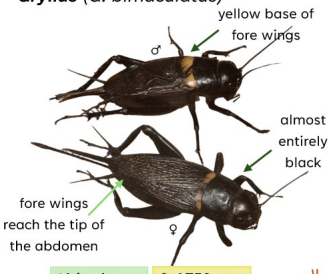
Ensifera

Eupholidoptera *(E. schmidti)*



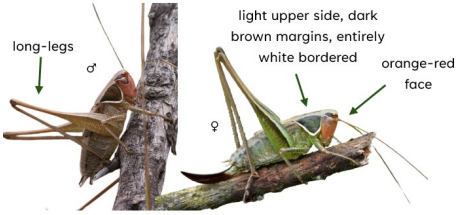
Altitude	0–2100 m
Phenology	May – Oct

Gryllus *(G. bimaculatus)*



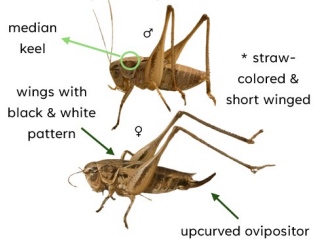
Altitude	0–1750 m
Phenology	Apr – Oct

Sepiana sepium



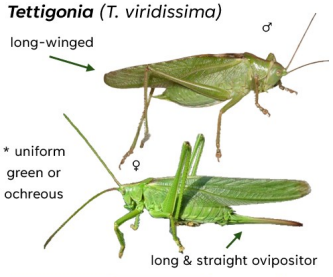
Altitude	0–1500 m
Phenology	Jun – Sep

Tessellana *(T. orina)*



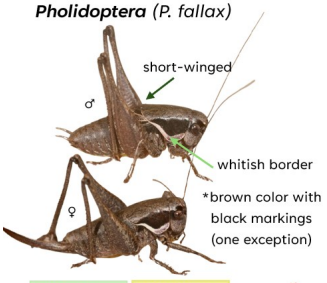
Altitude	5–2200 m
Phenology	Jun – Sep

Tettigonia *(T. viridissima)*



Altitude	0–1950 m
Phenology	May – Sep

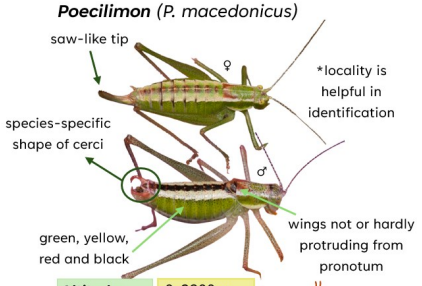
Pholidoptera *(P. fallax)*



Altitude	0–2000 m
Phenology	May – Sep

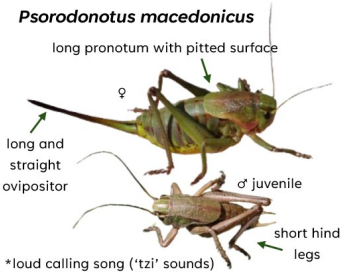
Ensifera

Poecilimon *(P. macedonicus)*



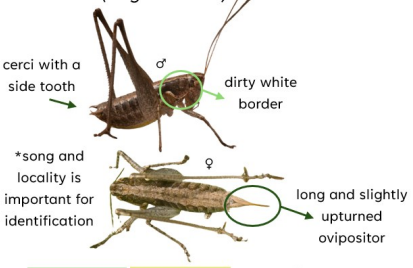
Altitude	0-2300 m
Phenology	Apr - Sep

Psorodonotus macedonicus



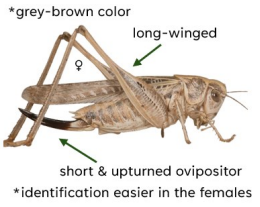
Altitude	1000-2125 m
Phenology	Jun - Aug

Rhacocleis *(R. germanica)*



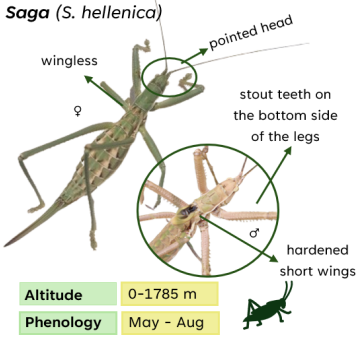
Altitude	0-1800 m
Phenology	Jun - Nov

Platycleis *(P. affinis)*



Altitude	0-2100 m
Phenology	May - Oct

Saga *(S. hellenica)*



Altitude	0-1785 m
Phenology	May - Aug

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The information about the phenology, the elevational range and the identification features was derived from: Willemse L, Kleukers R, Odé B (2018). The grasshoppers of Greece. EIS Kenniscentrum Insecten en andere ongewervelden.

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April 2025

Body size of genus: small / medium / large

Phenology: *when the genus is in adult form*
Jan-Feb-Mar-Apr-**May-Jun-Jul-Aug**-Sep-Oct-Nov-Dec

Symbols: *Important features for species identification*

Check what you recorded

Genus	Species	Check	Genus	Species	Check
Acrida			*Paracaloptenus*		
Acrometopa			*Pezotettix*		
Aiolopus			*Pholidoptera*		
Arcyptera			*Platycleis*		
Calliptamus			*Poecilimon*		
Chorthippus			*Pseudochorthippus*		
Conocephalus			*Psorodonotus*		
Decticus			*Rhacocleis*		
Dociostaurus			*Saga*		
Euchorthippus			*Sepiana*		
Eupholidoptera			*Stauroderus*		
Euthystira			*Stenobothrus*		
Gryllus			*Tessellana*		
Oedipoda			*Tettigonia*		
Omocestus			*Tylopsis*		

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