



Maharees Conservation Association
Protecting | Enhancing | Preserving

Flora and Fauna of the Maharees and Castlegregory - Series 4

Welcome to the Maharees and Castlegregory area - home to many interesting and sometimes rare species of flora and fauna. Using these species spotter sheets, see how many different species you can find as you enjoy our beautiful area. Wild flowers are an important source of food for our pollinators and we appreciate your cooperation in allowing them to grow! Supported by Kerry County Council, the Community Environment Action Fund and the BSc in Wildlife Biology at MTU Kerry.



MTU
Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
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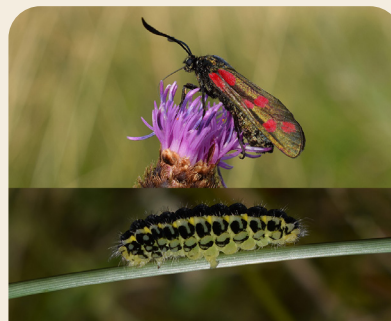
Cinnabar Moth
Tyria jacobaeae
Leamhan flanndearg

Day flying moth with distinctive red/black colouring. Caterpillars are bright orange and black and feed predominantly on Ragwort.



Wall Brown
Lasiommata megera
Donnóg an Bhalla

Classified as endangered, the Wall Brown is a medium sized butterfly with numerous black eye 'spots'. Can be seen basking in sunny weather (especially on walls, hence their name). Caterpillars feed on a range of grasses.



Six-Spot Burnett
Zygaena filipendulae
Buirnéad sébhallach

A distinctive moth that flies during the day. At the peak of their flight period, they can be seen feeding in large numbers on plants such as Ragwort and Knapweed. Caterpillars often feed on Bird's-foot Trefoil.



Common Blue
Polyommatus icarus
Gormán Coiteann

The most commonly seen species of three 'blue' butterfly species we have in Ireland. (Common, Small and Holly Blue). Common Blue males are a striking blue, females a drabber blue/brown colour. Both males and females have orange spots on the undersides of wings. Bird's-foot-trefoil is the main food plant of the caterpillars.



Small Blue
Cupido minimus
Gormán Beag

Ireland's smallest butterfly and is classified as 'endangered' in Ireland. Pale blue in colour with no orange spots like the common Blue butterfly has. The caterpillars feed exclusively on Kidney Vetch.



Lesser Marsh Grasshopper
Chorthippus albomarginatus
Dreoilín teaspaigh

One of 5 species of grasshopper to be found in Ireland. The Lesser Marsh Grasshopper lives in damp, marshy and drier grassland and coastal habitats. They are active in the day, particularly in warm sunshine. They feed on several types of grass species. The Maharees is one of the best places to find this species.



Garden Chafer
Phyllopertha horticola
Ciaróg dheá ghairdín

Member of the scarab beetle family, this species has a distinctive brown and metallic colouring and can look quite clumsy when ambling about. In May or June, they can sometimes be seen in large numbers feeding on species such as Burnet Rose.



Natterjack Toad
Epidalea calamita
Cnádán

Ireland's only native toad and a protected species. The Natterjack Toad occurs only in County Kerry, (with the exception of a handful of introduced populations elsewhere). The Maharees is one of the main strongholds for the toad. They have a distinct yellow stripe running down their back. Breeding occurs from April-July, and eggs are laid in strings.



Painted Lady
Vanessa cardui
Áilleán

The Painted Lady is a well-recognized butterfly and is a migrant species, so numbers seen in Ireland will fluctuate from year to year. One of our largest butterflies with a distinctive black and orange colouring.



Small Heath
Coenonympha pamphilus
Fraochán Beag

The Small Heath is a small species of butterfly that is classified as near threatened. It always rests with its wings closed, which clearly shows the distinctive eye spot on the underside of its hind wing. The Small Heath butterfly inhabits a range of habitats including sand dunes. Caterpillars feed on a range of grasses.