

? Did you know that... ?

The range of invertebrates in La Marciega is quite stunning: to date more than a hundred species have been added to the inventory and there are many more to come.

The majority are Arthropods, a high percentage of them endemic species, close to 40%. Insects take pride of place in this group, and in particular beetles and flies. Practically one of every two species of any group we take randomly in the Canaries will be an insect, and one of every three insects we take will be a beetle.

Other particularly noticeable orders within insects are mantises and orthoptera (locusts, grasshoppers etc.) with over ten representatives, which are particularly associated with the stony plains surrounding the marsh. Needless to say, moths and butterflies play an important role within this humid atmosphere, in the same way as other classes such

as isopodas (for instance, woodlice), springtails (*Collembola*) or arachnids.

Molluscs comprise another group of major interest, also due to the high proportion of endemic species, and you'll have no problem finding various species during your walk.

We're now going to tell you about some of the most interesting species of invertebrates you'll come across in the marsh.

Cone-headed Grasshopper (*Truxalis nasuta*)

ORTHOPTERA



A curious little animal distributed across Mediterranean Europe, Continental Africa, the Near East, India, Cape Verde and the Canary Islands, where it has only been observed on the islands of Tenerife and Gran Canaria. It lives in sunny areas, where grasses are present.

Although it may be the most striking of the orthoptera in the zone, you'll find various other species here, for instance *Oedipoda Canariensis*, a pretty blue-winged grasshopper which is native to the archipelago, where it is plentiful in number.



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Conservation of the sandbanks is fundamental for the survival of *Pimelia granulicollis*.

Pimelia Darkling Beetle (*Pimelia granulicollis*)

COLEOPTERA

This beetle, a Gran Canaria native, is in serious danger of extinction; destruction of its habitat - coastal sandbanks - has driven it to this dramatic situation.

As a phylogeographical study of *Pimelia* has shown, the animals in this population display genetic differences with regard to the populations of the rest of the islands. Its presence here is extremely low, whereas the *Pimelia Sparsa Serrimargo*, the other species present at the river mouth, is slightly more common.



Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*)

LEPIDOPTERA - BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

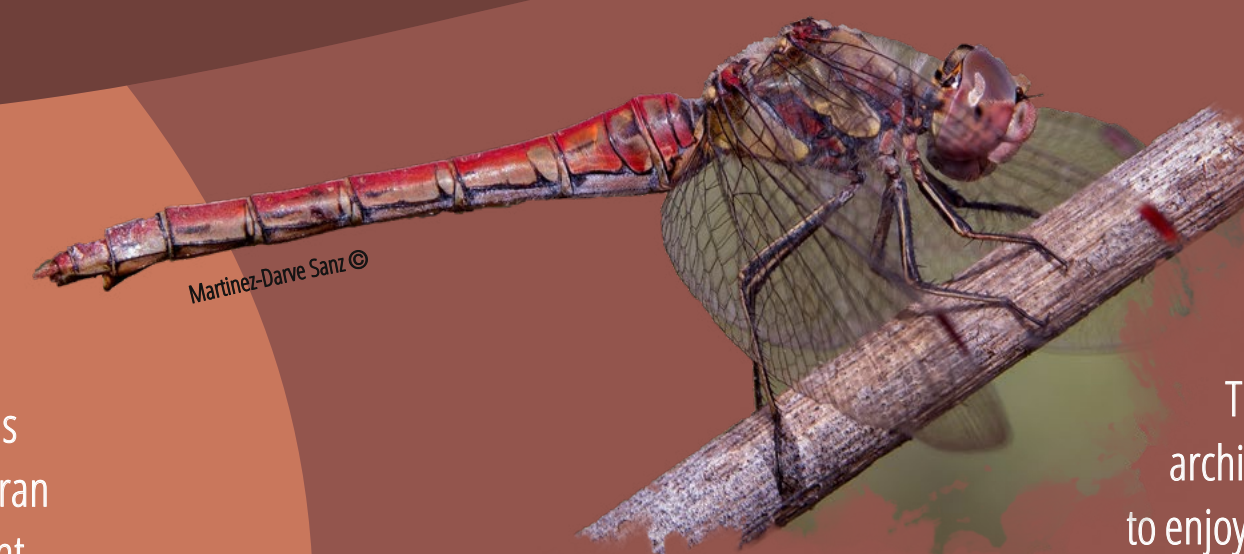
These impressive journeys are made in search of resources and a favourable climate

The migratory circuit of the Painted Lady is the longest known journey for any species of butterfly; it travels up to 12,000 kilometres per year in successive generations and crosses the Sahara Desert twice.

You'll normally see them around here during spring and autumn. In autumn, look closely at the daisy known as the Verode or Berode (*Kleinia Nierfolia*); in springtime pay attention to the flowers known as the "Salado", (*Schizogyne Sericea*), the main nutrient plant in this setting.

Sympetrum nigrifemur *Sympetrum nigrifemur*

DRAGONFLIES



There are twelve known dragonflies in the archipelago and, of course, a wetland is a good place to enjoy them. Of these twelve, ten are to be seen on the island and almost all of them in La Marciega.

The most peculiar is the Island Darter, *Sympetrum Negrifemur*, which is endemic to Madeira and the Canaries, and of particular note for its size and abundance, the Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax Imperator*.



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