ECBM27 Photo Contest



In an era marked by the silent decline of Lepidoptera worldwide, photography can help drive change. With this in mind, and to mark the **International Symposium "Ecology and Conservation of Butterflies and Moths, ECBM 2027"**, taking place from 6 to 10 April 2027 in Girona, Catalonia, the **ECBM27 Photo Contest** is born.

The ECBM27 Photo Contest team invites all photographers who share the belief that photography is a powerful tool for the conservation of wildlife and its habitats to take part in the contest. The aim is for the award-winning images to help showcase the beauty, diversity and ecological importance of these animals.

In selecting the photographs, the jury will prioritise originality, technical and artistic quality, and the difficulty involved in capturing the images, always within an ethical framework. It will also be valued for its ability to convey to viewers the urgent need to protect the natural environment.

The ECBM27 Photo Contest is organised by the **Biodiversity and Bioindicators Research Group (BiBio)** at the Granollers Museum of Natural Sciences – BETA Technological Centre. BiBio is an ecological research group that studies the factors shaping biodiversity through the use of bioindicator organisms.

BiBio

The contest's main sponsor is the **Environmental Markets Fairness Foundation**. The prize sponsors are **Mariposa Nature Tours**, **Greenwings Wildlife Holidays** and **Lynx Nature Books**.

EMFF
Environmental Markets
Fairness Foundation

MARIPOSA NATURE TOURS

Greenwings
Wildlife Holidays

LYNX
NATURE BOOKS

ECBM27 PHOTO CONTEST

International Photo Competition
of Butterflies and Moths

**FROM DECEMBER 20
TO FEBRUARY 18**



BiBio

EMFF
Environmental Markets
Fairness Foundation

MARIPOSA NATURE TOURS

Greenwings
Wildlife Holidays

LYNX
NATURE BOOKS

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

PARTICIPANTS

The **ECBM27 Photo Contest** is open to all photographers, entomologists and nature enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, provided they are the authors of the submitted photographs and hold all the rights to them.

Entry to the contest is free and open to everyone. There are two categories: butterflies and moths.

The contest organisers, festival organisers, sponsors and anyone with a direct connection to a member of the jury are not eligible to participate.

SUBJECT AND CATEGORIES

The overall theme of the contest is butterflies (Papilionoidea, day-flying) and moths (rest of Lepidoptera) of any European species. Photographs may be submitted in the following categories:

- **1st CATEGOY: BUTTERFLIES**

Photographs of butterflies at any stage of their life cycle, captured in the wild, showcasing their diversity, beauty and behaviour in their natural habitats.

Entries may include portraits, behavioural scenes, interactions, environmental compositions, creative images, etc., provided that a butterfly is the main subject.

Three photographs will be awarded in this category, receiving First, Second and Third Prize, respectively.

The **First Prize** consists of a one-week butterfly-watching trip called “Butterflies of Northern Greece” which will take place from 2nd to 9th June 2027. The prize is sponsored by **Greenwings Wildlife Holidays** and is valued at €1,900. The winner will receive a half-day preview pass by email, allowing them to visit the exhibition and attend the awards ceremony on 9 April, where they will be presented with their prize and an ECBM27 Photo Contest diploma.

Two Honourable Mentions will be awarded to photographs that deserve special recognition for their outstanding impact, spectacular nature or exceptional quality, and that came very close to winning first place in the competition.

One **Honourable Mention** consists of the book “All the Mammals of the World”, sponsored by **Lynx Nature Books** and valued at €80. The winner will receive a half-day preview pass by email, allowing them to attend the awards ceremony on 9 April, where they will be presented with their prize and an ECBM27 Photo Contest diploma.

The second **Honourable Mention** consists of the book “Mariposas de España, Portugal y Andorra”, sponsored by **Lynx Nature Books** and valued at €50. The winner will receive a half-day preview pass by email, allowing them to attend the awards ceremony on 9 April, where they will be presented with their prize and an ECBM27 Photo Contest diploma.

The exhibition will feature the 12 photographs receiving the highest scores from the jury: the three winning photographs and nine finalists. Following the congress, the nine finalists will also have the opportunity to have their photographs displayed as part of a travelling exhibition at designated venues throughout the following year.

The half-day passes awarded to the three invited winners are strictly personal and non-transferable and may not be shared with any other person. These invitations grant free access to the congress on 9 April, from 3 pm until the end of the closing ceremony. They do not cover attendance on any other day of the congress, nor do they include flights, transport or accommodation expenses.

Once the jury's decision has been communicated, the three prize winners are kindly requested to reply to the notification email as soon as possible to confirm whether they will be able to attend the congress, so that their personalised passes can be issued.

- **2nd CATEGORY: MOTHS**

Photographs of moths at any stage of their life cycle, captured in the wild, showcasing their diversity, beauty and behaviour in their natural habitats. Entries may include portraits, behavioural scenes, interactions, environmental compositions, creative images, etc., provided that a moth is the main subject.

Three photographs will be awarded in this category, receiving First, Second and Third Prize, respectively.

The **First Prize** consists of a 6-day butterfly-watching trip called “Autumn exotica in Andalusia” which will take place from 13th to 18th September 2027. The prize is sponsored by **Mariposa Nature Tours** and is valued at €1,600. The winner will receive a half-day preview pass by email, allowing them to visit the exhibition and attend the awards ceremony on 9 April, where they will be presented with their prize and an ECBM27 Photo Contest diploma.

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IMAGE SUBMISSION

Photographs must be submitted exclusively as digital files in **JPEG, JPG or TIFF** format, preferably using the **Adobe RGB (1998)** colour profile. Images must not include any added frames, borders or captions.

The winning and finalist photographs will be sent to Foto Ruano's laboratories for printing and physical display at the contest exhibition, which will be held at the congress from 6 to 10 April. Therefore, it is essential that **all submitted photographs are high-resolution files at 300 dpi and in a 5:7 aspect ratio (as they will be printed at 70 × 50 cm). Photographs not uploaded at this resolution will not be eligible for jury evaluation.**

NUMBER

Each photographer may submit a maximum of two photographs in each of the two categories.

PRESENTATION

Photographs must be submitted exclusively through the registration form available on the following website: **https://photocontest.ecbm27.com/**

Although originality and the uniqueness of each image will be particularly valued, photographs that have previously received awards, finalist positions or honourable mentions in other competitions will also be accepted.

When submitting their photographs, participants **must provide a title, the common and/or scientific name of the species, and a descriptive text of no more than 100 words**. This text should tell the story behind the photograph, including how and where it was taken, as well as any other relevant information. Where necessary, particularly in the case of complex images where such information may help the jury reach a decision, participants must also confirm that the photograph was obtained using ethical practices that respect wildlife and its natural environment.

PHOTO REQUIREMENTS

Submitted images may only undergo the following modifications:

- The image must meet the minimum pixel dimensions required by the specified format to ensure that it can be properly assessed and subsequently printed in high quality.

- Images must not contain vignettes, watermarks, captions or signatures. Digital manipulation or alteration of images, including the addition or removal of elements, is not permitted. Only moderate adjustments affecting the following aspects will be allowed: global tone corrections, white balance, brightness, contrast, colour saturation, and shadow and highlight adjustments; conversion to black and white; moderate sharpening and selective reduction of digital noise and pixelation; removal of vignetting, dust spot removal, and correction of optical distortions and aberrations.

- Special techniques such as high-speed photography and in-camera multiple-exposure composites, including those created using in-camera image overlay modes, will be accepted.

- Images created or modified using artificial intelligence (AI) will not be accepted.

The organisers shall not be held responsible for any breaches of applicable legal regulations committed by participants in obtaining the images submitted to the competition. Notwithstanding this, the organisers reserve the right to reject any photographs that clearly indicate that the wildlife or natural environment in which they were taken has been negatively affected, and/or to request the relevant permits or authorisations from the participant.

Photography taken from hides or behind barriers, as well as the use of automatic camera triggers, is permitted, provided that minimum distances are respected and no disturbance to wildlife occurs. This includes photographs documenting interactions

between butterflies and other species, such as mammals or birds captured from hides, provided that the animals' natural behaviour has not been disturbed.

By entering the competition, authors whose photographs are selected as winners or finalists agree to their images being used on the organisers' and competition sponsors' websites and social media channels for a period of one academic year (from April 2027 to April 2028).

The organisers and sponsors reserve the right to make any copies necessary for the reproduction of these photographs in exhibitions, screenings or publications relating exclusively to the competition's own activities, without restrictions on media, duration or geographical scope. The author's name must always be credited.

Notwithstanding the above, the authors shall retain ownership of all exploitation rights to their photographs for any future use.

Winning and finalist authors also agree, should they attend the awards ceremony, to being photographed and to images of themselves being published on the event's and prize sponsors' social media channels.

The competition will reject any requests made by third parties for commercial purposes, including the transfer, loan, exploitation or sale of participants' personal data or of the images they have submitted to the competition. Should the organisers become aware of any interest in purchasing an image or its associated rights, they will put the interested party directly in touch with the photographer, who will then be free to decide how to proceed.

Participants must be the sole copyright holders of the photographs submitted and shall be entirely responsible for ensuring that no third-party rights are infringed by their work, as well as for any claims relating to image rights.

Participants certify and guarantee that the content of their submitted photographs does not violate any applicable laws, moral standards or public order.

ENTRY DEADLINE

From 20 December 2026 at 9 AM to 18 February 2027 at 11:59 PM (CET).

JURY

The judging panel will consist of three highly respected professionals in the fields of wildlife photography and research:

- **Marta Albareda**: Macro photographer specialising in arachnids and insects. OM System ambassador.

- **Laura Núñez**: Biologist and wildlife photographer specialising in birds and mammals and their relationship with their environment. Fujifilm collaborator.

- **Jordi Dantart:** Lepidopterist with extensive experience in the taxonomy, identification and study of Iberian butterflies and moths. Active member of the Catalan Society of Lepidopterology (SCL).

The jury's decision shall be final and binding. Where necessary, the jury will also rule on any issues or disputes that may arise. All submitted photographs will be assessed individually and anonymously, using the alphanumeric code automatically assigned by the computer system upon submission.

VEREDICT

The jury’s deliberations will take place privately from 19 to 24 February.

Between 24 February and 5 March, the organisers will contact the winners and finalists by email to inform them of their ranking in the competition.

During this same period, all participants whose photographs were submitted to the competition but were not selected for the final stage will also be contacted by email and thanked for their participation.

During this period, the organisers must confirm whether the six winners will be able to attend the awards ceremony. The invitation to the **ECBM27 Photo Contest** will be exclusively for 9 April, from 3 pm until the end of the closing ceremony. During this time, the winners will have the opportunity to visit the exhibition and will be presented with their diplomas and prizes.

If any of the winners are unable to attend the festival, they will be asked to submit a short video introducing themselves and their work, so that those attending the awards ceremony can get to know them better. These videos will be published alongside the presentation of the winning photographs.

EXHIBITION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The finalist and winning photographs from both categories will be displayed in an indoor exhibition at the congress venue, open to registered congress attendees from 6 to 10 April 2027. Following the congress, this travelling exhibition will be hosted by the Granollers Museum of Natural Sciences and the Environmental Markets Fairness Foundation during the 2027–2028 academic year, for a period of 3–4 months at each venue.

The awards ceremony will take place on Friday, 9 April 2027, at 5 pm at the Girona Conference Centre (Palau de Congressos de Girona), as part of the closing talk of the congress.

The gala will be hosted by Andreu Ubach, CBMS technician and coordinator of the ECBM27 Photo Contest, during the congress closing ceremony. The award-winning photographs and their respective winners and finalists will be presented live. Representatives of the brands and organisations providing the prizes —Mariposa Nature Tours, Greenwings Wildlife Holidays and Lynx Nature Books— will be responsible for presenting the prizes. If they are unable to attend, the prizes will be presented by the contest sponsors, festival organisers or members of the jury.

Once the ceremony has concluded, a post announcing the winners and finalists will be published on the congress's social media channels (@ecbm27). The post will be shared with any collaborating organisations and sponsors who wish to participate.

Winners who are unable to attend the event will have a maximum of two months after its conclusion to contact ecbm27@udg.edu to arrange collection of their prize. Prizes may be collected in person in Granollers or shipped free of charge within mainland Spain. Winners residing outside mainland Spain will be responsible for covering the shipping costs to their specified address. Diplomas will be sent in PDF format via the same email address used for communication.

The deadline to get in touch will be 10 June 2027.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

By participating in this competition, participants agree to the regulations set out above.

The personal data provided by participants will be processed in accordance with the provisions of Organic Law 15/1999 of 13 December on the Protection of Personal Data. Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification and erasure.

By entering the competition, participants agree to their personal data being included in the databases of the organisers and festival sponsors.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMPETITION RULES

Entering the ECBM27 Photo Contest implies full acceptance of all the terms and conditions set out in these rules. The organisers reserve the right to make decisions regarding any matters not expressly covered herein.