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# Butterfly communities track climatic variation over space but not time in the Iberian Peninsula

Mario Mingarro<sup>1+</sup>, Juan Pablo Cancela<sup>1,2,3+</sup>, Ana Burón-Ugarte<sup>4</sup>, Enrique García-Barros<sup>2</sup>, Miguel L. Munguira<sup>2</sup>, Helena Romo<sup>2</sup>, Robert J. Wilson<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Departamento de Biogeografía y Cambio Global, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales (MNCN-CSIC), 28006 Madrid, Spain

<sup>2</sup>Departamento de Biología and Centro de Investigación en Biodiversidad y Cambio Global (CIBC-UAM), Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, c/ Darwin 2, 28049 Madrid, Spain

<sup>3</sup>CE3C - Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa, 1749-016 Lisbon, Portugal

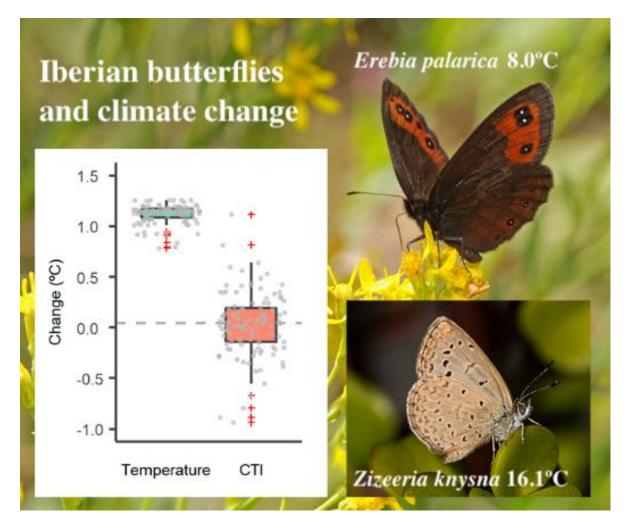
<sup>4</sup>Departamento de Zoología y Antropología Física, Facultad de Biología, Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

<sup>+</sup>These authors contributed equally to the research

\*Author for correspondence: Email: rjwilson@mncn.csic.es; Tel. +34 91 4111328 ex 981110

Running title: Iberian butterflies and climate change

# **Graphical Abstract**



# Highlights

1. We tested indices of community environmental associations based on occurrence records to infer how butterflies responded to climatic and land cover changes in the Iberian Peninsula from 1901 to 2016.

2. Community Temperature Index and Community Precipitation Index responded to spatial variation in the climate, but did not change significantly over time. Instead, butterfly communities became more associated with closed vegetation.

**3.** Local variation in climatic conditions and elevation dampened butterfly community responses to heating and drying, suggesting that topographic heterogeneity could shield regional butterfly faunas from the impacts of climate change.

### Abstract

- 1. Indices of environmental associations such as the Community Temperature Index (CTI) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI) can be derived from occurrence data to extend the geographic scope or time frame of evidence for responses of insect diversity to global change.
- 2. We tested whether occurrence records from 1901 to 2016 from the Iberian Peninsula could shed light on butterfly community responses to changes over space and time in the climate; and whether local climatic variation caused by topographic heterogeneity could buffer communities against the effects of climate change.
- 3. CTI and CPI were closely related to variation in temperature and precipitation across 115 well-sampled 10 km grid squares. However, whereas temperature and precipitation changed systematically from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016, and these changes were positively related to changes in CTI and CPI, community climatic associations did not change significantly over time. Butterfly communities became more associated with closed vegetation, suggesting that land cover changes overshadowed the effects of climate change.
- 4. Local (1 km) climatic variation generally exceeded change over time at 10 km resolution, and heterogeneity in elevation slowed rates of warming. In turn, spatial variation in climatic conditions dampened butterfly community responses to heating and drying.
- 5. Occurrence data are limited by their spatial resolution but can inform understanding of insect community responses to global change for regions lacking long-term monitoring data. Our results suggest that local climatic variation accompanying topographic heterogeneity can shield regional butterfly faunas from the impacts of climate change.

### Key words

Climatic debt, Community Precipitation Index (CPI), Community Temperature Index (CTI), land abandonment, climate change, refugia, TAO Index

### Introduction

Insect abundance and diversity are affected globally by threats including climate change, habitat degradation and pollution, whose intensity varies geographically and over time (Montgomery et al., 2020; Wagner, 2020). Geographic variation in insect trends therefore offers pointers regarding the drivers of changing insect biodiversity, and the resilience of different insect communities to these respective drivers (Wagner et al., 2021). Existing evidence for changes to insect communities is biased towards a few temperate regions where landscapes have undergone long-lasting and intensive human exploitation, potentially concealing or exacerbating the effects of recent climate change (Dirzo et al., 2014; van Klink

et al., 2020). Therefore, to determine how insect diversity responds to climate change there is a need to examine changes to insect communities for as wide a range of environments as possible, even in regions where data are limited. Long-term evidence from regions not yet subject to extensive habitat degradation, or from gradients of land-use intensity, could be especially useful to detect the potential for intact habitats or topographic variation to shield biodiversity against the negative impacts of climate change (Halsch et al., 2021).

Opportunistic historical records from museum specimens and publications often represent the only evidence of species distributions and community composition before pronounced climate warming in the late twentieth century (Kharouba et al., 2019; Montgomery et al., 2020). In some cases, these historical data have been used to provide evidence of changes to insect distributions or diversity over the past century or more (Eskildsen et al., 2015; Habel et al., 2016, 2019; Lewthwaite et al., 2017; Van Dooren, 2019; van Strien et al., 2019). Historical data are subject to possible effects of sampling bias, including spatial or temporal variation in recorder activity, which complicates interpretation of changes to species distributions, abundance, or richness (Ries et al., 2019; Didham et al., 2020). Nevertheless, even with incomplete data for a location, indices based on the environmental associations of species can provide information on changes to communities and their environmental drivers. Indices such as the Community Temperature Index (CTI) or Community Precipitation Index (CPI) can be calculated based on the climatic associations of constituent species over their geographic ranges (Devictor et al., 2008; Schweiger et al., 2014). CTI and CPI have been shown to vary over space or time consistent with spatial or temporal variation in climatic conditions (Nieto-Sánchez et al., 2015; Herrando et al., 2019). In turn, comparison of rates of change in these indices between different regions, habitats or taxonomic groups can offer clues to the factors influencing vulnerability to climate change, and hence help to identify priorities for conservation (Devictor et al., 2012).

The insect communities of Mediterranean systems exemplify these challenges. In the past century, Mediterreanean regions have been exposed to rapid rates of climate change (Serrano-Notivoli et al., 2018, 2019), as well as to contrasting pressures of rural depopulation and land abandonment, versus urbanisation, infrastructure development and agricultural intensification (Debussche et al., 1999; Rescia et al., 2010; Serra et al., 2014; Herrando et al., 2016). Over recent decades, Mediterranean butterfly communities have responded to climatic warming (Zografou et al., 2014; Nieto-Sánchez et al., 2015) and drying (Herrando et al., 2019), as well as vegetation encroachment (Ubach et al., 2020) and changing agricultural practices (Lee et al., 2020). Some evidence from these regional studies suggests that topographic variation or vegetation cover may counteract effects of climate change on insects (Nieto-Sánchez et al., 2015; Herrando et al., 2019), as has been observed for Mediterranean bird communities (Clavero et al., 2011; Barnagaud et al., 2013; Tellería 2019, 2020). However, wider geographic tests of the scope for topography or vegetation to offset the impacts of climate change are

limited by availability of longer-term or larger-scale evidence of changes to Mediterranean insect communities (Lobo et al., 2018).

Here, we derive species-climatic associations and community indices from butterfly distribution records in the Iberian Peninsula over the course of 116 years, and test whether variation in the community indices is consistent with climatic variation over space and time. We calculate CTI and CPI independently for a set of well-sampled 10 km squares by estimating species-climatic associations using occurrence information from the remaining grid squares in the Iberian Peninsula. We then test i) whether the indices for the well-sampled squares are related to geographic variation in temperature and precipitation; and ii) whether changes over time in the community indices (1901-1979 versus 1980-2016) are related to the magnitude of temperature or precipitation change over the same period. We use our analysis of change in CTI and CPI, and of an index representing the associations of component butterfly species with open versus closed vegetation ("TAO"; Ubach et al., 2020), to assess whether regional butterfly faunas show evidence of buffering effects against climate change from topographic variation; or of direct responses to changes in vegetation cover, as has been inferred from monitoring data in the north-eastern Iberian Peninsula (Herrando et al., 2016, 2019; Ubach et al., 2020). We assess in particular whether topographic variation can increase the resilience of insect communities to environmental change through its effects on spatial and temporal variation in climatic conditions, and consider the implications of our results for adapting the conservation of insect communities to climate change.

#### Materials and methods

#### **Butterfly distribution data**

We used atlas data for the Papilionoidea and Hesperioidea of the Iberian Peninsula (García-Barros et al., 2004) updated to 2016. The database includes 380,214 distribution records at a resolution of 10 x 10 km Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) squares from publications, public and private collections, and field surveys, which we updated and verified to ensure that identifications and locations were reliable. We analysed occurrence records from 10 km squares for 225 species, representing >95% of Iberian species for which there are reliable distribution data. Species nomenclature follows Wiemers et al. (2018). Where species identifications are uncertain (for a few cryptic species pairs; Platania et al., 2020), we assign records to the more widespread of the two taxa in the Iberian Peninsula, and if unequivocal records are not available for one of the species, we calculate species-climatic associations just for one taxon (see Table S1 for the full species list, climatic associations, and notes).

To test changes in the climatic associations of butterfly communities over time, we split the data into two periods (Fig. 1). Recording intensity has increased over time, so for the first

period we selected a longer time span, from 1901 to 1979, to achieve sufficient occurrence records (97,838 unique records of 218 species). The second period, from 1980 to 2016, had an average of more than five times as many records per year (259,803 records of 225 species) and corresponded to the period previously used to estimate butterfly species-climate associations for Europe (1981-2000; Schweiger et al., 2014). In the Iberian Peninsula, mean annual temperature increased by an equivalent amount over each period (Fig. 1c) and conditions also tended to be drier in 1980-2016 (Fig. 1d). A species was considered present in either period where there had been at least one confirmed record in each 10 km square.

To minimise bias from spatial and temporal variation in recording, we restricted our analyses of geographic patterns and temporal changes in butterfly communities to grid squares with the most complete sampling in both periods. We used KnowBR software (Lobo et al., 2018) to estimate inventory completeness for each 10 km square in each period. Inventory completeness is estimated using the number of species recorded divided by the expected species richness, based on rates of species accumulation per distribution record. We used the following criteria to select adequately sampled 10 km squares: i) a minimum of 300 total occurrence records; ii) a minimum of 50 records in each period (1901-1979 and 1980-2016); and iii) a minimum inventory completeness computed by KnowBR of 50% in each period. A total of 115 grid squares exceeded this threshold sampling intensity (Fig. 1), representing c. 2.5% of 10 km squares with any occurrence records, and c. 1.8% of squares in the entire Iberian Peninsula.

#### Climatic data and community indices

We used the dataset CHELSAcruts (Climatologies at high resolution for the earth's land surface areas: Karger et al., 2017) to obtain monthly maximum and minimum temperatures and precipitation sums over the period 1901-2016 at a resolution of 1 km. We used these data to calculate the mean annual temperature (°C) and precipitation (mm) for each period (1901-1979 and 1980-2016) in each 10 km square. This allowed us to compute for each species at 10 km resolution in the Iberian Peninsula the same metrics that have been calculated in the CLIMBER database (Climatic niche characteristics of the butterflies in Europe) using butterfly records at 50 km resolution for 1981-2000 (Schweiger et al., 2014; Platania et al., 2020). For each species, we calculate the Species Temperature Index (STI) as the mean temperature (°C), and the Species Precipitation Index (SPI) as the mean precipitation (mm), in 10 km squares where the species was recorded in 1980-2016, the period when distributions were sampled more completely. We tested whether our measures of STI and SPI for the Iberian Peninsula were consistent with those calculated across Europe for 222 species (Platania et al., 2020) and with a previous calculation for 63 species in the Iberian Peninsula based on atlas data from 1998-2005 (Herrando et al., 2019) using Spearman rank correlations because most variables were not normally distributed (Table S2).

To ensure our measures of Community Temperature Index (CTI) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI) were independent from (and could therefore be compared to) these measures of STI and SPI, we excluded the 115 best-sampled grid squares from the data and re-calculated STI and SPI for each species based on all remaining 10 km grid squares with occurrence records in 1980-2016 (n = 4390). We used these re-calculated indices to calculate CTI and CPI, for all squares except those that underpinned our species-level indices. We checked the revised species indices by correlating them with the STI and SPI values from all squares (Table S2). For the 115 well-sampled squares, we computed community indices based on the presence of species in 1901-1979 and 1980-2016 respectively. For each square, the Community Temperature Index (CTI) was the mean STI value of species recorded in the square during each respective period, and the Community Precipitation Index (CPI) was the mean SPI. We treated each species equally in the calculations because the occurrence records were not collected in a sufficiently systematic way to measure relative species abundances. Then for each 10 km square we calculated change over time in Community Temperature Index ( $\Delta$ CTI) and Community Precipitation Index ( $\Delta$ CPI) by subtracting the square's 1901-1979 index from its 1980-2016 index.

We obtained environmental data for the 115 well-sampled 10 km squares to test for factors influencing geographic variation and change over time in butterfly communities. The changes in mean annual temperature and precipitation from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016 were calculated for each square as a measure of the magnitude of climatic changes expected to have influenced butterfly communities. Temperature, rainfall and vegetation vary over elevation gradients (Körner, 2007); while topographic variation can influence rates of climatic change, as well as providing microclimatic variation that protects species from climatic change by allowing localised changes to species distributions (Scherrer & Körner, 2011). We used the 25 m resolution European Digital elevation model (EU-DEM, 2016) to compute mean elevation (m) and standard deviation in elevation (as a measure of topographic variability) per 10 km square; and we also computed the standard deviation of annual mean temperature and precipitation across the 100 constituent 1 km cells in each square as measures of local climatic variation. We recorded longitude, latitude and distance from the coast for each square because of their potential influences on butterfly faunas (Romo & García-Barros, 2010; Pulido-Pastor et al., 2018), and on climatic conditions and rates of change (Serrano-Notivoli et al., 2018, 2019).

#### Community associations with vegetation cover

The composition of insect communities in Mediterranean Europe has responded to recent land abandonment (Stefanescu et al., 2011; Dantas de Miranda et al., 2019; Wölfling et al., 2019; Ubach et al., 2020). To test whether increased vegetation cover had influenced Iberian butterfly communities, or modified their responses to climate change, we used an index (TAO) for the association of species with open or closed vegetation (Ubach et al., 2020). TAO represents a value between +1 (species associated with entirely open habitats) and -1 (species associated

with entirely closed habitats) and has been calculated for butterflies in North East Spain based on habitat associations in the Catalan Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. Thus, in common with STI and SPI, TAO was calculated for each species independently of its occurrence in the 115 well-sampled squares. However, whereas we used atlas data to calculate STI and SPI, we applied the published TAO values based on monitoring data for 145 species for which the index has been calculated (Ubach et al., 2020) (Table S1). We computed the community TAO index (TAOc) for each of the 115 well-sampled 10 km squares for 1901-1979 and 1980-2016 as the average TAO for species that were recorded in the respective period. As for calculation of CTI and CPI, we treated each species equally (i.e., species presence rather than relative abundance). We measured change in TAOc over time ( $\Delta$ TAOc) in the same way as for CTI and CPI, as the index for the first period subtracted from the index for the second.

#### Data analysis

#### Relating community indices to climatic and geographic variables

To test whether butterfly community indices in the 115 squares in 1980-2016 reflected spatial variation in climatic conditions, we ran linear models of CTI and CPI against observed mean temperature and precipitation (the respective climatic predictors). We included elevation, latitude, longitude and distance to the coast as explanatory variables, as well as standard deviation (SD) in elevation (at 25 m resolution in each 10 km square) and standard deviation in the climatic predictor (at 1 km resolution), to test for effects of variation in topography or local climate within each grid square. We tested the interaction between SD climatic variation and the climatic variable, to assess whether spatial variation in climatic conditions could influence butterfly community responses to the average climate. To understand geographic variation in temperature and precipitation across the 115 squares, and the climatic gradients that butterfly communities were responding to, we also modelled temperature and precipitation against elevation, SD elevation, latitude, longitude, and distance from the coast. We used the same approach to model the effects of these geographic variables on TAOc (the association of the butterfly community with open or closed vegetation). We also correlated CTI, CPI and TAOc to test whether butterfly community associations with the climatic variables and land cover were linked.

We used R version 3.6 for all analyses (R Core Team, 2018). For model selection we used the dredge function in the MuMIn package (Bartoń, 2020). We standardised all explanatory variables to compare variable effect sizes in the models (Schielzeth, 2010), and used an information theoretic approach, comparing candidate models using the Akaike Information Criterion corrected for small sample sizes (AICc) (Burnham & Anderson, 2002). The most parsimonious model for each test was that with the lowest AICc, and we constructed a confidence model set including all candidate models whose AICc differed by 6 or less from

the most parsimonious model ( $\Delta AIC \le 6$ ) (Richards, 2008). We consider a parameter to have strong support if it was included in all models of the confidence set (Richards, 2015).

### Change in community indices

To test whether climatic conditions or butterfly community associations changed from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016, we used non-parametric Wilcoxon tests paired by the 115 grid squares, since not all datasets were normally distributed.

To test whether communities had changed to a greater extent where climatic conditions had changed more, we modelled change in the community indices against change in the respective climatic variable (i.e., CTI change against change in mean temperature; CPI change against change in annual precipitation). Again, we tested for possible effects of elevation, latitude, longitude and distance from the coast, and for standard deviation in the climatic variable and elevation. As a test for the possible buffering effect of local variation in climatic conditions, we included an interaction between the magnitude of temperature or precipitation change with standard deviation in temperature or precipitation in each grid square in 1980-2016. For all analyses, we used model selection based on AICc in MuMIn as above.

To understand the factors influencing exposure to climatic change, we modelled rates of temperature or precipitation change across the 115 squares against the same set of environmental variables (elevation, latitude, longitude, distance from the coast), including SD elevation to test whether topographic variation influenced temperature or precipitation change. We tested interaction terms for mean and SD elevation with distance from the coast, given the importance of elevation and coastal proximity for climatic variation in the Iberian Peninsula (Serrano-Notivoli et al., 2019). We also compared changes to mean annual temperature and precipitation over the constituent 1 km squares, to understand whether localised displacements by butterflies might allow them to cope with observed rates of climatic change.

For the 1980-2016 community indices and change in these indices over time, we tested for spatial autocorrelation, which can cause overfitting in model selection (Diniz-Filho et al., 2008). We calculated global Moran's I in each index and its associated climatic variable for a distance of 248 km, at which each of the 115 squares had at least one nearest neighbour, and tested whether autocorrelation was reduced in the residuals of the best model for each variable analysed. We also calculated variance inflation factors to assess collinearity amongst all predictors in the models (Zuur et al., 2010).

### Results

Values of Species Temperature Index (STI) and Species Precipitation Index (SPI) calculated from the 10 km atlas data for 1980-2016 were strongly positively correlated with previous calculations of STI and SPI for the species in Europe and the Iberian Peninsula (Table S2).

The 115 well-sampled 10 km squares were widely distributed, including locations from coastal and inland, low, and high elevation, and a wide range of longitudes and latitudes (Fig. 1, Table 1). Across these squares, the main geographic gradients in the climate were lower mean temperature at higher elevation (effect size in the top-ranked model:  $-0.85 \pm SE \ 0.01$ ) and latitude ( $-0.26 \pm 0.01$ ), and greater precipitation at higher latitude ( $0.67 \pm 0.07$ ). In addition, temperature was lower but annual precipitation was greater in squares with greater standard deviation in elevation, nearer the coast, and further west (Table 2a).

The mean annual temperature was higher in all 115 squares in 1980-2016 than in 1901-1979 (median change +1.14 °C; range 0.8-1.3 °C). Annual precipitation was lower in 111 (97%) of the grid squares in 1980-2016 (median change -48 mm; maximum reduction 80 mm) (Paired Wilcoxon tests for changes in both climatic variables, n = 115, P < 0.001) (Table 1, Fig. 2c, d). The mean estimated range in annual temperature across 1 km cells in a 10 km square was 5.2 °C in 1980-2016: in 105 squares (91%), this spatial variation in temperature was greater than the change from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016 (the ten exceptions were all lowland squares below 655 m average elevation). The mean range in annual precipitation across 1 km cells per 10 km square was 432 mm (minimum 69 mm, maximum 890 mm), and this spatial variation was greater than the change in precipitation between the two periods for all 115 squares.

Temperature increases from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016 were lower in grid squares with greater standard deviation in elevation (effect size:  $-0.50 \pm 0.10$ ). Temperature increases were greater at higher latitudes and longitudes (further north and east), at higher elevations, and further from the coast (Table 2b). Precipitation change showed less clear geographic patterns, although declines appeared to be greater at higher elevation, further east, and further inland. Precipitation also decreased where elevation was more variable, although a positive interaction between distance to the coast and standard deviation in elevation gave a weak indication that topographic variation at inland sites had maintained higher precipitation than in locations with more uniform elevation (Table 2b).

### Geographic variation in community indices

Community Temperature Index (CTI) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI) for the 115 squares in 1980-2016 were respectively positively related to mean temperature (effect size:  $1.47 \pm 0.10$ ) and precipitation ( $0.25 \pm 0.05$ ) (Fig. 2a, b). CTI in 1980-2016 varied by 0.22 °C per 1 °C geographic difference in mean temperature, and CPI varied by 13.87 mm per 100 mm difference in annual precipitation. Mean temperature was the only variable included in all

models in the confidence set for CTI (Table 3a). All models in the confidence set for CPI included positive effects of precipitation, elevation and latitude, and negative effects of distance to the coast (i.e., CPI was greater at higher elevation and in the north, and nearer the coast, in addition to the effects of precipitation; Fig. 3b). The top-ranked (lowest AICc) models for both community indices included negative interactions between the climatic term and its standard deviation among 1 km cells in the 10 km squares, suggesting that CTI or CPI did not respond so strongly to temperature or precipitation where there was greater local climatic variation. CTI and CPI were negatively correlated with one another (n = 115,  $r_s = -0.94$ , P < 0.001).

For individual species, the TAO index of association with open or closed vegetation was not significantly related to STI or SPI (Table S2). Community TAO (TAOc) in the 115 squares in 1980-2016 was also not related to CTI ( $r_s = 0.12$ , P = 0.21) or CPI ( $r_s = -0.15$ , P = 0.11). The best model for TAOc included a negative effect of elevation (-0.31 ± 0.10), and a negative interaction between elevation and distance from the coast (-0.40 ± 0.10) (Table 4). This model indicates that communities were more associated with closed vegetation at low elevations near the coast and at high elevations inland, and were more associated with open habitats at relatively high elevations nearer the coast but low elevations inland (possibly related to geographic patterns in the vegetation of the Iberian Peninsula, e.g., see Loidi, 2017).

#### Changes to community indices over time

In contrast to observed changes in temperature and precipitation, CTI and CPI did not change systematically across the focal squares between 1901-1979 and 1980-2016 (Table 1, Fig. 2). CTI increased in 69 and decreased in 46 squares (Wilcoxon test, P = 0.12), whilst CPI increased in 58 and decreased in 57 squares (P = 0.95). The most parsimonious models explained only a small amount of variation in changes to CTI and CPI over time (adjusted r<sup>2</sup> 0.09 and 0.07 respectively; Fig. 4), but showed that changes to the community indices were related to rates of climatic change, because positive effects of temperature change (effect size:  $0.26 \pm 0.13$ ) and precipitation change ( $0.26 \pm 0.10$ ) were included in the top-ranked models for CTI and CPI respectively (Table 3b).

A negative effect of distance to the coast was the only variable included in all models in the confidence set for CTI change, indicating that CTI increased least in squares that were further inland (Fig. 3). CTI also increased less at higher latitudes. These effects contrast with the greater observed increases in temperature further inland and further north (Table 2b). Models for CPI change were weakly supported, with maximum  $\Delta$ AICc from the null model of only 4.02. The top-ranked model suggested that CPI remained relatively high (despite reductions in precipitation) in squares that were further inland (positive effect of distance to the coast) and where there was greater local variation in precipitation (positive effect of SD precipitation; positive interaction between precipitation change and SD precipitation).

Community TAOc decreased in 71 grid cells and increased in 44 (Wilcoxon test, V = 4357, P = 0.004), showing that butterfly communities in 1980-2016 were associated with more closed vegetation than in 1901-1979. All candidate models for change in TAOc were weakly supported (no variables included in all models of the candidate set, maximum  $\Delta$ AICc from null model = 1.17; Table 4), suggesting that changes to vegetation associations were occurring throughout the Iberian Peninsula. Whereas respective changes to CTI and CPI were negatively correlated ( $r_s = -0.76$ , P < 0.001), change to TAOc was not correlated with change in CTI ( $r_s = -0.12$ , P = 0.21) or CPI ( $r_s = -0.07$ , P = 0.42).

Spatial autocorrelation in CTI, CPI and change in these indices was reduced by the fitted models (Table S3). There was no significant spatial autocorrelation in TAOc or  $\Delta$ TAOc. Variance Inflation Factors ranged from 1.1 to 2.7 for variables included in the models, suggesting that results were robust to multicollinearity.

#### Discussion

We used indices based on occurrence records from the Iberian Peninsula to assess butterfly community variation over space and time in response to climate and land cover. The climatic associations of butterfly communities, quantified by Community Temperature Index (CTI) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI), were correlated with geographic variation in mean temperature and precipitation, respectively. Between 1901-1979 and 1980-2016, greater rates of warming and drying were associated with greater increases in CTI and reductions in CPI. However, whereas temperature and precipitation changed significantly over time, the community climatic indices did not show significant change. Topographic variation may have buffered communities against the effects of warming and drying, because rates of warming were reduced by greater variation in elevation, and we found evidence that local climatic variation dampened community responses to climate over space and time. The most widespread change to butterfly communities over time was an increased association with more closed vegetation. Thus, our results suggest that the Iberian butterfly fauna at 10 km spatial resolution has not yet shown generalised responses to climate change. Instead, local climatic variation related to topography, and the capacity of butterflies for behavioural thermoregulation, may have buffered communities against the effects of climate change; or climate-driven changes may have been overshadowed by factors such as land cover change.

#### Climatic associations of butterfly communities

We separated atlas data for the butterflies of the Iberian Peninsula into 115 well-sampled 10 km squares, and the remaining squares from which we calculated species temperature and precipitation indices. For the well-sampled squares, we found strong evidence that butterfly CTI was correlated with temperature, and CPI with precipitation. Evidence that these indices of community composition vary over geographic gradients in the climate (e.g., Nieto-Sánchez et al., 2015), combined with widespread recent observations of range shifts by species in

response to warming (Lenoir et al., 2020), suggest that space-for-time substitutions in biogeographic patterns will occur as communities are increasingly composed of warm- or dry-adapted species (Devictor et al., 2008, 2012). Our results do not demonstrate recent space-for-time substitutions in the butterfly fauna of the Iberian Peninsula, because whilst conditions became significantly hotter and drier between 1901-1979 and 1980-2016, the butterfly faunas showed no generalised increases in CTI or decreases in CPI.

Previous studies at finer resolution in different parts of the Iberian Peninsula have shown inconsistent recent changes to the climatic associations of butterfly communities. For example, CTI increased between 1967-1973 and 2006-2012 at sites between 580 m and 2250 m elevation in the Sierra de Guadarrama in central Spain (Nieto-Sánchez et al., 2015). In contrast, CTI in monitored sites showed non-significant decreases in north-eastern Spain (Stefanescu et al., 2011; Devictor et al., 2012), where butterfly and bird communities appear to be responding more to changes in precipitation (Herrando et al., 2019). We found that (accounting for geographic variation), CTI increased more where there was greater warming, and CPI reduced more where precipitation declined more, and therefore that the previously recorded geographic differences could partly be explained by different rates of warming and drying in different regions. Conditions heated most further from the coast, such as where Nieto-Sánchez et al. (2015) found increases in CTI, whereas precipitation reduced more in the east, where Herrando et al.'s (2019) study was focused.

Changes to the climatic variables themselves were more pronounced than changes to butterfly communities, with several possible methodological and biological explanations. We sought to control for sampling effort by restricting analyses to the most comprehensively sampled grid squares over both periods. However, documented faunas are likely to be incomplete for most grid squares, particularly in the 1901-1979 baseline period used to calculate change in CTI and CPI. Uncertainty in baseline data imposes noise on observed insect trends (Didham et al., 2020), which in this case might obscure responses of CTI and CPI to climatic change. In this respect, it is reassuring that we did detect albeit weak effects of warming on the rate of CTI change, and of drying on the rate of CPI change (Fig. 4).

Our results could also be explained by time lags in community responses to climate change ("climatic debt"; Devictor et al., 2012), or time lags in extirpations resulting from global change more generally ("extinction debt"; Kuussaari et al. 2009). Following postglacial recolonizations from ice age refugia (Schmitt, 2007), faunal composition in the Iberian Peninsula in the baseline period (1901-1979) is likely to have been associated largely with climatic conditions (Hawkins & Porter, 2003). In the Iberian Peninsula, butterfly species richness generally declines to the south and west associated with increasing water stress (Stefanescu et al., 2004; see also Penado et al., 2016 for bumblebee species richness and temperature). Hence, if species requiring cooler or wetter environments are lost from a location, relatively few species associated with warmer or drier conditions may be available to colonise,

and the chances of specialists doing so is limited by isolated habitat distributions (Wilson et al., 2007). CTI increased less both inland and at higher latitudes, despite high rates of warming in these locations: in both cases, few thermophilic species may be present nearby (Romo & García-Barros, 2010; Pulido-Pastor et al., 2018) and would need to travel long distances across inhospitable habitats for colonization. Nevertheless, there is evidence that species formerly restricted to southern or coastal regions, such as *Zizeeria knysna* (Trimen, 1862; Lycaenidae) or *Charaxes jasius* (Linnaeus, 1767; Nymphalidae), have begun to colonise inland and at higher elevations (Munguira, *pers. obs.*; Cancela & Vasconcelos, 2019).

A second possible biological explanation for the discrepancy in rates of climatic and community change is that other changes to vegetation or land cover have obscured changes driven by the climate (González-Megías et al., 2008). We found that an index of the vegetation associations of communities (TAOc) showed a significant shift towards species more associated with closed vegetation. Equivalent changes have been observed in butterfly monitoring data from Catalonia (north east Spain) since the 1990s (Stefanescu et al., 2011; Herrando et al., 2016; Ubach et al., 2020), driven at least partly by extirpations of species using open habitats. Our results suggest that these changes have occurred across the Iberian Peninsula for a longer period of time (since 1980 or before), likely associated with habitat abandonment as rural to urban migration occurred during the twentieth century (Rescia et al., 2010; Serra et al., 2014). There was little evidence for geographic variation in changes to TAOc, suggesting a widespread trend. Faunal changes towards insects and birds using more closed vegetation have been observed in several parts of Mediterranean Europe (Clavero et al., 2011; Barnagaud et al., 2013; Herrando et al., 2016; Dantas de Miranda et al., 2019; Wölfling et al., 2019; Tellería 2019, 2020), and their consequences for functional and taxonomic diversity merit research.

It is possible that changes to climatic conditions have not yet been sufficient to cause systematic changes in the butterflies recorded at 10 km resolution. For most grid squares, changes to temperature or precipitation over time were exceeded by spatial variation among 1 km cells in 1980-2016. Hence, it is likely that species would have been able, if needed, to shift their distributions locally within 10 km squares to maintain associations with favourable climatic conditions (Roth et al., 2014; Colom et al., 2020). Local range shifts could occur via movements to higher elevations (Wilson et al., 2007; Geppert et al., 2020; Marshall et al., 2020), or to cooler microclimates on north-facing slopes or in narrow valleys (Scherrer & Körner, 2011), which could provide locally cooler or moister conditions. Butterflies can also respond *in situ* to climatic variability through changes to behaviours such as egg-site selection (Bennett et al., 2015), basking (Barton et al., 2014) and aestivation (García-Barros, 1988), and through plasticity in physiology and morphology (e.g., de Jong et al., 2010; Gibbs et al., 2011). Variation within and among species in phenological responses to climate change could also buffer populations and communities against changes to prevailing climatic conditions during flight periods (e.g., Stefanescu et al., 2003; Gutiérrez & Wilson, 2021). Nevertheless, climatic

unpredictability may limit the scope of phenotypic plasticity to buffer populations against climate change (Kingsolver & Huey, 1998; Kingsolver & Buckley, 2018). As a result, although the geographic distributions of butterflies may be closely related to variation in the climate, there are likely to be delays in climate-driven range shifts resulting from colonizations or local extinctions (Rapacciuolo et al., 2011), with accompanying delays in community responses (Devictor et al., 2012).

### Environmental buffers against climatic change

Greater variation in elevation or topography could shield ecological communities from the impacts of global change for several reasons. Steeper slopes lead to a wider range of habitats and abiotic conditions (including microclimates). Landscapes with steeper slopes experience reduced rates of conversion to intensive uses but are subject to abandonment if extensive agriculture or livestock rearing become economically unsustainable (Debussche et al., 1999). In Catalonia, sites with greater topographic heterogeneity support butterfly populations with less variable population dynamics (Oliver et al., 2014) and reduced local extinction risk (Fernández-Chacón et al., 2013). The ability of topographic variation to provide a wider range of microclimatic conditions and hence to reduce rates of extirpation from 10 km cells has been observed for insects and plants that are sensitive to warming in England (Suggitt et al., 2018). In our study we show that 10 km squares with greater variation in elevation (e.g., in mountainous regions) experienced reduced warming from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016, decreasing the exposure of mountain butterfly communities to hotter conditions. These observations reinforce the importance of topographic or microclimatic heterogeneity in models of ecological responses to climate change and highlight the vulnerability of insects in flat landscapes to climate change (Luoto & Heikkinen, 2008; Roth et al., 2014; Penado et al., 2016). Nevertheless, warming rates and reductions in precipitation tended to be greater at high elevations: observed community responses to climate change over gradients of elevation and land use will reflect these combined changes to temperature, precipitation, and weather patterns (Halsch et al., 2021), and their effects on insects and interacting species such as host plants (Gutiérrez et al., 2016).

Land abandonment or changed forestry practices have led to increased tree cover in southern Europe (Debussche et al., 1999; Rescia et al., 2010; Marshall et al., 2020). Apart from promoting population recovery in woodland butterflies (Stefanescu et al., 2011) greater vegetation cover could counteract the ecological effects of climate change by providing cooler microclimates (Barnagaud et al., 2012; De Frenne et al., 2019). Mountain bird communities in the Iberian Peninsula have recently become increasingly dominated by forest species, in some cases with evidence that forest species have expanded downhill to take advantage of increasing habitat availability (Tellería 2019) and reducing Community Temperature Index despite climatic warming (Clavero et al., 2011; Stefanescu et al., 2011). However, in our study there was little evidence that changes to the TAOc index for butterfly communities were correlated

with changes to climatic associations, or that increasing contributions by species of closed habitats would act either antagonistically or synergistically to the community changes expected from climate change.

# Adapting conservation to climate change

Topographic variation can reduce rates of climate warming and provide a range of microclimatic conditions and habitats, helping species to shift their distributions on a local scale (Roth et al., 2014). The need to protect sufficient abiotic variation to facilitate ecological and evolutionary responses to global change ("conserving nature's stage"; Lawler et al., 2015) demands that habitats are protected, connected and managed across geographic and climatic gradients, permitting communities to track ongoing changes to climate and land cover (Mingarro et al., 2020).

We demonstrate that occurrence data can be valuable for identifying long-term or large-scale changes to a fauna, and for suggesting the reasons behind apparent differences in trends between regions or at different spatial scales. We were able to use atlas data from throughout the Iberian Peninsula to calculate Species Temperature and Species Precipitation Indices that were closely correlated with STI and SPI for Europe (Platania et al., 2020), even though most 10 km squares have incomplete faunal information for butterflies (García-Barros et al., 2004), as is the case for other insects in the Iberian Peninsula (Penado et al., 2016; Lobo et al., 2018) and for butterflies in much of the world (Girardello et al., 2019). A limited number of relatively well-sampled 10 km squares could then be used to detect changes in communities over time from before 1980, and to infer the factors driving these changes.

We suggest that the identification of potential refugia from climate change in regions where there are geographic or historical gaps in species distribution data will benefit from: a) geographic information on climatic variation over space and time (Serrano-Notivoli et al., 2018, 2019); b) comprehensive evidence of past distributions from the ongoing cataloguing of natural history collections (Kharouba et al., 2019; Montgomery et al., 2020); and c) up-to-date surveys of species distributions and abundance (e.g., Stefanescu et al., 2004, 2011). Our study shows how the complementary use of such data can provide information on changes to butterfly communities and their drivers for one region of Mediterranean Europe.

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# **Conflict of interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

# **Supporting information**

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

Table S1. Species Temperature Index (STI) and Species Precipitation Index (SPI) for 225 butterfly species based on confirmed 10 km distribution records in the Iberian Peninsula from 1980 to 2016. The total number of squares where each species was recorded is shown, with the number of 115 well-sampled 10 km squares in parenthesis and superscript. STI and SPI calculated excluding these 115 well-sampled squares (to permit independent analyses of CTI and CPI) also shown in superscript. Species are shown in alphabetical order within families.

Table S2. Spearman correlation coefficients (r<sub>s</sub>) of Species Temperature Index (STI) and Species Precipitation Index (SPI) from 10 km atlas data in the Iberian Peninsula (1980-2016) against published calculations of STI and SPI for Europe and the Iberian Peninsula, and the TAO open/closed vegetation index from Ubach et al. (2020). Spatial resolution and sampling period of data used to derive the indices are shown.

Table S3. Spatial autocorrelation in community indices, their climatic explanatory variables and in the residuals of the top-ranked models. Results show Moran's I calculated for a 148 km interval, the minimum distance at which all 115 grid squares have at least one neighbour.

Data S1. Geographic, temperature, precipitation, and community indices (CTI, CPI, TAOc) in 1901-1979 and 1980-2016, and change over time in these variables, for the 115 well-sampled 10 km squares.

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Table 1. Environmental and butterfly community variation in the 115 grid squares which met criteria for completeness of sampling in both 1901-1979 and 1980-2016. Community associations are summarised as the Community Temperature Index (CTI), Community Precipitation Index (CPI) and TAOc Index of species associations with vegetation cover (-1: closed; +1: open; Ubach et al., 2020). Temperature and precipitation are average values per 10 km square, sourced at 1 km resolution (Karger et al., 2017).

	Minimum	Maximum	Median
Latitude (°N)	36.17	43.49	42.05
Longitude (°E)	-9.40	2.70	-1.76
Elevation (m)	12.68	2348.16	1065.32
Distance to the coast (km)	0.46	329.50	149.24
1901-1979			
Mean annual temperature (°C)	0.54	17.88	9.31
Annual precipitation (mm)	317.91	1753.28	875.02
CTI	9.13	13.43	11.48
СРІ	715.21	957.05	821.44
TAOc	0.28	0.45	0.35
1980-2016			
Mean annual temperature (°C)	1.64	18.68	10.45
Annual precipitation (mm)	299.12	1720.22	812.13
CTI	9.07	13.61	11.49
СРІ	706.75	942.86	819.69
TAOc	0.27	0.41	0.34

Table 2. Models for climatic variation among the 115 focal grid squares. a) Mean annual temperature (°C) and precipitation (mm) in 1980-2016; b) Changes to temperature and precipitation from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016. Standard deviation (SD) represents variation across 1 km cells in the 10 km grid squares for elevation. Interaction terms of elevation and SD elevation with distance from the coast were tested. Coefficients ( $\pm$ SE) are shown for the top-ranking model based on AICc; variables in bold selected in all models within the confidence set ( $\Delta$ AICc<6 of the top model). Variable importance shows the sum of weights of models containing the variable in the confidence set. †Denotes terms included in all models under a less conservative criterion of  $\Delta$ AICc<2 (Burnham & Anderson, 2002).

Climate term	Intercept	Elevation	SD elevation	Latitude	Longitude	Distance to coast	Interaction elevation:	Interaction SD elevation:	Adj. r <sup>2</sup>	AICc
							distance to coast	distance to coast		
a) 1980-202	16 climatic	conditions								
Temperature	-0.00	-0.85	-0.06	-0.26	+0.03†	+0.12		-0.03	0.99	-215.0
	(±0.01)	(± <b>0.01</b> )	(±0.01)	(±0.01)	(±0.01)	(±0.01)		(±0.01)		
Importance		0.97	0.97	0.97	0.91	0.97	0.28	0.89		
Precipitation	+0.00		+0.39	+0.67	-0.38	-0.26			0.67	207.1
	(±0.05)		(± <b>0.06</b> )	(± <b>0.07</b> )	(± <b>0.06</b> )	(±0.05)				
Importance		0.55	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.14	0.26		
b) Change	in climatic	conditions								
Temperature	-0.01	+0.27†	-0.50	+0.50	+0.12	+0.39		-0.14	0.61	227.3
	(±0.06)	(±0.10)	(±0.10)	(± <b>0.07</b> )	(±0.07)	(± <b>0.07</b> )		(±0.07)		
Importance		0.97	0.99	0.99	0.60	0.99	0.36	0.62		
Precipitation	+0.01	-0.33†	-0.22		-0.20†	-0.08		+0.13	0.40	276.1
	(±0.07)	(±0.12)	(±0.12)		(±0.08)	(±0.09)		(±0.08)		
Importance		0.95	0.67	0.29	0.90	0.73	0.27	0.27		

Table 3. Models for community climatic associations in the 115 focal grid squares. a) Community Temperature Index (CTI) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI) in 1980-2016; b) Changes to CTI and CPI from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016. \*Independent climate terms were a) mean annual temperature (°C) for CTI and mean annual precipitation (mm) for CPI; or b) change in these variables over time. Standard deviation (SD) represents variation across 1 km cells in the 10 km grid squares for the respective climate terms and elevation. Coefficients (±SE) are shown for the top-ranking model based on AICc; variables in bold selected in all models within the confidence set ( $\Delta$ AICc<6 of the top model). Variable importance shows the sum of weights of models containing the variable in the confidence set. †Denotes terms included in all models under a less conservative criterion of  $\Delta$ AICc<2 (Burnham & Anderson, 2002).

Index	Intercept		SD climate	Interaction	Elevation	SD	Latitude	Longitude	<b>Distance</b>	Adj. r <sup>2</sup>	AICc
		term*	term	climate:SD		elevation			to coast		
a) 1980	-2016 com	munity asso	ociations								
CTI	-0.04	+1.47	+0.40	-0.06	+0.64	-0.47		-0.08†	-0.11	0.94	7.4
	(±0.03)	(± <b>0.10</b> )	(±0.29)	(±0.02)	(±0.09)	(±0.30)		(±0.03)	(±0.03)		
Importance		0.97	0.69	0.45	0.62	0.53	0.69	0.76	0.58		
СРІ	+0.07	+0.25	+0.09†	-0.08†	+0.36	+0.14†	+0.37		-0.10	0.91	44.5
	(±0.04)	(± <b>0.05</b> )	(±0.06)	(±0.03)	(± <b>0.05</b> )	(±0.05)	(± <b>0.04</b> )		(± <b>0.03</b> )		
Importance		0.96	0.84	0.77	0.96	0.92	0.96	0.31	0.96		
b) Chan	ge in comn	nunity asso	ciations								
ΔCTΙ	$+1.0 e^{-16}$	+0.26					-0.22		-0.41	0.09	321.7
	(±0.09)	(±0.13)					(±0.11)		(± <b>0.11</b> )		
Importance		0.54	0.29	0.03	0.23	0.26	0.42	0.32	0.93		
ΔCPI	+0.07	+0.26†	+0.17†	+0.18					+0.21†	0.07	325.4
	(±0.10)	(±0.10)	(±0.10)	(±0.09)					(±0.10)		
Importance		0.68	0.58	0.41	0.26	0.21	0.19	0.31	0.76		

Table 4. Models for community associations with open or closed vegetation in the 115 focal grid squares. Models for a) the community TAOc index (Ubach et al., 2020) based on species presence /absence in 1980-2016, and b) changes to TAOc from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016. TAOc varies from +1 (species associated with entirely open habitats) to -1 (species associated with entirely closed habitats). Standard deviation (SD) represents variation across 1 km cells in the 10 km grid squares for elevation. Interaction terms of elevation and SD elevation with distance from the coast were tested. Coefficients ( $\pm$ SE) are shown for the top-ranking model based on AICc; variables in bold selected in all models within the confidence set ( $\Delta$ AICc<6 of the top model). Variable importance shows the sum of weights of models containing the variable in the confidence set.

Response	Intercept	Elevation	SD elevation	Latitude	Longitude	Distance to coast	Interaction elevation: distance to coast	Interaction SD elevation: distance to coast	Adj. r <sup>2</sup>	AICc
a) TAOc	+0.07 (±0.09)	-0.31 (±0.10)				+0.01 (±0.10)	-0.40 (±0.10)		0.14	316.0
Importance		0.92	0.25	0.23	0.22	0.92	0.92	0.05		
b) <b>ATAOc</b>	+0.00 (±0.09)			+0.16 (±0.09)		+0.15 (±0.09)			0.05	328.3
Importance		0.44	0.53	0.55	0.32	0.69	0.19	0.21		

### **Figure legends**

Fig. 1. Variation in climatic conditions over space and time in the Iberian Peninsula. a, b) 1 km resolution mean annual temperature (°C, a) and precipitation (mm, b) in 1980-2016 (data from Karger et al., 2017); c) mean annual temperature (°C) and d) precipitation (mm) across all grid squares from 1901 to 2016; lines smoothed according to loess method (local polynomial regression fitting) with 95% confidence intervals. In a and b, the 115 well-sampled 10 km grid squares are outlined in black.

Fig. 2. The relationship between community indices and climatic variables in the 115 wellsampled grid squares. Scatter plots for 1980-2016 of a) Community Temperature Index (CTI) against mean annual temperature; b) Community Precipitation Index (CPI) against mean annual precipitation. Boxplots show changes to the climatic variables (dark) and community indices (light) from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016 for c) temperature/CTI, and d) precipitation/CPI. Dotted lines in c and d show no change in indices or climatic variables.

Fig. 3. Butterfly Community Temperature Index (CTI – a, c) and Community Precipitation Index (CPI – b, d) for 115 well-sampled 10 km grid squares in 1980-2016 (a, b) and their change since 1901-1979 (c, d). Units are equivalent to  $^{\circ}$ C for CTI and mm for CPI.

Fig. 4. Observed against modelled changes in a) CTI and b) CPI from 1901-1979 to 1980-2016, based on the top-ranking models in Table 3b. Units are equivalent to a) °C and b) mm. Dashed line shows best fit, with shaded area showing 95% confidence intervals of the model. Symbols are shaded based on observed changes to a) Temperature and b) Precipitation in the 115 grid squares. Note that observed and modelled changes to CTI and CPI were both positive and negative, whereas temperature increased in all squares, and precipitation decreased in 111 grid squares.

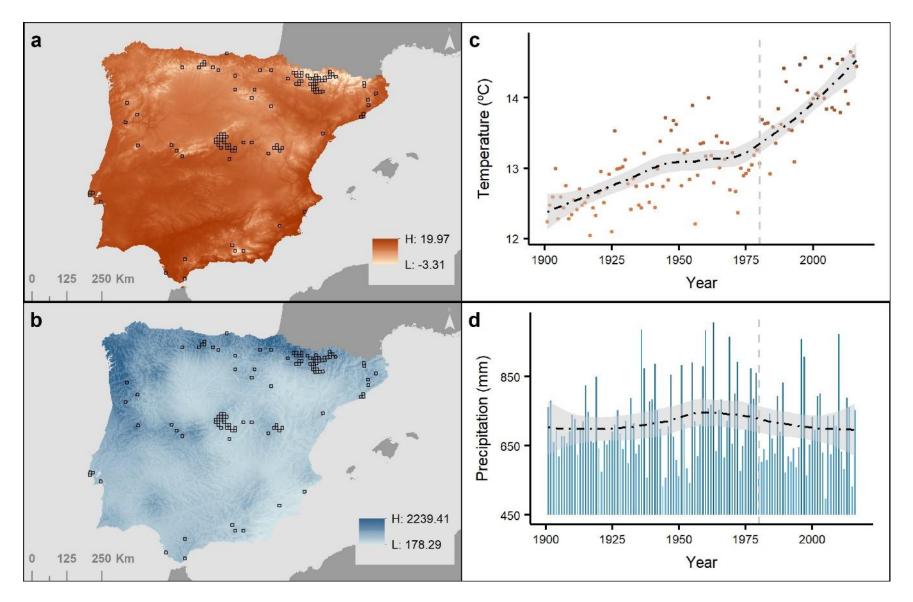
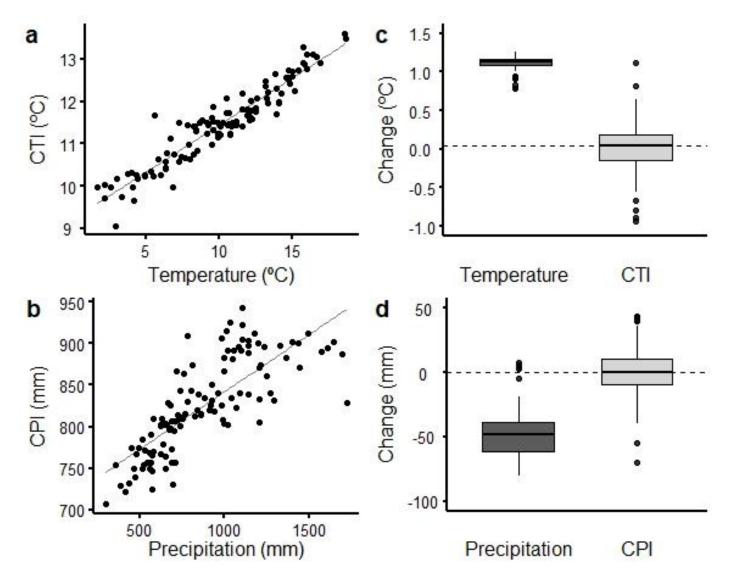


Figure 1.





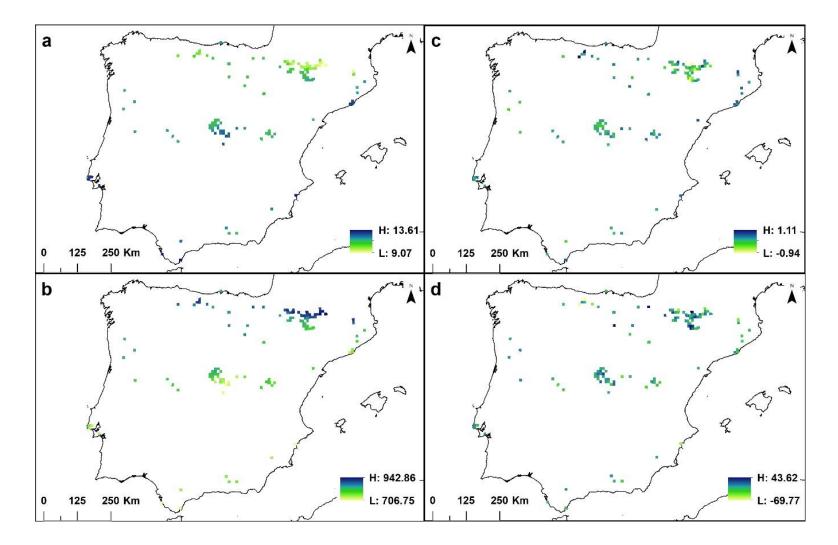


Figure 3.

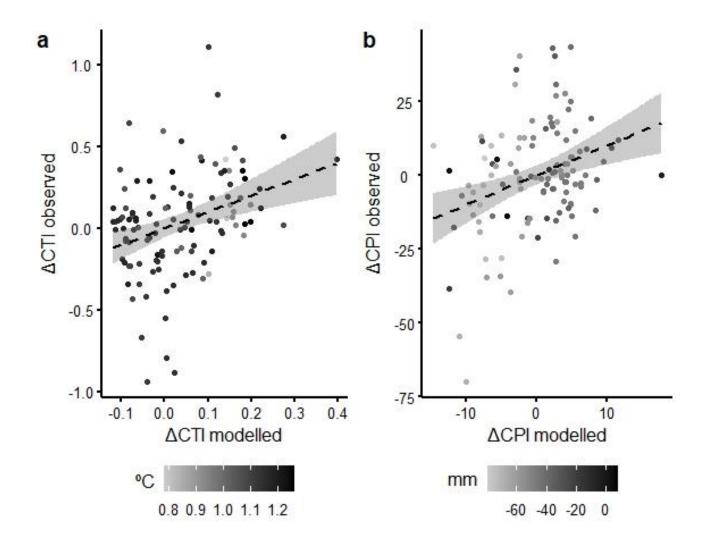


Figure 4

### **Supplementary Tables**

**Table S1.** Species Temperature Index (STI) and Species Precipitation Index (SPI) for 225 butterfly species based on confirmed 10 km records in the Iberian Peninsula from 1980 to 2016. The total number of squares where each species was recorded is shown, with the number of 115 well-sampled 10 km squares in parenthesis and superscript. STI and SPI calculated excluding these 115 well-sampled squares (to permit independent analyses of CTI and CPI) also shown in superscript. Species are shown in alphabetical order within families. For 145 species shown in bold the TAO open/closed vegetation index was used from Ubach et al. (2020).

2020).	N 10	km				
Species name	squa	res	STI (	°C)	SPI (n	nm)
Papilionidae						
Iphiclides feisthamelii	1801	(104)	12.79	12.94	777	771
Papilio machaon	1697	(100)	13.34	13.56	730	720
Parnassius apollo	351	(61)	8.38	8.61	906	885
Parnassius mnemosyne	41	(23)	4.67	4.33	1169	1123
Zerynthia rumina	1196	(59)	13.90	14.00	689	687
Hesperiidae						
Borbo borbonica	5	(1)	18.20	18.13	652	645
Carcharodus alceae	1015	(65)	13.17	13.33	750	746
Carcharodus baeticus	459	(30)	13.67	13.74	629	629
Carcharodus floccifera	150	(26)	9.87	10.24	926	912
Carcharodus lavatherae	200	(37)	10.64	11.22	823	788
Carcharodus tripolinus	22	(3)	16.88	17.10	592	600
Carterocephalus palaemon	41	(4)	9.15	9.52	1159	1165
Erynnis tages	651	(64)	11.05	11.29	920	911
Gegenes nostrodamus	155	(12)	16.12	16.16	534	536
Hesperia comma	563	(85)	9.94	10.14	881	869
Heteropterus morpheus	99	(5)	11.94	12.07	1186	1180
Muschampia proto	522	(31)	13.66	13.76	597	594
Ochlodes sylvanus	659	(70)	10.64	10.92	991	986
Pyrgus alveus	253	(49)	9.19	9.59	977	957
Pyrgus andromedae	19	(11)	4.57	5.24	1036	845

Pyrgus armoricanus	297	(35)	10.54	10.68	849	847
Pyrgus cacaliae	7	(5)	2.85	3.16	1030	1025
Pyrgus carthami	315	(48)	9.76	9.94	879	868
Pyrgus cinarae	7	(1)	9.97	9.89	699	692
Pyrgus cirsii	174	(36)	10.05	10.33	791	760
Pyrgus foulquieri	24	(5)	10.39	10.66	921	888
Pyrgus malvoides	560	(71)	10.52	10.70	934	929
Pyrgus onopordi	297	(34)	11.81	11.92	722	715
Pyrgus serratulae	324	(55)	9.24	9.50	946	940
Pyrgus sidae	6	(1)	9.89	9.17	985	981
Spialia sertorius	1125	(87)	12.36	12.56	777	768
Thymelicus acteon	1271	(80)	12.90	13.08	780	771
Thymelicus lineola	601	(67)	11.38	11.59	776	762
Thymelicus sylvestris	1281	(97)	12.04	12.24	805	796
Pieridae						
Anthocharis cardamines	1144	(102)	11.58	11.77	879	876
Anthocharis euphenoides	880	(81)	12.12	12.30	695	685
Aporia crataegi	1082	(98)	11.10	11.28	804	793
Colias alfacariensis	845	(90)	11.22	11.42	743	726
Colias crocea	2555	(114)	13.15	13.30	772	766
Colias phicomone	96	(30)	5.76	6.06	1140	1120
Colotis evagore	79	(4)	16.41	16.58	441	437
Euchloe bazae <sup>+</sup>	9	(0)	15.21	15.21	410	410
Euchloe belemia	615	(12)	16.05	16.06	589	589
Euchloe crameri	1551	(89)	13.66	13.87	687	677
Euchloe simplonia	2	(1)	3.11	2.16	1174	841
Euchloe tagis	179	(10)	14.69	14.72	579	580
Gonepteryx cleopatra	1281	(98)	13.29	13.54	740	728
Gonepteryx rhamni	1278	(99)	11.63	11.79	892	890
Leptidea reali <sup>¥</sup>	37	(4)	9.23	9.40	828	801
Leptidea sinapis	1317	(96)	11.98	12.18	882	878
Pieris brassicae	1932	(110)	13.50	13.70	806	802
Pieris ergane	61	(14)	8.67	9.21	891	847

Pieris mannii	110	(24)	11.53	12.25	690	659
Pieris napi	1227	(103)	11.72	11.91	862	858
Pieris rapae	2710	(114)	13.33	13.47	773	768
Pontia callidice	59	(22)	4.36	4.36	1056	988
Pontia daplidice	1722	(100)	13.49	13.69	690	678
Zegris eupheme	257	(18)	13.86	13.87	482	478
Riodinidae						
Hamearis lucina	248	(41)	9.26	9.59	973	955
Lycaenidae						
Agriades glandon	36	(19)	4.19	3.70	1178	1161
Agriades pyrenaicus	31	(6)	6.81	7.31	1299	1264
Agriades zullichi	7	(2)	6.34	6.35	533	523
Aricia cramera	1522	(85)	13.53	13.71	705	698
Aricia montensis	488	(65)	10.01	10.29	904	892
Aricia morronensis	116	(17)	8.94	9.03	841	837
Aricia nicias	16	(4)	4.57	4.70	951	911
Azanus jesous‡	2	(1)	18.28	18.05	678	667
Cacyreus marshalli	513	(20)	14.65	14.71	753	753
Callophrys avis	122	(9)	13.91	13.91	820	827
Callophrys rubi	1267	(81)	12.82	12.98	760	752
Celastrina argiolus	1287	(78)	12.78	12.95	837	833
Cupido alcetas	89	(12)	10.27	10.41	871	849
Cupido argiades	380	(27)	11.13	11.27	985	983
Cupido lorquinii <sup>¥</sup>	95	(8)	14.56	14.73	644	646
Cupido minimus	496	(66)	10.11	10.41	847	828
Cupido osiris	281	(46)	10.06	10.53	841	807
Cyaniris semiargus	461	(65)	9.66	9.92	873	858
Eumedonia eumedon	69	(12)	7.62	8.12	952	930
Favonius quercus	537	(56)	12.23	12.37	784	778
Glaucopsyche alexis	749	(70)	11.63	11.78	750	741
Glaucopsyche melanops	1075	(69)	13.31	13.49	728	720
Iolana debilitata	82	(18)	12.37	12.76	587	573
Kretania hesperica	61	(11)	12.62	12.82	493	491

Laeosopis roboris	464	(46)	11.66	11.92	847	840
Lampides boeticus	1373	(101)	12.85	13.07	770	763
Leptotes pirithous	1480	(56)	13.71	13.78	818	820
Lycaena alciphron	504	(64)	10.21	10.48	886	873
Lycaena bleusei	197	(22)	12.70	12.87	780	788
Lycaena helle	4	(1)	4.42	5.42	906	838
Lycaena hippothoe	141	(28)	6.85	7.18	1042	1012
Lycaena phlaeas	1772	(96)	13.39	13.58	730	721
Lycaena tityrus	360	(32)	10.31	10.65	1113	1107
Lycaena virgaureae	291	(46)	8.18	8.41	986	972
Lysandra albicans	580	(57)	11.71	11.94	671	651
Lysandra bellargus	946	(85)	12.26	12.52	736	720
Lysandra caelestissima	10	(4)	9.31	9.40	665	673
Lysandra coridon	471	(58)	9.48	9.75	951	935
Phengaris alcon	109	(13)	9.63	10.20	1099	1093
Phengaris arion	198	(39)	9.19	9.77	953	922
Phengaris nausithous	23	(3)	7.87	7.92	1018	1002
Plebejus argus	751	(77)	10.64	10.86	876	866
Plebejus idas	266	(52)	8.73	9.00	953	934
Polyommatus amandus	200	(37)	9.35	9.78	892	857
Polyommatus celina† <sup>¥</sup>	90	(0)	15.66	15.66	617	617
Polyommatus damon	152	(25)	9.37	9.77	863	833
Polyommatus daphnis	78	(8)	11.06	10.99	686	688
Polyommatus dorylas	400	(51)	9.41	9.73	914	898
Polyommatus eros	38	(20)	4.75	5.19	1133	1051
Polyommatus escheri	414	(63)	10.66	10.99	784	764
Polyommatus fabressei	80	(7)	10.87	11.05	563	560
Polyommatus fulgens	197	(27)	10.56	10.77	834	814
Polyommatus golgus	12	(2)	8.35	8.74	579	582
Polyommatus icarus	2077	(113)	12.86	13.02	756	748
Polyommatus nivescens	118	(16)	11.76	12.13	567	546
Polyommatus ripartii	197	(25)	10.60	10.75	829	803
Polyommatus thersites	513	(63)	11.14	11.40	751	736

Polyommatus violetae <sup>+</sup>	22	(0)	11.95	11.95	572	572
Pseudophilotes abencerragus	109	(8)	14.81	15.00	551	554
Pseudophilotes panoptes	777	(65)	12.42	12.58	669	657
Satyrium acaciae	258	(47)	9.74	10.01	886	881
Satyrium esculi	1105	(72)	13.19	13.33	741	735
Satyrium ilicis	367	(56)	10.51	10.80	924	916
Satyrium pruni†	10	(0)	11.50	11.50	1063	1063
Satyrium spini	579	(73)	11.83	12.09	796	779
Satyrium w-album	104	(24)	9.36	10.06	964	913
Scolitantides orion	81	(13)	10.97	11.21	686	677
Tarucus theophrastus <sup>+</sup>	26	(0)	18.25	18.25	276	276
Thecla betulae	233	(20)	10.33	10.51	1063	1055
Tomares ballus	424	(31)	14.79	14.85	605	604
Zizeeria knysna	188	(16)	16.12	16.34	616	614
Nymphalidae						
Aglais io	949	(89)	11.29	11.49	925	926
Aglais urticae	900	(81)	10.61	10.79	908	902
Apatura ilia	176	(16)	10.84	11.07	958	955
Apatura iris	151	(21)	9.88	10.29	1174	1182
Aphantopus hyperantus	308	(22)	9.72	9.95	1049	1043
Araschnia levana	76	(8)	11.58	11.77	1015	1021
Arethusana arethusa	283	(30)	10.65	10.82	872	868
Argynnis pandora	1071	(64)	12.67	12.75	725	722
Argynnis paphia	674	(81)	10.36	10.59	971	968
Boloria dia	544	(52)	10.36	10.59	944	933
Boloria eunomia	22	(3)	6.12	5.84	987	966
Boloria euphrosyne	341	(46)	8.61	8.92	1028	1010
Boloria napaea	8	(3)	3.81	4.34	869	787
Boloria pales	73	(27)	5.63	6.14	1180	1171
Boloria selene	464	(39)	9.99	10.18	1074	1079
Brenthis daphne	443	(59)	9.72	9.95	953	942
Brenthis hecate	243	(23)	10.61	10.73	789	782
Brenthis ino	270	(31)	9.21	9.46	966	947

Brintesia circe	1222	(80)	11.52	11.62	757	748
Charaxes jasius	422	(20)	14.80	14.88	728	725
Chazara briseis	325	(38)	11.48	11.54	676	667
Chazara prieuri	28	(5)	11.64	11.92	475	465
Coenonympha arcania	700	(78)	10.01	10.19	957	952
Coenonympha dorus	714	(59)	12.20	12.43	733	717
Coenonympha glycerion	502	(48)	9.76	9.83	878	876
Coenonympha pamphilus	1862	(98)	12.85	13.04	788	781
Danaus chrysippus	106	(7)	16.52	16.65	473	467
Danaus plexippus	71	(2)	16.80	16.80	742	744
Erebia arvernensis $\sharp$	74	(22)	5.74	6.10	1176	1153
Erebia epiphron	110	(27)	6.34	6.75	1137	1118
Erebia epistygne	98	(9)	10.61	10.66	615	615
Erebia euryale	90	(26)	6.30	6.80	1147	1133
Erebia gorge	43	(19)	5.81	6.76	1204	1192
Erebia gorgone	34	(22)	4.20	3.27	1200	1165
Erebia hispania	11	(2)	7.81	8.13	526	518
Erebia lefebvrei	63	(27)	5.51	5.87	1152	1130
Erebia manto	17	(10)	5.07	5.77	1177	1208
Erebia meolans	349	(63)	8.86	9.09	1044	1048
Erebia neoridas	106	(30)	7.57	8.09	991	942
Erebia oeme	18	(8)	3.60	3.41	995	971
Erebia palarica	92	(6)	7.98	8.07	1131	1122
Erebia pandros $e^{¥}$	37	(16)	4.22	4.11	1119	1055
Erebia pronoe	25	(16)	4.78	5.41	1247	1351
Erebia rondoui	45	(19)	4.74	5.11	1068	1031
Erebia triarius	318	(56)	8.88	9.12	953	945
Erebia zapateri	53	(6)	9.67	9.71	594	593
Euphydryas aurinia	929	(84)	11.80	12.00	876	873
Euphydryas desfontainii	314	(37)	12.25	12.52	708	686
Fabriciana adippe	622	(78)	10.34	10.52	928	922
Fabriciana niobe	338	(41)	10.65	10.79	796	791
Hipparchia fagi	130	(23)	10.47	10.74	863	847

Hipparchia fidia	473	(46)	13.00	13.17	695	685
Hipparchia hermione	865	(84)	10.94	11.12	862	855
Hipparchia semele	978	(81)	11.59	11.69	770	763
Hipparchia statilinus	1206	(74)	12.45	12.56	743	739
Hyponephele lupina	339	(29)	12.74	12.79	600	595
Hyponephele lycaon	482	(61)	10.39	10.51	813	799
Issoria lathonia	1247	(98)	11.89	12.09	793	785
Lasiommata maera	755	(85)	10.91	11.19	917	913
Lasiommata megera	1958	(107)	13.11	13.28	739	731
Lasiommata petropolitana	12	(9)	4.53	3.18	1095	1116
Libythea celtis	236	(31)	12.71	12.85	765	763
Limenitis camilla	198	(20)	10.71	11.09	1079	1074
Limenitis reducta	533	(74)	10.82	11.05	861	849
Lopinga achine	9	(1)	8.98	9.30	1228	1204
Maniola jurtina	2148	(104)	13.05	13.20	757	750
Melanargia galathea	533	(53)	10.68	11.01	1045	1040
Melanargia ines	606	(28)	14.85	14.92	602	600
Melanargia lachesis	1283	(80)	11.68	11.75	740	737
Melanargia occitanica	515	(31)	13.31	13.38	611	602
Melanargia russiae	392	(57)	9.50	9.64	908	898
Melitaea aetherie	65	(1)	16.65	16.63	611	610
Melitaea celadussa	517	(69)	9.90	10.12	960	953
Melitaea cinxia	534	(63)	10.40	10.50	831	824
Melitaea deione	523	(64)	11.09	11.37	922	920
Melitaea diamina	106	(29)	7.13	7.58	1119	1087
Melitaea didyma	605	(78)	11.19	11.54	758	732
Melitaea parthenoides	512	(69)	9.74	9.96	979	973
Melitaea phoebe	1228	(98)	11.79	11.97	753	742
Melitaea trivia	260	(28)	10.84	10.86	859	861
Minois dryas	37	(1)	12.80	12.89	1311	1309
Nymphalis antiopa	349	(47)	9.77	10.08	1038	1028
Nymphalis polychloros	781	(68)	12.40	12.54	786	781
Pararge aegeria	1949	(99)	13.31	13.46	821	818

Polygonia c-album	827	(83)	11.54	11.74	857	849
Pseudochazara mercurius $^{\ddagger}$	22	(3)	9.84	9.97	488	488
Pyronia bathseba	1163	(76)	12.70	12.81	673	664
Pyronia cecilia	1234	(56)	14.23	14.32	650	647
Pyronia tithonus	1362	(96)	11.68	11.84	824	817
Satyrus actaea	409	(44)	10.82	11.00	737	721
Satyrus ferula	27	(13)	6.54	7.32	1022	959
Speyeria aglaja	602	(79)	9.73	9.90	925	915
Vanessa atalanta	1472	(100)	13.12	13.34	802	796
Vanessa cardui	1870	(106)	13.16	13.34	739	730
Vanessa virginiensis	38	(2)	14.99	15.31	826	820

**Notes:** <sup> $\dagger$ </sup> Five species not recorded in the 115 well-sampled squares. <sup> $\ddagger$ </sup> Three species for which European STI and SPI were not calculated by Platania et al. (2020). <sup> $\ddagger$ </sup> Cryptic species: confirmed records of *Leptidea reali* and *Poloyommatus celina* under-estimate the distribution size compared with *L. sinapis* and *P. icarus* respectively (see Platania et al., 2020); *Cupido lorquinii* under-estimates the distribution based on new evidence the species is conspecific with *Cupido carswelli* (Hinojosa et al., 2020); data for *Erebia pandrose* and *E. sthennyo* were combined, as in García-Barros et al. (2013).

### **Supplementary references**

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**Table S2.** Spearman correlation coefficients ( $r_s$ ) of Species Temperature Index (STI) and Species Precipitation Index (SPI) from 10 km atlas data in the Iberian Peninsula (1980-2016) against published calculations of STI and SPI for Europe and the Iberian Peninsula, and the TAO open/closed vegetation index from Ubach et al. (2020). Spatial resolution and sampling period of data used to derive the indices are shown. Significance of Spearman correlations: \*\*\* P < 0.0001; <sup>NS</sup> P > 0.1.

Comparison	Data	Years	n	Species	Species
index	resolution		species	Temperature	Precipitation
				Index (STI)	Index (SPI)
Excluding 115	10 km	1980-2016	225	0.998***	0.990***
focal squares					
Europe (Platania	50 km	1981-2000	222	0.710***	0.665***
et al., 2020)					
Iberian Peninsula	10 km	1998-2005	63	0.992***	0.954***
(Herrando et al.,					
2019)					
TAO vegetation	≤1 km	1997-2017	145	-0.121 <sup>NS</sup>	-0.103 <sup>NS</sup>
index (Ubach et	(transect				
al., 2020)	sections)				

**Table S3.** Spatial autocorrelation in community indices, their climatic explanatory variables and in the residuals of the top-ranked models. Results show Moran's I calculated for a 148 km interval, the minimum distance at which all 115 grid squares have at least one neighbour. The climate terms for CTI and CPI respectively are mean annual temperature and mean annual precipitation in 1980-2016, and for  $\Delta$ CTI and  $\Delta$ CPI respectively change in these variables since 1901-1979. Residuals are calculated from the models shown in Table 3; residuals for TAOc and  $\Delta$ TAOc from the models in Table 4.

Moran's I	Community index	Climate term	Residual variation
for:			
CTI	0.551	0.409	-0.024
ΔCTΙ	0.217	0.267	0.141
CPI	0.548	0.472	0.017
ΔCPI	0.068	0.145	0.034
TAOc	-0.010	-	-0.030
ΔΤΑΟς	0.025	-	-0.008

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