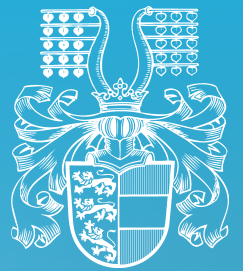


# Carinthia II

Part 3

## Nature Tech

Published since 1811  
216<sup>th</sup> Year of Carinthia



Volume 3

Issue 1

**2026** Verlag des Naturwissenschaftlichen  
Vereins für Kärnten

# All about grasshoppers: “Kärntens Heuschrecken” in focus

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## ABOUT THE EDITOR AND AUTHORS

The authors of “Kärntens Heuschrecken”—translated Grasshoppers of Carinthia—display decades of expertise and are outstanding experts of this species group. The author team is composed of Günther Wöss, Lisa Liska, Christine Berg, Franz Essl, and Thomas Zuna-Kratky, all biodiversity experts in zoology and ecology with years of practical experience in the field and taxonomic experience in the museum. Many years of invaluable knowledge about this interesting species group was packed into a single publication, which itself serves as a profound baseline of current knowledge for grasshopper species in Carinthia. Their enthusiasm is present throughout the book and can be felt on every page. The editor Andreas Kleewein, head of Bird Life Carinthia, is a Carinthia-based zoologist himself, and shares a broad interest in different species group as well as practical experiences in zoological field surveys. Together, the editor and authors of Heuschrecken Kärntens have produced a magnificent status quo on the current knowledge of presence, distribution and threats facing Carinthian grasshoppers, an urgently needed example for biodiversity research in a changing world.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

Overall, Kärntens Heuschrecken is not a simple catalogue of grasshopper species found in Carinthia. Rather, it functions as an entire compendium. The book is divided into three main chapters: a general chapter providing an overview on grasshopper biology, a chapter on distinct species, and a special chapter on grasshopper biodiversity.

The authors provide a thorough introductory chapter that reviews the history of research, characterizes grasshopper habitats with their conservation status, and assesses threats to Carinthian grasshoppers. A dedicated subchapter on general grasshopper anatomy highlights the key morphological distinctions required for identification and directly supports the subsequent identification key. The key includes not only species currently present in Carinthia but also those likely to be found there in the future. The identification key is also available via QR code, facilitating use during fieldwork and excursions. In addition, the book provides a checklist of all 95 grasshopper species recorded at least once in Carinthia (87 of which are currently present), together with their respective Red List statuses.

Following the general chapter, the main species chapter presents carefully structured profiles for each species. These include a detailed distribution map within Carinthia and ecologically relevant information on month of occurrence, elevation, and habitat for each detection. For stridulating species, a QR code is provided, linking to species-specific acoustic recordings accessible via smartphone. A historical citation is provided for most species, reflecting the enthusiasm shared by earlier naturalists and the present authors. Each profile is complemented by a high-quality photograph of the species and images of typical habitats, yielding a comprehensive species-level overview.



The third, special chapter offers more detailed information on grasshopper diversity hotspots in Carinthia and includes an annotated catalog of type specimens first described from Carinthia. It presents several anecdotes and accounts of Carinthia’s cryptic, endemic, and newcoming grasshopper species.

## RELEVANCE FOR THE FIELD OF NATURE CONSERVATION

By assembling the current state of knowledge on the distribution of grasshoppers in Carinthia, *Kärntens Heuschrecken* represents a resource of high relevance for nature conservation. In particular, the checklist with conservation status for each species and the subchapter on grasshopper diversity hotspots underscore the book’s value for practitioners and researchers. Because the material is presented in an illustrative and accessible way, the book also serves laypersons and students well, providing a strong entry point into conservation-oriented work on Orthoptera in Carinthia.

## CONCLUSION

“*Kärntens Heuschrecken*” is highly recommended for readers interested in biology and nature conservation, particularly those drawn to an organism group that is observable both visually and acoustically in everyday environments. The volume serves as a valuable reference, with subchapters spanning historical context, anatomy, identification, conservation status, habitats, and species profiles, as well as engaging anecdotes. Its careful synthesis of high-quality photographs, diagnostic illustrations, and well-documented facts makes it useful to both specialists and nonspecialists and provides a comprehensive overview of Carinthia’s grasshopper fauna.

Notably, the book’s QR code-enabled access to species-specific sounds and the identification key increases its practicality in the field, while species accounts are strengthened by detailed distribution maps and ecological information. The inclusion of a complete checklist with Red List categories, an assessment of diversity hotspots, and an annotated catalog of type specimens further enhances its scientific and conservation value. Transparent reporting of data collection and processing bolsters credibility and makes the work a reliable baseline for future monitoring.

Taken together, “*Kärntens Heuschrecken*” functions as both a compendium and a field guide—especially by using the digital supplements—equally relevant to researchers, practitioners, educators, students, and engaged naturalists.—equally relevant to researchers, practitioners, educators, students, and engaged naturalists.

## REFERENCE

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