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*Pamphagus sardeus* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840) - Italy, Sardinia: Orroli, Nuraghe Arrubiu



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**The family Pamphagidae.** The family Pamphagidae is a relatively small family of grasshoppers belonging to the superfamily Acridoidea. It comprises 96 genera and 561 species and subspecies. They are only found in the Palaearctic and Afrotropical Regions. Only twelve species in the genus *Pamphagus* Thunberg, 1815 are currently known; all the species are squamipterous, with a very robust and stocky appearance. Sexual dimorphism is remarkable, especially the differences in size. Seven species are present in Algeria, the other five species are known to be from Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Lampedusa, Sardinia and Sicily. *Pamphagus sardeus* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840) is a Sardinian endemism, where most records stem from the southern half of the island. It lives in dry natural grasslands and the adults can be found in spring and summer. *Pamphagus marmoratus* Burmeister, 1838 is a very large, green grasshopper. The wings are very short, small flaps sticking out laterally from the pronotum. *Pamphagus marmoratus* is a Sicilian endemism, restricted to the central-western parts of this island. It lives in dry open habitats with shrubs, preferably on calcareous substrate. *Pamphagus ortolaniae* Cusimano et Massa, 1977 can be distinguished from the similar *P. marmoratus* and *P. sardeus* by the smaller size, shape of the pronotum and male genitalia. It lives only in Lampedusa Island. The adults can be found throughout the year in dry natural grasslands, where it can build up big populations.

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*Pamphagus marmoratus*, Sicily, San Vito Lo Capo (above) and *P. ortolaniae*, Lampedusa Island (below).