

A few exotics to hopefully brighten the drear January days...

by Tony Moore, 26-Jan-18 05:41 PM GMT

Just back from 10 days in Sabah, near Tuaran. Although it was mainly beach for my hard worked wife, there were some interesting butterflies to be found around the resort, which boasted a 200 acre Nature Reserve. The Common Mormon was just that, but almost impossible to photograph as they never usually sit still, so I was very pleased to find this one lurching on the beach:



Ficus microcarpa is widely cultivated as a hedgerow plant in Malaysia. This has resulted in the appearance of the Scarce Silverstreak (*Iraota rochana*) in many parks and gardens. I found several females ovipositing in a small area of hedge in the resort. Sadly, none of the stunning green males was seen:



A few Common Sailors (*Neptis hylas*) were also gliding around...



This area, alongside the golf course, attracted several Great Eggflies (*Hypolimnas bolina*) and a single Tawny Palmfly (*Elymnias panthera*) lurking in the forest edge:



The Nature Reserve was unfortunately only accessible with a guide, but we were lucky to find a very amenable chap, who was happy to go slowly and keep back. He spent the whole time asking butterfly questions and writing the names on his palm with a biro! Apart from the Common Three-Ring (*Ypthima pandocus*),



the commonest butterfly was, very surprisingly, the beautiful Archduke (*Lexias pardalis*). Every prominent perch along the forest tracks had its resident male, and the less frequently seen female was present in good numbers at the summit. The species is separated from the almost identical Black Tipped Archduke (*L. dirtea*) by the orange tips to the antennae, which show well in this photograph of the male.



TBC.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 26-Jan-18 07:05 PM GMT

I just love it! Your diary is filled with wonderful species, Tony!

Have you heard back on the Mauritian Charaxid? On the whole, I'd have gone for *tiridates* rather than *cithaeron*, but who knows, given that it's the first recorded Charaxid on Mauritius? What an amazing sighting.

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 26-Jan-18 08:41 PM GMT

Hi Guy,

It was *cithaeron*, but apparently some idiot had released several adults (eclosed from pupae bought from an African supplier) about ten years ago. Mine was the third or fourth report (although the first photograph). The species appears to have established itself on the island and, I guess, will eventually be included on the list. I think the chief African butterfly guy is rather hoping they will die out! Bit of a bummer, actually...

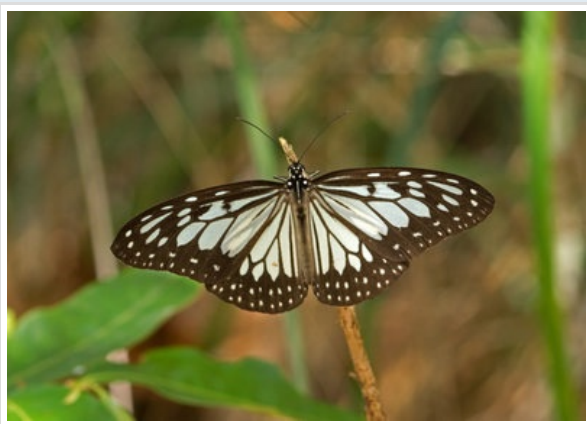
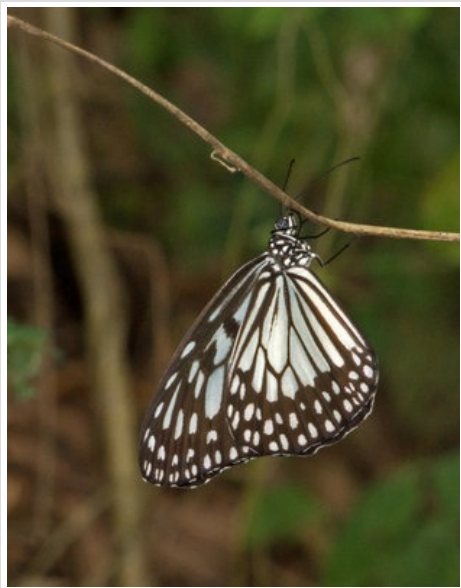
Thank you for your kind remarks,

Tony.

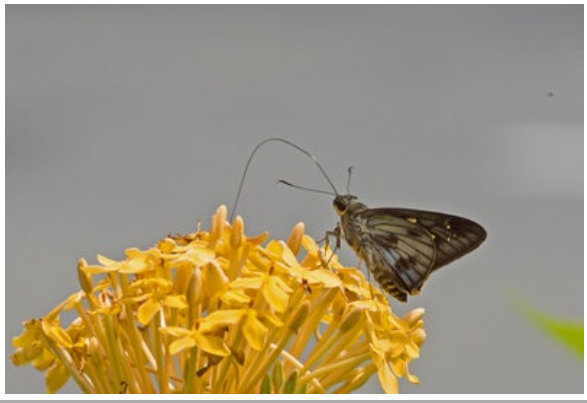
Re: Tony Moore. Sabah (cont.).

by Tony Moore, 28-Jan-18 12:10 PM GMT

The Blue Glassy Tiger was also in good numbers in the reserve:



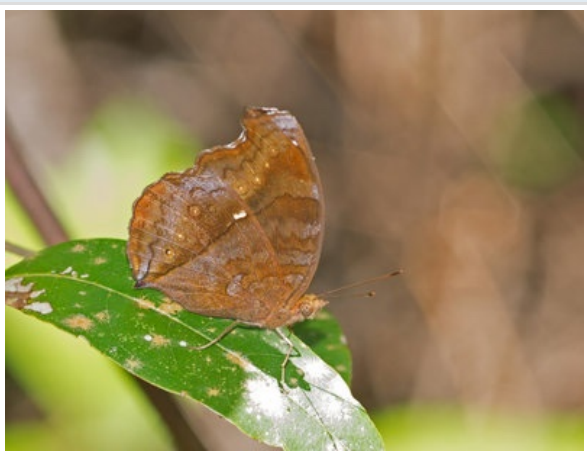
Most days I managed a walk along the forest edge, where I was delighted to find a Hoary Palmer (Unkana ambasa):



Several Common Jezebels (*Delias eucharis*) were floating about, but the only one, which offered a photographic opportunity was too worn to post. I did find one Banded Demon (*Notocrypta paralyos*) deeper into the forest:



I think this must be Chocolate Pansy (*Junonia hedonia*), but would appreciate confirmation (or otherwise:):



Through the 'Butterflies of Borneo' Facebook page, I met a local butterflyer, who offered to take us Mahua Waterfalls to look for stuff. He brought a couple of bottles of evil smelling fluid, which he had concocted as a bait. The only taker was an Malayan Oakleaf (*Kalima limborgi boxtoni*)



I also found the decorative larva of another 'leaf' butterfly Autumn Leaf (*Doleschallia bisaltide*):



The walk up to the falls produced several interesting species:

The Quaker (*Neopithecops zalmora*):



The Striped Ringlet (*Ragadia makuta*):



A splendid Beetle:

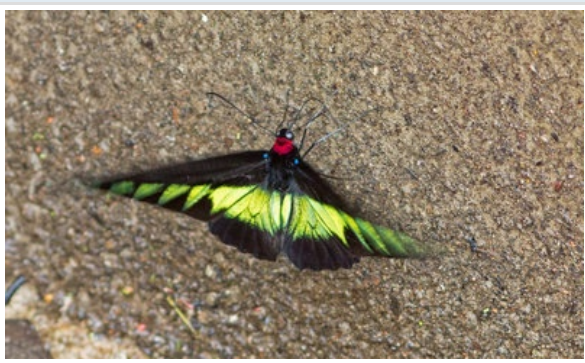


Here's one that shouldn't be here at all – not UK and not even a butterfly:



It certainly had me fooled until I looked closely at the photograph... What possible evolutionary advantage could accrue to a moth, posing as a butterfly?? The Butterfly Moth (*Callidula sakuni*) – I think.

The trip was really made by a sudden shout of 'brookiana!!' And there it was in all its glory flapping round and around a roofless old concrete building, which someone had evidently been using as a pissoir. This species had been on my 'hope to see' list since I saw a mounted specimen in Birmingham Natural History Museum aged about 9 years! It flew round me for several minutes, regularly landing to imbibe something suspect from the concrete walls of the shack, but sadly never sat still enough for a proper photograph. This was the best that I could do:



It then took off and posed beautifully about 15 metres up a tree!

Still a wonderful ending to a brilliant holiday.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 28-Jan-18 03:38 PM GMT

Moore wonderful stuff, Tony! Fantastic to have seen *brookiana* – it's something I've admired in books since I was about 7 years old but never seen in the flesh.

I'd tentatively suggest some subspecies of *J. hedonia* for the pansy, rather than *iphita*. The violet reflections and relatively strong spotting point to this – though I don't know what is supposed to fly where you were. And are you sure that is *Doleschallia*, not *Kallima*? It looks much more like *Kallima* to me – and you can even see the blue of the upperside showing through the damaged wings.

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 28-Jan-18 06:13 PM GMT

Many thanks, Guy, for the suggestions and kind remarks. I'm sure you are right (as usual 😊). The *Junonia* was the only specimen I saw and did not see the open wings. The white rectangle at the underwing costa looks pretty distinctive for *J. hedonia* – my suggestion was a hopeful stab in the dark. With regards to the 'leaf', I'm not sure at all 😊, although *Kallima* looks a better bet. *Dolleschallia* was suggested on the Borneo Butts website, but I'm waiting to hear back from my friend, who lured it, for a definite ID.

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 29-Jan-18 12:55 PM GMT

Guy,

I have now heard back from Sabah and, of course, you were spot on! It was the Malayan Oakleaf (*Kalima limborgi boxtoni*). The larva below was (*Dolleschallia*). I have edited the post with corrections. Many thanks for your expert input 😊.

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 30-Jan-18 02:07 PM GMT

Fantastic report, Tony. Those colours brightened up the month of January for me. Many thanks!

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 30-Jan-18 04:45 PM GMT

Thanks, David – they brightened my winter, too 😊😊.

I'm surprised that no one has commented on the 'Butterfly Moth', which seemed a most bizarre insect to me. I understand from my companion that they are rarely seen, especially in such smart condition.

T.

Re: Tony Moore

by bugboy, 30-Jan-18 06:25 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

Thanks, David – they brightened my winter, too 😊😊.

I'm surprised that no one has commented on the 'Butterfly Moth', which seemed a most bizarre insect to me. I understand from my companion that they are rarely seen, especially in such smart condition.

T.

Can't say I've ever heard of them, although I'd certainly be fooled if I saw one. There doesn't seem to be a lot of info online about them either, wikipedia lists 27 species in the genus though. I have however heard of the Moth Butterfly *Liphyra brassolis*, one of the largest Lycids and has a lifecycle very similar to the Large Blue.

Also, I'd be over the moon with that brookiana image 🐛🐛🐛 You really do get around a bit!

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 30-Jan-18 09:09 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

I'm surprised that no one has commented on the 'Butterfly Moth', which seemed a most bizarre insect to me. I understand from my companion that they are rarely seen, especially in such smart condition.

Well Tony, we live and learn.

I had no idea that moths could mimic butterflies like this species does and, like you, I have no answer as to why this should be.

I always feel Mother Shiptons are honorary butterflies, but your individual takes this to a different level.

How many more like this are around without we enthusiasts knowing?

Re: Tony Moore

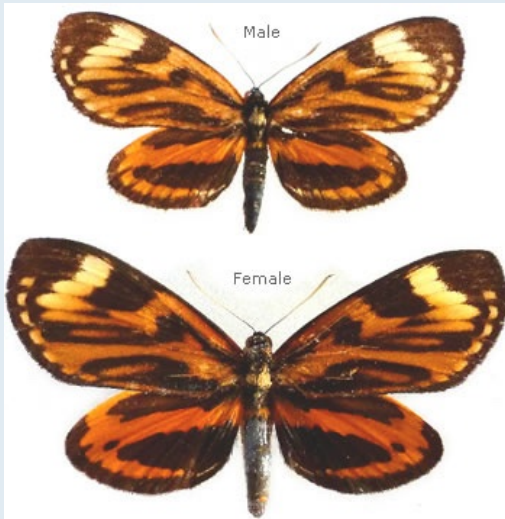
by Padfield, 30-Jan-18 09:32 PM GMT

David M wrote:

I had no idea that moths could mimic butterflies like this species does and, like you, I have no answer as to why this should be.

There's a surprising amount of it about!

Compare this moth (*Castnia cononia*) ...



(from <http://www.theinsectcollector.com/acatalog/info-12498.html>)

... with this *Ithomiid* butterfly:



(from Adrian Hoskins's 'Learn About Butterflies' site, <http://www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/>)

This pattern is found in many different families of butterfly and moth. The mechanism behind it is probably different in the case of the butterfly moth (and the moth butterfly!) but convergent evolution is very definitely a thing!!

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by trevor, 30-Jan-18 10:56 PM GMT

There is only one word to describe your recent sightings / images. Spectacular !. The world of Butterflies never ceases to amaze.

Best wishes,
Trevor.

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 31-Jan-18 12:07 PM GMT

Many thanks for your kind remarks, Trevor. I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to see such species.

I have another 'oops' 😞 moment to confess in that the Tiger IDED as Blue Glassy (*I. vulgaris*, is actually Grey Glassy Tiger (*Ideopsis juvena*). I did see *vulgaris* away from the reserve and it was smaller and distinctly bluish. I have corrected the original post. This stuff is so difficult...

Tony.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 01-Feb-18 12:05 PM GMT

Padfield wrote:

There's a surprising amount of it about!

Compare this moth (*Castnia cononia*) ...

... with this *Ithomiid* butterfly:

(from Adrian Hoskins's 'Learn About Butterflies' site, <http://www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/>)

This pattern is found in many different families of butterfly and moth. The mechanism behind it is probably different in the case of the butterfly moth (and the moth butterfly!) but convergent evolution is very definitely a thing!!

Guy

Very illuminating, Guy. many thanks for the info and the link.

Re: Tony Moore. Sabah (cont.).

by Tony Moore, 05-Feb-18 01:15 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

The Grey Glassy Tiger was also in good numbers in the reserve:

21-DSC09919_edited-1.jpg

12-tiger.jpg

Most days I managed a walk along the forest edge, where I was delighted to find a Hoary Palmer (Unkana ambasa):

1-DSC09833_edited-1.jpg

Several Common Jezebels (*Delias eucharis*) were floating about, but the only one, which offered a photographic opportunity was too worn to post. I did find one Banded Demon (*Notocrypta paralysos*) deeper into the forest:

20-Banded Demon.jpg

I think this must be Chocolate Pansy (*Junonia hedonia*), but would appreciate confirmation (or otherwise:():

13-TBI.jpg

Through the 'Butterflies of Borneo' Facebook page, I met a local butterflyer, who offered to take us Mahua Waterfalls to look for stuff. He brought a couple of bottles of evil smelling fluid, which he had concocted as a bait. The only taker was an Malayan Oakleaf (*Kalima limborgi boxtoni*)

Autumn Leaf.jpg

I also found the decorative larva of another 'leaf' butterfly Autumn Leaf (*Doleschallia bisaltide*):

1-butterfly cat.jpg

The walk up to the falls produced several interesting species:

The Quaker (*Neopithecops zalmora*):

16-DSC09851_edited-1.jpg

The Striped Ringlet (*Ragadia makuta*):

17-Ragadia sp..jpg

A splendid Beetle:

15-DSC09845_edited-1.jpg

Here's one that shouldn't be here at all – not UK and not even a butterfly:

18-DSC09874_edited-1.jpg

It certainly had me fooled until I looked closely at the photograph... What possible evolutionary advantage could accrue to a moth, posing as a butterfly?? The Butterfly Moth (*Callidula sakuni*) – I think.

The trip was really made by a sudden shout of 'brookiana!!' And there it was in all its glory flapping round and around a roofless old concrete building, which someone had evidently been using as a pissoir. This species had been on my 'hope to see' list since I saw a mounted specimen in Birmingham Natural History Museum aged about 9 years! It flew round me for several minutes, regularly landing to imbibe something suspect from the concrete walls of the shack, but sadly never sat still enough for a proper photograph. This was the best that I could do:

19-Raja Brookes.jpg

It then took off and posed beautifully about 15 metres up a tree!

Still a wonderful ending to a brilliant holiday.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 17-Mar-18 07:13 PM GMT

With the snow falling (again) outside catching up on your PD has really brightened me up Tony 😊 A stunning array of species but the one I can't shake out of my head is the Quaker for some reason I can't fathom 😊🇹🇲

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: First Tort

by Tony Moore, 25-Mar-18 02:07 PM GMT

Finally, a bit of warm sunshine and my first butterflies – only about a month behind everyone else, I guess... 🇹🇲



Tony M.



Re: *Charaxes citheraron*

by Tony Moore, 25-Mar-18 06:11 PM GMT

Very chuffed today to hear that my record of *C.cithaeron* in Mauritius has been published in *Metamorphosis*, the journal of the African Lepsoc. Sorry, I'm not sufficiently computer savvy to post a link, but it can be found in Vol 39: 3-4 of the journal, freely available online if anyone wants to look. Many thanks to Szabolcs Safian for his help and encouragement in this matter.

Tony M.

Re: *Charaxes citheraron*

by David M, 25-Mar-18 07:59 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

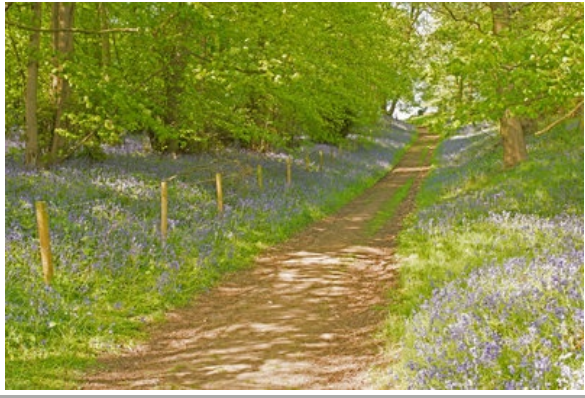
Very chuffed today to hear that my record of *C.cithaeron* in Mauritius has been published in *Metamorphosis*, the journal of the African Lepsoc.

Well done with that, Tony! Almost as good is your sighting of Small Tortoiseshells back in the UK. Spring is definitely here.

Re: Orange tiips

by Tony Moore, 08-May-18 12:10 PM GMT

Although we are well behind the times here in Staffordshire, species-wise, there has been a positive explosion eclosion of Orange tips at Aqualate Mere, a local SSSI. Dozens in the air at any one time and eggs on every head of Lady's Smock. The bluebells are also the finest that I have ever seen:



Also good numbers of Holly Blues about this year:



Pearls next, I hope...

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 08-May-18 10:15 PM GMT

A wonderful array of blue there, Tony, both floral and butterfly-related.

Good to know your Orange Tips are doing well. So are our Welsh ones, but then I suppose they've had it good – they first emerged into that late April wall of sunshine and after keeping their antennae down for a few days had the joy of an even warmer dose of weather last weekend.

Certainly no chance of dessicated foodplant...in spite of the temperatures, the ground remains quite soggy for the time of year.

Re: Trip to Turkey

by Tony Moore, 17-Jun-18 12:50 PM GMT

Just back from 12 days in the Antalya district of Turkey. Despite several trips into the local mountains, butterflies were very thin on the ground; sadly, most were common British species. 😞 . In Goynuk canyon, I did see a couple of Southern White Admirals, one of which seemed as interested in me as I was in it:



On the track, I found a three or four Skippers. They looked a little long in the wing for Small Skip and I wondered if they could have been Levantine Skippers (*T. hyrax*)?



There were a few Pashas and Swallowtails about, but none offered a photo opportunity.

On a track near the hotel I did find a Large Tortoiseshell... Complete with tortoise! 🐢



There were a few *Carcharodus* skips about. At first I thought they were *C. orientalis*, but am now inclined towards Mallow Skipper.





These were attracted to a small area of tiny flowers along with some very tatty little 'Blues'. I've no idea what they were.



I would be grateful fo expert comment on any of the above.

Finally, one for Bugboy:



A really enormous 'cricket' type animal – body length 7/8 cm!

Despite the relative dearth of butterflies, it was a very beautiful area of the planet and there was plenty of good beer after our walks.

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 17-Jun-18 05:50 PM GMT

Hi Tony.

I agree with you for both skippers. I'd say the blue is most probably common blue, but there are several other closely related Turkish species, also with a cell spot, and I couldn't say for certain on that view alone.

Pending Buggy's confirmation, I think your monster cricket – what a beast!! – is an Anatolian predatory bush cricket, *Saga natoliae*. If not, it's something closely related. Wonderful!

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 17-Jun-18 07:25 PM GMT

Many thanks, Guy for your expert input.

Delighted to have *hyrax* confirmed – it's a new one for me 😊 .

The little blue is a mystery. I did see several Common Blues (at other locations) and they were exactly like our British ones. This beastie was much smaller and the blue colour (only seen in flight) was darker and more violet. It also had a very different jizz. I returned to the site several times, hoping for a less worn specimen, but no luck. Guess it has to go down as TBI.

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by bugboy, 17-Jun-18 08:56 PM GMT

I'd go along with Guy's ID for that cricket. Never seen one in life but I believe they can give a nasty nip and have no problem drawing blood from a nosy finger!

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 17-Jun-18 10:29 PM GMT

Thanks, Bugboy – I'm sure you are both right.

I've just found an image on the net, which is a dead ringer size and colourwise. And don't worry, I kept my soft bits well away from it's mouth 🍷 .

Tony M.

Re: Poland

by Tony Moore, 16-Jul-18 01:16 PM GMT

Poland 2018.

Just back from 12 days in Poland with 'Wild Echo Tours' (end of commercial!).

The sheer numbers of butterflies was amazing. Near our first stop, every flower head had one or two Heath Frits and there was a whole atlas worth of Maps:



At one site I saw 30 species in as many minutes!

Unfortunately, we failed to find a number of target species, or had only fleeting glimpses with no photo possibilities. A lot of travel was involved; Warsaw to the Belarus border and back via Krakov. By the end I'd OD'ed on peat bogs and smoked pig, but we still saw some interesting stuff. The first was 2 m from where our van parked in pretty inclement weather. A Scarce Large Blue (*M. telejus*), sitting out the drizzle:



I found another a day later and it even gave me a flash of uppers in a rare moment of sunshine:



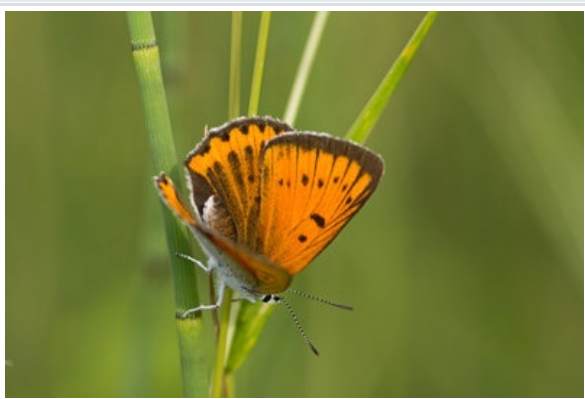
Another 'tick' for me was Woodland Brown (*Lopinga achine*). We saw several, but they were very jumpy and this was the only opportunity I had:



This Lesser Marbled Fritillary (*Brenthis ino*) gave a good chance:



And a couple of pristine Large Coppers (*Lycaena dispar*) brightened a dull day.





Much time was spend traipsing around bogs looking for Cranberry Frit and Cranberry Blue. These eluded us until the last day, when we found several very tatty CBs :



We did see a couple of Cranberry Frits, but they are very adept at disappearing into the bog and sadly, no pic was possible.

More tomorrow,

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Andrew555, 16-Jul-18 09:04 PM GMT

Mouth watering stuff Tony, love the Large Coppers. 😊

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 16-Jul-18 10:12 PM GMT

Looking forward to the next installment Tony, a great start to the report 😊🍷

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 17-Jul-18 12:12 AM GMT

Twelve days, Tony? That's a bit of a marathon.

Some good species there, especially Scarce Large & Cranberry Blue plus Woodland Brown. Any more delights for us?

Interesting that butterfly numbers were so good in eastern Europe. They've been fairly poor in France (I blame that Siberian blast in February).

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 17-Jul-18 12:53 PM GMT

Thanks, Guys,

You're quite right, David, it was a bit of a marathon. I had to stay an extra day in Warsaw for my flight and spent most of the time in bed! I was a little disappointed initially, as we had failed to find several rare target species (False Ringlet, Scarce Fritillary, Scarce Heath, Balkan Ringlet, Dusky Large Blue,

Danube Clouded Yellow), but I did have some good butterfly experiences and you can't win 'em all...

POLAND (cont.).

Early one morning I was very pleased to find a resting Moorland Clouded Yellow (*Colias palaeno*), but I was only able to get one poor shot before the rest of the group galloped up like a small herd of heifers and it quickly took flight. Gggrrrrr!:



A Pale Clouded Yellow (*Colias hyale*) was apparently quite a rarity in the area:



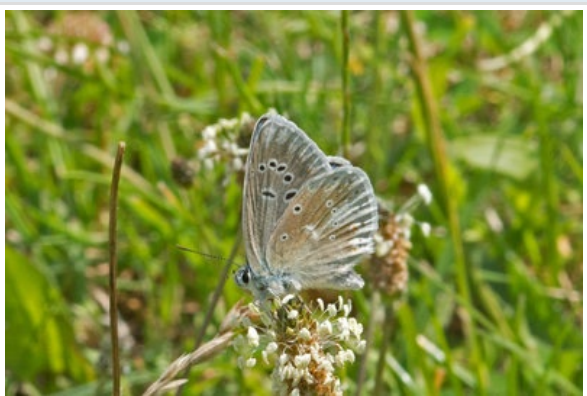
Eastern Bath White (*Pontia edusa*) was another new one for me:



And a female Meleager's Blue (*Polyommatus daphnis*) was very accommodating:



A Turquoise Blue (*Polyommatus dorylas*) was added to the count:



Good numbers of Large Chequered Skippers (*Heteropterus morpheus*), with their characteristic 'hopping' flight were found in any suitable habitat:



Essex Skippers were more common than Smalls. I saw one male holding its wings in a reverse dihedral, which looked very odd. Has anyone else observed this behaviour?



The highlight of the trip for me was a puddled track, where we saw about ten Camberwell Beauties (*Nymphalis antiopa*) sailing majestically around and frequently stopping to imbibe nutrients. This has been a iconic butterfly for me since childhood. I had seen it before, but not in such profusion, nor offering such good photo opportunities:



A wonderful end to an interesting trip.

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 17-Jul-18 02:24 PM GMT

That Meleager's Blue is a sight to behold as is Camberwell Tony 😊🇬🇧 People "rushing in like Heifers", well you said/wrote Heifers but I know what you mean 😊😂

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 17-Jul-18 10:17 PM GMT

Fabulous view of the Camberwell, Tony, and I know what you mean about the hordes rushing without due care and disturbing a previously calm and settled insect.

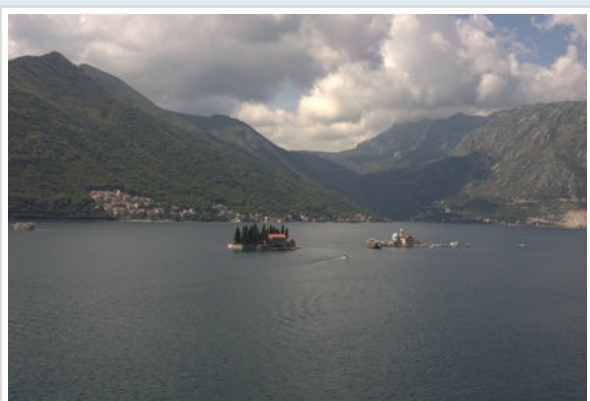
I always encourage my groups to spread out for precisely that reason, and Moorland Clouded Yellow is largely a solitary butterfly so you're unlikely to get a second audience.

Shame you missed the Danube Clouded Yellow, as this is one of the rarest species in Europe.

Re: Montenegro

by Tony Moore, 15-Sep-18 11:50 AM GMT

Just back from 10 days in Montenegro, which has to be one of the greatest unsung secrets of Europe; more beautiful than Italy and half the price.



We were based near Tivat and there were still good numbers of leps about. Surprisingly, the most common was the Hummingbird Hawkmoth! Any suitable nectar source had dozens in attendance from dawn til dusk.



My best butterfly (I hope) was found trying to ingest salts from a fairly busy road. It kept coming back after being frightened away by the traffic. I eventually managed a photograph without me, or it, being flattened. I'm pretty sure what it is, but if anyone says 'c' rather than 'egea', I shall take up trainspotting...



Swallowtails were fairly common and appear to be continuously brooded. Here is a young larva - two eggs were seen being laid on the same plant:



Several Great Banded Graylings were seen away from the coast:



Also a few of these on the hillside tracks:



They were very dark in flight. Eastern Rock Grayling or plain old Grayling Grayling? I hope the former as it would be a 'tick'.

Clouded Yellows were very common, with a few *helice* thrown in:



Mediterranean Skipper was also plentiful wherever there were flowers:



Tony M. TBC.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 15-Sep-18 02:15 PM GMT

Hi Tony. Neither *c* nor *vau* but *egea* – and that without a doubt. The shape of the trailing edge of the forewing is definitive. Don't take up trainspotting though ...

Your grayling is *statilinus*. And I have to say, that 'Berger's' looks far more like *helice*.

With all my own preoccupations this summer I missed your earlier posts. Great stuff. I will be relying on you for vicarious trips to exciting places in the coming months!!

Guy

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 15-Sep-18 05:33 PM GMT

{quote}. Don't take up trainspotting though ...

The 15.45 for London, Euston is leaving from plat.....

Once again, thanks for your kind comments, Guy. In fact, it was my unfamiliarity with scientific names that led me to suggest *vau-album*. I thought it must be Southern Comma, but forgot that it was called *egea* 😊. *N. vau-album*, as you know, does not occur in Montenegro. Thank you for *statilinus*, also a new one for me. I only saw a couple of light 'Clouded yellows' during the trip. At first I hoped they might be something a bit special as they didn't look (or fly) like the Berger's I had seen before. Foolishly didn't consider *helice*, which is what they doubtless were. A couple more for ID tomorrow, if you would kindly look.

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 15-Sep-18 10:23 PM GMT

That Comma is an absolute stunner Tony 😊👍 Looking forward to further reports 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 16-Sep-18 12:04 PM GMT

Well done with the Southern Comma, Tony. A lovely and very interesting butterfly.

Montenegro sounds very tempting I must say (particularly if it's half the price of Italy).

Re: Montenegro

by Tony Moore, 16-Sep-18 05:23 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel and David.

I was pretty excited myself, especially as it was only about 3 hours after getting off the plane! The area looked very 'S. Comma-ey' with plenty of old walls with Pellitory growing, but I only saw one other one during my stay; half way up a mountain and very beaten up.

A view of Perast from the 18th C. clock tower. A Venetian gem.



There were plenty of Strawberry Trees around and numbers of Pashas swooping about. Sadly, they ignored my rotten bananas and concentrated on the tops of fig trees, so no pix. Grrrr! A few Queen of Spains were seen - some in very smart condition:



Also Mallow Skipper? :



And Mountain Small White:



One small area of hillside hosted some Southern White Admirals, which were easily approachable when on sentry duty:



A couple of Lang's only, and one *boeticus*, which declined the photoshoot:



A single fresh Brown Argus (I think...) and what I guess must be Common Blue although the upperside colour didn't look like the UK examples:



Finally another Blue for ID - I have no idea 😊 :



For a beach holiday it was pretty damn good.

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 16-Sep-18 06:09 PM GMT

Hi Tony. By default, those last two blues are common blue, though if the upperside was significantly strange in colour you might consider the *eros* complex. From the underside alone they are entirely compatible with *icarus* (common blue).

Your southern small white is very different from mine. Did you consider *ergane* (mountain small white)? Maybe the underside of the hindwing is a little too strongly scaled; but the spot on the forewing underside seems only to be show-through (southern has an actual spot there) and the apical mark looks strange. Just a thought. You were there and doubtless had better views of ups and uns.

Guy

Re: Montenegro

by Tony Moore, 16-Sep-18 06:59 PM GMT

Hello again, Guy. I ummed and ahed about Mountain and Southern SW and am still not sure why I opted for Southern. However, a look back through the various shots produced this:



Because of the poor focus, I had not bothered to process it, but it shows no ufw spot so, as usual, you are right on the money – *ergane* it must be. Must look up those British Rail timetables again...

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 16-Sep-18 07:11 PM GMT

Lovely set of shots Tony 😊 especially the Mallow Skipper 🐛🐛 I still haven't seen one of those despite holidays in Lisbon and the Dordogne 🙄🐛

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 16-Sep-18 10:36 PM GMT

Great continuation, Tony. Looks to be a beautiful place.

Wonderful that you got to see *ergane* (the absence of the underside spot being the giveaway).

I agree with your ID vis-à-vis Mallow Skipper.

Re: Tony Moore

by ernie f, 17-Sep-18 10:18 AM GMT

Hi, Tony. I've just been looking at your encounters in foreign climes. A great set of butterflies.

Re:Montenegro

by Tony Moore, 17-Sep-18 11:28 AM GMT

Many thanks, David, Wurzel and Ernie,

Montenegro is indeed a beautiful place – we may try to go back in the Spring, when I'm sure it will be heaving with butterflies. Whatever, it will be a good memory to help through the drear winter days.

Tony M.

Re: Re:Montenegro

by David M, 18-Sep-18 10:26 PM GMT

Tony Moore wrote:

Montenegro is indeed a beautiful place – we may try to go back in the Spring, when I'm sure it will be heaving with butterflies.

They'll largely be **different** butterflies too, Tony.

Given its latitude, I'm sure a spring visit will reap rewards, and I'd be very interested to see what you might find.

Re:Small Copper

by Tony Moore, 01-Oct-18 01:07 PM GMT

Having seen no British Small Coppers this year, I was delighted to see 50+ very fresh ones in the warm sunshine at Aqualate Mere two afternoons ago. There was plenty of young Sorrel about and every clump had a few eggs:



Are these third generation larvae likely to survive? I'll attempt to rear a few through (outdoors).

Tony M.

Re: Tony Moore

by essexbuzzard, 01-Oct-18 08:25 PM GMT

Great sightings and pictures from Montenegro, Tony. Now a return trip in spring, late April or May perhaps, should provide you with some cracking stuff! And make the rest of us 🍷 with envy!

Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 02-Oct-18 03:30 PM GMT

Thanks EB for your kind remarks. Montenegro is a stunning place and, because of the variety, would make a good family holiday destination – plenty for everyone. End of second commercial 😊.

Tony M,

Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 03-Oct-18 12:07 PM GMT

Nice image of the egg, Tony. I'm not surprised there are lots about given the numbers of adults lately. I'm most surprised you haven't seen any.

Good luck with the rearing, although given that cold weather doesn't generally arrive before late December these days in southern Britain, I'm sure the larvae will do okay.

Re: Tony Moore

by Ian Pratt, 06-Dec-18 12:55 PM GMT

Just finishing a 12 day trip to see the Fair Trade producers in Costa Rica. Loads of flowers, birds, butterflies and mammals seen. I will post some of the butterflies when I get back, including some to be identified by all the experts on this site! Put Costa Rica at the top of your wish list if you want to see amazing wildlife.