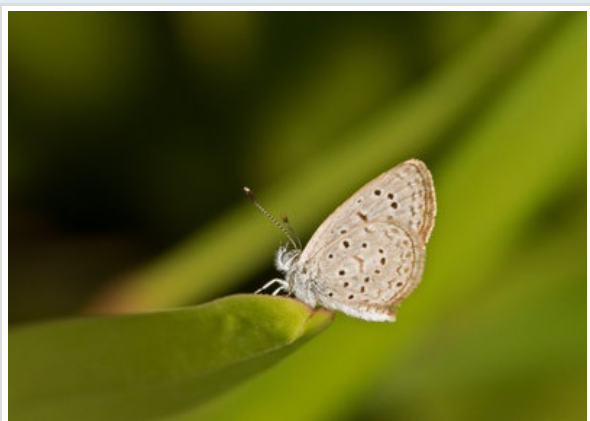


## Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 24-Mar-16 03:53 PM GMT

A visit to the Seychelles seemed an ideal occasion to bite the bullet and start a blog. Actually, it's not the best place, as the islands are something of a butterfly no-go area. There are about 39 species on the country's all time list and five of these are extinct! Several others are only known from odd historical vagrants, and of the remainder, over half, and all the most interesting ones, are only found on Aldabra, which is unfortunately about 350 kms to the south from where we were staying on Praslin. This is the second largest of the granitic islands and is a short plane hop from Mahe, the main island. Our hotel was only accessible by boat and advertised tracks into the surrounding forest so I was hopeful of finding something lepidopterous. We arrived to hammering rain, which persisted until about 4 pm, when we ventured out for a shufti round the territory. Despite one or two nice stands of lantana, there were no butterflies to be seen. Somewhat disconsolate, we headed back along the beach. Suddenly my wife, who has much sharper eyes than me, shot over to the beachside vegetation. Several seriously tiny lycaenids (about 17mm ws) were buzzing around. I think they may have been Gaika Blues (*Zizula hylax*).

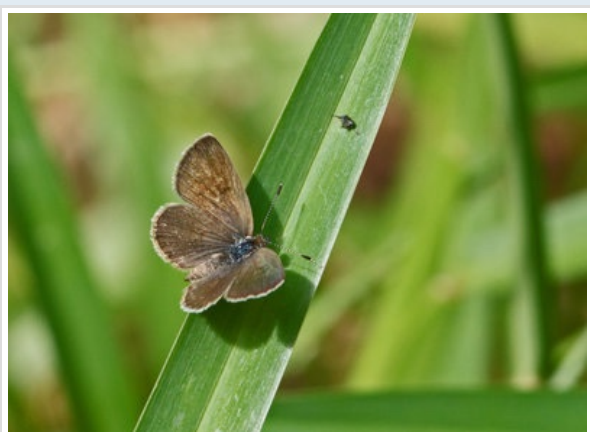


Despite visiting two other islands during our time there and doing a good bit of searching, we saw no other butterflies at all!

On our last day, I saw a larger, darker 'blue' and only managed one photo:



It turned out to be an old friend called 'Common Blue' in the Seychelles! Whilst waiting to try for another shot, I saw a supposed Gaika with open wings for the first time. When I looked at the photo, it had straight antennae, rather than the droopy ones typical of the 'grass blues'. It also had slightly pointed forewings and I think it may have been a 'Sooty Blue' (*Zizeeria knysna*):



I found another a little later and got an underside:



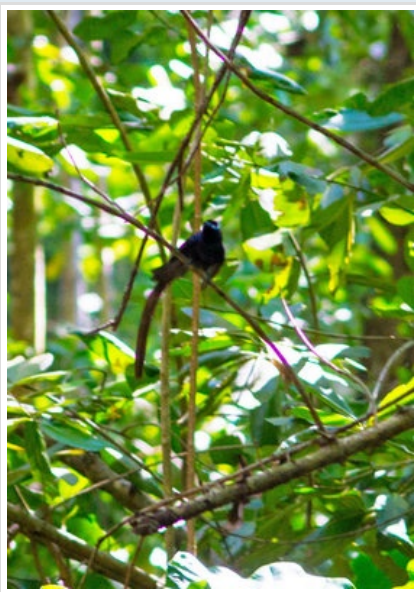
Looking again at the pics, I'm not sure if all the tiny Blues were not the same species – either hylax or knysna, and would be very grateful for an expert opinion.

As the holiday was a bit disappointing butterflywise, I post a few other pictures, which I hope may be of interest:

A general view of the beach:



A poor shot of a male Black Paradise Flycatcher (*Tersiphone corvina*, seen on La Digue island. One of about 250 individuals left on the planet:



A Seychelles Green Gecko:



And a couple of shots of the famous Coco-de-mer, the largest seed on the planet, from the Vallee de Mai on Praslin. Draw your own conclusions...



A fascinating place.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 24-Mar-16 06:00 PM GMT

Hi Tony. Your grass blues are all *knysna*. *Hylax* has no cell spot and very characteristic markings on the forewing underside, with one shaped like a little horseshoe. This one was photographed in Kolkata:





Guy

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 24-Mar-16 07:23 PM GMT

Many thanks, Guy - I'm ever in awe of your encyclopaedic knowledge. 🙏 .

Tony.

### Tony Moore

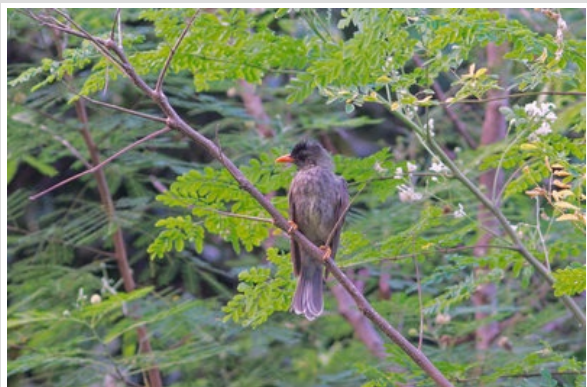
by Tony Moore, 28-Mar-16 01:47 PM GMT

A few more pix from the Seychelles (sadly, not butterflies 😞):

An Ensign Wasp (*Evaniiidae*) found flying around our room. Apparently, they are parasitoid on Cockroach eggs and come into houses etc, looking for egg cases.



A Seychelles endemic - the Seychelles Bulbul (*Hypsipetes cressirostris*)



One of three Giant Tortoises living on the resort. Looks a bit angry about something 😏 :



A Barred Ground Dove (*Geopelia striata*). These delightful little birds were very common and frequent visitors to the breakfast table, where they would happily eat from ones hand.



Not sure which lizard this is – looks a bit like our Sand Lizard. They were very common and would often chase the Grass Blues:



Tony M.

### Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-May-16 04:29 PM GMT

Just back from a brilliant tour with Spatia to Bulgaria and northern Greece. We started near Kerkini lake, where we found several fresh Large Coppers:



Also around the lake was a small area of Bladder Senna, where several Iolas Blues were flying. Most were fairly flighty, but we did find an accessible mating pair and an odd male:



We went to an area where there were several Nettle Trees, which had been totally stripped by NT butterfly larvae. Every branch was hanging with larvae and countless pupae. It must be an astonishing sight when they begin to eclose!



A nice Chequered Blue appeared:



More later...

### Re: Tony Moore

by Chris Jackson, 19-May-16 06:41 PM GMT

Some out-of-the-ordinary photos there, Tony.  
Very refreshing.  
Chris

### Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 19-May-16 07:14 PM GMT

Some great images already, Tony. Can't wait to see what you've got up your sleeve next!

I just love those NTB pupae.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 19-May-16 09:55 PM GMT

#### Tony Moore wrote:

We went to an area where there were several Nettle Trees, which had been totally stripped by NT butterfly larvae. Every branch was hanging with larvae and countless pupae. It must be an astonishing sight when they begin to eclose!

Amazing. Did your guide say this always happened or was it a one-off? Nettle tree butterflies have a short-lived summer brood that (at least in part) produces the wintering generation. It sounds as if they won't be using their parent trees!

Guy

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-May-16 11:43 PM GMT

Hi Guy,

It really was an astonishing sight. There were 3/4 good sized trees along a cart track and each looked grey and brown – hardly a trace of green. Thousands of caterpillars – some hanging, pre-pupation, and pupae on every branch. Must be one of the butterfly sights of the planet... The original idea was that we would go back to the site at the end of the trip when there would be thousands of insects all over the ground and adjacent trees. Unfortunately, some of our party had to be in Sofia early and we missed it. Our leader said that it was quite normal and happened every year... I'm tempted to go on next year's trip just to see it again.



Tony.

## Bulgaria/Greece 2016

by Tony Moore, 20-May-16 12:10 PM GMT

The second stop was near Siatista and our trip was considerably enlivened by one of the members, who was a reptile and amphibian man. While most of us looked for butterflies, he was turning over stones looking for snakes. Most days he found something interesting, such as this beautiful Leopard Snake:



After much searching, we found a couple of Dalmatian Ringlets quite near the hotel:



And the tiny Eastern Greenish Black-tip:

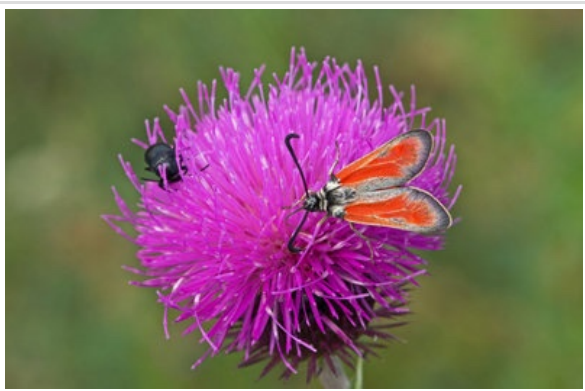


Yellow-banded Skipper and Green-underside Blue were relatively common:





Finally, one for the Moth-ers. A spotless Burnet ?



More tomorrow...

### Re: Tony Moore

by Pete Eeles, 20-May-16 06:58 PM GMT

**Tony Moore wrote:**

Just back from a brilliant tour with Spatia to Bulgaria and northern Greece ... Every branch was hanging with larvae and countless pupae.

Just brilliant, Tony! Never seen this sight myself, but wish I was there, as they say!

Cheers,

- Pete

### Re: Spatia trip

by Tony Moore, 22-May-16 07:29 PM GMT

We moved on to Monodendri and our species count was rising rapidly. Our snake man found a couple of Nose-horned Vipers:



There were a number of Little Tiger Blues flying among some boulders. Most were pretty worn, but I did find one fresh one:



Gruner's Orange Tips were also seen, mixed up with the ordinary OTs:





Eastern Knapweed Fritillary was rather commoner than *phoebe*. They are easily separated by the undersides, less so from the uppers, but I'm fairly confident that this is the former:



One of the real highlights was to see Bavius Blue – we saw about 10 individuals in all:



Back to Bulgaria for the last few days...

### Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 22-May-16 11:35 PM GMT

Some more rarely seen stunners, Tony.

That female Gruner's Orange Tip is most impressive.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Mikhail, 23-May-16 07:54 AM GMT

Nobody else has commented so I will. I feel your Southern Small White posted on 20 May is actually a Green-veined White female. I think we may have met briefly at Kozhukh hill while in search of Iolas Blues. Thanks to Mario's help we saw them next day near Kerkini.

M.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 23-May-16 11:00 AM GMT

Hi Mikhail and thank you for your comments.



The SSW id was from Mario 😊, they all look the same to me....

Glad you managed to find *iolas* – the Kerkini site is a good bet, but you have to be lucky for any photographs.

Tony.

### Re: Bulgaria/Greece

by Tony Moore, 24-May-16 10:35 PM GMT

Before leaving Greece, we had a night near Mt. Olympus (very impressive). We found Southern Festoon, still in goodish condition:



and the very local Eastern Orange Tip!



Back in Bulgaria the meadows were buzzing with butterflies. Several Eastern Festoons in good order:



A pair of Zephyr Blues:



And as near as we got to Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell:



All in all a brilliant trip and several 'life ticks'.

Tony M.

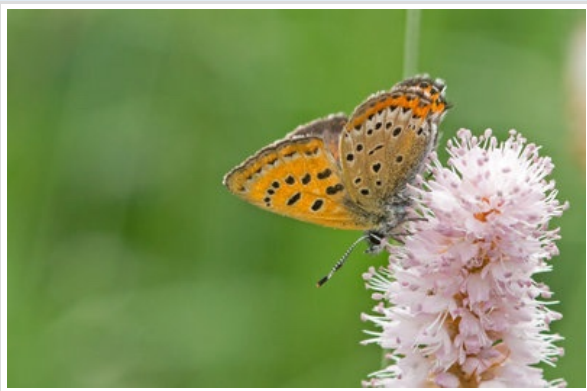
## Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-Jun-16 06:14 PM GMT

Just back from three days in the Pyrénées-Orientales where day three was a write off – cloudy, windy and very cold. First two days were mixed, but I managed to find 54+ species. Highlights were undoubtedly Bog Fritillary:



and Violet Copper – a stunning little butterfly:



Another 'tick' for me was Provence Orange Tip:





Being very much a beginner with the European species, I still have a few 'unknowns' to be identified in the relevant forum.

Now the weather in UK needs to improve...

Tony M.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Chris Jackson, 19-Jun-16 08:17 PM GMT

With these three species alone, Tony, you can say that you've come back with a feather in your cap. 😊

Chris

### Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 19-Jun-16 10:33 PM GMT

Getting *helle* and *eumedon* (presumably at the same site) is worth the same as Chequered Skipper, Black Hairstreak and Purple Emperor on the same day in the UK!!!!

Well done.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 19-Jun-16 11:19 PM GMT

Thanks, Guys,

And all with a little help from my friends... 😊

T.

### Re: Pyrenees-Orientales

by Tony Moore, 20-Jun-16 02:48 PM GMT

There were quite a lot of these flying around some boggy ground - whizzing about like mini-helicopters. I believe they are *Libelloides coccajus* and fairly rare. If approached too quickly, they wrap their wings around their bodies and move rapidly anti-clockwise around to the far side of their stem.



Tony M.

### CY pupa

by Tony Moore, 01-Jul-16 04:51 PM GMT

My Clouded Yellow pupa is just about to eclose, but I think the terrible weather has made it decide to stay snugly in its pupal case for now. 🍀



Off to Mercantor on Monday, so hope for some interesting species in a couple of weeks.

T.M.

### Alpes Maritimes

by Tony Moore, 23-Jul-16 05:02 PM GMT

I've just returned from 13 amazing days in the French Alps. I saw at least 100 species and must have missed many more due to inexperience. If there are any ID mistakes below, I would be grateful if they could be pointed out. It's all a bit confusing for someone used to 55 possibles and only one Pyrgus!

The weather was brilliant – wall to wall sunshine except for a major thunderstorm one evening, when I was tucked up with a fine jambe de lapin and a demi of the local Var rouge. The plus side of this was that the next morning the peaks were glistening with fresh snow.



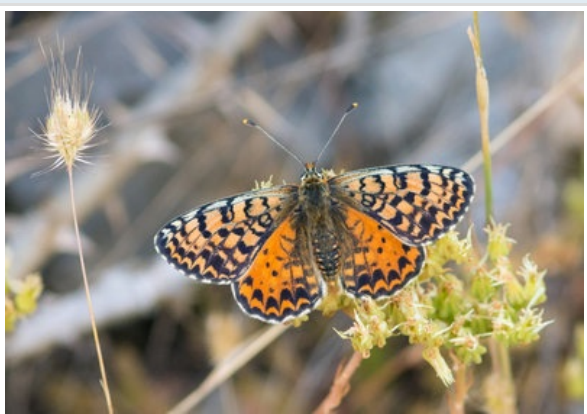
My first destination, at about 1000m., was heaving with butterflies and amongst the clouds of fritillaries, Marbled Whites and blues various, I found a couple of Great Sooty Satyrs ( a first for me). A male:



and the sexually dimorphic female, which I was lucky to find resting with open wings:

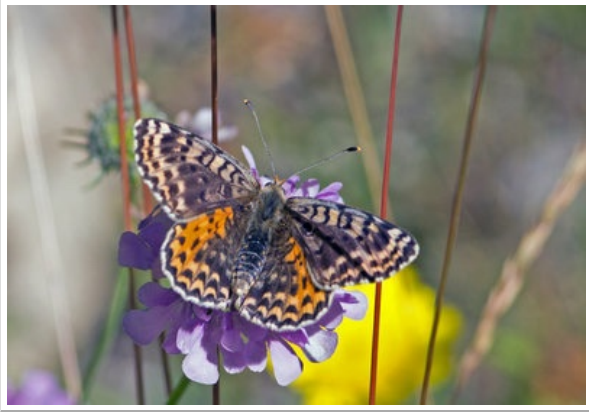


Spotted Frits were very common with plenty of the curious two-tone females on show:





And then curiuser:



And curiuser:

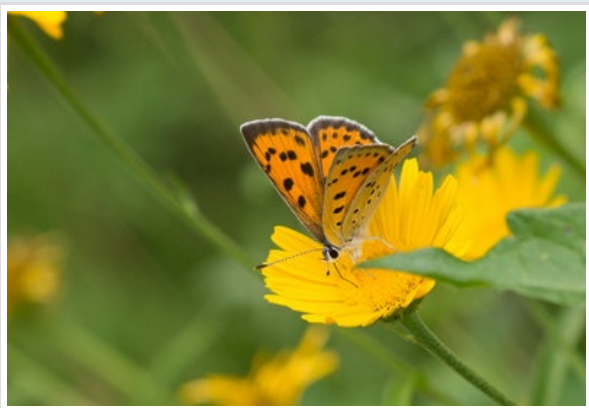


This last looked like a Nazi fighter steaming past.

An embarras de richesses – Blue spot Hairstreak on a Lizard Orchid ( I think ):



A fresh female Purple Shot Copper:



And a Weaver's Fritillary, which was taking in the last of the sun and finally elected to perch and close its wings allowing a shot of the 'purple patch'.



Pretty good first day...

Tony M.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 23-Jul-16 08:43 PM GMT

I look forward to the rest, Tony. But it's difficult to see what could beat a blue-spot hairstreak on a lizard orchid!

Guy

### High Alps

by Tony Moore, 24-Jul-16 12:35 PM GMT

Took off up the mountains the next morning. Je vois les lacets dans mes rêves... (sorry about the lack of circumflex).

I was looking for *cynthia* at over 2400m and when I arrived at the top, at 11.20 nothing was to be seen (apart from stunning views all round):



I was startled by a very loud screech behind me and was delighted to see a rather irate Marmot, whose territory I had unwittingly invaded:



Around 12.40 I spotted a white flash and within minutes was surrounded by Cynthia's Frits. During the afternoon, I probably saw more than 20 individuals within the area of a football pitch – a major thrill. I ended up with pix of both sexes and a even a mating pair. These were deep in the undergrowth and I didn't have the heart to move them just for a photograph – I can imagine how I would have felt... 🍷



On the way down, I found several Scarce Coppers – surely one of the most beautiful of European butterflies when fresh:



I was looking specially for Purple-edged Copper (another tick) and am pretty sure that this is one:



I also saw a light coloured 'Comma' nectaring at the bottom of a stony gully. I nearly broke my neck scrambling down to it, to find that it was only dull old c-album. Although there are Southern Commas in the area, I didn't manage to find one. Cynthia's Fritillary has always been something of an iconic butterfly in my book. I had seen it before, in Bulgaria, but only fleetingly. The view today made my whole trip worthwhile in one go!

To be continued...

### Re: Tony Moore

by David M, 24-Jul-16 03:42 PM GMT

Nice to see you got your quarry, Tony....and yes, that last Copper is definitely Purple-Edged! 😊

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 24-Jul-16 04:50 PM GMT

Thanks, David – much of it down to you...



T.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Chris Jackson, 24-Jul-16 05:25 PM GMT

A lovely selection of medium and medium-to-high altitude butterflies Tony.

You've surpassed yourself this year with one thing and another. Plenty of good souvenirs for next off season me-thinks. 😊  
Chris

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 24-Jul-16 05:59 PM GMT

Thanks, Chris – I now have to stay alive and fit enough until next year... 🍷🍷🍷

The mortal remains of T. Moore Esq;

### Last installment

by Tony Moore, 25-Jul-16 11:38 AM GMT

I spent the second half of the holiday at the Hotel de la Vallière at St-Martin d'Etraunes. Although the hotel bit is a little tired, it's cheap and the food is stunning – if you're in the area, look nowhere else. End of Commercial Break!

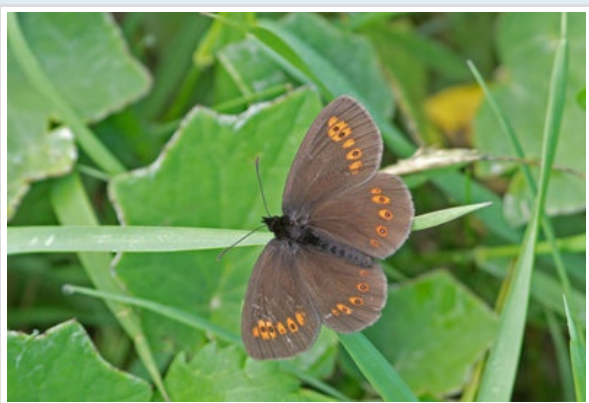
There were plenty of Erebias to be seen and most were Almond-eyed:



I wasn't good enough to pin any others.

Pretty sure I saw Common Brassy Ringlet, but it declined to be photographed.

The beautiful Martagon Lily was much in evidence on the alpine slopes:



I found a Fritillary in the grass at about 1400 m , which looked odd. At first I thought it was graeca due to the very sharp angle of the front edge of the hind wing :



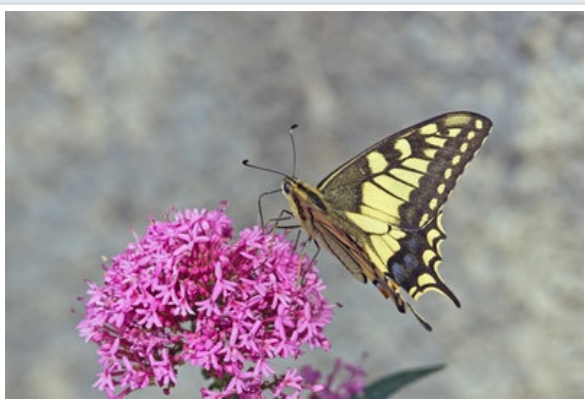
When it opened its wings, I was distinctly frapped dans le gob:



B. napaea aberration ?? Very interested to hear what others think...  
There were also good numbers of Scarce:



And 'Ordinary' Swallowtails:



Heath Fritillary was the commonest frit:



And I was very pleased to finally catch up with False Heath – a newbie for me:



Niobe Fritillaries were common on a tiny patch right behind the hotel:



But the highlight of the trip was a beautiful little river valley, where I found Glandon and Damon Blues and several very cooperative Small Apollos (all life ticks):







Very tiring for an OF like me, but a terrific experience – highly recommended.

Hope I make it next year,

Tony M.

Sorry about the Lily appearing at the bottom and two ringlets, but I've lost the whole post twice and am not prepared to risk attempted adjustment 🙄.



### Re: Tony Moore

by Padfield, 25-Jul-16 12:32 PM GMT

Hi Tony. Mountain *Boloria* species can be tricky to identify at the best of times – so a remarkable aberration like yours poses quite a challenge. However, the blackness of the cell markings on the underside forewing does suggest *graeca*.

Have you got an underside for that false heath fritillary? It doesn't look like false heath to me ...

Guy

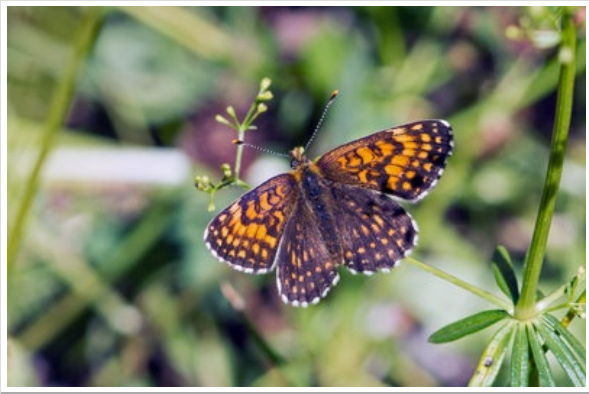
### False Heath Fritillary

by Tony Moore, 25-Jul-16 04:25 PM GMT

Hi Guy,

The reason the FHF didn't look right was because it isn't one – I posted the wrong photo after struggling with my posting for 40 minutes – d'oh! It should have been this one:





Which, I hope, is nearer...

Thank you for your opinion on the *graeca* ab. – I hope there will be a few more comments.

T.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Wurzel, 25-Jul-16 10:51 PM GMT

Fantastic stuff Tony – the Spotted Frits are stunning looking butterflies 😊🇮🇹 I don't have any ID tips for your aberrant sorry but it's interesting that a Pearl-bordered aberrant was seen at Bentley Wood and the underwing markings look quite similar 😊

Have a goodun

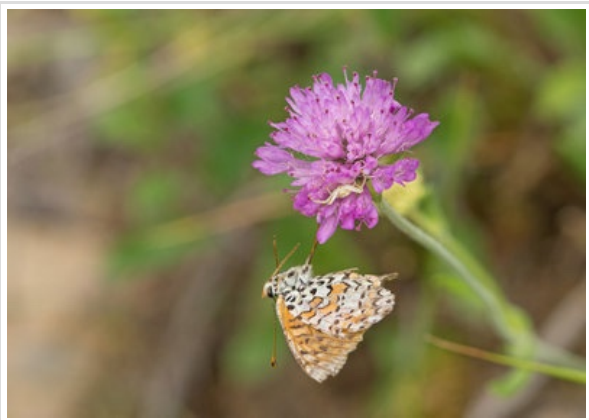
Wurzel

### Re: Tony Moore

by Tony Moore, 31-Jul-16 11:34 PM GMT

Thanks, Wurzel, for the kind comments.

Here is another photo from the trip. Crab Spiders and their depredations were common, but this one seems to have left the remains of its last meal hanging up as bait. It appears to have only bothered to eat the abdomen 🇮🇹



Tony M.

### Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 14-Sep-16 07:08 PM GMT

Just back from Costa Rica, which must be one of the finest wildlife destination on the planet. The Costa Ricans appear to have realised in time what an incredible natural resource they have and are taking great care to protect what is left. Vast tracts of the country are now national parks and the locals are very proud of their heritage.

We started in the cloud forest, near San Ramon and, when we arrived in late afternoon it was, well, cloudy... We were staying in what used to be the President's summer retreat, about 9 km into the forest down a very rough track. The first evening, the main hotel building became a gigantic moth trap. The weather conditions must have been just right as there were literally thousands of moths on every available space - walls, windows, floor - it was impossible not to tread on some of them. There was everything from the smallest clearwing to enormous Rothschildi silk moths. Surprisingly, there was no army of gekkos munching relentlessly through this bounty. It was possible to recognise many of the families - Hawk-moths, tigers, noctuids etc but these species were generally 2/3 times larger than their European counterparts and generally more brightly coloured. For the mothers amongst us, I post a few pix. Any I.Ds are tentative and open to correction. The first is the Imperial Moth (*Eacles imperialis decoris*). No.2 is one of the *Pseudoderphia* (I think...), and the third one of the *Automeris*, possibly *postabida*.



An amazing *pyralid*?



+ others unknown...





To be continued...

## Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 16-Sep-16 01:46 PM GMT

The next day saw some sunshine and the butterflies and hummingbirds soon appeared. While waiting for a *Leodonta dysoni* to settle,



a hummingbird sat not two metres away.



A small clearing had been cut in the edge of the forest and flowering shrubs planted to encourage these birds. A number of *Parides* species were availing themselves of the early morning nectar source. I think these are *P. seostris zestos*.

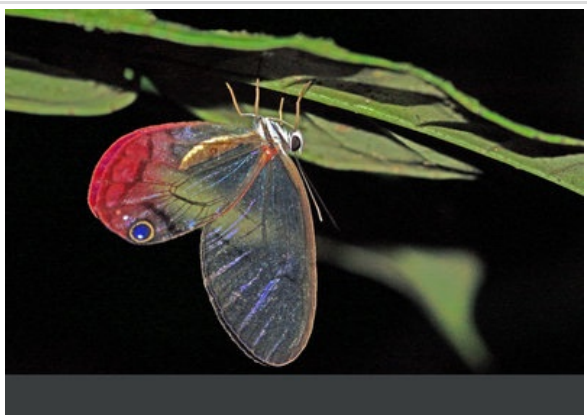




and *P. lycimines*



I had not been to Central or South America before and it was truly revelatory to see these butterfly families that I had only seen in books and butterfly farms before. That evening, we went on a night hike to find tree frogs. Unfortunately, as these animals are very light sensitive, we were not allowed to use flash. This was a double pain when I found one of my all time 'wannasees' - the Pink-tipped Satyr (*Cithaeris menander*) roosting under a branch. This was the best I could do with the light of three torches!

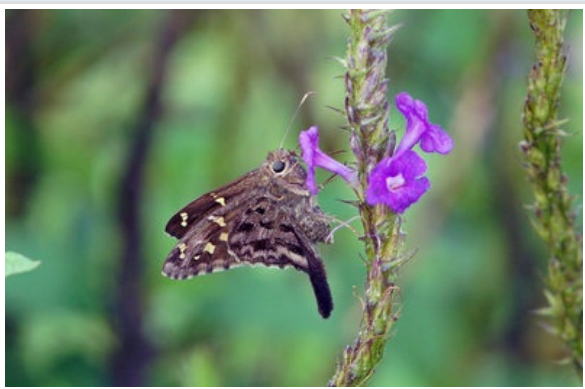


We coaxed large tarantula out of his hole and also saw a retiaris spider with his net at the ready.

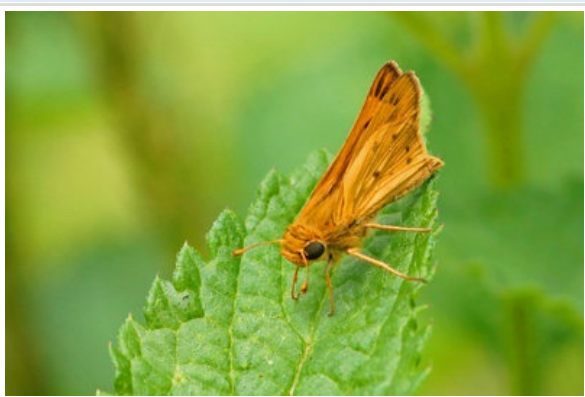
In Europe, we worry about having 50 or so Skippers to contend with, in Costa Rica there are over 1000! There were good numbers to be found in the 60 hectares of grounds, including the Two-barred Flasher (*Astraptes fulgerator*):



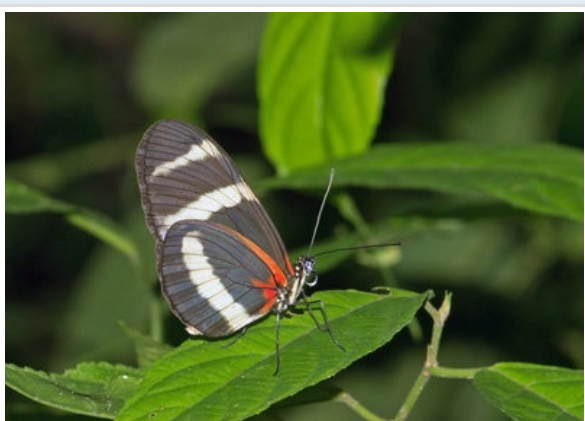
one of the 'Longtails' possibly Dorantes:



and a Fiery Skipper (*Hylephilia phyleus*)



An afternoon walk along a deep forest track produced this lovely heliconid:



I have so far been unable to pin it down (figuratively, I hasten to add), and would be grateful for any ID suggestions.

To be continued.

**Re: Costa Rica**

by Tony Moore, 16-Sep-16 10:22 PM GMT

Last butterfly is apparently *Heliconius pacheus* on very good authority from the Singapore Butterfly Site.

T.

**Re: Tony Moore**

by David M, 17-Sep-16 09:40 PM GMT

Wow! Some incredible lepidoptera there, Tony. I daren't visit such places as these as I fear that I might have to subsequently give up work to devote myself to full time study of them.

**Re: Tony Moore**

by Tony Moore, 17-Sep-16 10:23 PM GMT

Hi David – my feelings entirely. It was just so amazing.

I'm now working on any possibility to get out there again (including trying to find my wife a job at San Jose University 🇹🇲 🇹🇲)

Tony.

**Re: Costa Rica**

by Tony Moore, 19-Sep-16 06:37 PM GMT

The 'Longtail' Skipper above is *Dorantes Longtail (Urbanus dorantes)*.

**Re: Costa Rica**

by Tony Moore, 20-Sep-16 12:32 PM GMT

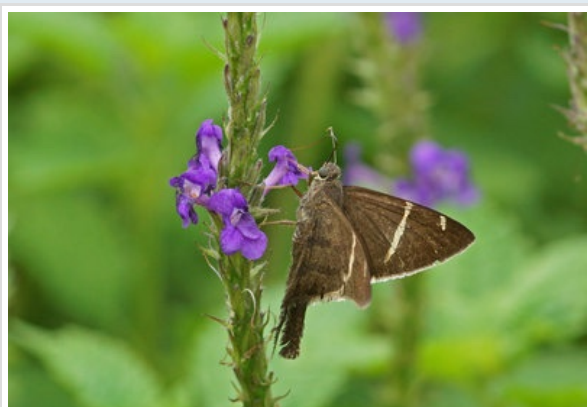
=====

There were many skippers flying around the flowering bushes including:

Plain Longtail (*Urbanus simplicius*):



Teelus Longtail (*Urbanus teelus*)



and Esmeralda Longtail (*Urbanus esmeralda*)



On a walk along a different track, *Pierella helvetica incandescens*, which lopes around in a light break and returns to the same spot on the muddy track. It has an oddly shaped hind wing and looks as though it has already suffered a bird attack:



One of the Glasswings - not sure which out of about thirty, but possibly *Greta ora* - appeared fairly regularly:



When we returned to the hotel a young male White-nosed Coati was digging up the front lawn oblivious to the guests, including yours truly, who were taking his photograph:





After four days, we moved off to Manuel Antonio on the Pacific coast. Along the way, we stopped at a road bridge over a big river. A heron was living dangerously!



We were staying in an hotel perched above about 75 hect. of rainforest, but sadly, there was no access. There were still some interesting 'flies' to be seen in the immediate hotel grounds including:

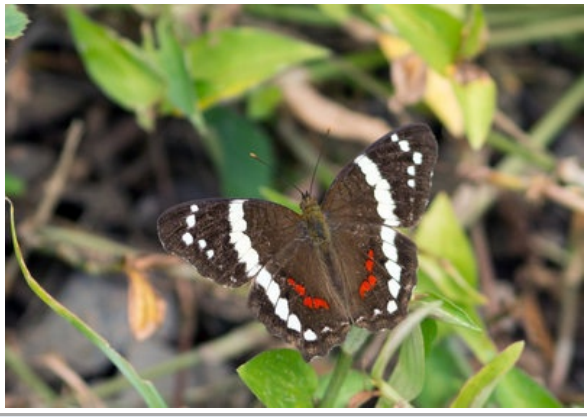
Thoas Swallowtail (*Heraclides thoas*):



Grey Hairstreak (*Strymon melinus*) - the only Lycaenid species I saw during the entire holiday:



Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*)



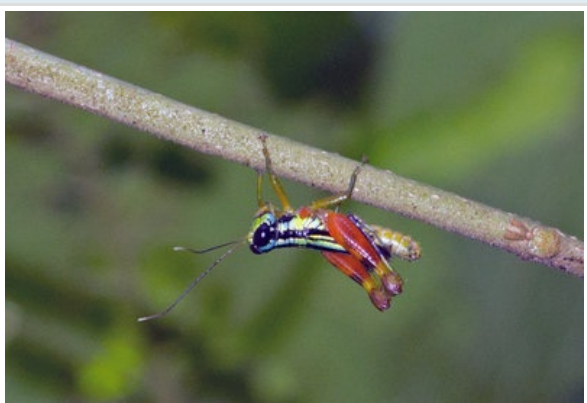
And the delicate regional endemic *Heliconius ismenius clarescens*.



The National Park itself was a bit too much like Picadilly Circus for my liking. Dozens of 'guides' with telescopes and tripods each surrounded by a cohort of observers. Three-toed sloths were easily seen in the canopy along with Capuchin and Howler Monkeys:



Butterflies were a bit thin on the ground, but I did see a jewel like Rainbow Grasshopper:



The cryptically marked *Colobura dirce* was seen along one short track:



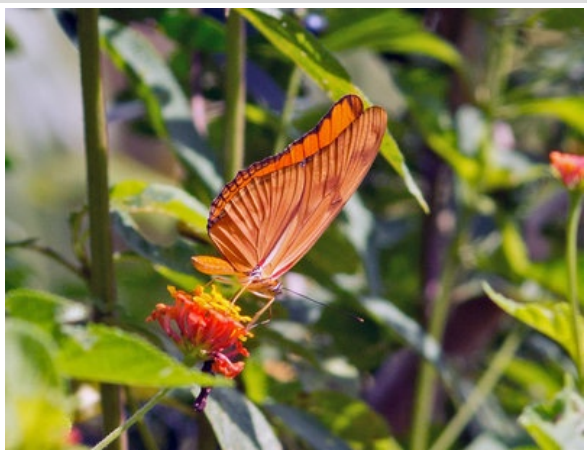
But we were anxious to return to some jungle proper...

To be continued.

## Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 22-Sep-16 06:02 PM GMT

Our next destination was on the Osa Peninsula in the south-west of the country. The journey took an hour by road, followed by a boat transfer of 12 miles. We were kitted up with life jackets and capes and set off down a wide river towards the sea. Pausing only to inspect a 4-metre crocodile, sunning itself on the bank, we tore out into the ocean at 16/17 knots! After 20 mins very bumpy ride we arrived at the tiny settlement of Drake's Bay, where our hotel was set in steep rainforest above the sea. Our boatman said that the journey by road would have taken four hours! The rooms were dotted among tropical gardens and there were tracks into the forest all around. Taking the coastal track south, one could have walked to Panama if so inclined... There were butterflies everywhere. Not five metres from the room, I photographed Julia Longwing (*Dryas julia*):



White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophe*):

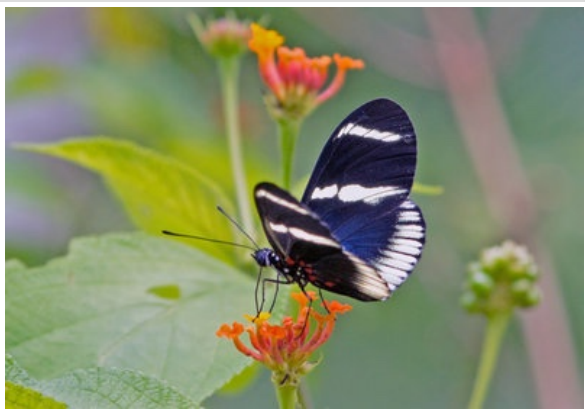


And a small black and white butterfly, that I thought at first was a small heleconid. A closer look revealed a slightly indented forewing and it turned out to be *Castilia ofella*. It was most amenable, posing first with wings flat and then closing up for an underside shot:

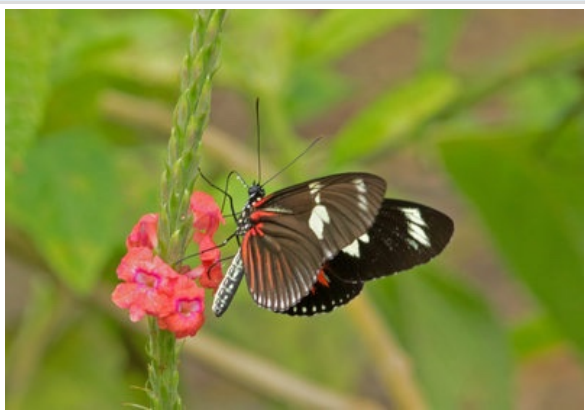




The beautiful *Heliconius sara* posed nicely:



And the red version of *Laparus doris*:



This latter is interesting in that until recently, it was classified as *Heliconius*, but genetic investigation discovered that it had a different number of chromosomes from that genus and it was renamed.

In a wooded area, there was suddenly a large, dark butterfly, that settled on a tree trunk, head downwards. This turned out to be a Starry-night Cracker



(*Hamadryas saurites*). The 'crackers' are so named because they make a crackling sound in flight. Unfortunately, this was too high pitched for my ancient lugs! I tried to photograph it using fill flash, but the preflash caused the insect to open and close its wings very quickly and the shot was spoiled. I eventually found one sitting in a little more light and was able to get a reasonable shot :



To be continued (no.1 still to come...)

## Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 25-Sep-16 06:33 PM GMT

By the last morning the 90% humidity was beginning to affect my camera's electrics and I sat for an hour with my wife's hair drier trying to coax some life into it. I finally ventured out with most of the functions working and had what was for me, the highlight of the trip. Waiting in the shelter of a large tree ( a *Moreaceae* ), a tiny butterfly flitted amongst the lower branches. It was not 10mm tall and sat beautifully for its picture. (fig 30) :



It was a stunning little metalmark, at first identified as *Sarota gyas* (from Philip DeVries's book on metalmarks). However, this work has now been superseded by a very comprehensive 1998 paper on the genus *Sarota* by Jason Hall - a work of considerable scholarship (pdf downloadable free). It seems that *S. gyas* is not even found in Costa Rica and my butt was *S. acantus*...

Whatever it was called, it was a magical sighting...

On the way back I found a smallish yellow butterfly with huge hindwings. It was identified by the guys in Singapore as *Enatia melite amalia* - a great find:



The following morning we had to return to San Jose for our flight home the next day. This involved a short boat trip (with a 'wet' landing), half an hour in a truck over impossible roads and a flight from a tiny grass airstrip. While waiting for our aircraft to appear, I had a little wander... Several small white butterflies were floating about and I assumed that they were small *Pierids*. When I finally caught up with one at rest, it was obviously a *hesperid* - Veined

white-skipper (*Helioptes arsalta*):



There were also several black and white skippers – Common Chequered Skipper (*Pyrgus communis*):



I did briefly consider holding this last photo over until next April 1st and posting it on 'Identification', suggesting that it had been found at 2000 metres in the Alpes Maritimes and asking for an I.D., but that would have been a bit cruel and I doubt it would have fooled anyone for long...

Our last night was spent in an airport hotel, but there was still a bit of waste ground around the car park. An hour of searching produced six species, including my first Zebra Longwing (sadly too knackered to be worth a photograph) and another Glasswing – no idea which particular species:



14 long hours on a cold aircraft the next day, but it was all worth it. An amazing butterfly country and I'd be back there tomorrow if I had the chance.

- Fin -

### Re: Tony Moore

by bugboy, 25-Sep-16 07:11 PM GMT

I've been enjoying your recent batch of posts from Costa Rica Tony, bringing back memories from 2005 when I visited. You saw many of the same species as me 😊. I found a *Sarota* sp. which I identified as *lascivia* from the DeVries's book, I'll have to have a look at that PDF sometime to see if it's still that one!

### Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 25-Sep-16 11:39 PM GMT

Thanks, Bugboy.

Do you have a photograph of the *Sarota*? They are such a fascinating group, I'd love to see it.

T.

### Re: Tony Moore

by Goldie M, 26-Sep-16 08:09 PM GMT

Simply beautiful butterflies Tony, their colours are fantastic it must have been a great exciting journey Goldie 😊

### Re: Costa Rica

by bugboy, 26-Sep-16 08:56 PM GMT

#### Tony Moore wrote:

Thanks, Bugboy.

Do you have a photograph of the *Sarota*? They are such a fascinating group, I'd love to see it.

T.

They're all on here on two threads from a couple of years ago:

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=20&t=8089&p=93429&hilit=+costa+rica#p93429>

<http://www.ukbutterflies.co.uk/phpBB/viewtopic.php?f=20&t=8094&p=93443&hilit=+costa+rica#p93443>

Not particularly good pictures, all scanned slides, and looking at them now reminds me I must rescan them using my own camera and the home-made tube as recommended by MikeOxon a couple of years ago which produced much better results than anything I've ever paid for!

### Re: Costa Rica

by Tony Moore, 26-Sep-16 09:43 PM GMT

Thanks, Bugboy,

You certainly found some wonderful species there – perhaps you weren't encumbered 😊, I mean accompanied, by a wife...

The pic of the *Sarota* is too dark to really see any distinguishing features, but the white legs suggest *acantus*.

T.

### Re: Costa Rica – Glasswings

by Tony Moore, 01-Oct-16 11:11 PM GMT

I believe that the right facing Glasswing posted on Sept 20th is *Ithomia diasia* and the one on Sept 25th to be *Pteronymia parva*. Advice from a Costa Rican expert, I hasten to add... 🇹🇲

T.