

Arran Brown / Marbled White

found. So it may indeed occur at Rannoch Moor in low numbers.

Flight period

Single brooded, flying from the end of June to the end of August.

Larval foodplants

Unknown in Britain but in mainland Europe it feeds on grasses including finger-grasses and Wood Millet.

Habitat requirements

Grasslands, often in light damp woodlands.

Identification characters

Average wingspan 49mm; the female is slightly larger than the male. Superficially similar to the Scotch Argus (p. 269) and Western Scotch Argus (p. 271) from which it differs in the following ways:

1. Fringes of all wings chequered black and white.
2. Hindwing undersides with conspicuous white streak that is broader in the female, often forming a whitish band.

Field tips and regional prime sites

Scotland. Considering the entomological attention received by the Isle of Arran since this butterfly was first recorded, it seems unlikely that it will be seen there again. The only advice that can here be offered is to examine all large *Erebia* individuals encountered, particularly in western Scotland, and hope for good fortune. Rannoch Moor, where Daley apparently found his specimens, seems a good place to begin.

Other regions. Unlikely to occur.

Marbled White

Melanargia galathea (Linnaeus) subspecies *serena* Verity

Subspecies type locality and authority

Specimens from Abbots Ripton in Cambridgeshire and Abbots Wood in East Sussex, England, were first described as this subspecies by Verity (1913). The nominate subspecies does not occur in the British Isles but is widespread in western and central Europe.

General distribution and status

Resident. Widespread and locally

common or abundant in England and parts of Wales south-east of a line between Glamorgan in the west and North-east Yorkshire in the east. However, it is absent from much of eastern England and scarce in most of the south-east. It is not found in Scotland, Ireland or the Isle of Man. There is a single record from Jersey in the Channel Isles. Since the 1980s, there appears to have been a northward and eastward expansion of the species' range.

Marbled White

In suitable habitats, particularly on calcareous downland, colonies may contain thousands of individuals.

Flight period

There is a single generation flying between mid-June and late August with a peak during the second and third weeks of July.

Larval foodplants

Red Fescue and Sheep's Fescue are the usual foodplants, although other closely related grass species have been recorded.

Habitat requirements

This is very much a species of grasslands, particularly unimproved grassland on

chalk or limestone (Fig. 8). It is found on downland and coastal clifftops, along roadsides, woodland rides and clearings and railway embankments and cuttings, and on waste ground and set-aside fields. It requires a tall sward that is subjected to little or no grazing.

Identification characters, variation and similar species

Average wingspan 56mm; the female is slightly larger than the male. The underside of the female hindwing has the darker areas tinged more conspicuously greenish cream. Variation is rare and is usually limited to either expansion or reduction of the black markings. There is



Fig. 242 Marbled White male underside (left) and female. Sharpenhoe, Bedfordshire