

## P.J.Underwood

by P.J.Underwood, 27-Aug-11 02:48 AM GMT

I did wonder whether I could ever mix a family holiday with grandchildren in the vendee,with looking for some new butterflies.But I seemed to have managed something.We were staying near Fontenay-Le-Compte,at Mouzeiul,and the Marais were magnificent,for birds,butterflies and plants.This is an under-researched area.In my short stay with the whole family,I found (I hope!) Queen of Spain and Weavers fritillary,many clouded yellows and a small one called a geranium bronze.This latter is interesting as it is spreading rapidly up from Africa and appear often alongside the imported geraniums and perlagoniums.Watch out for it here!



*Clouded Yellow*



*Weavers fritillary*



*Queen of Spain fritillary*



*Geranium bronze*

**Re: P.J.Underwood**

by Susie, 27-Aug-11 06:30 AM GMT

Nice photos. Geranium bronzes are cracking little critters. I'd forgo the health of my pelargoniums to have them over here. They were seen here for a little while on some imported plants but didn't survive I believe.

**Re: P.J.Underwood**

by millerd, 27-Aug-11 07:24 AM GMT

Yes, Geranium Bronze are continually brooded, with no natural period of hibernation (diapause may be the correct term?) in any stage of their life cycle. Consequently the only place one might survive in the UK is in a conservatory with overwintering geraniums that was kept frost free. I think this is what did happen when they were sighted over here. The caterpillars might slow down because of the relative cold, but might just keep going. A lot of factors would have to be right and it would never lead to them truly establishing here in the way they seem to have done further south in the Med.

Dave