

## Mud Puddling

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Nov-13 03:54 PM GMT

Seeing this name come up on the forums has reminded me of an occasion in Croatia this summer, when a camper drained its waste tank on the ground, and this was the result. Notice the Nettle tree butterfly which was particularly common. Otherwise an unusual group. This has inspired me to revisit my photo's of Croatian butterflies, where I shall need some help.

P.J.U.



## Croatia revisited

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Nov-13 04:16 PM GMT

And here is another—showing the friendliness of Amanda's blue, when a large number attached themselves to us. The chin will be at the Annual get-together tomorrow!

P.J.U.



## Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Padfield, 29-Nov-13 05:07 PM GMT

That's a fascinating – and tantalising – group on the camper effluent, PJ. I think I can make out two different *Carcharodus* species, though it's hard to be certain at this resolution. I look forward to some more of your sightings.

I've never had Mandy's blue get so familiar with me, but then again, I don't have quite such an impressive chin!

Guy

## Re: P.J.Underwood.

by NickMorgan, 29-Nov-13 06:07 PM GMT

Intriguing. I have always wanted to see numbers of butterflies puddling like that. To get so many to arrive on a damp patch, does that mean that there were hundreds of butterflies flying in the area, or were they attracted from afar to the moisture?

## Re: P.J.Underwood.

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Nov-13 08:20 PM GMT

Nick,

Generally Croatia was wonderful. In the hills above our hotel there were masses of butterflies and flowers –and even a Brown bear lying in the

road.Elsewhere they seemed to gather around any damp areas in large numbers.At the place of the mud puddling photo's, butterflies all around but they kept coming to this damp spot.I took about 20 photo's over a 5 minute period.We saw areas where there might have been 20-30 of these at the same time.

P.J.U



*Nettle tree butterfly*

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Nov-13 08:39 PM GMT

Guy et al,  
I have looked through my photo's of the mud puddling group,taken over a 5 minute period,and here are the skippers I found.If you could help with identification I would be grateful.I am sorry they are not all in sharp focus but it is tricky with a large number.  
P.J.U.



17



16



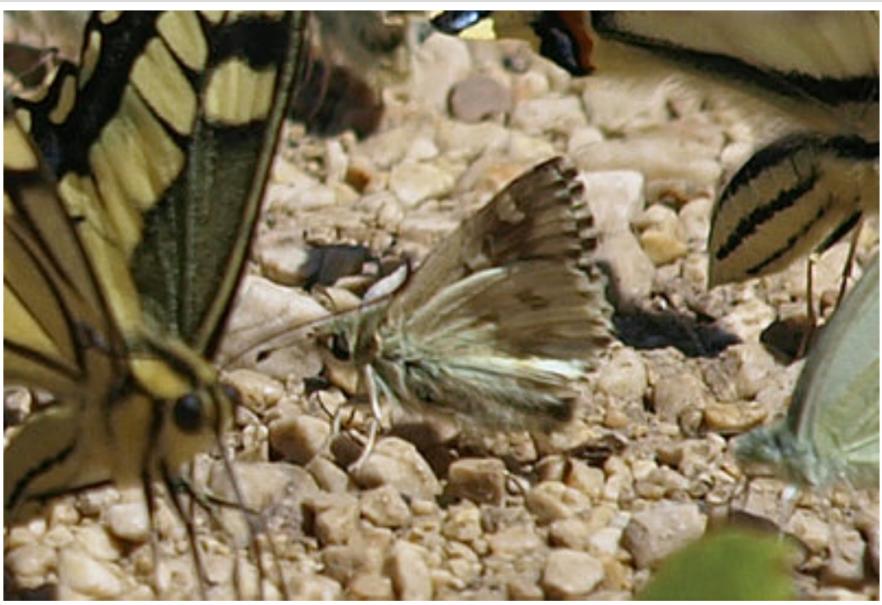
15



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**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by David M, 29-Nov-13 09:09 PM GMT

Thanks for posting these images, P.J.

They are truly intoxicating.

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 29-Nov-13 09:21 PM GMT

I'll throw these suggestions into the ring (I've added your numbers on the right, PJ, as I didn't notice them until I was part way through):

1. *Pyrgus alveus* on left, *Carcharodus flocciferus* on right. (17)
2. *Carcharodus flocciferus*. (16)
3. Not very sure – perhaps *Thymelicus acteon*? (15)
4. Both the ones in focus, I think, are *Carcharodus flocciferus*. (13)
5. *Carcharodus lavatherae*. (12)
6. *C. lavatherae* again. (10)
7. *T. acteon* again? (9)
8. *Pyrgus alveus* or *armoricanus* (6)
9. *C. lavatherae* (5)
10. *C. flocciferus* (4)
11. Mostly *lavatherae* with some *flocciferus*. (2)

I'm sure others will have some further thoughts!

Guy

(I did the skippers because that's what you asked for, but it's worth adding that at least some, if not most, of those whites are *mannii*)

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by David M, 29-Nov-13 09:25 PM GMT

Are the Whites all Small Whites?

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 29-Nov-13 09:26 PM GMT

**"David M" wrote:**

Are the Whites all Small Whites?

You were typing that exactly while I was sticking the addendum on my post above!

Guy

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 29-Nov-13 09:44 PM GMT

Thanks Guy.I will see what other skippers I have recorded on that trip,before I move on to the Blues.  
P.J.U.

## Re: P.J.Underwood.

by David M, 29-Nov-13 10:31 PM GMT

"padfield" wrote:

"David M" wrote:

Are the Whites all Small Whites?

You were typing that exactly while I was sticking the addendum on my post above!

Guy

Is it the bold black markings that strike them out as *manni*?

## Croatian skippers

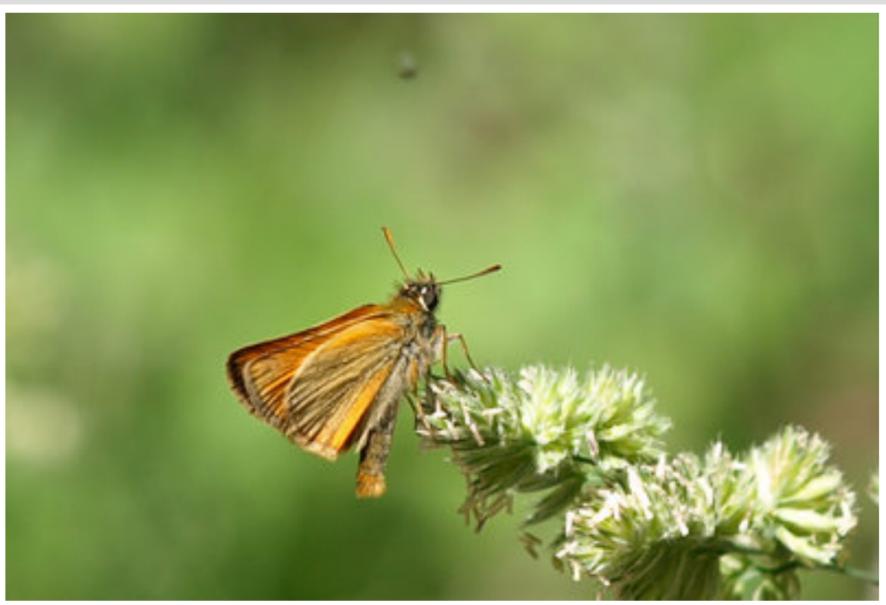
by P.J.Underwood, 30-Nov-13 06:07 AM GMT

Here is my collection of the other skippers.I have left my original guesses attached to the photo's,but would be grateful for the correct identification.Thanks in anticipation.

P.J.U.



*C.flocciferus*



*Lulworth*



*C.flocciferus*



*Dingy*



*C.flocciferus*



*C.lavatherae*



*C.flocciferus*



*Lulworth*



*Pyrgus alveus*



*Chimney sweeper*



*Lulworth*



*Dingy*

### Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Padfield, 30-Nov-13 09:36 PM GMT

Hi PJ.

I think you have the same species of skipper there, with some *tages* (dingy) thrown in – the mating pair and the last picture. The orange skippers are indeed *acteon*, probably confirming the ones I identified as that yesterday.

I have a strong suspicion the white in the first picture is a male *ergane*. It would be good to have some close-ups of the whites, as I'm sure there are *mannii* present (David, this is a mixture of jizz and some relatively constant characters, like the extent of the apical mark and the even, rather dense scaling over the whole of the underside hindwing).

So, for the skippers, the *Carcharodus* with brown/grey undersides are *flocciferus* (I think) and the ones with mostly white undersides are *lavatherae*. I think the Pyrgus in your picture 4 is probably *alveus*, but I'm happy to be corrected.

The *Carcharodus* in your picture 6 could be a very worn *flocciferus* or I suppose it could even be *alceae* – I'm not sure of that one. I'll come back to it.

Guy

### Croatian whites.

by P.J.Underwood, 01-Dec-13 05:52 PM GMT

Guy,

Here are some shots of various groups of whites in the mud puddling photo's. I make out two types. Thanks for your work on the skippers. The identified whites will follow.

P.J.U.



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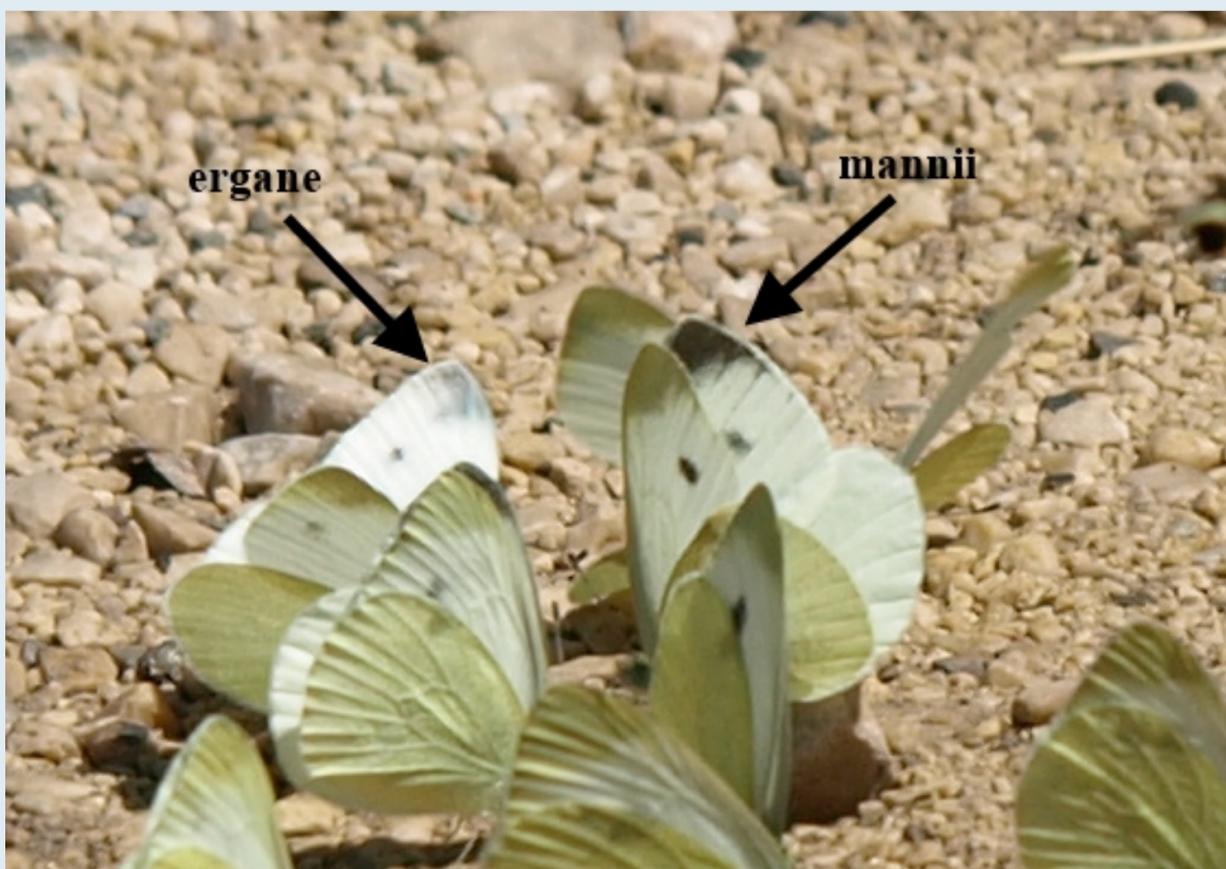
1

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 01-Dec-13 06:47 PM GMT

Brilliant! You've got *mannii* and *ergane* there!

I've taken the liberty of pointing out the two of them in a crop of your penultimate picture:



Guy

### Croatian whites

by P.J.Underwood, 01-Dec-13 07:24 PM GMT

Right Guy, I will now post my complete set of whites we found in Croatia. Sorry, being an amateur I use English names that are attached to the photo's. That is no excuse really, as with the fungi I have to learn both names—about 4,500 to go!



*Two together!*



*Wood white*



*Southern small white*



*Southern small white*



*Southern small white*



*Southern small white*



*Mountain small white*



*Clouded apollo*



*Black veined white*



*Bath white-Eastern*



*Balkan green veined white*

### **Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 01-Dec-13 07:42 PM GMT

Lovely pictures, PJ. Sorry if I put you off with the Latin names. Since I've lived in Switzerland and communicated with leppers of many different tongues I've completely gone over to Latin in my head now.

I don't think you have any small whites in this last batch – the two you label small white look like southern small white to me. And if you're interested in ticking off species, some pedants might say you had Eastern Bath white there, rather than Bath white. Other pedants don't accept that as a good species ... 😊

Guy

### **Croatia blues**

by P.J.Underwood, 02-Dec-13 12:56 PM GMT

Guy, Thank you so much for all the info. It is all splendid. Back to the mud puddling pictures. It looks as if there are two species of blues. The first one is solely to give an idea of the colour. Are they mostly Adonis?  
P.J.U.



*Blue 1*



*Blues 2*



*Blues 3*



*Blue 4*

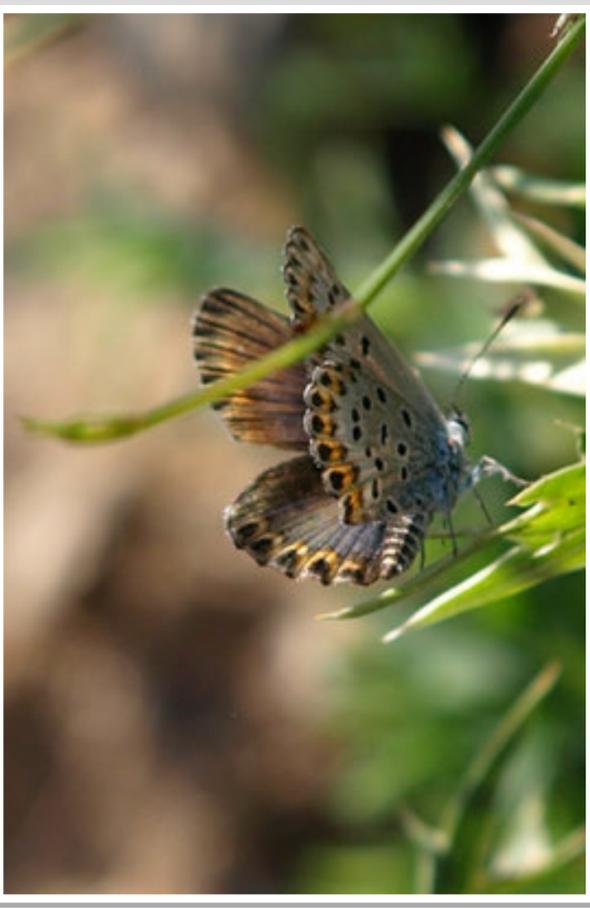
## Croatian Blues

by P.J.Underwood, 08-Dec-13 02:43 PM GMT

Having been through the Whites and the Skippers, which are more or less sorted (Thanks Guy) I am now starting on the Blues. This first batch is a nightmare. I haven't a clue of any of them. Help would be appreciated.  
P.J.U.



*P.vicrama*



*Silver studded*



*P. icarus*



*P. icarus*



*idas*



*Sooty copper*



*1*

### **Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Wurzel, 08-Dec-13 07:35 PM GMT

Absolutely fantastic shots PJ – the 'Eastern Bath White is lush 🌿 😊 It's strange as well seeing Lulworth Skippers somewhere else than in Dorset 🤔  
Looking back on some of the earlier posts is your 'maybe a Moth 3' a Chimney Sweeper?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

### **Re: Croatian Butterflies–Blues**

by P.J.Underwood, 08-Dec-13 08:48 PM GMT

Thanks Wurzel for your comments.I agree,I always find it difficult seeing Lulworths in other countries.At Durlleston Country Park they seem dull,greish and uninteresting,yet on the continent they are beautifully golden.Is it the light or could they be different varieties,I wonder.I have studied other photo's and am sure it is the Chimney sweeper moth,now that you have pointed me in the right direction.It was common and out in daylight.I am also sure I have seen many similar up at Seldon,in the Bernese Oberland.Perhaps you might like to have a go at No.1 of the Blues!

P.J.U.



*Swiss Chimney sweeper?*

### **Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 08-Dec-13 09:44 PM GMT

Hi PJ. I've just got home with quite a lot of beer in my tummy, so won't do the full *Plebejus* analysis tonight – on first glance you have two species of *Plebejus* there (*argus* and *idas*), as well as *Polyommatus* (presumably *icarus*). But on first glance I'm not sure what the first species is yet ... It might be *vicrama*, but I'll come back to it later.

Your second from last picture is a sooty copper.

It seems a great place you visited.

Guy

### **Re: Croatian butterflies.**

by P.J.Underwood, 09-Dec-13 12:38 PM GMT

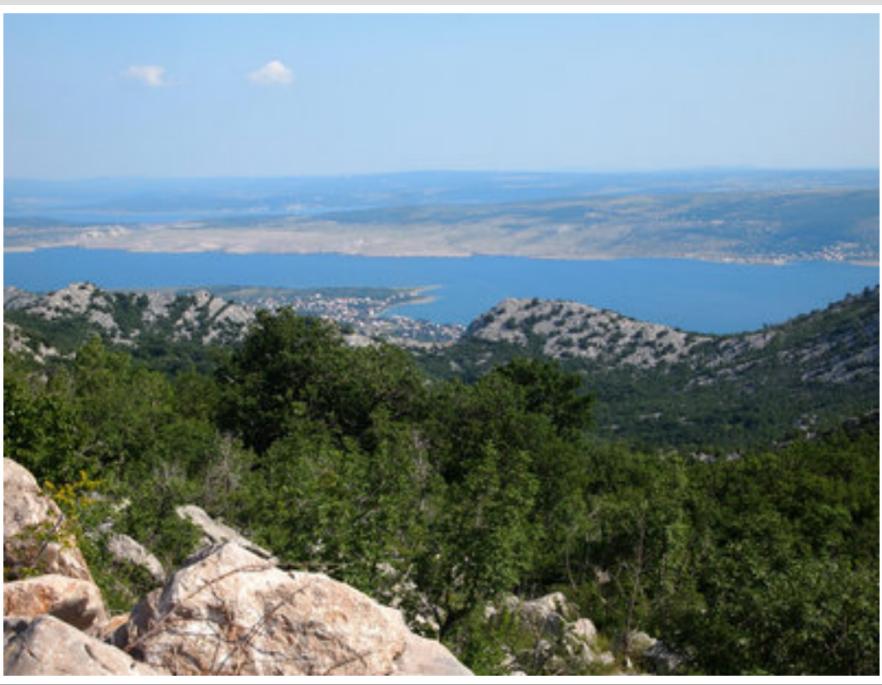
Just in case someone is interested, I am giving details of our trip in June 2013.

We flew Ryanair Luton to Zadar, halfway up the coast. Zadar is a small airport and mostly given over to Ryanair. We hired a car there and drove to our base, a cheap hotel at Paklenica, near the entrance to the Paklenica National Park. The roads everywhere were really good. We drove up into the hills behind the hotel, about 1 mile in all, three times – twice in the morning and once late afternoon. Everywhere were masses of butterflies and wild flowers. We also encountered a Brown Bear on the road in front of us and I photographed a Rock Partridge, and later had this camera stolen! We spent one day in the Paklenica National Park (where I saw a Cleopatra). From our base we journeyed out for whole days. One was devoted to the coast going north and then going inland to the Jezera National Park, with its National collection of Alpine plants. Another was the Krupa National Park, (Brilliant!) and a nearby village of Zrmanja, and basically all roads and lanes leading outwards. We were there for 1 week and I would love to go again – but there is so much else to do. There were three of us and the whole trip cost £600 per person!

P.J.U.



*The hotel with hills behind*



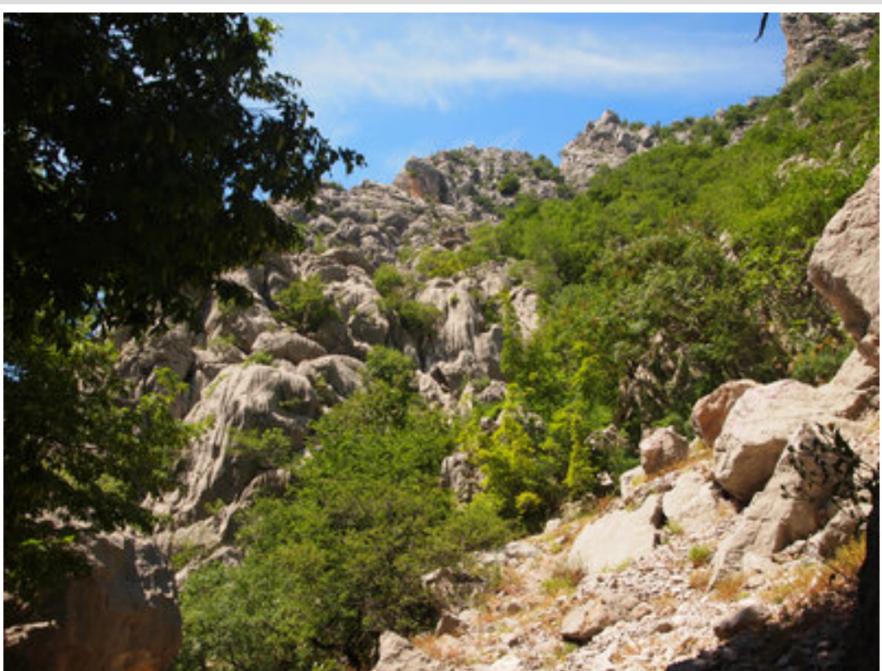
*Up in the hills*



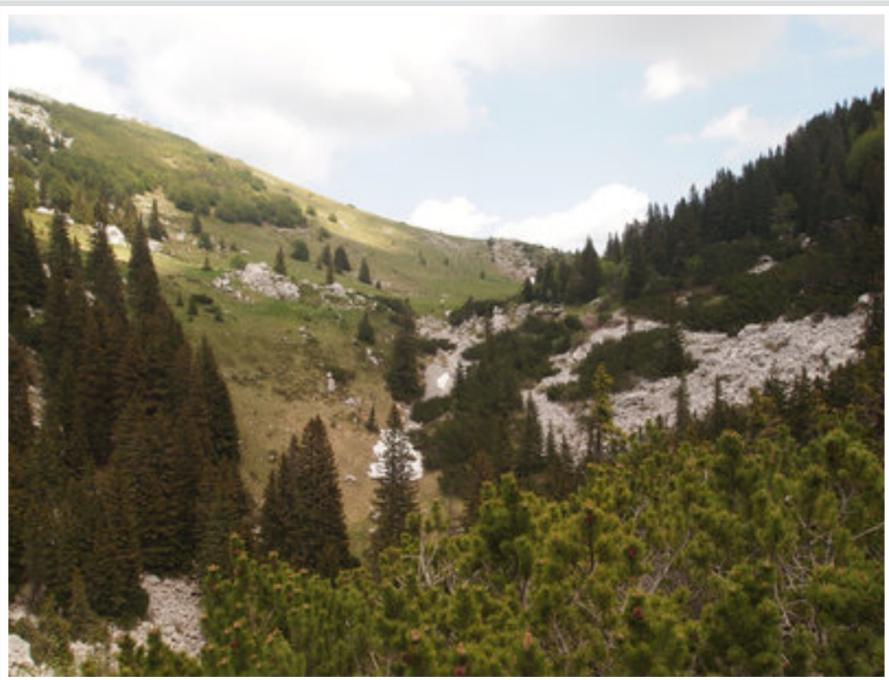
*Near the top*



*Paklenica National Park*



*Up in the Park*



*Jezera National Park*



*The Alpine meadow*



*Vransko National Park*



**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 09-Dec-13 09:49 PM GMT

Hi PJ. In your 2nd Dec post, which I somehow missed earlier, I think the first shows an Adonis blue, the second and third probably common blues and the last one I'm guessing Adonis, as the forewing just doesn't look pale enough for chalkhill - but it is very grey. Mmm ... Yes, I think Adonis.

In the next post (8th Dec) I still think the first one could be a rather worn *vicrama* (Eastern baton blue) but I'd love to see more of it.

The next, I think, is a female silver-studded blue or idas blue - I think local knowledge of these variable butterflies might be needed to be sure. I'd go for idas, on the grounds I think your last picture is of a silver-stud and she's quite different, without any blue.

Then two common blues (your pictures 6 and 5), then I'd go for idas for the next male - without 100% confidence - and silver-stud for the last female.

I hope someone else will chip in with corroboration or better suggestions!

Guy

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 10-Dec-13 03:17 PM GMT

Guy,

Thanks for your comments again. I feel more confident to put my main list up now, but still am expecting some errors! I will also hunt for more photos of the worn possible *vicrama*.



*Adonis-P.bellargus*



*Amanda's-P.amandus*



*Brown argus-A. agestis. Corr. bellargus.*



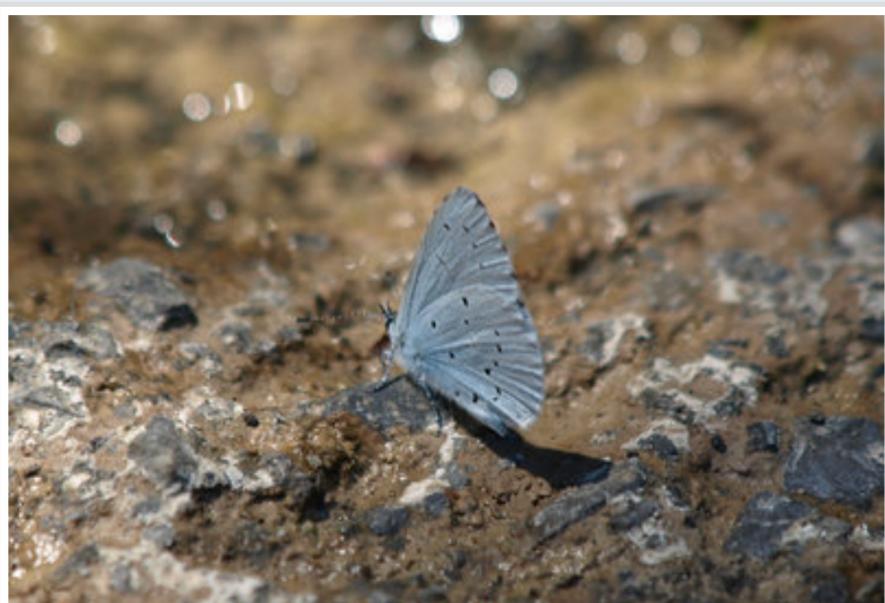
*Common-P. icarus*



*Eastern baton-P. vicrama*



*Eros-P. eros*



*Holly-C. argiolus*



*Idas-P.idas*



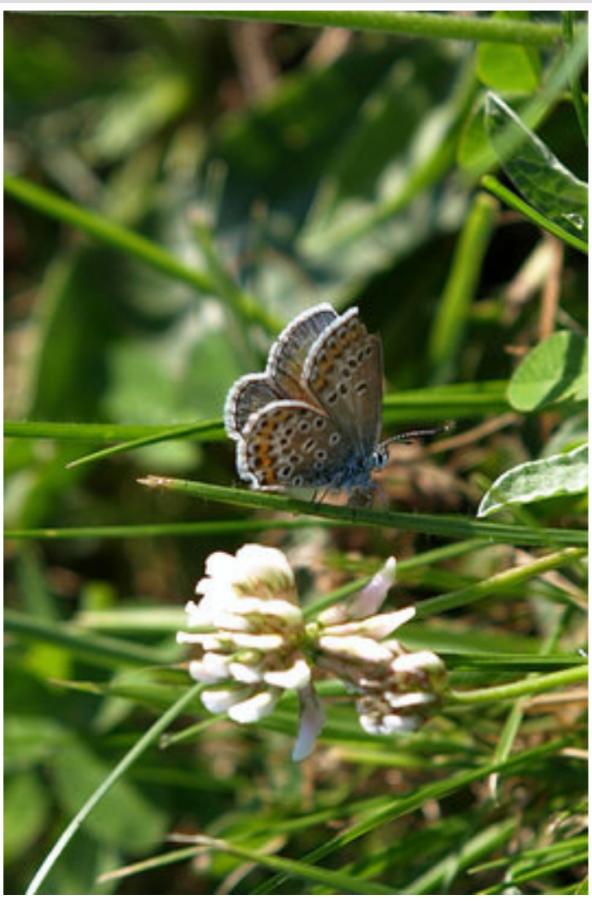
*A artaxerxes*



*A.artaxerxes*



*Osiris-C.osiris Corr.iolas*



Reverdin's -*P.argyrognomon*



Silver studded *P.argus*



Small-*C.minimus*

## Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Padfield, 10-Dec-13 05:46 PM GMT

Hi PJ. More lovely pictures, and some more thoughts from me on their identities!

The fourth picture down, that you've labelled *icarus*, is *bellargus*. I don't think I've commented on that one before, but if I have and I misled you, my apologies. The fringe, the colour and details of the hindwing markings all point to *bellargus*.

The one below it, that you've labelled *vicrama*, is also *bellargus*, I think. I should add, though, that recently the system played tricks on me and displayed the wrong pictures, so if my remarks seem way out maybe that's happening again! Now I doubt what appears on my screen ...

The one you've labelled *eros* I think is *escheri* - I don't think *eros* flies in Croatia - it's not recorded there in Kudrna's latest atlas.

Below that, the one labelled *artaxerxes* is not *Arícia* but *Lysandra* (in the old money) - so probably *bellargus*. The one beneath that, which you have also labelled *artaxerxes*, is another female *Lysandra* - and a bit ambiguous but I think it's *bellargus*.

The next one is definitely not *osiris* - unless they have very different markings in Croatia. I'll come back to that!

Beneath that is probably a female silver-studded blue, *Plebejus argus*. The fringes look too dirty for Reverdin's, the hindwing underside markings are not right and what can be seen of the upperside markings suggests *argus* more than *argyrognomon*. *Idas* is a possibility, but the ups do look more like *argus*. I don't feel confident with this group outside my home territory because there is so much variation.

The next female, that you've labelled silver-studded, I would pass on. I think it could be silver-studded but without local knowledge cannot rule out *idas*.

This probably isn't that helpful, but I tried! 😊

Guy

### Re: P.J.Underwood.

by Padfield, 10-Dec-13 05:56 PM GMT

I think the one you've labelled *osiris* is *amandus* (Amanda's blue) – or even *iolas*. In fact, it is looking more and more like *iolas* to me. Either way, you might remember it being rather large, whereas *osiris* is usually quite small – up to about common blue size, but often smaller.

To be honest, I'm uncomfortable with the *agestis* identification as well! There are definitely blue scales on the wings and in a female *Aricia* that is pretty well unheard of. I'd go for *bellargus* again – but if so, what variation there is in that species there!

Guy

EDIT – I definitely come down on *iolas* for that one! It's interesting that the plant it's on doesn't look quite like bladder senna – the leaves seem too small – but it might be.

### Re: P.J.Underwood.

by P.J.Underwood, 10-Dec-13 08:02 PM GMT

Guy,

Firstly I didn't include a *bellargus* with spots, so here it is. I will search my other photo's for an *agestis*. Finally, here are another four difficult blues – the bad photo's don't help – for you to check over. This is the last of the blues as all I can see is spots in front of my eyes!

P.J.U.



*bellargus* with spots



1-Silver Studded



2-Silver studded



3-idas



4-Silver studded

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 11-Dec-13 08:26 PM GMT

Hi PJ. In this set, the first one is, obviously an Adonis blue. The others, I think, are all silver-studs, except for the penultimate, which I believe is Idas. I have to say 'I believe' because the genus *Plebejus* is very sedentary and there is considerable variation within each species. That said, I feel reasonably confident with these IDs!

Thanks for posting all these pictures - I've really enjoyed looking through them. I do hope others will step in and offer alternative suggestions for ID where I've been tentative. Of all the butterflies you've posted, I think the Iolas blue carries the most cachet - and it's one of my favourite butterflies ever. That ID correction was definitely an 'upgrade'!

Guy

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

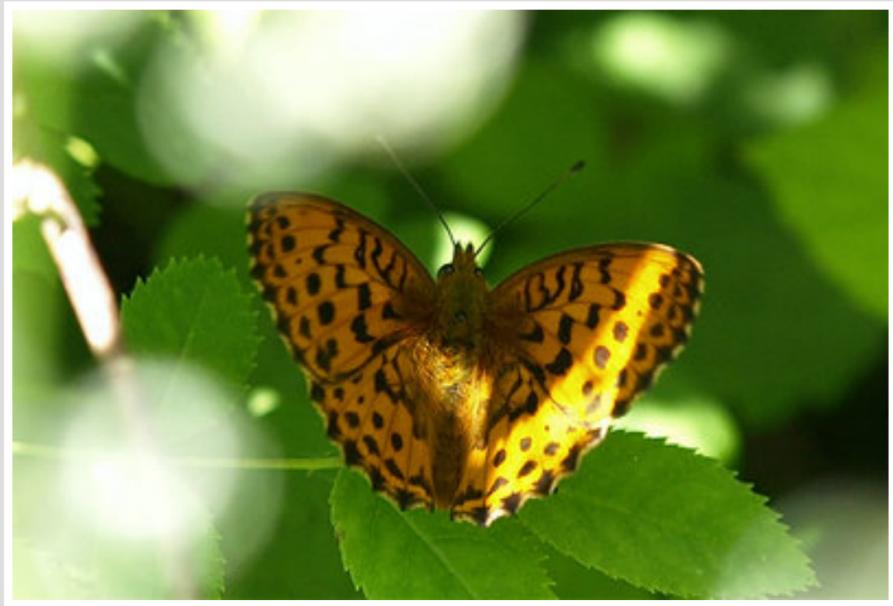
by P.J.Underwood, 12-Dec-13 06:37 AM GMT

Guy,  
Thanks for the ID's so far. Don't worry, it isn't over yet. I will bring you the fritillary's next as soon as I have time. I am using solely the Photographic guide to butterflies of Britain and Europe by Tan Haahtela and others, for ease and time, and that is perhaps why some ID's are a little shaky or it could be just me!  
P.J.U.

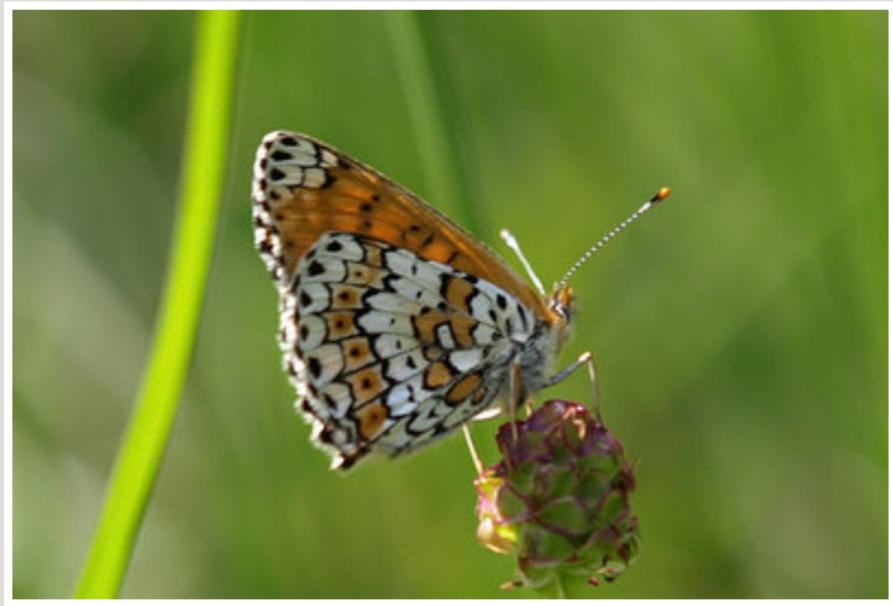
**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 14-Dec-13 02:56 PM GMT

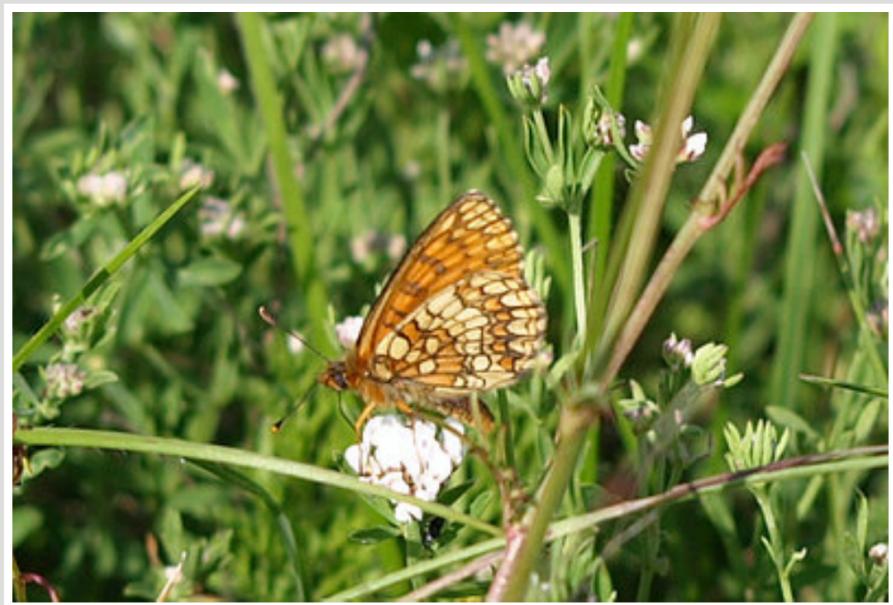
These are the fritillaries plus an odd one we found during our week in Croatia, last June. Please feel free to alter my I.D.'s  
P.J.U.



*Dark green-A.aglaja Corr.Marbled*



*Glanville-M.cinxia*



*Heath-M.athalia*



*High brown-A.adippe Corr.Niobe*



*Knapweed-M.phoebe*



*Lesser marbled-B.ino Corr.Marbled*



*Lesser spotted-M.trivia*



*Marsh-E.aurinia*



*Nettle tree-L.celtis*



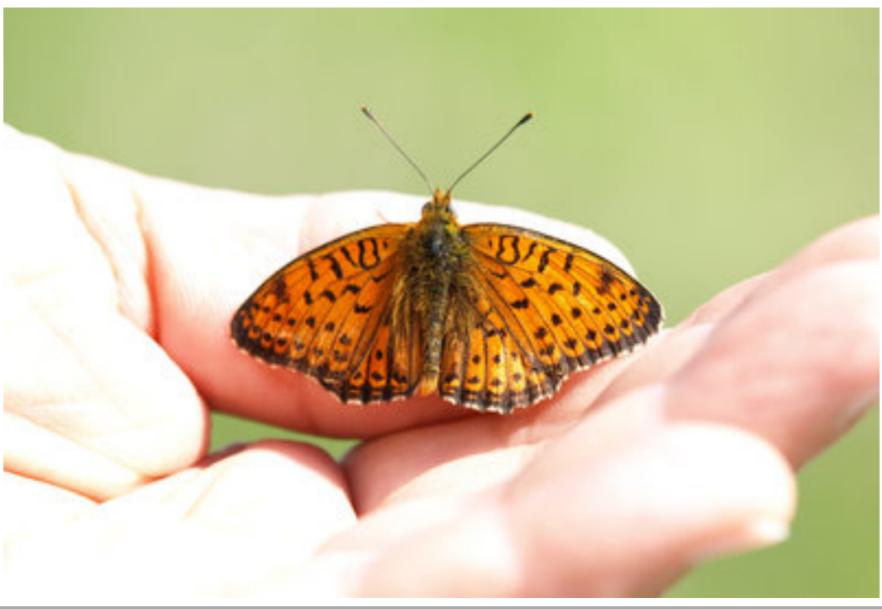
*Nickerl's-M.aurelia*



*Niobe-A.niobe*



*Queen of Spain-I.lathonia*



*B.hecate-Twinspace.*

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by David M, 14-Dec-13 04:36 PM GMT

Your first fritillary shouted 'Marbled' at me, due mainly to its general wing shape plus the 'scalloped' look to the edges.

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by Padfield, 14-Dec-13 07:05 PM GMT

I agree with David – that first one is a marbled fritillary. The one lower down, that you have labelled lesser marbled, would seem to be a marbled fritillary too. The half-shading in the yellow spot at the base of s4 on the hindwing gives it away.

To me, your high brown fritillary is a Niobe fritillary, form *eris*. There is a similar form in high brown, form *cleodoxa*, but it lacks the extent of black edging to the hindwing spaces.

With lesser spotted and spotted fritillaries in the region, I can't tell which yours is – did you get a suitable view to confirm lesser spotted? The other one I can't confirm or deny is the Nicker!'. This is a species I find endlessly difficult to identify from pictures but can now tell instantly in the field by its demeanour and flight (though I've never seen Assman's, which might be similar).

I love the marsh fritillary, ssp. *bulgarica*! And twin-spot fritillary is still on my list of yet-to-sees!

Guy

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 14-Dec-13 08:36 PM GMT

Thank you David and Guy. It is like being back at school and having your paper marked! I will go back over the photo's and add the corrections. It will then be a better record.

P.J.U.

**Re: P.J.Underwood.**

by P.J.Underwood, 16-Dec-13 02:16 PM GMT

I am now trawling through my photo's of Croatia again. In the first 150 I have found these two. Could the first be a Red underwing skipper and the second....any ideas?

P.J.U.



*A Red underwing?*



*A mystery-looks prehistoric!*