

MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 02-Feb-16 07:20 PM GMT

As its a New Butterfly Year I thought its time to start a Diary at this point.

I start with the last butterfly trip, while not seeing a LTB at the cement works, a Red Admiral helped pass the time.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 02-Feb-16 10:45 PM GMT

A great shot to start with MrSpock...and as I'm the first to comment...may your PD live long and prosper 😊 ...I'll get me coat 😊😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by David M, 02-Feb-16 10:53 PM GMT

Welcome aboard the wagon, MrSpock. I'll look forward to reading your reports with interest.

Re: MrSp0ck

by trevor, 03-Feb-16 12:13 AM GMT

Hi MrSpOck,

That's a very worthy find for February !, my first Butterfly last year was an RA basking at the top of my house on Feb. 17th.

Keep it up !

Trevor.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 03-Feb-16 05:17 PM GMT

Glad to see you've started a diary Mr Spock. I'll be expecting to see some wonderful shots from HB later in the season 😊😊 Great image of the RA - I was so busy chatting at Beeding I doubt whether I would have noticed a LTB if it had landed on me 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 04-Feb-16 02:42 PM GMT

Thanks all

Yes there should be a lot of GFs and Hutchinsons Bank during late May and early June.

I will have my first entomological trip of the year on Friday, as i only have 1 male Eyed Hawk pupa, which will be on show at Wisley for the week, im looking to dig a few Lime Hawks to add to it [they will later be returned to the road where they come from of course] the last time I dug there was about 1995/6. The hibernating GF larvae are staying in the shed, as they are not due to wake up until the end of the month.

There should be some pictures from this weekend on here.

Lifers are now few and far between for me now, Ive seen LTB as larvae, but not as adults, so that would have been the latest lifer, from the male Pale Clouded Yellow seen in 1996 at Noar Hill which was the last one.

UPDATE No Lime Hawk pupae found this time, 2 hatched Lime Hawk pupa were around the same tree, 1 caterpillar was found but put back around the trunk.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Goldie M, 05-Feb-16 07:39 PM GMT

Yes! welcome Mr Spock, looking forward to seeing more of your photos in the coming year, 😊 Goldie 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 06-Feb-16 05:35 PM GMT

Here are a few pictures from todays stint at Wisley Butterfly Display.

It was reasonably busy, but not like 2 or 3 years ago when there was a 45 minute queue to get inside, having to spend most of the day behind the table, so managed a 15 minutes in the butterfly display.



The Surrey Butterfly stand in the hatching area at Wisley, is that a Glanville being talked about.



A quiet time at the end of the day.



Assorted Silkmoth [hatched cocoons]



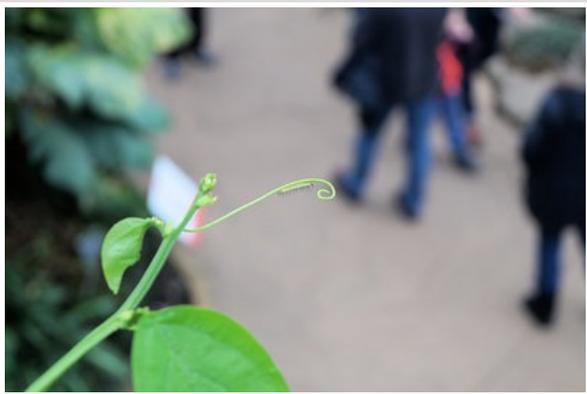
Puss Moth Cocoons, how do they ever hatch through that wood cocoon.



Butterfly pupae hatching cages



Heliconius eggs on Passiflora alata



Heliconius larva on P. alata, either H. numata or H. hecale

The only butterfly i photographed today, picked up off the floor, before it was damaged.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Padfield, 06-Feb-16 05:44 PM GMT

In two years of season tickets to my nearest butterfly house I've never seen a Prepona open its wings like that for a shot! 😊 And that was your only adult photo ...

Guy

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 10-Feb-16 06:41 AM GMT

That's a great shot of the larva Martin and the main reason I returned to Wisley yesterday 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by Mike Robinson, 10-Feb-16 08:41 AM GMT

Well done with the **Red Admiral**; and a super picture too.

I'm looking forward to getting the next few weeks under our belts and seeing the Butterflies and Wild Flowers again.

Until then, it's Birds; hopefully our local long-staying **Black Redstart** will hang around until the Spring.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 24-Feb-16 03:00 PM GMT

I visited Hutchinsons Bank today, a site meeting was being held.

here are 2 shots of the reserve one of the Cutting, where most of the Glanvilles are seen in May.



The Glanville caterpillars are starting to wake up, the last 2 years its been 25th February, and the first this afternoon, great timing each year, even the frosty nights dont seem to delay them. A few caterpillars are monitored overwinter in captivity.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 24-Feb-16 06:49 PM GMT

I think you must be absolutely right Martin when you surmise that the length of day is a major factor in when they come out of hibernation. Thank you for informing me that they were waking up. A visit to HB is definitely on the cards this season 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 24-Feb-16 09:41 PM GMT

Looks like an interesting site MrSpock hopefully I'll be able to arrange a visit there this year – it's been a fair few years since my last Glannies 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 25-Feb-16 04:11 PM GMT

Today's visit was to Hutchinsons Bank, to look at the Plantain for any of the monitored Glanville caterpillars along the cutting, there is plenty of plantain growing for when they wake up, the webs became invisible in the autumn. I also checked a dis-used golf course area next to Hutchinsons Bank, it looks very good for butterflies, and has lots of young Blackthorn sucker growth. Im sure we will be recording interesting butterflies in the spring.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 04-Mar-16 09:34 PM GMT

Today on a bus trip through central Purley, Croydon, Surrey, i managed to get a picture of the mature Elm. At least it has a Lorry to give it scale.





There are still quite a few big Elms left in Croydon most have White Letter Hairstreaks on them

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 08-Mar-16 05:15 PM GMT

Today's visit was to Hutchinsons Bank, and onto Featherbed Lane Golf Course for a few photos of the new transect. It hasn't been used for Golf for over 3 years now.





Re: MrSpOck

by Matsukaze, 08-Mar-16 08:22 PM GMT

I found a WLH egg a few years back on one of the golf courses in that area (Selsdon Park?). This was on just about the only elm I have ever searched in Surrey; I've found 2 in 10 years here in Somerset.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 08-Mar-16 08:27 PM GMT

One of the Mature Elms i know is on the main road at Selsdon Park Golf Course, it like most of the trees i know has WLHs.

Re: MrSpOck

by Goldie M, 09-Mar-16 10:25 AM GMT

I wish I could find just one tree with WLH's on MrSpOck I'd be happy, 😊 Can't even find them at Gait Barrow if anybody knows where they are up there I'd be happy to hear from them. 😊 By the way glad you enjoyed my Tarts, Goldie 😊

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 09-Mar-16 12:49 PM GMT

Here is a picture of the small secure population of Glanvilles that I have to Baby Sit through the winter, before they go back onsite. They are starting to eat now.



Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 11-Mar-16 03:30 PM GMT

I managed to get my first butterfly of the year today with a Comma on Hutchinsons Bank, not many years have a Comma as the first record.

Still no signs of Torts, Brimstones or Peacocks.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 11-Mar-16 03:55 PM GMT

Just spotted this photo Martin. Looks like there's going to be a good population of Glanvilles at HB this season – a visit there is certainly on the cards 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by trevor, 11-Mar-16 04:08 PM GMT

Hi Martin,

Hope to see your Glanvilles this year. If most of those in your image make it, we will be spoilt for choice, and save a trip to the Isle of Wight!

Regards,
Trevor.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 13-Mar-16 05:46 PM GMT

Today a male Brimstone at Hutchinsons Bank, and 30 Man Orchid Plants on the di-used Golf Course.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 25-Mar-16 04:12 PM GMT

At Hutchinsons Bank today, 8 Brimstone, 5 Small Torts, 3 Comma and 2 Peacocks. One of the Peacock flew out of a fox hole, so might have been hibernating in it.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 28-Mar-16 05:04 PM GMT

That's quite some total Martin – I have only seen 1 Brimstone so far. A few years ago, I, too, saw a Peacock come out of a burrow so your assumption could well be correct..

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 29-Mar-16 07:17 PM GMT

That's a pretty impressive haul for this time of year.Had the hibernating Peacock found an unused Foxhole – or did it find an unused annexe?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 12-Apr-16 05:10 PM GMT

I checked the Glanville caterpillars at HB today, they were active and happily eating a wider range of leaves despite having lots of plantain to choose from.





We seem to be discovering things every day, Pauline has had a few discoveries as well this spring.

I had Glanvilles eating Purple Toadflax last summer.

Re: MrSp0ck

by trevor, 12-Apr-16 06:43 PM GMT

That's good news Martin, 'let's hope this little colony of Glanvilles thrives for the future.

Trevor.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 13-Apr-16 02:38 PM GMT

That's an interesting observation Martin. With all the effort you are putting in I am sure there will be a splendid display at HB this season 😊 ... and you need to remind me when the exotic butterflies will be on display.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 14-Apr-16 01:13 PM GMT

Checked the HB Glanville caterpillars today, quite visible when you know where to look, but the 2 webs i know of are really hard to find. They have lots of plantain in this area.





another 3–4 weeks and the adults will be flying about again.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 20–Apr–16 04:39 PM GMT

I walked the 2 Transects i have to do this week, not many butterflies but the first of the Whites, 2 Small Whites, and probably the same Grizzled Skipper as Bugboys, as it was in the same location.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 21–Apr–16 02:58 PM GMT

A good day at Hutchinsons Bank, first Speckled Wood, Orange–Tips of the year, and plenty of Brimstones, Peacocks. I thought i was going to get a pair of Brimstones, as they were courting at my feet, but both went high up in a thermal, and split up as they came back down some distance away.





Along the Cutting I found my first [wild] Glanville caterpillars, sunning themselves on the centre of the path, 11 in all, these had overwintered along the cutting and are only 2-3 days behind the others. They were some distance 60m from where known webs were last summer. I found 1 larva where these known webs were so they may have moved away this spring. Any returned overwintered larvae have been put well away from the cutting [500m] so we can monitor any wild larvae. It looks like it will be a good year here this spring.



One my way back at the end of the cutting in one of the scrapes the 2nd Grizzled of the year.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-16 10:20 PM GMT

The Glannies are coming on well then Mr Spock 😊 Would the adults be expected to be emerging in about a month from now - I'm trying to remember on what dates I've seen Glannies flying previously?

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 22-Apr-16 10:32 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Would the adults be expected to be emerging in about a month from now - I'm trying to remember on what dates I've seen Glannies flying previously?

Wurzel

They take about 21 days as a pupa, and last year appeared on 14th May, although they were not spotted until 17th, They seem to be inline with that again this year, the weather seems to be warming up after 4th May, so would expect a date from 11th, and with the numbers of fully grown larvae around will be a good year.

i have been looking for a couple of weeks along the cutting and even looking every day, only saw the larvae on the 21st, other visitors also walked past/over them the last couple of days. So there are probably lots of others we have missed.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 22-Apr-16 10:55 PM GMT

Brill - cheers for the info - I'll pencil those dates into my diary 😊

Have a goodun

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 24-Apr-16 03:23 PM GMT

Despite the Cold weather today, i checked the HB cutting for more Wild Glanvilles, I found another 7 to start with at the bottom of the slopes, and on the flat side of the track [the flints mark where the first larvae were found], I was pleased with this, another was found near to where last summers webs were too. I had a look in the Scrape, and suddenly the total was 29, above this scrape it got to 42, 40 in and around the scrape pictured below, these must all be from a missed web and pairing last summer. I would expect there to be many more larvae that were sheltering today.





All of today's larvae were fully grown, so would be wandering off to pupate sometime this week.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 28-Apr-16 09:37 PM GMT

At last some butterflies today, 2 Small Torts and 2 Peacock along the Cutting at Hutchinsons Bank, it was sheltered so quite warm when the sun was out. The cutting Glanville Larvae count was up to 70, with some showing signs of wanderlust, by rapidly running over the ground and up the scrape.

Hopefully when it warms up next week we will see some Grizzingly Skippers and Green Hairstreak.

Re: MrSpOck

by Trevor, 28-Apr-16 11:01 PM GMT

Sounds like I'll soon have to book my Tram ticket !.

Re: MrSpOck

by Wurzel, 29-Apr-16 10:14 PM GMT

Already booked my Brownie Point day MrSpock! Can't wait!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 03-May-16 04:30 PM GMT

I did the 3 Transects today in the Sunshine [Chapel Bank, Hutchinsons Bank, Featherbed Lane Golf Course] and had the first Green Hairstreak of the Year at Chapel Bank, and 3 Dingy Skippers at Hutchinsons Bank. Small White, Orange Tip, Holly Blue were also seen as well as all the hibernators, except Red Admiral.

Most of the Glanville caterpillars in the Cutting have wandered off to pupate, and in the Big Scrape they are starting to split up ready for wandering off.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 03-May-16 10:13 PM GMT

Really hoping to be able to make a visit to this site as it looks great! 😊 Is your Greenstreak an aberrant it doesn't appear to have any of the white dots/streaks?

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 03-May-16 10:26 PM GMT

Wurzel wrote:

Is your Greenstreak an aberrant it doesn't appear to have any of the white dots/streaks?

Have a goodun
Wurzel

Our GHs often dont have white spots, or just the top hindwing one, I only got that one shot, as it settled while the sun went in for a few seconds, then went when it came out again. I wanted to move around to get a flat wing shot, but wasnt in position in time.

Its a lovely site, with a mixture of habitats, there is also going to be a good show of Kidney vetch in the Big Scrape.

ive just reloaded the image and its the one spot version, as mentioned above.



Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 11-May-16 05:44 PM GMT

Today we had a Butterfly Conservation walk at Hutchinsons Bank, although it was a misty wet start, the sun did appear around mid-day. Dingy Skipper, Orange Tip, Green-veined White, Small Heath, were all seen, along with a Red Admiral in the large scrape, we dont have many Red Admirals, so its from the recent influx of them.

A well hidden Dingy Skipper was on the muddy scrape.



The Glanvilles have started to emerge this afternoon, so should start appearing over the next few days.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 12-May-16 07:03 PM GMT

Thursday 12th May Kent Trip.

The day started at Hutchinsons Bank with photos of the first Glanvilles this year.



Greenie and myself visited a few sites in Kent today, starting at Denge for Dukes, our first stop due to motorway holdups at the M25/M20 junction, had to go via M2/A2. The long walk upto the reserve saw a few Orange Tips and Brimstones, but at the far end of the bank 20-30 Dukes were flying. The Lady Orchids were just starting to flower.





Then it was onto Park Gate Down, where there was not much in either the Orchid or Butterfly front, and no Monkey Orchids in leaf or bud, when they should be flowering in 2 weeks time.

It was then onto Marden Meadow for the Green-Winged Orchids.



Ended up back at Hutchinsons Bank at the end of the day, the last Glanville caterpillar was on its march looking for somewhere to pupate.

Re: MrSp0ck

by trevor, 12-May-16 07:36 PM GMT

Now, where's that Tram ticket ?!!!.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Maximus, 12-May-16 11:48 PM GMT

It's great to see a Glanville Fritillary again, nice shots. Also good to see that Dukes appear to be doing well in Kent.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Goldie M, 13-May-16 08:44 AM GMT

Lovely shots of the Glanville and the Dukes Goldie 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 13-May-16 10:21 PM GMT

Cracking Glannies MrSpock 😊 Hopefully the weather will play ball next weekend and I can get up that way – it's been a long old three years since my last encounter with this species!

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 14-May-16 08:13 PM GMT

Ive been on Glannie duties the last few days, Today was a late start for them as it was dull and chilly until mid-day, but when the sun shone they appeared on the banks of the cutting, for the few photographers who took a chance on the weather. Later on they flew up to the top of the cutting bank, and the field above where i took these pictures.



Re: MrSp0ck

by Pauline, 15-May-16 06:33 AM GMT

Great shots of the Glanvilles Martin – your predictions about their timing was spot on 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by Goldie M, 15-May-16 12:37 PM GMT

Lovely Butterfly shots Martin, I've to see a Glanville 🍷 Goldie 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 15-May-16 04:12 PM GMT

Sunday 15th May

Glanville Day

The day started with lots of visitors in the cutting, 2 of which found a wild glanville pupa, the first wild one ive seen, again it was on a stone, like one ive seen in a photo from IOW. The Glanvilles were emerging before our eyes in the scrape.



Then in the afternoon we had an ab. possibly ab. wittei, it flew over the hedge after a few pictures, and we didnt manage to relocate it in the lower paddocks or the bottom bridleway where they also hang out. Greenie managed to get better upper and underside pictures before it flew.





Re: MrSp0ck

by Gary.N, 15-May-16 04:43 PM GMT

Superb shoots of the Glanvilles. Would love to see them someday. 😊

Gary.N

Re: MrSp0ck

by bugboy, 15-May-16 05:32 PM GMT

Another nice fritillary ab! The crazy freezing cold/boiling hot spring we had looks likely to have had an effect 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 15-May-16 06:05 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Another nice fritillary ab! The crazy freezing cold/boiling hot spring we had looks likely to have had an effect 😊

I think this is a genetical ab, rather than caused by weather.

Re: MrSp0ck

by bugboy, 15-May-16 07:52 PM GMT

Looks like ab. horvathi according to here:

<http://www.britishbutterflyaberrations.co.uk/species/melitaea-cinxia/aberrations>

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 15-May-16 08:02 PM GMT

bugboy wrote:

Looks like ab. horvathi according to here:

<http://www.britishbutterflyaberrations.co.uk/species/melitaea-cinxia/aberrations>

its illustrated as wittei in thomas and lewington.

IOW 1929



Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 15-May-16 10:16 PM GMT

Fantastic ab. MrSpock 😊😊 I'm salivating now whilst awaiting next weekend along with hoping for good weather. In fact I've even considered converting to a religion in the hope that a word with the big man/men/woman/general Deity will set it to fair 😊 Am I correct in assuming that the HB Glannies are related to the population that used to be at Wrecclisham? I was just wondering as I found a slightly similar ab there back in 2012...



Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by Susie, 15-May-16 10:21 PM GMT

Excellent reports. I feel a visit is in order tomorrow 😊

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 15-May-16 10:44 PM GMT

[quote="Wurzel" Am I correct in assuming that the HB Glannies are related to the population that used to be at Wrecclisham? I was just wondering as I found a slightly similar ab there back in 2012.../quote]

There may be a remnant of the Wrecclisham population at HB, but its probably very low, as only 3 Glanvilles were seen in 2013 from the original 2011 [27] Wrecclisham larvae. They would have to be the direct offspring of these 3 and not the last gene swap in 2014. The form looks like it is related to the IOW 1929 ab stock as its very similar to the illustrated one.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Wurzel, 15-May-16 11:19 PM GMT

Right, it doesn't seem likely then, must just be a fresh aberrant, just an idea 😊

Have a goodun

Wurzel

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 16-May-16 08:56 PM GMT

looking at the genes for the ab.

Half of the larvae from the mother will be carriers, and a few normal and the ab. so from the number of larvae from the egg batch hopefully a few more will appear again this year, or next year when the carriers mate with eachother.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 07:33 PM GMT

MrSp0ck wrote:

bugboy wrote:

Another nice fritillary ab! The crazy freezing cold/boiling hot spring we had looks likely to have had an effect 😊

I think this is a genetical ab, rather than caused by weather.

I'd be interested in why you think that, Martin! There are quite a few well-known aberrations (e.g. Purple Emperor ab. *iole*) where, unless you are able to either artificially induce a temperature shock or rear through a number of generations and cross-breed the resulting offspring, then it is very difficult to know if the cause of aberration is genetic or environmental.

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 07:34 PM GMT

MrSp0ck wrote:

looking at the genes for the ab.

Half of the larvae from the mother will be carriers, and a few normal and the ab. so from the number of larvae from the egg batch hopefully a few more will appear again this year, or next year when the carriers mate with eachother.

I think you're suggesting a recessive gene, Martin?

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 17-May-16 08:11 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

I think you're suggesting a recessive gene, Martin?

Cheers,

- Pete

Hopefully just one recessive gene, and not several or it will be a one off event unless it pairs with another one of the same ab.

I've not done any temp experiments, but everything that goes through under butterfly house conditions, has been pretty normal despite temps up in the 30- 40 oC range, but genetical variants have been constant in several species, some made to order, most of the work has been on *Heliconius* species, forms and hybrids though, but some British species have been in the same greenhouses from time to time.



Made to order *Heliconius erato*, by breeding 2 different forms together. About 40 similar offspring were produced all with rays and hindwing stripe.

Some of the very rare plants I have, have been used for foodplant experiments, with Passiflorists and RBG Kew. *Passiflora poslae* was one, it has mimic ova on the young tendrils, and it was wondered what species it was defending against, most probably *H. melpomene*. I'm lucky to have 4 greenhouses for various work. One was moving the laying preferences of the females to other groups of *passiflora*, in the last instar larvae stage. *H. erato* were moved from *decaloba* section to *passiflora* section, and from *decaloba/decaloba* to *decaloba/xerogona* which the females plastered with eggs as if it was *Passiflora biflora*. The egg-laying females tap the leaves with a BBRRRRR noise when testing the foodplants before flying up to the parts they want to lay on. We think they are causing disturbance to the surface and checking it with what they had eaten in the last instar. In all the experiments they moved to that species/hybrid *passiflora* despite having lots of the proper foodplant available. I give them a wide choice as I have 200 species and very many hybrid *passiflora* here.

I have discovered a New Species of *Passiflora* [in Colombia] without leaving Croydon, it's growing at Kew, here and a couple of other places, and doesn't key out, but can't be named until it flowers. It was tested with *Heliconius sara* and they plastered it with ova, so it helped confirm the section of *passiflora* it is in. The fact it hasn't been found again in Colombia is worrying, as another unknown *Aristolochia* in the same seed batch is extinct in the wild, but survives at Kew from one of my seeds, this *passiflora* could also be extinct now in the wild.



Unknown Passiflora [Colombia] RBG Kew February 2016 [1999-3621 Passiflora auriculata () Donated by: WIML Kew (Glasshouses)]

The temp variants ive seen tend to be one offs, as we had a black peacock with silver borders in one of the very hot spells, it was mistaken at first for a Camberwell Beauty until it settled and was examined closely, if it had bred i would have expected another one by now. Our Gatekeeper form has occurred several times over 20 years or so.

Re: MrSpOck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 08:21 PM GMT

MrSpOck wrote:

Pete Eeles wrote:

I think you're suggesting a recessive gene, Martin?

Hopefully just one recessive gene, and not several or it will be a one off event unless it pairs with another one of the same ab.

Unless it's caused by temperature shock 😊

MrSpOck wrote:

Ive not done any temp experiments, but everything that goes through under butterfly house conditions, has been pretty normal despite temps up in the 30- 40 oC range

Temperature shock is normally due to excessive cold, such as a pupa being caught in a frost pocket. There is also the concept of chemical shock with some breeders artificially injecting chemicals into newly-formed pupae to see what effect it has; I can't see the point of this myself since, unlike temperate shock, some of these chemicals would never be ingested by a larva naturally, to the best of my knowledge.

Congrats on the Passiflora discovery!

Cheers,

- Pete

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 17-May-16 08:45 PM GMT

I hope I havnt lost many of the readers by being too complex in my diary re passiflora and heliconius.

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 17-May-16 09:19 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

MrSp0ck wrote:

Pete Eeles wrote:

I think you're suggesting a recessive gene, Martin?

Hopefully just one recessive gene, and not several or it will be a one off event unless it pairs with another one of the same ab.

Unless it's caused by temperature shock 😊

– Pete[/quote]

As it was one of 50 pupae within 6 inches of each other, pupated the same couple of days, under the same temp conditions as the 49 others, I would have expected most of them to be the same ab. If it was temperature shock. If it hadn't disappeared while being photographed it would have mated with a few stock females, before returning to HB a couple of days later for the rest of its life and hopefully pairing again there. As it was from the back-up captive breeding stock batch, part of my work as Glanville Species Champion, we have lost too many forms in recent years, eg Silver-Studded Blue cretaceus [Kent & Surrey], I wouldn't want too loose another on my watch.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 09:38 PM GMT

MrSp0ck wrote:

As it was one of 50 pupae within 6 inches of each other.

Oh – I didn't realise it was captive-reared!

MrSp0ck wrote:

As it was from the back-up captive breeding stock batch, part of my work as Glanville Species Champion.

I also didn't realise that the population was being kept topped up with captive rearing.

MrSp0ck wrote:

we have lost too many forms in recent years, eg Silver-Studded Blue cretaceus [Kent & Surrey], I wouldn't want too loose another on my watch.

Understood – but this isn't a form and has no conservation status I believe, given that it's an introduction. Having said that, I'm sure there are plenty of people who appreciate seeing this species without a lengthy (and costly) trip to the Isle of Wight.

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 17-May-16 09:53 PM GMT

Its being used as a back up population for the species on the Isle of Wight, since 2013 when it was very nearly lost there, as only 13 larval webs were found in Autumn 2013 on the IOW. It was important to get the Wrecclesham genes out of the population so if it ever becomes extinct on IOW there is a population ready for re-introduction. Natural England have asked for work at Hutchinsons Bank to improve it for Glanvilles and keep the population healthy. The top up is only done from the back up [back up] population as they are not needed that year for IOW [hopefully always the case] and now have nowhere else to go with the demise of the other mainland populations, and are not needed for the captive breeding. [Im sure people here would rather them being put on HB than killed or given to collectors [they cant be sold as they are protected]]

Its similar to the work being done with PBF, SPBF and Marsh Fritillary all which have Captive Breeding Programmes, and being put back into Sites/Reserves as larvae and adults.

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 17-May-16 10:04 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

no conservation status I believe, given that it's an introduction.

– Pete

Lots of Introduced populations have conservation value.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 10:07 PM GMT

Thanks Martin – I was completely unaware of this.

MrSp0ck wrote:

Its being used as a back up population for the species on the Isle of Wight.

Presumably, we know the origins of the population now at HB?

MrSp0ck wrote:

It was important to get the Wrecclesham genes out of the population.

I'm not sure what you mean by this. If the only individuals are originally from Wrecclesham, then it's impossible to remove the genes being inherited (of course)!

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: MrSp0ck

by MrSp0ck, 17-May-16 10:13 PM GMT

Its now hopefully 100% IOW stock

only wild offspring of the 3 2013 ex-Wrecclesham stock would be in the population, hopefully there were none 😊 I was not involved in the original wrecclesham to HB introduction, and we were worried on the origin of that stock.

There has been a gene swap in 2014 which got it to 100% IOW hopefully. Another is underway with incoming into quarantine this winter, something we have to do that IOW dont.

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 10:14 PM GMT

MrSp0ck wrote:

Pete Eeles wrote:

no conservation status I believe, given that it's an introduction.

– Pete

So the Large Blue, has no Conservation status as that is an Introduction as well, and after all the money and time spent on it over the years.

I mean that the Glanville has no conservation status on the basis of it being a form, since it isn't a form. I must admit, I am rather surprised that a colony of Glanvilles of unknown origin (unless you tell me otherwise) at Wrecclesham is given the same conservation status as the genuine article. If I were to acquire some Heath Fritillary from (say) Hungary and dump them in my local woods, I wouldn't expect them to have any conservation status (for example!).

The Large Blue is different since it is protected whatever its origin, given that it's threatened globally.

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: MrSp0ck

by Pete Eeles, 17-May-16 10:19 PM GMT

MrSp0ck wrote:

Its now hopefully 100% IOW stock

only wild offspring of the 3 2013 ex-Wrecclesham stock would be in the population, hopefully there were none 😊 I was not

involved in the original wrecclesham introduction, and we were worried on the origin of that stock.

There has been a gene swap in 2014 which got it to 100% IOW hopefully. Another is underway with incoming into quarantine this winter, something we have to do that IOW dont.

So are you saying that the HB stock is from IOW, with a few individuals from Wrecclesham?

Cheers,

– Pete

Re: MrSpOck

by MrSpOck, 17-May-16 10:24 PM GMT

Pete Eeles wrote:

MrSpOck wrote:

Its now hopefully 100% IOW stock

only wild offspring of the 3 2013 ex-Wrecclesham stock would be in the population, hopefully there were none 😊 I was not involved in the original wrecclesham introduction, and we were worried on the origin of that stock.

There has been a gene swap in 2014 which got it to 100% IOW hopefully. Another is underway with incoming into quarantine this winter, something we have to do that IOW dont.

So are you saying that the HB stock is from IOW, with a few individuals from Wrecclesham?

Cheers,

– Pete

We only had 3 sightings of adults in 2013, as there were no pictures of any of them, we do not know if they were all the same sex, they were seen in transect weeks 9,10 [both males or the same one] and week 12(Last Day)[female] i had a very good look at this one, but was photographing my upperside clouded yellow at the time i disturbed the Glanville and lost both.

So its very unlikely that any Wrecclesham is now in the population. As there were 3 weeks between any possible pairing of those 2 or 3 😊

It helped with its protection at HB that people beleived it was still an ex Wrecclesham population while it was still a very small population of between 15 and 60 adults 2014-2015.

Re: MrSpOck

by Pete Eeles, 18-May-16 08:16 AM GMT

Thanks Martin,

MrSpOck wrote:

It helped with its protection at HB that people beleived it was still an ex Wrecclesham population while it was still a very small population of between 15 and 60 adults 2014-2015.

MrSpOck wrote:

The 2013/14 gene swap had the widest possible gene pool from the IOW population with a few larvae from the available webs and a total of about 40 larvae in all, and 6 were lost to Cotesia melitaeorum in quarantine.

In the latest Surrey Skipper, at the end of your writeup on Glanville Fritillary, it says "Butterfly Conservation does NOT support this unofficial release", before half a page from Martin Warren on BC's view in general on unofficial releases.

However, you seem to suggest that stock was taken from IOW webs and introduced into Hutchinson's Bank as part of a coordinated effort to keep a breeding colony going on the mainland that could, if it were ever needed, be used to replenish IOW stock.

These two positions seem to contradict one another, or am I correct in assuming that this is not being coordinated by BC (and, if not, then who)?

Cheers,

– Pete