

Colias hyale

Reared in the Rhône département , 2012

08/09/2012 A pale yellow egg is laid on the upper surface of a *Trifolium repens* leaf in the commune of Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise. An empty egg case seems also to be present on this leaf ?



10/09/2012 The egg has taken on a pinkish tint.



12/09/2012 The egg has turned dark green before hatching; the caterpillar is greenish with a black head. It consumes the chorion for its first meal before taking up a position on the central vein of the leaf. It then moves up and down between the middle of the leaf and the leaf tip where it starts to feed; the first feeding hole can be seen here.



14/09/2012 The caterpillar is growing and is now a much lighter green with the contrasting black head. We can see the feeding activity at the tip of the leaf windows are visible between the veins.



15/09/2012 The caterpillar has left its original leaf in favour of another one in better condition. Fresh leaves have been added, picked in the commune of St.Priest. The new leaves have been accepted by the caterpillar.

17/09/2012 The caterpillar has been resting still for several hours; the first moult is approaching.

18/09/2012 The caterpillar is clearly at second instar, and has turned completely green. The feeding damage at the end of the leaf is more significant.



19/09/2012 Having devoured the upper half of the leaf between the veins, the caterpillar has moved on to a fresh leaf.



21/09/2012 The caterpillar has advanced rapidly to third instar; a darker green with a much lighter green head. It is now eating larger portions of leaf, including the veins. Fresh leaves have been added, picked in the commune of St.Priest.



.....the light green head is contrasting with the dark green body at this stage.



22/09/2012 The caterpillar is growing quickly and has become a uniform green colour.



23/09/2012 At the beginning of the fourth instar the caterpillar is dark green again with the lighter green head.



24/09/2012 The colours are becoming slightly lighter



26/09/2012 At the beginning of the final instar the caterpillar is still quite a dark green with a lighter green head. A pale lateral stripe is now well marked. There are some small yellowish marks along this stripe. Fresh leaves have been added, picked in the commune of St.Priest.



27/09/2012 The colour has lightened up and the caterpillar is now in its final livery.....





Fresh leaves have been added, picked in the commune of St.Priest.

28/09/2012



29/09/2012



Fresh leaves have been added, picked in the commune of Mornant.

02/10/2012 Pupation has taken place on the side of the box.



06/10/2012 The cremaster has become detached from the silken pad. The chrysalis has thus slipped downwards and tilted forwards (head against the box.) The whole is now supported only by the silk belt.

10/10/2012 The forewing is perfectly visible through the transparent pupal case, giving the impression that the butterfly is a male although the abdomen is nonetheless rather rounded. The silk belt has held everything upright to the end of the pupal stage; there seems to have been no ill effect on the butterfly.



Emergence of a female at midday on 10/10/2012. The uppersides of the wings are white, whereas the yellow pupal case gave the impression that they were yellow. The wings are limp; the butterfly moves around the box looking for a firm support whilst its wings dry.









The butterfly is released where the egg was laid at Saint-Symphorien-sur-Coise at 14h00.

From egg to butterfly in 32 days.