

by orange-buff, from the Sierra de La Sagra (Granada) in south-east Spain, many kilometres from its previously known localities.

On 29th June 1994, I took a fresh female *pricuri*, also of f. *uhagonis*, on the road bordering the "La Losa" property on the north-west perimeter of La Sagra; apparently (Michael Tarrier, [F] E-Mijas *pers. comm.*) this is only the second record of *pricuri* from that area.

It is worth noting that *Chazara briseis* and *Brintesia circe*, both large black and white Satyrid butterflies with a superficial resemblance to typical *pricuri*, are abundant in the area (also for that matter in many other parts of Spain) and may well mask the presence of *pricuri*; in this context it is interesting that both specimens observed at La Sagra have been of the distinctive *uhagonis* form.

References: Higgins, L.G. & Riley, N.D., [1970] 1983. *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe*. 5th (revised) edition, Collins; Tarrier, M., 1993. La Sierra de La Sagra: un écosystème-modèle du refuge méditerranéen. *Alexandria*, 18(1): 13-42.

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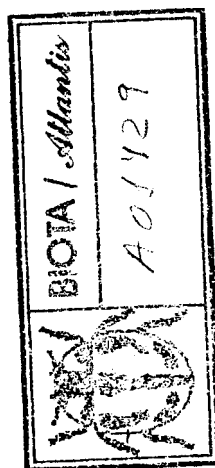
Early butterfly dates in the Canary Isles

Between 27th and 31st March 1993 I saw the following butterflies in Tenerife that are said by Higgins & Riley, *A Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain and Europe*, ed. 4(1980), not to occur as early as March: Large White, *P. brassicae*; Clouded Yellow, *C. croceus*; Monarch, *D. plexippus*; Indian Red Admiral, *V. indica calliroe*; and Canary Speckled Wood, *P. xiphoides*. The *Field Guide's* "May to September" for the last must be well wide of the mark, for Canary Speckled Woods were seen almost everywhere, often in great abundance. On 31st March they, together with Red Admirals and Indian Red Admirals (also "May onwards"), were feeding on a cultivated (but probably native endemic) species of *Limonium* in the Bananera at La Guancha. A thriving colony of Long-tailed Blues, *L. boeticus*, was seen on 28th March at Buenavista, dozens of them swarming around a range of procumbent herbaceous legumes in an exposed rocky area. – CLIVE A. STACE, Cringlee, Claybrooke Road, Ullesthorpe, Lutterworth, Leicestershire LE17 5AB.

Red Admiral overwintering sites; the continental café

Brian West's article on the overwintering habits of Red Admirals reminds me of unexpected winter sightings in the south of France (*Ent. Rec.* 106: 121-123).

In 1985, we spent the second half of the winter on the Côte D'Azur, for tax limitation reasons. Unfortunately, that was the year when the whole coast froze solid during January, killing mimosa and palm trees indiscriminately, and freezing the oranges on the trees.



Nonetheless, on 25th January, seated at a café in Grasse, we were joined by a Red Admiral, anxious to share our beverage. The experience was repeated, on 29th January, at a café on the top of the fort at Nice, where a Red Admiral was busy drinking from the empty cups. With the snow lying around, it was encouraging to see these spectacular butterflies behaving as though it were midsummer!

At such sites, normal daily activity can presumably continue throughout the winter. But by 24th February, specimens at Menton were showing clear signs of wear and tear. – R.C. DENING, 20 Vincent Road, Selsey, West Sussex PO20 9DQ.

Notes on some Pyralids found in Bombay, India. June 1994

Shortly before the monsoons broke out in western India in early June I came across a few species of Pyralid in Aarey Milk Colony on the outskirts of Bombay city.

The most interesting find was that of six fully-fed larvae of *Orthaga cynivacea* (Hampson) on the lower branches of *Mangifera indica*, Mango. The larvae fed within loosely constructed "tents" of the leaves which would curl and dry up. It was noted that empty "tents" would become home to tiny red ants which would swarm out to attack any intruder. I was caught out on many occasions. According to Nair (1986) the moth is a pest of mangoes. At least two larvae successfully pupated in peat on my return to London which was just as well considering their foodplant requirements. An imago, (a male) emerged on 12th June just as I was leaving for another trip, a second emerged whilst I was away and was battered beyond hope in the confines of its cylinder cage. The identity of the moth was confirmed thanks to the efforts of Michael Schaffer at the Natural History Museum who also dealt with the identification of other species collected from India.

A very common species seen was *Spolanea recurvalis* (Fabricius) which would fly up from the undergrowth in and around Mango trees as well as on the fringes of the grassy areas of a park in the aforementioned area near to cultivated lilies. Its larval foodplant is said to be *Amaranthus*. Two other Pyralids collected were *Herpetogramma licarsalis* (Walker) and *Chaphalocrocis paeyalis* (Boisduval).

Collecting in India cannot be a solo activity as one's endeavours will invariably attract the attentions of the local people. It has to be said that whatever one has collected and placed into killing jars or pill boxes must be shown to any "spectators" that gather. Not to do this would be considered the height of rudeness and being rude is not something that the Indians deserve, they are an incredibly hospitable and friendly people.

References: Heywood, V.H., 1993. *Flowering Plants of the World*; Nair, M.R.G.K., 1986. *Insects and Mites of Crops in India*; Robinson, G.S., Tuck, K.R. & Schaffer, M., 1994. *A Field Guide to the Smaller Moths of South-east Asia*.

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