

A Brief History of British Butterflies

Peter Eeles

Every now and again I re-read a favourite butterfly book, the most recent being E.B. Ford's classic *Butterflies*, first published in 1945 as part of Collins' *New Naturalist* series. The first chapter of *Butterflies* is dedicated to "The History of British Butterfly Collecting" and traces the first mention of various species found in the British Isles. This is an incredible piece of work and an absolute credit to one of my greatest influences.

Much has been learned since *Butterflies* was first published and more-recent works have brought new discoveries to light. The most notable of these works are *The Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*, edited by A. Maitland Emmet and John Heath (1990), *The Aurelian Legacy - British Butterflies and their Collectors*, by Michael A. Salmon (2000) and *British Butterflies - A History in Books*, by David Dunbar (2010). The purpose of this article is to bring together, in chronological order, the information that can be gleaned from these publications. *The Aurelian Legacy*, in particular, is a rich hunting ground for anyone interested in the history of British butterflies.

In addition, I'd like to credit the army of individuals that deliver content to the Internet - surely the greatest of resources (so long as you look in the right place!). Of the many online resources I've consulted, it would be remiss of me were I not to mention [Google Books](#) and the [Internet Archive](#). These resources have fulfilled many of my expectations, by making available to me the content of books that I could never have accessed without spending a significant amount of time (and money) visiting museums and personal collections.

And so - what you find below is a summary, in chronological order, of the first description of each of species on the British list. All comments and corrections are welcome. And any errors are, of course, mine.

Insectorum sive Minimorum Animalium Theatrum ("The Theatre of Insects") is published (in Latin) under Thomas Moffet's name (the father of "Little Miss Muffet" and whose surname is spelled in various ways - including Moffet, Moffat, Mouffet and Muffet), although it had received significant contributions from Conrad Gesner, Thomas Penny and Edward Wotton. This book describes (but does not name) several British species. These are generally recognised to be **Black-veined White, Brimstone, Clouded Yellow, Comma, Common Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, Green-veined White, Large Tortoiseshell, Large White, Orange-tip, Painted Lady, Peacock, Red Admiral, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, Speckled Wood, Swallowtail** and **Wall**. In addition, Moffet mentions Apollo, Camberwell Beauty and Scarce Swallowtail, although these are not claimed to be British. It is quite fitting that the Brimstone is one of the first species to be described since it is generally agreed that the word "Butterfly" is derived from the description of a "Butter-coloured Fly" that the Brimstone epitomises.

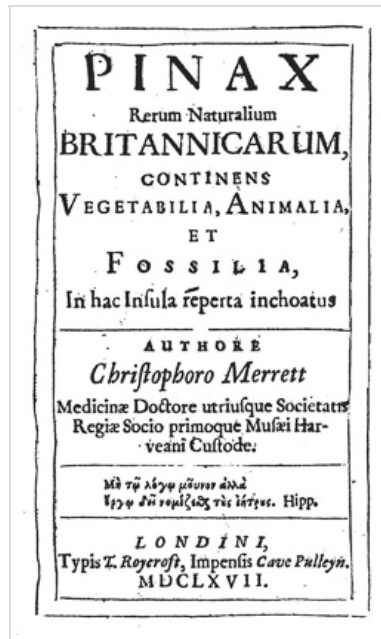
1634



1666

Pinax rerum Naturalium Britannicarum: continens Vegetabilia, Animalia, et Fossilia, in hac Insula reperta Inchoatus (often referred to simply as "Pinax"), by Christopher Merrett, is published - also in Latin. This book describes (but, again, does not

explicitly name) 21 British species, including some for the first time: **Dingy Skipper, Gatekeeper, Green Hairstreak, Marbled White, Meadow Brown, Purple-edged Copper, Ringlet, Small Heath, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Wood White**. The inclusion of the Purple-edged Copper is the most remarkable, leading us to believe that this species was once found in Britain.



1696

A **Grizzled Skipper** is recorded by James Petiver at Hampstead Heath. Petiver was a prolific writer and was well-connected: "We owe many of the first records of British insects to the broadsheets, pamphlets and other writings published by Petiver between 1695 and 1717 ... Petiver seems to have acted as the documentary spider at the centre of a web of correspondence" [Salmon].

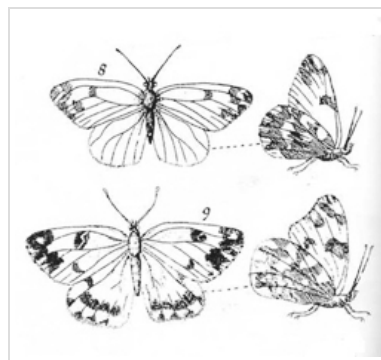
William Vernon records a **Duke of Burgundy** from Cambridgeshire.

1699

Petiver describes several British species for the first time: **Grayling, Heath Fritillary, High Brown Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Silver-washed Fritillary**.

1702

A female **Bath White** is recorded by William Vernon from Gamlingay in Cambridgeshire. Petiver subsequently figures the specimen in 1717, in his *Papilionum Britanniae Icones*, alongside a male Bath White taken at Hampstead. Petiver, believing the male and female to be different species, names them "The slight greenish Half-mourner" and "Vernon's greenish Half-mourner" respectively.



Male (top) and Female (bottom) Bath White

James Petiver describes **Purple Hairstreak** and **Queen of Spain Fritillary** for the first time. Although Petiver described the Queen of Spain Fritillary from a Latvian specimen (and referred to it as the "Riga Fritillary"), it is believed that the first British specimens were caught around the same time from Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, by William Vernon and others.

1703

Petiver describes **Brown Hairstreak, White Admiral** and **White-letter Hairstreak** for the first time.

Glanville Fritillary is recorded by Lady Eleanor Glanville while visiting Lincolnshire. She sends some specimens to James Petiver who goes on to illustrate it in his *Gazophylacii naturae et artis*, naming it the Lincolnshire Fritillary. There were

several subsequent name changes and, after Lady Glanville's death in 1709, is ultimately renamed in her honour by James Dufield in 1748.

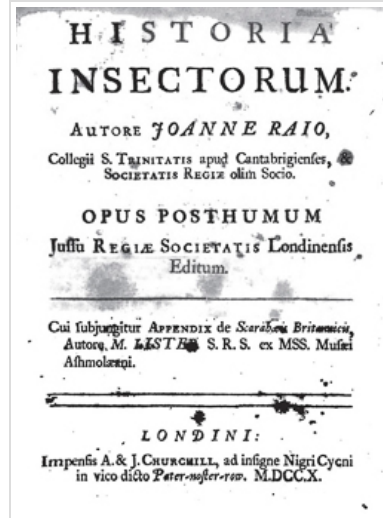
1704 Petiver describes **Brown Argus, Chalk Hill Blue, Large Skipper, Purple Emperor** and **Small Skipper** for the first time.

Historia Insectorum, by John Ray, is published posthumously five years after the author's death. This book (again, in Latin) describes 48 species of butterfly that are believed to be British, including the following that are described for the first time: **Holly Blue, Marsh Fritillary, Mazarine Blue, Scarce Swallowtail** and **Small Copper**. However, the author does treat the Scarce Swallowtail as a mere recollection and this record is, therefore, uncertain. Subsequent sightings of this species are discussed in detail in [Salmon]. Ray also mentions Camberwell Beauty, but does not claim it as a British species.

1710

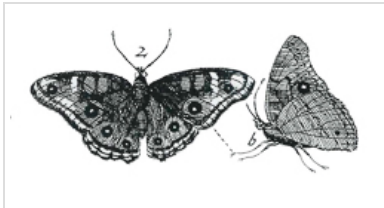


John Ray



James Petiver publishes *Papilionum Britanniae Icones* in which he describes **Albin's Hampstead Eye**. This is an Indo-Australasian species (*Junonia villida*) and it is thought that Albin (who provided Petiver with this specimen) had inadvertently misplaced this specimen in his collection, believing he had taken this individual at Hampstead Heath, which was a popular site for naturalists at the time.

1717



Petiver's Engraving



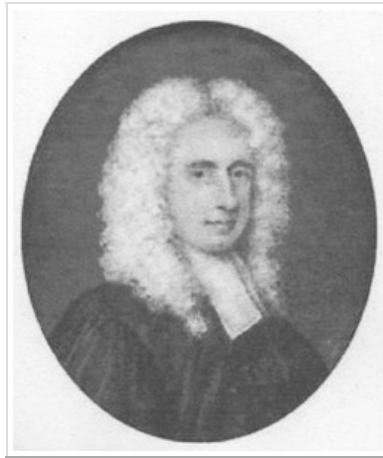
1853 Illustration of Albin's specimen by F.O.Morris



Junonia villida
Photo © David Cook

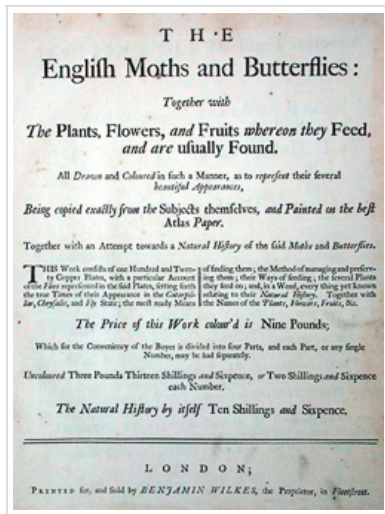
Maurice Johnson, founder and secretary of the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, presents the society with a **Large Copper** taken at Dozen's Bank, West Pinchbeck, near Spalding in Lincolnshire.

1749



Maurice Johnson

The English Moths and Butterflies: Together with the Plants, Flowers and Fruits whereon they Feed, by Benjamin Wilkes, is published in which **Camberwell Beauty** (the "Willow Butterfly") is described as British for the first time.

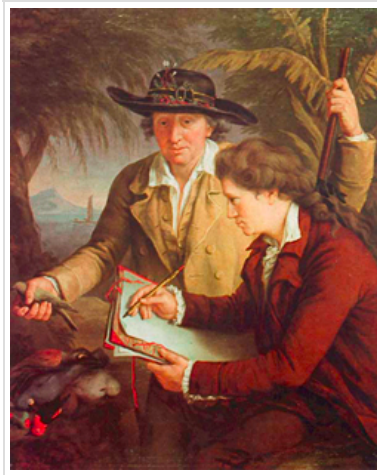


1769

Scotch Argus is recorded between 1760 and 1769 (the exact date is unknown) by Dr. John Walker (Professor of Natural History at Edinburgh University) from the Isle of Bute. Tradition has it that the Scotch Argus was first recorded by Sir Patrick Walker in 1804 when he first discovered the Arran Brown on the Isle of Arran. However, specimens have come to light that were taken much earlier, the earliest of which is mentioned here.

1770

Scarce Copper is recorded from the Warrington area (formerly in Lancashire, now Cheshire) by naturalist Johann Reinhold Forster in his *A Catalogue of British Insects*. Forster says that the species was in such good numbers that he was able to give specimens to other collectors.



Johann Reinhold Forster and his son, Georg, in Tahiti

Moses Harris is most famous for *The Aurelian*, published in 1766. Although that publication introduced no new species, his second work, *The English Lepidoptera, or, the Aurelian's Pocket Companion*, describes **Adonis Blue** and **Pale Clouded Yellow** for the first time, although this pocket companion, unlike its predecessor, is unillustrated. Harris also provides the first definitive record of **Silver-studded Blue** although it was almost certainly known to entomologists of an earlier generation.

1775



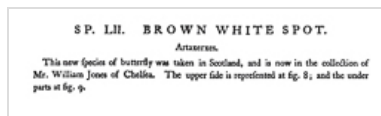
A Self-Portrait of Harris



A plate from *The Aurelian*

A collector called Jones takes several specimens of **Northern Brown Argus** from Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh. The species is figured 2 years later in Lewin's *The Papilios of Great Britain* with the name "Brown White Spot".

1793



The Papilios of Great Britain, by William Lewin, is published. This book describes the following species for the first time: **Large Blue**, **Large Heath** (known as the "Machester Argus" and with the incorrect specific name *hero* which applies to the Scarce Heath of central Europe), **Small Blue** (with the specific name *alsus*) and **Turquoise Blue** (known as the "Glossy Blue" and with the specific name *hyacinthus*). It has also been noted that the Large Blue has been accurately added to Henry Seymer's personal copy of Harris' *The Aurelian* which predates Lewin's work by some 20 years [Salmon].

1795

THE
PAPILIOS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN,

SYSTEMATICALLY ARRANGED, ACCURATELY ENGRAVED,
AND PAINTED FROM NATURE,

WITH
THE NATURAL HISTORY OF EACH SPECIES,

From a close Application to the Subject, and Observations made in different
Counties of this Kingdom; as well as from breeding Numbers
from the Egg, or Caterpillar, during the last Thirty Years.

THE FIGURES ENGRAVED FROM THE SUBJECTS THEMSELVES, BY THE AUTHOR,

W. LEWIN,

FELLOW OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY,

AND PAINTED UNDER HIS IMMEDIATE DIRECTION.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. JOHNSON, 17, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH YARD.

1795.



Large Blue

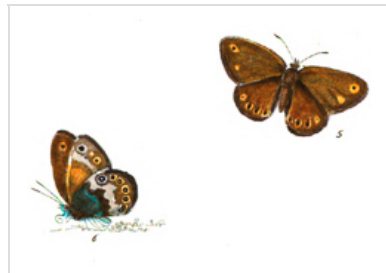
SEC. VII. SP. XLIV. LARGE BLUE.

Pl. 37.

Arion. Limensis.

This species of butterfly is but rarely met with in England. It is out on the wing the middle of July, on high chalky lands in different parts of this kingdom, having been taken on Dover cliff, Marlborough downs, the hills near Bath, and near Clifden in Buckinghamshire. The male fly is represented at fig. 1: the female, at fig. 2: and the under side, at fig. 3.

Large Blue



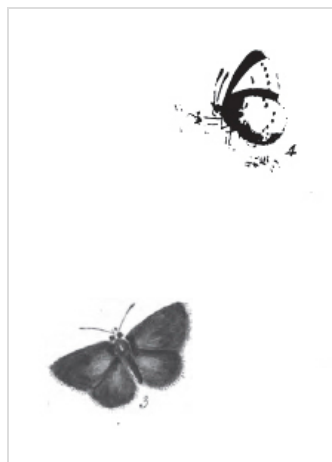
Large Heath

SPE. XXVII. MANCHESTER ARGUS.

Hero. Limensis.

This butterfly was scarcely known in England till lately; when a gentleman found several in a moorish or swampy situation, near Manchester, and, from their local attachment to the same place, he takes them on the wing every year in July. The fly I have figured from one in Mr. Francillon's magnificent collection of foreign and British insects. The upper part is represented at fig. 5, and the under part at fig. 6.

Large Heath



Small Blue

SP. L. SMALL BLUE.

Alma. Limensis.

This very small butterfly pulled unnoticed a number of years. In flight is quick, and being so very minute, it is lost to the sight in a moment. It is far from uncommon, as I have taken it in various places flying the first week in June. It frequents the sides of hedges on a chalky soil. The caterpillar is not likely to be seen, as it must be very small; and we may fully suppose, that it feeds on grass. The male and female differ only in size. The male is figured at fig. 3: and the under part at fig. 4.

Small Blue



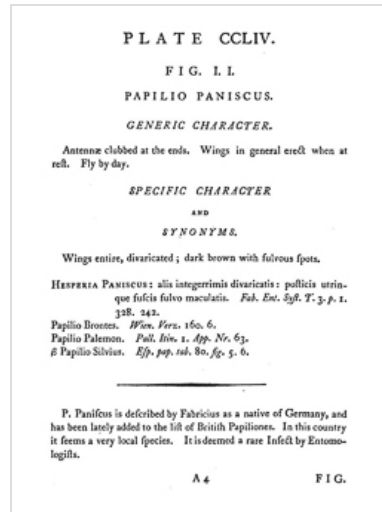
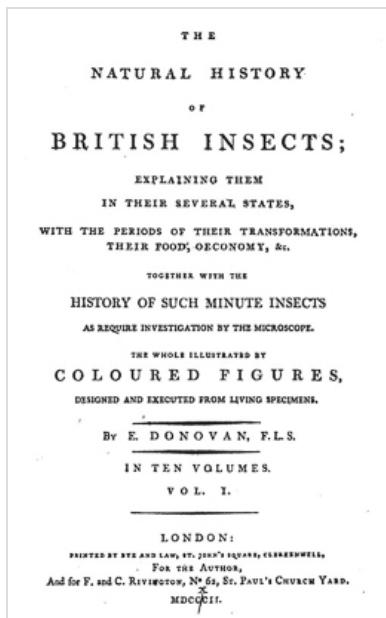
Turquoise Blue

SP. XLV. GLOSSY BLUE.
 Hyacinthus.
 I met with this new species of butterfly in the middle of July, flying on the side of a chalk hill near Darnford in Kent; and have no doubt but there was a constant brood at this place, as I found them there for two successive years on the wing, in the middle of the same month. The male is figured, with the wings expanded, at fig. 4: the female, at fig. 5: and the under parts, at fig. 6.

Turquoise Blue

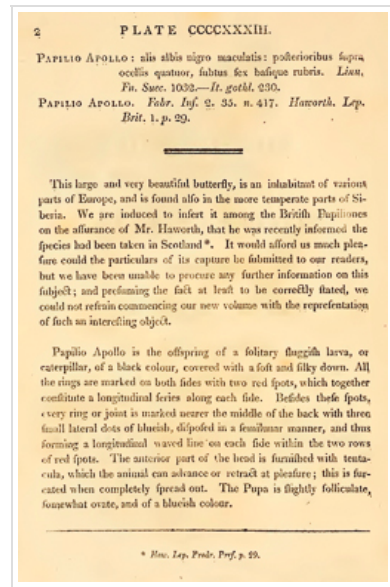
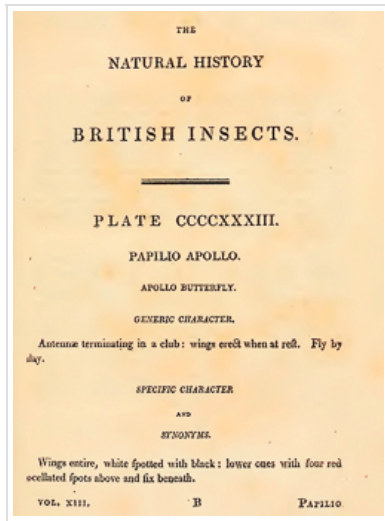
A **Chequered Skipper** is captured at Clapham-Park Wood in Bedfordshire and is presented to the Linnean Society by the Revd. Dr. Charles Abbott. The specimen is figured the following year (alongside a male Large Skipper) in volume 8 of Edward Donovan's multi-volume work, *Natural History of British Insects* a year later with the scientific name *Papilio paniscus*. Donovan's publication has a wonderful subtitle: *Explaining them in their Several States, with the Periods of their Transformations, their Food, Oeconomy (sic), etc. Together with the History of Such Minute Insects as require Investigation under the Microscope.*

1798

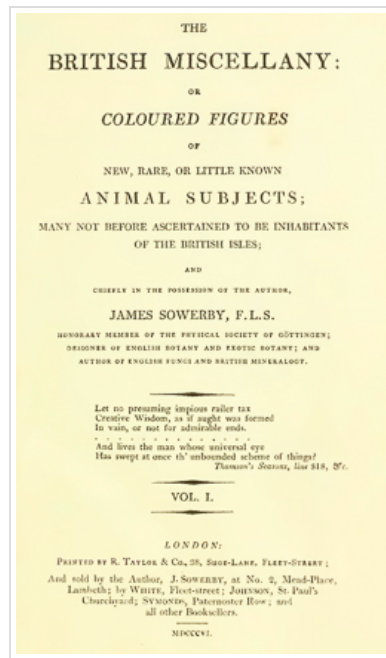


1803

Haworth reports that he had "heard" of a British specimen of **Apollo** taken in Scotland. Donovan subsequently includes it in volume 13 of *Natural History of British Insects*. Several additional sightings are made in subsequent years and the consensus is that some of these, especially on the east coast, are of genuine immigrants.



Arran Brown is found by Sir Patrick Walker from the Isle of Arran and is described in *The British Miscellany: or coloured figures of new, rare, or little known animal subjects* by James Sowerby. While there is no dispute over the records, there has certainly been dispute over whether the individuals captured were of natural origin, a dispute that has raged to this day. [Salmon] spends 3 entire pages discussing the topic in detail. Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that the occurrence of this species in Britain is now part of our folklore.



TAB. II.
PAPILIO Blandina.

Class 5. Insecta. Order 3. Lepidoptera.

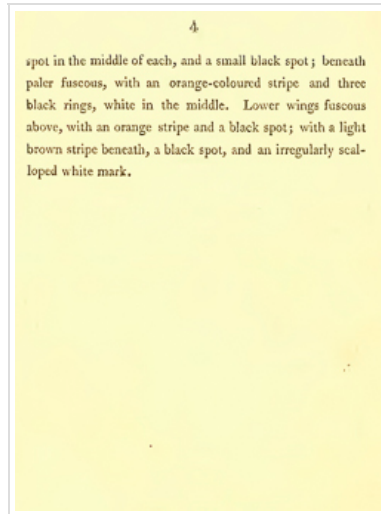
GEN. CHAR. *Antennae* thicker towards the end, and generally ending in a knob. *Wings* erect when sitting.

SPEC. CHAR. Upper wings dentated, fuscous; with a rufous stripe, and three eye-like spots. Lower wings fuscous beneath, with a grey stripe, and white mark.

SYN. P. Blandina. *Fab. Ent. Syst.* iii. 1. p. 296. n. 796. not *Turt. Linn.* v. 3. 108.
P. Ligea. *Scop. Carn.* n. 496.
P. *Aethiops. Esper.* t. 25. f. 3. t. 63. f. 1.
P. Medea. *Wien. Schmetterf.* 107. n. 7.

THIS newly discovered species of *Papilio*, as a native of Britain, was caught in the Isle of Arran, one of the Western Islands of Scotland. The specimen from which our drawing was taken is in the cabinet of our kind friend A. MacLeay, Esq. *Secr. Linn. Soc.*

The upper wings have a dentated appearance at the edges, are fuscous on the upper side, with a sort of orange-coloured irregular stripe, on which are three black rings, with a white

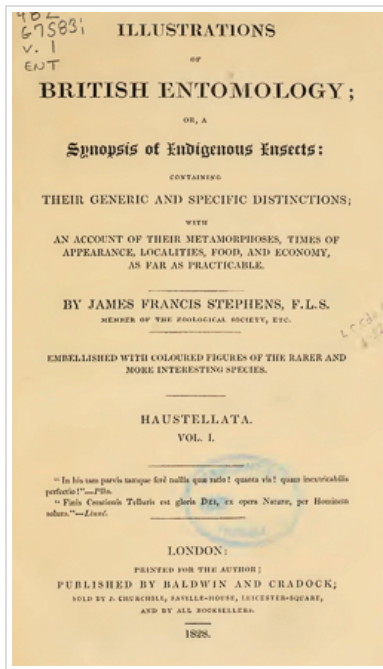


1808

Mountain Ringlet is recorded by T.S. Stothard from Ambleside in Cumbria, although this particular sighting was originally attributed to a sighting in Scotland that has since been corrected.

1820

Two specimens of **Fiery Skipper** are caught by W. Raddon from a location near Barnstaple, Devon (around 1820 - the exact date is not known), shortly after a ship from North America had unloaded its cargo. It is believed that the immature stages had been transported in the ship, resulting in the butterflies that were seen. The species (figured under the name *Pamphilus bucephalus*) is subsequently figured in volume 1 of *Illustrations of British entomology; or, A synopsis of indigenous insects: containing their generic and specific distinctions* by James Francis Stephens in 1828.



† Sp. 6. *Bucephalus*. PLATE X. f. 1. ♀. *Allis super fasciis fulvo maculatis, rubris, fulvis foveis maculatis.* (Exp. alt. 1 unc. 3 lin.)
Pan. Bucephalus. Steph. Catal.

Wings above brown, spotted with tawny; anterior with the costa pale tawny at the base, the colour gradually deepening to the apex, which is of a tawny brown; near the centre of the wing is an irregular tawny spot, and towards the tip near the costa a quadrate spot of the same hue; between these and the hinder margin is an oblique series of tawny spots, emarginate externally, the spots becoming longitudinally elongated as they approach the thinner edge of the wing; the hinder margin is tawny-brown: cilia the same, but lighter at the anal angle of the wing; posterior with two longitudinal tawny streaks, one of them reaching to the hinder margin, the disc between with a series of elongate tawny spots, and a single one anterior to the abbreviated longitudinal streak; the cilia pale tawny-brown; a deep notch on the hinder margin of the wing towards the anal angle; beneath the anterior wings have a large dusky spot at the base, and a row of similar-coloured subcostal spots towards the hinder margin, largest at the anal angle; the posterior wings are pale lutesco-tawny, speckled with dusky or brownish spots, and towards the anal angle with a broad longitudinal streak of the same colour, bordered anteriorly with pale tawny; cilia of all the wings as above.

“Taken in the neighbourhood of Barnstaple in Devonshire.”—*W. Raddon, Esq.*, who possessed two specimens of the insect, which he assures me were captured by himself in the above locality several years since. I have therefore on his testimony admitted the species; but I cannot avoid surmising that its origin is questionable, and that the specimens above alluded to were probably imported in one of their earlier states, among the timber or other stores which Mr. Raddon acquaints me came direct from the North American continent to Barnstaple. I am induced to say thus much from the circumstance of the section of the grass to which this insect belongs being without any other exception exclusively found in America; but it is nevertheless possible that the eastern limit of the group may extend to the west of Europe; as all events it is necessary for me to notice the communication; and I have also, through the kindness of Mr. Raddon, given a figure of the insect, as it appears to be a new species, in order to enable others to recognise it, should they be fortunate enough to ascertain any thing further relative to the real origin of the species; but for my sentiments respecting the admission of similar species into the Fauna of any country, I must refer to the observations subjoined to *Dilephila Celeris*, and here express my opinion that the present insect is an imported species and not an aboriginal native of Britain.



1825

Weaver's Fritillary is taken [in the "1820s"] by Mr. Richard Weaver at Sutton Park, near Tamworth, Warwickshire. This record and all that follow have been disputed since this species is not known to migrate and no established colonies have ever been discovered in the British Isles.

1828

British Entomology, by John Curtis, is published between 1824 and 1839. Volume 6 (published in 1829) describes the **Black Hairstreak** as having been recorded by Mr. Seaman the previous year. The location is given as Yorkshire which is later determined to be incorrect, Seaman wanting to keep the location of his precious find to himself. The correct location is, in fact, Monks Wood in Cambridgeshire.

BRITISH ENTOMOLOGY;
 BEING
 ILLUSTRATIONS AND DESCRIPTIONS
 OF
 THE GENERA OF INSECTS
 FOUND IN
 GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND:
 CONTAINING
 COLOURED FIGURES FROM NATURE
 OF THE MOST RARE AND BEAUTIFUL SPECIES,
 AND IN MANY INSTANCES
 OF THE PLANTS UPON WHICH THEY ARE FOUND.

BY JOHN CURTIS, F.L.S.
 HONORARY MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ENTOMOLOGISTS,
 OF THE IMPERIAL AND ROYAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES,
 OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA, &c.

VOL. I.
 COLEOPTERA, PART I.

LONDON:
 PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
 AND SOLD BY
 E. HULLIS AND CO., 25 GREAT RUSSELL STREET, BLOOMSBURY;
 SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL, STATIONERS' COURT; AND
 J. B. SAILLORS, 115 BOND STREET.
 1825—1840.



264.

THECLA PRUNI.
 The black Hair-streak.

ORDER Lepidoptera. FAM. Papilionidae Lat., Leach.
 Type of the Genus Papilio Betulae Lin.

THECLA Fab., Leach., Sem., Steph.—Polyommatus Lat.—Papilio
 Lin., Fab., Hüb., Hüb., Ock.

Antennae inserted close to the eyes on the crown of the head,
 rather short, clavate, gradually thickening to the apex, which is
 oval or conical (1).

Mandibles shorter than the antennae, coarctated, furnished with
 tentacula at the apex (3).
 Labial Palpi protracted obliquely, clothed with short scales,
 slightly hairy beneath (4), tricuspidate, basal joint short slightly
 curved, 2nd long, a little attenuated, 3rd not longer than the
 1st, slender and oval (4).

Head small (7th the profile; 7th the underside). Eyes oval pubescent.

Thorax ovate. Abdomen rather short. Wings; superior subtrigona-
 te, inferior producing one or two caudal appendages near the anal
 angle. Legs silice in both sexes, robust and rather short. Tibiae
 with the spurs very short. Tarsi 5-jointed, basal joint the longest
 and dilated, 3 following very short transverse, 4th short. Claws
 and Pulvilli minute (5, a fore leg).

Larva ovateiform, short, thick, attenuated at both ends, pilose, with 6
 pectoral, 8 abdominal, and 2 anal feet.

Pupae short, attached by the tail which is pointed, and girtled round the
 middle, the head which is rounded being appressed.

PRUNI Lin., Fusc. Svec. p. 283, n. 1071.

Brownish black. Antennae annulated with white, the tips
 ochraceous, margins of the eyes and portions of the palpi silvery
 white. Inside of legs silvery white, tarsi annulated with
 the same, the thighs clothed with long bluish hairs. Superior wings
 with an oblong spot near the costa; inferior with 3 or more lunu-
 lar scarlet spots near the margin, with a small bluish one at
 the anal angle. Beneath brown with an ochraceous tinge; super-
 ior wings with a bluish silvery transverse line towards the mar-
 gin, nearer to which are several undulated scarlet spots, each of
 which bears a black spot with a silvery edge; inferior wings
 with a broken silvery line nearly across the middle, forming an
 obtuse W near the abdomen; fimbria scarlet, with a black semi-
 circular spot between each nervure, at the base of the cilia, ter-
 minated by a silvery line, the anal one having a bluish silvery
 spot upon it, and at the inner margin of the fimbria are 6 or 7
 black spots edged on the upper side with silver.

In the Author's and other Cabinets.

In distinguishing Thecla from Lycaena, I must confine my-
 self to the British species; and for the exotic forms I would
 refer the student to Dr. Horsfield's valuable remarks and
 beautiful illustrations in his descriptive Catalogue of Indian
 Lepidoptera. The sombre tints of the upper side of the wings
 and the plainer under sides, characterize our genus Thecla;
 and the inferior wings with one exception have caudal ap-
 pendages; the antennae are shorter, with less abrupt and di-
 lated clubs than in Lycaena; the terminal joint of the palpi
 (at least in the types) is also shorter in Thecla, and the eyes
 are pubescent.

The following Insects may be recorded as British.

1. T. Betulae Lin.—Don. 7. 220.
 Found in Woods the middle of August, at Coombe, Birch,
 and Darent; it has also been taken in Norfolk, Suffolk, Dorset,
 Devon, &c.
2. T. Quercus Lin.—Don. 13. 460.
 Found the middle of July, in the same districts as the last,
 but more frequently.
3. T. Pruni Lin.—Curt. Brit. Ent. pl. 264.

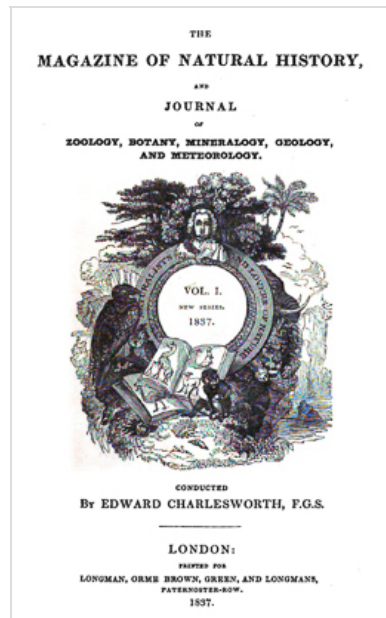
This insect was so totally unknown to the entomologists of
 Britain until lately, that the following species has constantly
 been described as the *T. Pruni*. It was, however, taken last
 July, in Yorkshire, by Mr. Sceman, in such abundance, that
 it is now to be seen in almost every Cabinet. I am indebted
 to Mr. Davis for first calling my attention to the subject, as
 well as for the example figured, which he purchased at Ips-
 wich. The Plant, Caterpillar, and Chrysalis are copied from
 Hübn.

4. T. W-album Hüb. Gada.—Pruni Hüb. Steph.
 A rare insect until lately. Mr. F. Walker took it at South-
 gate the end of June, on the *Spiraea frutex*; it has also been
 taken in profusion in Surrey, the middle of July. I once saw
 a specimen taken near Bungay, Suffolk.

5. T. Spini Steph.—Fab.?
 In Mr. Haverhill's Cabinet is a specimen of *Thecla* ticketed
Spini?, which that gentleman informs me was purchased in an
 old English Collection. He was always doubtful whether it
 were the *T. Spini*, as it does not agree with the figures of that
 insect, any more than it does with Mr. Stephens's descrip-
 tions. Mr. Sparshall possesses a specimen which he received
 from some of his correspondents in town.

6. T. Rubi Lin.—Don. 13. 443.
 This pretty insect is found on White thorn hedges and
 brambles, from the beginning of May to the same period of
 June, and again the early part of August.

The *Magazine of Natural History*, edited by John Claudius Loudon, Edward Charlesworth and John Denson, is published. In volume 3, J.C.Dale publishes a record of an **American Painted Lady** (under the scientific name *Vanessa huntera*) which was captured by Captain Blomer at Withybush, near Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire in 1828.



ART. VII. Notice of the Capture of *Vanessa Hantera*, for the first time in Britain, with a Catalogue of rare Insects captured. By J. C. DALE, Esq.

Sir,

On the arrival of every new Number of your Magazine of Natural History, I am on the look-out for new discoveries in (especially British) entomology, the most extensive branch of natural history; and as such information, I believe, will be acceptable to many of your readers, I beg to announce (should not Captain Blomer have previously given you the particulars), for the first time, the capture of *Vanessa Hantera* in Britain, by Captain Blomer, at Withybush, near Haverfordwest, South Wales (about ten miles from a seaport), in July or August, 1828; which was, till very lately, considered by him as a small and odd variety of *V. cardui* (or Painted Lady Butterfly), and which he has very handsomely added to my cabinet. Dr. Turton describes it as a native of North America (alone, I believe), from which place it might have been imported; but that remains to be proved, as I never yet heard of the importation of a *Papilio* in this way, although beetles, &c., in timber are of frequent occurrence at seaports. However, it ought to be recorded; and I hope it may lead to further enquiry as to its British nativity or not. Many species of moths (*Erastria linca* and *Banksiana*, &c., for instance), of the same species as found in America, have also been captured in plenty; inland; and, no doubt, they are aboriginal British; but on this point there are various opinions; and as many errors have crept into the history of our British insects, I subjoin an extract from my own catalogue, with a view to correction, and proof of their title to stand in, or to be expunged from, the British list.*

I am, Sir, &c. J. C. DALE.
Glatville's Weston, Dorset, Jan. 3. 1830.

Lulworth Skipper is recorded in volume 10 of John Curtis' *British Entomology* as having been captured by James Charles Dale in 1832 in the area around Lulworth Cove in Dorset, the first specimen being caught at Durdle Door to the west.



442.
HESPERIA ACTAEON.
The Lulworth Skipper.

ORDER Lepidoptera. FAM. Papilionidae.
Type of the *Grass*, *Papilio Comma* *Lin.*

HESPERIA *Fab.*, *Lin.*, *Curt.*—*Pamphila* & *Thysene* *Fab.*, *Stc.*—*Papilio* *Lin.*, *Hem.*, &c.

Antennae inserted on the crown of the head close to the eyes, rather short and clavate, basal joint cup-shaped, furnished with 2 branches of hair, one curving over the eyes; club more or less fusiform, the apex generally bent and forming an acute hook (1 the base and apex).

Mantle as long as the whole body, spiral and slender (5).

Labial Palpi stout, parallel, not meeting, ascending nearly perpendicularly, densely clothed with scales, tricarinate, basal joint stout, somewhat ovate, but very robust subovate and a little curved, 2nd minute ovate, projected obliquely and clothed with bristly and shorter scales (4 and 4 a).

Head broad and rather flat. Eyes remote, orbicular (7 and 7^a). *Thorax acute.* Abdomen short and stout. Wings, superior more elevated than the inferior when at rest, the furrows subriginate, the latter rounded. Legs alike in both sexes, rather long. Tibiae anterior short, the others sparsely at the apex, the hinder pair with spines also below the middle (81). Tarsi long and 5-jointed. Claws and Pulvilli small.

LEAVES elongate, head large, 6 pectoral, 8 abdominal and 2 anal feet. Pupae inclosed in a web or in a leaf that is held together by threads.

Obs. *H. Sylvanus* was the species described.

ACTAEON *Exp.*, *Hbk.*, *Ok.*, *Gode.*—*Curt. Guide*, *Cre.*, 780, 6^a.

Male fuscous, with an orange lustre upon the wings, the rest of the insect clothed with hairs of the same colour; nectareous ocellus beneath, ferruginous at the tip; palpi pale blue at the base; superior wings with a longitudinal curved black line on the disc, inferior slightly produced at the anal angle. Underside more uniformly orange than the reverse.

Female a little larger, with a flame-shaped orange spot towards the base, terminated by a lunular line of a paler colour, turned upward and extending to the costa and divided by the dark nervures into 6 or 7 spots. Underside with a peasy ocellar lustre, a large orange flame-shaped mark on the upper wings extending to the spots which shine through; the underwings with an oblique portion of the internal margin yellowish orange.

In the Cabinets of Mr. Dale, the Author, &c.

THESE singular insects approach the *Sphingidae* in the extreme length of the maxillae, and the *Noctuidae* and *Phalaenidae* in their metamorphoses and densely sparsely posterior tibiae. The palpi are so densely clothed with scales and so very tender, that although the relative proportions in fig. 4 a are correct, the outline may vary a little. It is rather remarkable that old specimens when alive have frequently lost one or both

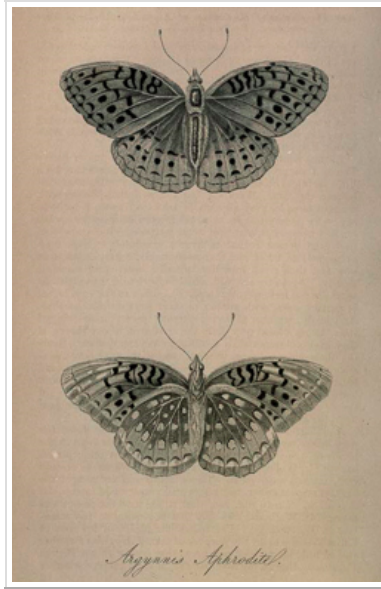
of their palpi, an accident I have never observed in any other Lepidoptera, excepting a few of the *Pyralidae*.

From the vast number of species the genus *Hesperia* contained, Fabricius proposed to divide it, but whether sufficiently good characters can be found I am not prepared to say; I can therefore only state that he gave the name of *THYMELAE* to the 4 first species, and *PAMPHILA* to the remainder.

1. *H. Alveolus* *Hüb.*—*Malva* *Hem.*—*Cardui* *Gode.*—End of May, 6 June, meadows, commons, woods, &c.
2. *H. Malva* *Lein.* I have found at Toulon, and believe it is not British, although Donovan's figures (vol. 16. pl. 567), appear to be this species.
3. *H. Tuges* *Lein.*—Beginning of May, June, and middle of July, meadows, dry heaths, banks, and road-sides in various parts of England and Scotland.
4. *H. Oleus* *Gmel.*?—Said to have been taken by Dr. Abbot in Bedfordshire, and specimens from Letman's ancient English cabinet are preserved in the Manchester Museum, but they all agree with the North American species.
5. *H. Paniscus* *Fab.*—*Don.* s. 254. 1.—Rare; the caterpillar feeds upon *Cynosuavis cristatus* (Brit. Ent. pl. 135.) and the Great Pinnin; the imago has been found the end of May at Caister Hanglands Wood, near Peterborough; Clapham Park Wood, Bedfordshire; Whiteswood Gannings, Cambridgeshire, Oxfordshire, and near Dartmoor.
6. *H. Linca* *Fab.*—*Don.* 7. 236. 2.—Beginning of July, middle of August, about bushes, skirts of woods, &c.
- 6^a. *H. Actaeon* *Exp.*—*Curt. B. E.* pl. 442.—The insect at the top of the plate is the male, the other flying the female; the male at rest is represented of the natural size. We cannot often here to record the addition of a Butterfly to our British Fauna, but this species was discovered at Lulworth Cove in Dorsetshire, last August, by J. C. Dale, Esq. through whose liberality it now ornaments most of our cabinets: it was found upon Thistles, and was very local.
7. *H. Sylvanus* *Fab.*—*Don.* s. 254. 2^a.—End of May to August, borders of lanes and woods.
8. *H. Comma* *Lin.*—*Don.* s. 295. 3.—July, end of Aug., chalky places, Old Sarum, Devil's Dyke, Cambridgeshire, Wiltshire, Dover, Sussex, &c.
9. *H. Bucephalus* *Stc.* pl. 10. f. 1. & 2.—Taken near Barnstable by Mr. Haddon; and a male at Godalming, Surrey, by Mr. Newman.
10. *H. Vitellius* *Fab.*—Said to have been taken in Bedfordshire by Dr. Abbot; and I believe Mr. Hatchett has a pair which he purchased.

The plant is *Salsola Kali* (Prickly Glasswort).

A single **Great Spangled Fritillary** (originally incorrectly identified as an Aphrodite Fritillary) is captured by a 19-year old amateur entomologist, James Moreton Walhouse, in Ufton Wood near Leamington, Warwickshire. It is believed that the individual was accidentally transported to Britain in an immature stage. The specimen is ultimately passed to Rev. William Thomas Bree who reports it in volume 4 of Loudon's *The Magazine of Natural History* in 1840. A full description of this record and photos of the actual specimen can be found on the [UK Butterflies website](#).



ART. IV.—Notice of the Capture of *Argynnis Aphrodite* in Warwickshire. By THE REV. W. T. BREE, M.A.

I HAVE the pleasure of announcing to the entomological readers of the 'Magazine of Natural History,' the capture of an insect in this county which I believe to be hitherto entirely unheard of as a British species,—the *Argynnis Aphrodite*. A single example of this fine insect was taken by James Walhouse, Esq., of Leamington, in Ufton Wood, a few miles from that town, in the summer of 1833, and was kindly presented to my son, in whose possession it now is, by Moreton J. Walhouse, Esq., the brother of the captor.

In thus announcing this interesting addition to our native Fauna, I am prepared to expect that entomologists may be a little sceptical on the subject, if they do not altogether disbelieve the fact. We know but too well that dealers will, without scruple, play all sorts of tricks—*frauds*, I ought to say,—by attempting to pass off foreign articles for native ones, whenever it may suit their purpose. We know too, that even honest collectors are not absolutely exempt from occasional mistakes, and that, accordingly, a stray exotic does now and then creep into the British cabinet quite surreptitiously. Again we are told, and I believe told truly, that insects are not unfrequently imported, either in the egg, larva, or perfect state, with timber or other suitable merchandise. And lastly, we hear of Lepidopterous insects in the winged state, being blown over from the continent to our shores, if they have not undertaken a voluntary voyage thither. Bearing these circumstances in mind, and wishing as far as possible to anticipate objections, I deemed it right to obtain, and trust I shall be excused for stating, all the particulars I could learn relative to the subject of the present article. Let us sift the evidence, then, and see how the above objections bear upon the case before us.

And first for fraud: the specimen of *Argynnis Aphrodite* now before me, let it be remembered, has never been in the hands of a dealer, nor in the possession of any other person except Mr. Walhouse and his brother, from whom, as already said, my son received it. These gentlemen are men of the highest respectability, quite above all suspicion of intentional deception. I may add, too, that at the time the insect was taken, Mr. Walhouse was only just beginning to pay attention to Entomology. The immediate object of his visit to Ufton Wood was for the purpose of taking *Argynnis Paphia*; and so little acquainted was he at that time with our British *Papiliones*, that in the first instance he even doubted whether

this specimen of *Arg. Aphrodite* were anything more than the usual sexual distinction of *Arg. Paphia*. I mention this circumstance in order to show that Mr. Walhouse was not at first aware of the prize he had taken, and therefore can hardly be suspected of having been actuated by the false feeling, which might induce a dishonest person to pretend to have been the discoverer of a new British species.

But acquitting these gentlemen (as we do entirely) of anything like *wilful* misinformation, may we not suppose that they have fallen into a mistake, and have inadvertently allowed a foreign specimen to gain admission among their British ones? This is a fair question, and deserves consideration.—Mr. James Walhouse is now in India, and cannot conveniently be examined in the matter. On his leaving this country his collection of insects remained in the possession of his brother, Mr. Moreton Walhouse. Now I have narrowly cross-examined this gentleman as to the possibility of a foreign specimen having found its way into their collection of native insects; and he assures me, in reply, that they possessed no foreign insects whatever, till long after the time when *Arg. Aphrodite* was taken. And, what is more to the purpose, Mr. Moreton Walhouse informs me, that although he was not in company with his brother at the capture of *Arg. Aphrodite*, he yet himself saw the specimen as soon as it was brought home, while the wings were yet limber, and before the specimen was set. Both gentlemen also were immediately aware of the great dissimilarity of the insect to any other with which they were acquainted, though they knew not what to make of it. Under these circumstances, therefore, I cannot withhold my own belief of the fact, that the individual specimen of *Arg. Aphrodite* now before me, was actually taken at Ufton Wood, as above stated.

But next comes the question of *importation*: in answer to which it is sufficient to state that Ufton Wood is situated in a thinly-populated part of the country, remote from any port or large mercantile town, a spot, therefore, extremely unlikely to have been the depository of an insect accidentally transmitted from abroad among articles of foreign produce.

Lastly, as *Arg. Aphrodite* is a native of North America, (and not, I believe, of the European continent), the notion that the specimen had, either by accident or design, made its way across the Atlantic, and settled down, in a state of good preservation, as nearly as may be in the centre of our own island, is too improbable to be seriously entertained for a moment.

I regret that Mr. Walhouse omitted to record the precise

date of the capture of *Arg. Aphrodite*; but as it occurred during the season when *Arg. Paphia* was on the wing, it must, most probably, have been in July or August. We may conclude also that the period of flight, with both insects, is the same.

The accompanying figures (Sup. III. Pl. x.) supersede the necessity of entering into a minute description of the insect. It is larger than *Argynnis Paphia*, and of the same rich fulvous colour, checkered and spotted with black, on the upper surface. The black spots and markings on the second pair of wings are neither so large nor so strongly developed as in the corresponding wings of that species, and of *Aplaisa* and *Adippe*; to which latter species our insect more nearly approaches on the under surface, having the second pair of wings adorned with numerous silver spots on a buff-coloured ground, which is dark towards the base of the wings, and becomes lighter towards the lower extremities, with a marginal row of semi-circular silver spots. In the grouping of our British species I should feel disposed to place *Argynnis Aphrodite* between *Arg. Paphia* and *Adippe*, possessing, as it does, some characters in common with each, while it is yet abundantly distinct from either.

ART. V.—Notes on *Telephori*. By PETER RYLANDS, Esq.

THE object of the present notice is to clear up the synonymy of *Telephorus ater*, and to correct some errors into which Mr. Stephens has fallen respecting that and allied species.

As a text to the remarks which I have to submit on this subject, the following descriptions of *Tel. ater* and *flavilabris* from Mr. Stephens's 'Illustrations' may be given.

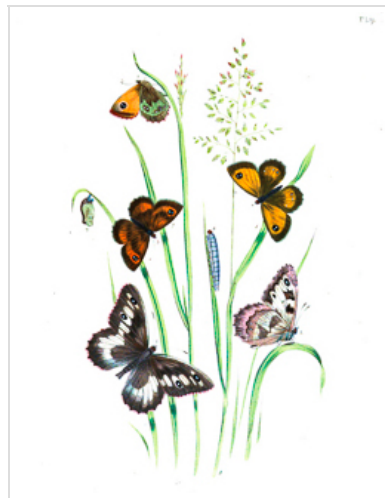
"*ater*. *Ca. ater*, Linné. *Te. ater*, Steph. Catal. 130, No. 1322.

"Elongate; head black; mouth testaceous; thorax fuscous black with the margin testaceous; scutellum and elytra also of the same hue, the latter clothed with a griseous pubescence; abdomen black, with the apex broadly fuscous or pale testaceous; femora black; tibiae entirely of the latter colour; tarsi fuscous; antennae with the three basal joints fuscous, the rest black.—Long. corp. 3.25."

"*flavilabris*. *Ca. flavilabris*, Fallen. *Tel. flavilabris*, Steph. Catal.

* I am informed that the specimens of *Argynnis Aphrodite* in the British Museum, are generally larger than our individual.

A **Hermit** is reared by A. Lane from a larva found at "Newington" (most likely in Kent) and is subsequently exhibited at a meeting of the Entomological Society on 7th October 1839. It is believed that the larva was either accidentally imported, or that the specimen was muddled in the collection. The specimen is figured alongside illustrations of Gatekeeper in *British Butterflies and their Transformations* by Henry Noel Humphreys and John Obadiah Westwood in 1841.



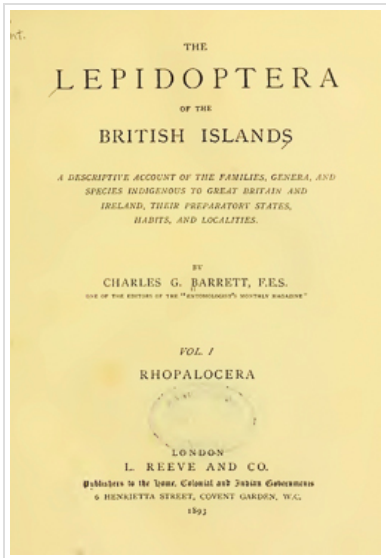
SPECIES 5.—SYPHARCHIA BRISIN.
 Plate No. 5, 2.
 Forewings.—Pupae Brown, Larvae Pinkish. Size No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Lengths, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18.
 The forewings measure about 1 1/2 inches in the expansion of the wings, which are darkened, and of a brown color, having a ground gloss. The anterior base has an interrupted row of pale buff spots near the outer margin, which are continued across the hind wings. Moreover the fore wings are marked with two thick and with a white centre. The under surface of the fore wings is more varied with brown and buff than the upper, especially towards the base, and is marked on the outer with two blackish spots, and the tip is blackish. The hind wings also on this side are marked with short transverse streaks. A very irregular pale bar runs across the middle of the wing, surrounded by a darker round one in which are several reticulated cells.
 The caterpillar is smooth, thick, and greyish-ochraceous, marked with five longitudinal dark lines, the dorsal one being the darkest: the head is round and red. It forms a common caterpillar, according to H. Malley.
 We have introduced this common Continental species for the first time as an English insect, a specimen having been reared by A. Lane, Esq., from the larvae which were found feeding on grass near Heston. The perfect insect was exhibited at the meeting of the Entomological Society on the 24th of October, 1859, the larva having been captured on the 11th of August preceding.

1851 A **Niobe fritillary** is captured in Kent (determined from old records and labelled specimens). However, this species is considered "doubtfully British" since unethical dealers were widespread during this period and would sell continental specimens as British.

1859 A **Long-tailed Blue** is captured on 4th August 1859 by Mr. N. McArthur on the downs near Brighton, East Sussex. Amazingly, Captain A. de Latour catches another specimen on exactly the same day at Christchurch, Hampshire (now in Dorset).

Several specimens of **Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper** are taken during May and June by Revd. T.H. Marsh, on the edge of a wood in Norfolk. It is believed that they were accidentally introduced in plants that had been transported by ship from the continent. It is subsequently figured in volume 1 of Barrett's *The Lepidoptera of the British Islands* in 1893 under the scientific name *Syrichthus alveus* (and is the "grizzled" skipper shown furthest down the plate).

1860



272 **LEPIDOPTERA.**
 that the butterfly is found in August at Ashford, in Kent, but in greatly diminished numbers; Mr. N. M. Richardson has a record of its capture, in fine condition, in July 1891; and the Rev. E. N. Bloomfield has once found it at Fairlight, Sussex, in the autumn. With these exceptions, correspondents who know it well in Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hants, Dorset—Wimborne and Wareham—Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, agree in the conclusion that it is, in the woods in which they find it abundantly, single-brooded only. Common in Essex and Suffolk, more local in Norfolk, and very uncommon in the few districts of that county, Cambridgeshire, and Huntingdonshire. In Devonshire it is found near Siston, and in one or two places on Dartmoor; is common in Somerset, and in suitable places in Wales and Shropshire, but extremely scarce or totally absent in large portions of the Midland counties. Frequent in Hertfordshire; and is stated by Mr. A. H. Clarke to have been formerly plentiful on the banks of the West London Railway where Wormwood Scrubs Station now stands. Very local indeed in the north of England but found in several localities in Yorkshire, and at Silverdale in Lancashire. In Scotland it has been taken in the Clyde and Solway districts, and is said to have been found by Mr. Buxton at Inveran in Sutherlandshire. There is a single record, by the late Mr. E. Birchall, of the capture of a specimen by Miss Nugent in the county Galway. In the absence of any other record in Ireland, it is most desirable that this should if possible, be confirmed. Widely distributed in Europe and Northern Asia.
 [S. Alveus, Hub.—Expanse 1 1/2 inch. Brownish black, with white spots on the fore wings; cilia black and white. Larger than the preceding but somewhat similar, with the costal margin of fore wings folded narrowly back. Dark brown or blackish brown, with the nervures slightly blacker and a faint dusting of greyish hairs over the surface, espe-

HESPERIDÆ. 273

cially towards the base. Fore wings with an irregular, incomplete, transverse row of small white wedge-shaped spots nearly across the middle, followed by two more rows, the first consisting of two or three slightly larger, rather squared, white spots, the second of four or five similar but smaller, angular or wedge-shaped, lying across the apical space. There is also a row of indistinct pale dashes near, and parallel with, the hind margin. Hind wings without white spots, but with two parallel transverse rows of indistinctly pale dashes of indications of the white spots beneath. Cilia of all the wings broadly white, broken into squares by blackish dashes. Sexes similar. Under side of the fore wings of the male with the costa and apical margin white, the former with five dark oblique dashes beyond the middle; remainder grey-brown, with clear white spots as on the upper side, but much larger and more squared. Hind wings ochreous grey, with three broken rows of white spots, those of the first and second rows large and squared, those of the third small and irregular. Cilia of all the wings very broadly white with blackish dashes as above. Female with the hind wings yellower, the spots of the fore wings elongated into streaks or crescents, and the dashes of the cilia yellowish brown.

Several specimens were captured in a narrow valley at the edge of a wood in Norfolk by the Rev. T. H. Marsh, at the end of May or beginning of June, in one season only, in or about the year 1860. These were placed in his collection as *S. atreus*, which, though of larger size, they sufficiently resemble, and of which he had no other specimens. Here I found them when looking through the collection about three years ago, and ultimately ascertained to what species they belonged, though with considerable difficulty, owing to their differing slightly from all the recognised species in this very close and difficult group, and apparently forming a link between *S. atreus* and *S. scrutator*. This is probably to be explained, satisfactorily, by the fact that some authors consider *S. scrutator* to be simply a variety of the other.

LEPIDOPTERA. 274

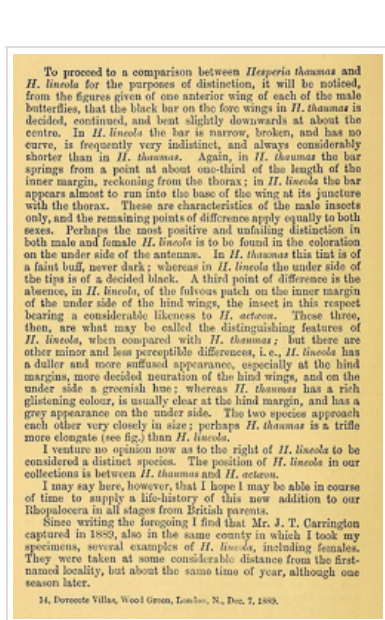
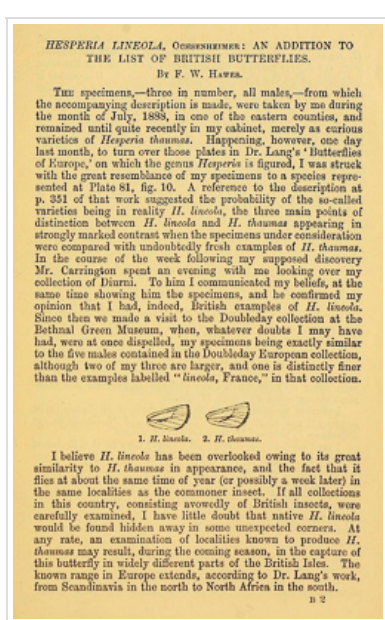
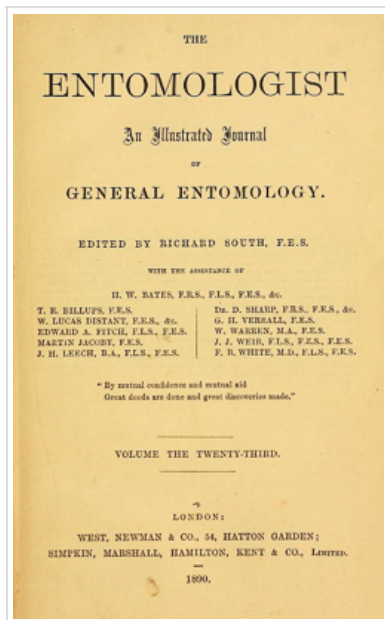
About the actual capture of these specimens at the place stated there is no shadow of a doubt. Mr. Marsh distinctly remembers taking them when looking for *Macroglossa bowleyi* (which was flying at flowers of *Policalaria sylvatica*); but, although frequently working the district in subsequent years, he never saw the species again; and a strenuous effort in the present year (1892), to re-discover it, has only resulted in convincing him, as well as myself, of its total absence at the present time. Under these circumstances it seems undesirable now to introduce the species to a place in the British list, but rather to record the capture in question as specimens accidentally introduced with plants, or else the result of a very exceptional act of migration. One other specimen, apparently of the same species, and said to have been captured in Yorkshire, was exhibited by Mr. J. T. Carrington, at a meeting of the South London Entomological and Natural History Society, in January 1890, under the name of *Spyridhus Cretanasi*.

[According to Kirby the larva feeds on *Polygala chamaebuxus*, and the insect in its numerous varieties (in which he includes *scrutator*, Rambur, *frutillina*, Hübn., and *occus*, Freyer) occurs in all parts of Europe except the north-west, as well as in Northern and Western Asia and North Africa, from May to August, frequenting glades of woods and sunny slopes, and being more plentiful in the mountain districts than in the plains.]

Genus 2. HESPERIA.

Antennæ with a long club which, in some of the species, is furnished with a terminal hook. Thorax very robust. Fore wings with the hind margins rounded, or even in some species with the curve altered by a very slight approach to angulation below the apex. Hind wings emarginate or indented before the anal angle. Males with a central oblique black streak of raised scales on the fore wings.

1866	A Spotted Fritillary is recorded in June by William Lennon near Dumfries, south-west Scotland and is believed to be an accidental introduction.
1870	A Cleopatra is recorded from Ventnor, Isle of Wight. This particular specimen is housed in the British Museum of Natural History (BMNH). This species is not considered to be migratory and its presence has been attributed to passage by ship.
1874	A pair of Short-tailed Blue is caught near Frome in Somerset, although these records only come to light some years later. Up until that time, the earliest record was considered to be that of the Rev. Octavius Pickard-Cambridge on Bloxworth Heath, Dorset in 1885, as described in <i>The Entomologist</i> , and from where this species received its alternative vernacular name of the "Bloxworth Blue".
1875	A single Berger's Clouded Yellow is caught in Folkestone. However, this sighting in Britain was only discovered after 1945 when this species was separated from the Pale Clouded Yellow.
1876	A Monarch is recorded by Mr. J. Stafford, a 14 year-old, at Neath in South Wales. Other individuals were captured in Sussex and Dorset shortly afterward.
1877	A Spanish Festoon is recorded in Brighton, Sussex. It is believed to have been accidentally imported as a pupa since this species is not migratory.
1884	A single specimen of Southern Festoon is caught by two boys on 27th May near Exeter, Devon. It is believed that it was originally purchased as a pupa from a natural history dealer since this species was available at the time.
1886	A single specimen of Purple-shot Copper is captured in July by a schoolboy, F.G. Johnson, near Sudbury in Suffolk. It is thought that the specimen was transported as an immature stage in plants from the continent.
1887	Two specimens of Dappled White , along with a female Bath White, are caught by C.E. Prince, a schoolboy, in August on the Castle Heights, Dover. These specimens are considered to be "doubtfully genuine" and may have been accidentally imported with animal foodstuff or seeds. A single specimen of Small Apollo is recorded on 1st September by E.W.S. Swabe, a pupil at Marlborough College, in the mountains above the Penrhyn slate quarries, about 7 miles from Bangor in Caernarvonshire, Wales. It is believed that this was either a deliberate release of a captive-bred individual, or the result of an immature stage that had been imported in alpine plants (the primary foodplant being Yellow Saxifrage, <i>Saxifraga aizoides</i>), which are grown in rock gardens. A Sooty Copper is recorded by C.A. Latter in August at Lee, near Ilfracombe, Devon. This species is not considered migratory and its appearance on the north Devon coast is therefore suspect.
1890	Records of Essex Skipper , captured in 1888, are noted by Mr. Hawes in <i>The Entomologist</i> . The records are subsequently found to originate from St. Osyth in Essex.



1911	A Cardinal is recorded by A.W. Bennett near Tintagel in north Cornwall. This and subsequent sightings, especially those on the south coast, are considered to be the result of genuine immigration, given that this species has a powerful flight.
1912	Map is deliberately introduced into the Forest of Dean, Monmouthshire and Symond's Yat, Herefordshire. However, a genuine reason for this species being on the British list is the sighting of a single individual by D. Down at Friday Street, near Dorking, when it was disturbed among bilberry. A large immigration of other species, such as Red Admiral, was underway at the time.
1914	A specimen of Almond-eyed Ringlet is captured by King from the mountains east of the Bridge of Orchy, Argyll. The precise date of capture is unknown - King collected from 1880 to 1914.
1922	3 specimens of Slate Flash are recorded on 22nd August by J.W. Cardew in Savernake Forest, Wiltshire. These specimens, originally misidentified as Long-tailed Blue, are believed to have been the offspring of a female accidentally transported from India.
1923	A male and female Mallow Skipper are recorded in June by Baron J.A. Bouck in Surrey, flying in the vicinity of the larval foodplant, Common Mallow. It is generally believed that they were accidentally introduced since this species is not migratory. A Moorland Clouded Yellow is recorded in July near Lewes, Sussex, flying with Clouded Yellow. Although this species is not particularly migratory, it is believed that individuals may get caught up in a stream of other immigrants. Another theory is that individuals are accidentally imported as pupae, on alpine plants, from the continent.
1930	A Large Wall is recorded at Shrewsbury, Shropshire. It is believed that this individual is the result of accidental introduction.
1932	A Tiger Swallowtail is recorded in late September (or early October) by a schoolboy at Bray, County Wicklow, Ireland. It is believed to have been accidentally imported from North America.
1933	A Zebra butterfly emerges in December from a bunch of bananas at Eastbourne. This is a species from central and northern South America and is clearly an accidental introduction.
1935	A Small Brown Shoemaker is recorded on 17th October by R.L.E. Ford in Covent Garden market, London. It is believed to have been accidentally introduced in imported produce.
1936	A single male Green-underside Blue is recorded in September by C. Down at Torquay, Devon. Although this species could conceivably have been carried across the Channel by the wind, its normal flight period is from May to June and so this record is suspect. A Julia is captured by H. Moore in a fruit shop in Rotherhithe, east London. It is believed to have been imported as a pupa in a bunch of bananas originating from Jamaica.
1938	A single male Lang's Short-tailed Blue is recorded by M.A.C. Lyell on 13th June on the edge of an uncut clover field at Bloxworth Heath, Dorset. This species is known to migrate and this specimen is believed to have arrived with a general influx of immigrants on the south coast of England.

1946	A single male Woodland Grayling is recorded at Oxted, Surrey. This is a central and southern European butterfly and is believed to have been accidentally introduced, possibly as an immature stage.
1947	Large Chequered Skipper is discovered independently in three locations in Jersey. It is believed that larvae were accidentally introduced in hay that was imported from France during the Second World War while under German occupation (1940-1945). There was a petrol shortage on the island, and this led to an increased use of horses.
1950	A single Blue Pansy is recorded by D. Thomson in Clarence Lane, Roehampton, Surrey. This is an Asian and African species and is believed to have been accidentally introduced in goods transported to the British Isles.
1953	A single female Scarce Tortoiseshell is recorded on 2nd July by Miss C.A. McDermott at Shipbourne, near Sevenoaks in Kent. Resident in central and eastern Europe, this migrant species has also been sighted in Finland, Denmark, Germany and Sweden. It is believed that the individual seen in Kent could feasibly have occurred as a natural migrant, rather than an accidental introduction.
1973	A single Indian Red Admiral is recorded in early September by K. Turner in his garden at Kites Hardwick, near Dunchurch, Warwickshire. The nearest locality for this species is north-west India, and so this sighting is considered to be an individual that was accidentally imported or an escapee from captivity.
1974	A single male False Grayling is recorded by A.J. Hedger in August on heathland near Ash Vale, Surrey. This may have been a genuine immigrant, or the result of accidental introduction as an immature stage.
1997	A Geranium Bronze is seen flying around Geraniums in a garden on 21st September in Kingston, Lewes, East Sussex, by John Holloway. Immature stages were subsequently found that gave rise to another generation. It is believed that this butterfly was accidentally imported as immature stages in Geranium plants. A full description of these records can be found on the UK Butterflies website .
2011	Réal's Wood White was first separated from the Wood White in 1988. It was subsequently determined that both species occurred throughout much of Europe and, in 2001, Réal's Wood White was deemed to be widespread across Ireland. In 2011, however, there was another twist in the tale, when Réal's Wood White was itself split - resulting in a new species, the Cryptic Wood White. It subsequently turned out that the species found in Ireland is not Réal's Wood White at all, but the newly-discovered Cryptic Wood White .

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