

This number of larvae is significant and suggests that a population of *D. triquetrella* is probably established in the area. However, it is unlikely that these larvae represent a natural population, as I have walked past the walls in question many times over the past 14 years or so and feel sure I would have spotted them had they been present previously. I can only assume that these larvae, collected near my house, came to be there through an accidental introduction. It is probable that these individuals were the progeny of one or more "escapees" from the material reared during 1997 and 1998, despite stringent efforts to prevent this. These precautions included placing waste material from culture vessels in boiling water for 10 minutes or more before sealing the same in plastic bags and placing it in the dustbin on "bin days". All the same, it is somewhat puzzling that the walls in question are about 200 metres from my house, and no larvae have been seen on any other walls in the area despite extensive searches of these being made at the time these larvae were found. It will be interesting to see if this moth persists in the area over the coming years.—IAN SIMS, 2 The Delph, Lower Earley, Reading, Berkshire RG6 3AN.

Lang's Short-tailed Blue *Leptotes pirithous* (L.) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) and other butterflies on Lanzarote

Further to recent records of *Leptotes pirithous* on Fuerteventura by Hall (1998, *Ent. Rec.* **110**: 289-290) and on Madeira by Hall and Russell (2001, *Ent. Rec.* **113**: 261), we report that *L. pirithous* was seen for the first time on Lanzarote at Playa Blanca, a single fresh female on 29 February 2000, by Martin Gascoigne-Pees, who visited Lanzarote between 25 February and 2 March 2000 and between 23 and 30 December 2001. David Hall and Peter Russell, who visited the island between 10 and 17 February 2002, observed this butterfly at both Playa Blanca, a worn male on 12 February, and also near Orzola at the opposite end of the island, two males on 14 February, flying around Mimosa *Acacia* sp., indicating that this species is now widespread, but not common on Lanzarote.

Foster (2000, *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 271) recorded *Cacyreus marshalli* (Butler) for the first time from the Canary Islands, on Lanzarote at Costa Tegui on 15 February 2000; it was also seen at Playa Blanca on 29 February 2002 and in 2002 at Matagorda (10 February), Playa Blanca and Femés (12 February), at two sites near Guatiza (13 February), near Orzola (14 February), near Arrieta and near Tegui (16 February). All stages of development were observed, indicating that this species is resident, common and widespread across the island almost wherever *Pelargonium* spp. are found.

Zizeeria knysna (Trimen) was confirmed as being resident on Lanzarote but was seen only at Playa Blanca in 2000, Las Laderas (near Playa Blanca) in 2001 and again along the coastal path at Playa Blanca in 2002. It was common and usually flying around an *Amaranthus* sp., upon which the females were observed to oviposit. Captive larvae accepted *Medicago sativa*, the resulting adult males had wide black wing margins and the females were well flushed with blue. *Polyommatus icarus* (Rottemberg) was seen near Tinajo and Mancha Blanca in late February 2000 but not on 11 February 2002 when the area was visited again. The females were extensively flushed blue on their uppersides with large bright orange lunules.

Lotus sp. was used for ovipositing, but the captive larvae accepted both *Medicago sativa* and the flowers of *Ulex europaeus* and were extremely cannibalistic (MG-P). The resulting imagines, reared in the UK, produced similarly marked females with many of the males having black marginal spotting on the upper hindwing, thus resembling f. *celina* (Austaut). *Lycaena phlaeas* (L.) was recorded from Playa Blanca in February 2000. Ova were laid in captivity on *Rumex lunaria*, but in the UK the females refused *R. acetosa* though continued to oviposit on dried up *R. lunaria*; the larvae, however, accepted both *R. acetosa* and *R. obtusifolius*. This species was not seen in February 2002. The first confirmed record of *Danaus plexippus* (L.) on Lanzarote by Foster (*loc.cit.*) at Costa Teguise on 11 February 2000 was followed by a sighting of a male on 29 February 2000 at Playa Blanca, and a single specimen on 26 December 2001 at Yaiza flying around *Bougainvillea* by MG-P. In 2002, single examples were seen at Matagorda (12 February), Haria nectaring on Tamarind (*Leucaena leucocephala*) (13 February) and Arrieta (15 February); this indicates that, in spite of not observing either *Asclepias curassavica* or *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* (the most used larval foodplants), this species is probably resident but uncommon due to paucity of foodplant. Foster (*loc.cit.*) reports that *Carraluma burchardii*, which Owen (1992. *Ent. Gaz.* 43: 87-92) reported as a foodplant for *D. chrysippus* (L.) on Fuerteventura, is found in the northern half of Lanzarote where two of the recorded sites are situated. We found the asclepidaceous scrambling plant *Peroploca laevigata* near Orzola and Guatiza, but found no sign of ova or larval feeding. This plant is present in Gomera, but we have never seen it used by *Danaus* species there either, although it is another possible foodplant. *Elphinstonia charlonia* (Donzel) was found very commonly, as well grown larvae, on *Reseda crystallina*, at 300-350 metres near Tinajo and Mancha Blanca in February 2000, where in calmer conditions on 1 March fresh second generation adults were flying. The first generation was very common at lower altitudes (sea level to 150 metres) in February 2002, when it was seen to be abundant near Matagorda and below Femes; additionally, it was seen in ones and twos almost all over the island when driving around from Playa Blanca in the south to Orzola in the north, and from west of Yaiza to Costa Teguise in the east. It was also seen in small numbers north of Caleta on the island of Graciosa in windy conditions on 15 February 2002. The first generation females were observed to use, preferentially, *Carrichtera annua* at the low altitudes; larvae resulting from ova taken from this plant, or laid on it in captivity, readily transferred onto *R. crystallina* and later onto *Eruca versicaria* and *Isatis tinctoria*, in all cases the leaves were preferred to the flowers or their buds. Two types of pupae resulted from wild larvae taken by MG-P: one was short, blunt headed and greenish in colour and emerged within two weeks; the other, in the majority, was very pointed, straw coloured and went into diapause, one male emerged in June 2001 and the remainder have, to date, not emerged despite regular spraying during the winter and artificially increased temperature and photoperiod in recent weeks. In February 2002, 13 ova were either collected from the wild (four) or obtained from caged females (nine), which oviposited on *C. annua* or *R. crystallina*; initially they were cream coloured but after about two days turned orange.

All hatched in approximately five days (at about 25°C) and ate the empty egg shells in their entirety. The larval stage lasted about 20 days, feeding on a mixture of *R. crystallina* and *E. versicaria* (at about 20°C). The resulting pupae were initially green in colour and transparent with pointed heads, but after about three days they had become straw coloured and opaque. Four later turned brown and appeared to have been parasitised by a tachinid fly. To date (14 March 2002), none of the remaining pupae have emerged and may well have entered diapause.

Colias crocea (Geoffroy) was observed occasionally in both 2000 and 2002, around Tinajo and near Teguisse respectively. The two migrant Vanessids, *Vanessa cardui* (L.) and *V. atalanta* (L.) were seen occasionally. *V. cardui* was present in some numbers in gardens at Playa Blanca feeding on *Limonium* sp. in February 2000, but rarely seen in more than ones or twos in 2002. One specimen was seen on Graciosa, near Caleta on 15 February 2002. *V. atalanta* was not seen in 2000 but single specimens were recorded from Guatiza and Orzola, respectively, on 13 and 14 February 2002. A number of large *Cassia didymobotrya* bushes were noticed on arrival in Lanzarote, planted in the gardens at Arrecife airport. These were inspected closely on 17 February for any signs of the presence of *Catopsilia florella* (Fabricius) but the leaves showed no signs of having been chewed, no ova were seen and there was no sightings of the adults or other bushes of *C. didymobotrya* on the island. Thus, it would appear that this species, which had been reported from Lanzarote in 1976 (see Tolman and Lewington, 1997, Butterflies of Britain and Europe, Harper Collins p. 50) is not currently resident on the island. However, we have no doubt that sometime in the future a female from the African mainland (or Fuerteventura?) will find these plants and this island will be recolonised by *C. florella*.

On 29 February 2000 a small white Pierid was observed (MG-P) flying fast along the coastal path at Playa Blanca; unfortunately it evaded capture and thus was not identified with certainty. In spite of this it was probably a species not seen before on Lanzarote and thus it would be worth searching this area more thoroughly; a suggestion for other Entomologists wanting some winter sunshine in the future. — MARTIN GASCOIGNE-PEES, 2 Barretts Close Stonesfield, Oxfordshire OX8 8PW, DAVID HALL, 5 Curborough Road Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7NG & PETER J.C. RUSSELL, Oakmeadow Wessex Avenue East Wittering, West Sussex PO20 8NP.

White-spotted Pinion moth *Cosmia diffinis* (L.) (Lep.: Noctuidae): Results of searches for larvae in 2001

At one stage it appeared that access restrictions due to the Foot & Mouth disease epidemic would prevent further searches for larvae in May and June 2001, but fortunately these were lifted just in time to hunt for larvae in a couple of the key sites in Huntingdonshire before pupation. A programme of beating was carried out, as in 2000 (*antea*: 84-89), and again no White-spotted Pinion larvae were found. Searching by eye for the larval spinings proved marginally more successful in that



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