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A satyrid butterfly in a light trap

On 3rd September 1989 I switched on my m.v. trap (Skinner) at 21.40 hours local time (= 19.40 GMT). It was completely dark, mainly overcast. The afternoon temperature had been 28°C, while the night minimum was 11°C. The trap is situated on my small balcony about 30 metres above street level, overlooking a main road. The altitude is 920 metres above sea level.

In the morning, I found the trap to contain its normal number of 20 - 30 "macro" moths and also a fresh looking male *Brintesia circe* (Fab.). This is the largest European satyrid, with a wing span of up to about 65 mm, and looks rather like a gigantic White Admiral. It is a common species in this southern part of Andorra, but September is a late date — June/July is its usual flight period. And what was it doing flying about in the dark — not merely dusk?

I have had personal experience of penumbral Satyridae in Nigeria, North Borneo and the Seychelles; I did not know that it is a habit of European species; and this was not merely penumbral, but completely nocturnal.— PATRICK ROCHE, Av. Verge de Canolich, 97, Sant Julià de Lòria, Andorra.

Migrant butterflies in 1989

1989 appears to have been a good year for only one species of immigrant butterfly, *Vanessa atalanta*. My first sightings for the year came whilst on holiday in Scotland, when on 17th June two were seen at Kyle of Lochalsh, Wester Ross. Three days later, another was seen at Bettyhill, West Sutherland, on the north coast. Returning home, two more were seen at Princes Risborough, Bucks, on 27th June and after this they were to be seen from time to time throughout the rest of the season, becoming more common as autumn approached. On 30th September a dozen or so were seen at Dale, Pembs, mostly on ivy blossom; in the same locality two *Colias croceus* Fourc, were also noted, one male and one female (another was seen shortly afterwards but could have been one of the original two) and in glorious warm sunshine there were large numbers of presumably third brood *Lycaena phlaeas* and *Lasiommata megera* and two *Polyommatus icarus*.— A.J. SHOWLER, 12 Wedgwood Drive, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks HP14 4PA.



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