17.9.1976 in v.c. 72. Dr Young also informed me that he has recorded the species from Glen Strath Farrar in v.c. 96 on 25.9.1988.

Coleophora lixella (Zell.). During a visit to the picturesque Talisker bay on Skye on 22nd and 24th June 1983, several imagines were seen flying over well-grazed grassland containing *Thymus drucei*. This uncommon species recorded from only a few Scottish sites mainly on the east coast is a new record for v.c. 104.

Exaeretia ciniflonella (L. & Z.). While investigating the ancient birch and juniper woodland at Crathie, Deeside in the late autumn of 1986 (15.10.1986), I was surprised to disturb a male moth at rest on a large birch trunk. This was a new record for v.c. 92 and also the only record in the country for over thirty years when single records were observed in v.c. 96 in Glen Affric (1955; E.C. Pelham-Clinton) and Newtonmore (1952; M.W. Harper). Prior to this most of the records emanate from Rannoch from 1850-1920, when a large number of records appeared but I do not know of any recent sightings.

Aphelia unitana (Hübn.). I have known of a very small colony of this species at Beattock (v.c. 72) since 1979 well within the known distribution in northern England, the borders, and the Scottish lowlands. Recently the species has been noticed further afield but I was surprised to find a flourishing colony in two adjacent *Molinia* dominated bogs much further north near Dalmally, Argyll (v.c. 98), near the head of Loch Awe at a moderately elevated altitude of 800-1000 ft.

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***Euonymus japonicus* — yet another foodplant of the Holly Blue butterfly *Celastrina argiolus* (Linnaeus) (Lep.: Lycaenidae) in the London Area.**

Further to my note on *Pyracantha* as a possible foodplant for the larvae of spring brood *C. argiolus* (*antea* 41-43) and the subsequent notes by Owen and Allen confirming this (*antea* 145-146) it may be of further interest to record that on 3rd May 1990 at this museum's nature reserve at St Mary Magdalene Churchyard, East Ham, London (O.S. ref TQ 429823) I witnessed a number of the butterflies laying eggs on *Euonymus japonicus*.

In all, some twenty butterflies were under observation for around 30 minutes in the area immediately in front of the window of the Interpretative Centre — itself a remarkable event as most years we seldom see more than two at once.This area of the nature reserve is mown and apart from some dense patches of ivy, *Hedera helix,* on some of the graves

the only shrubs present are *Euonymus japonicus*. Butterflies were in attendance at all of the *Euonymus* bushes, and were observed frequently to settle on the old, dead flowers. Subsequent examination confirmed that eggs had been laid at the base of the green, newly formed seed capsules, in the angle made between these and the sepals. Only one egg per seed capsule was noted. Shortly after this confirmation had been obtained, a female *argiolus* landed about two feet away from me and promptly deposited an egg as I watched!

It is perhaps worth considering whether *Pyracantha* and *Euonymus* have always been alternative foodplants of this butterfly and, indeed, if others remain to be discovered. The Aquifoliacea (holly) and the Celastraceae (*Euonymus*) are closely related families of plants and are listed consecutively in *Flora of the British Isles* (Clapham, Tutin and Warburg, Cambridge University Press, 1962). Both flower at roughly the same time and so both are available to the first brood adults. *Symphoricarpos,* another recorded foodplant for the progeny of the spring brood is, on the other hand, in an unrelated family, the Caprifoliaceae. *Pyracantha* belongs to the Rosaceae, and so is quite unrelated to ivy (Araliaceae), though both flower at a later time of year, and roughly at the same time as each other. Dogwood, another recorded foodplant, is in the Cornaceae, which immediately precedes the Araliaceae in *Flora of the British Isles.*

At its more usual low density, the Holly Blue attracted little attention other than from a few enthusiastic researchers. It is quite possible that it has simply not been looked for on plants other than those which the text books tell us it is allowed to be found on. Added to this is the fact that there are certainly a great many observations made by a great many, exceedingly good, field naturalists which never end up in print because the observer "didn't think it was all that important". On the other hand, in times of abundance — such as the present — one may expect foodplant availability to decline through increased competition (itself a well-known population controlling factor). In such a situation the butterflies may be expected to exploit alternatives though these may perhaps be expected to be closely related species of plant (?). It would be interesting to "pool" observations and I would be pleased to receive unpublished information on this subject area to collate into a more comprehensive account.— COLIN W. PLANT, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LZ.

Hazards of butterfly collecting — Kakamega, Kenya, 1988.

In the tropics many butterflies forsake the usual nectar in favour of less savoury foods. On my first visit to the Kakamega Forest in Kenya, the most eastern true rainforest in East Africa, the first sight that greeted me was a horde of butterflies sitting on the road. They turned out to be feeding on the exposed, squishy viscera of a civet which had been squashed by a truck