

went out to continue the observations and to get some photos, but I saw no females, so afternoons are probably reserved for other activities than being raped.

Males and females must live in different habitats so the females come into male territory only when they 'want' to get impregnated. When going about the important business of laying eggs they cannot afford to be continuously waylaid by males intent on sex; this would be very time-consuming, not to mention the real risk of physical damage when the female is thrown to the ground.

According to Graham and Stephen Henning in South Africa, exactly this kind of rape is also a common procedure among the *Acraea*. This is interesting. Though the *Cethosia* have traditionally been considered members of the Nymphalinae, recent findings – genetic as well as morphological – indicate that they are very closely related to the *Acraea*, and that both should be placed in the tribe Acraeini within the Heliconiinae. So maybe we have to include the propensity to rape in future cladistic and systematic studies?— TORBEN B. LARSEN, UNDP Vietnam, c/o Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. (E-mail: torbenlarsen@compuserve.com).

### **Recorded, collected or worked? A plea for verbal accuracy**

It is almost commonplace, these days, to read that such and such a district or locality is well (or poorly) recorded when what is meant is that it has been well (or little) worked, for some insect of group thereof. I have even read that some locality or area has been "well collected" – which, as soon as we apply logic, is seen to be nonsense. To plead that it is clear what is meant is just not good enough. In the above sense, "worked" is always the right word.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

**EDITORIAL COMMENT:** Mr Allen is perfectly correct and I have given my wrists a good slapping for this heinous editorial *lapsus*. My excuse is that I am already pre-occupied with eliminating the many references to 'specimens' that evidently fly around light traps. The day my specimens take to flight I shall have to give up the red wine!

### **Wild larva of Nutmeg moth *Discestra trifolii* (Hufn.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) feeding on Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* L.**

A scan through the standard works on the British Lepidoptera indicates that the larva of the Nutmeg moth *Discestra trifolii* (Hufn.) is considered mainly to feed on goosefoots *Chenopodium* spp. and related species, although it has been reported on a few unrelated plants such as onions and seedling conifers. I found a wild larva of this moth feeding on Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* at 23.26 hrs on 2 August 2003 at Bingham Linear Park, Bingham, Nottinghamshire, during an unsuccessful nocturnal search for larvae of the Four-spotted moth *Tyta luctuosa* (D. & S.). Bingham Linear Park is a stretch of cuttings and embankments along the line of a disused railway through rather flat, intensively farmed, open land.

The larva measured 2 cm in length when found and was green with a cream lateral stripe. It was found on the tip of a shoot of Field Bindweed growing in the centre of an area of approximately 25 × 4 m, in which all vegetation had been scraped off on 8 April 2003. The Field Bindweed had recolonised in abundance, with no other plants



near the larva. It was collected and reared solely on leaves of Field Bindweed until full-grown. The larva was identified by Gerry Haggett from colour photographs sent to him. The final instar was of the green form with a distinctive orange lateral stripe.

The ability of the Nutmeg to feed on Field Bindweed may help to explain its often considerable abundance in gardens and other disturbed places, including my own garden, where Field Bindweed is often more frequent than members of the unrelated *Chenopodiaceae*.

These results were obtained during a field meeting of the British Entomological and Natural History Society organised as part of a national study of the Four-spotted moth underway at Writtle College, Essex, with part-funding from English Nature and assistance from Butterfly Conservation's Cambridgeshire & Essex Branch. The author would like to thank these organisations for their support in conducting this work and preparing this report, Gerry Haggett for identifying the larva, and those that joined the author for a most enjoyable field meeting.— PAUL WARING, Reader, Writtle College. Correspondence address: Windmill View, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6LS (E-mail: paul\_waring@btinternet.com).

### **Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* Butler (Lep.: Lycaenidae) on the Riviera**

The range expansion of the Geranium Bronze *Cacyreus marshalli* in Europe has been a recurrent theme in this journal in recent years, but what struck the author of this note on a visit to the Riviera in late July 2003, was the sheer abundance of this species. I discovered that even in the most built-up parts of Nice, *C. marshalli* could be seen flying at tree-top height along the streets, defying the traffic, where no other butterfly species was present. While it was possible in suburbs such as Cimiez, with its mansions and large gardens, to see Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*, Small White *Pieris rapae*, Long-tailed Blue *Lampides boeticus* and Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* during the last week in July, *C. marshalli* was more numerous than all of these species added together. A day-trip across the Italian border to visit the Hanbury Gardens, at Cape Mortola near Ventimiglia, revealed that here too, *marshalli* was the most abundant species by far. By contrast, a few days later, *marshalli* proved to be present at around 1000 metres altitude in the Alpes Maritimes, in the valley of the Vesubie river, but here only one female individual was seen, in the grounds of the Hotel Le Boreon. The butterfly appeared to be investigating the cultivated geraniums with which the Hotel was festooned.— MARTIN J. WHITE, 58 Victoria Quay, Maritime Quarter, Swansea SA1 3XG.

### **The origin of the name *Ludius* (Col.: Elateridae): a correction**

In a recent contribution to the generic names of the British click beetles, I over-hastily treated the name *Ludius* as an 'invented' name. In fact, as I have since ascertained, *Ludius* was the term used for a player in the public games in ancient Rome (Latin *Ludo* = I play). Berthold, the author of the name, doubtless had in mind the leaping powers of click beetles though in this case, owing to the insect's size, rarity and retiring (largely nocturnal) habits, they are normally very little in evidence.— A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.



Waring, Paul. 2004. "Wild larva of nutmeg moth *Discestra trifolii* (Hufn.) (Lep.: Noctuidae) feeding on field bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* L." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 116, 42–43.

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