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TERRITORIAL, BEHAVIOUR IN BRITISH BUTTERFLIES —

I have been following the articles on territorial behaviour patterns of certain butterflies with interest. The recent article by W. G. Shreeves (*Ent. Rec.*, 92: 267-269) contains a reference to the Purple Hairstreak (*Quercusia quercus* L.) being a "percher" which would also intimate that it also adopted territory, or the male at least. In this country *quercus* is hardly gregarious and in the localities of which I know, is rarely seen in numbers exceeding 5 - 10. In an attempt to stimulate discussion, is it possible that species behave differently in different climatic conditions?

On returning from S. W. France in 1979 we turned off the motorway at Bollène, north of Orange, in the Department of Vaucluse and stopped at about mid-day for lunch. The air temperature was about 75°F. and there was very little breeze. During a short search to see what was about I disturbed a colony of *Q. quercus* inhabiting an olive tree and took a short series of five males and five females from about 50-60 seen. The numbers of males and females were fairly equally distributed. Only single specimens were seen on other surrounding trees in the neighbourhood. The specimens were fairly fresh although some damaged insects were seen, probably as a result of flying in and out of the tree.

The date was the 5th of August, and I understand the weather had been good so that emergence had not been delayed. The time of appearance would thus be the same as in the U.K. but the gregarious behaviour was a new phenomenon to me. Could this behaviour pattern be in any way connected with the pre-migratory tendencies of some of the Vanessids or was it just the hot weather? — M. S. HARVEY, Highfields House, Highfields, Ashted, Surrey.

THE LARVA OF EUPITHECIA TRISIGNARIA HERRICH-SCHAFFER. — Brigadier Simson's interesting notes on the British Pugs refer (*antea*, p.10) to the larva of *E. trisignaria* as being readily identifiable by its black head. I had always thought that this was so until finding on 5 Sep. 1976 at Durriss, Kincardineshire a single larva on *Angelica* with a green head. Its head remained green until the larva pupated and a normal moth appeared the following July.

Last September at Ceinws, Montgomeryshire, Dr. J. R. Langmaid and I found larvae on *Angelica* some of which had pale brown heads, mottled with darker markings. Normally the dark green longitudinal dorsal and sub-dorsal stripes are characteristic, but some of these larvae had stripes scarcely darker than the ground colour. In this locality a few (normal) larvae were also found on *Heracleum*. — E. C. PELHAM-CLINTON, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers St., Edinburgh.



Harvey, Mark S. 1981. "Territorial behaviour in British butterflies." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 93, 102–102.

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