

**A Change of editor****R** ENT
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With this issue, the current editor is standing down to make way for new blood in the editorial chair. After ten years of editing *The Entomologist's Record* it is time for the "mantle of Tut" to fall on other shoulders, and we have been very fortunate in securing the services of Colin Plant as the new editor. A well-known entomologist, he is the author of, amongst others, *The Butterflies of the London Area*, *Provisional atlas of Lacewings* and the seminal work, *Larger moths of the London area*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the friends and correspondents of the *Record* for their support and forbearance over the years, and remind them that we always need your notes and papers for publication. All material in the pipeline, or in the post to me will find its way to the new editor!

Paul Sokoloff

**Butterflies of Lanzarote - April 1995. An update - two further species recorded**

It had been six years since I was last in Lanzarote. During this time our friends with the Time-Share there have continued their annual April visit to the island and I have regularly asked them if there have been many butterflies. They are not specialists but they know how it was in 1988 when one could not drive on the inland roads without passing through clouds of Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* Geoff. and Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui* Linn. and when the heights at Mirador del Rio were alive with thousands of Corninon Blue *Polyommatus icarus* Rott. (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 103: 79-81). Each year, since 1989, the answer has been that there had not been many butterflies about.

With a further invitation from our friends to join them this year, there has been opportunity to check in person on the situation. We were there from 13th to 27th April and during that time I was able to visit the known haunts that had shown good numbers of butterflies in 1988. The weather was mixed - through the first week the mornings generally started overcast, with fairly strong winds, then clearing out by midday to hot sun. Most of the time there was the stiff breeze associated with the island.

The season bore out our friends' assessments of recent years - there were very few butterflies about. In our drives to various parts of the island, I do not recall seeing from the car a single butterfly of any species. There was just one occasion when my wife said she had seen a "brown" butterfly - I stopped the car and hinted around but I could find no trace of it. At the

Mirador del Rio (16th April), on a rather cool day, there were some Blues (*P. icarus*) on the low vegetation at the side of the road, but only in small numbers – I saw perhaps twenty or so, mostly males. Later the same day, in some fallow-field site near Maguez – good for several species in 1988 – this year I saw only three Blues.

Altogether, we saw, in different locations, perhaps half a dozen *C. croceus* but nor a single *V. cardui* throughout our visit. However, there were occasional moments of excitement – on the 17th, a Red Admiral settled on the outer wall of our neighbour's villa and sat sunning itself long enough to be clearly identified as *Vanessa indica vulcania* God. Then, on another occasion (25th April) in the dry gully of the Barranca de Manguia (again, a good spot in 1988) there was one (and possibly a second, seen by friends) of what I identified as *Pontia duplidice* Linn. One of these was very kind and perched long enough on a flower stem for me to get quite a decent close-up shot of it on the video camera. However, besides the Whites, all we saw, during an hour walking in the gully, were four *C. croceus* and one *P. icarus*.

All-in-all, it does look as though 1988 was a unique year for the number of butterflies about in Lanzerote. – G.G. BALDWIN, 22 Edgerton Grove Road, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire HD1 5QX.

Strangalia maculata (Poda) var. *gibberdi* nov., (Col.: Cerambycidae)

During the hot and sultry weather experienced towards the end of June, a small number of *Strangalia maculata* (Poda) were taken in flight and settling on *Heracleum* in a woodland glade adjoining the Gibberd estate: 26.vi.1995, near Sheering, north Essex (Mrs Elizabeth Uthhoff-Kaufmann). They included a small male, clearly maculated as follows:



The anterior band at the elytral margin vestigial, faintly tinted brown; medianly, with three spots forming the apices of an equilateral triangle, slightly tilted towards the elytral suture but not contiguous with it, of which the uppermost is the largest and ovoid. Above this triangulation, placed equi-distantly between the elytral boss and scutellum, is a very distinct micro-maculation. The remaining fasciae are normal as in the type form.

This new variety is named after the late Sir Frederick Gibberd, architect of Harlow New Town.

– RAYMOND R. UTHHOFF-KAUFMANN, 13 Old Road, Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HB.

Upper half of right-hand elytron of *Strangalia maculata* (Poda) var. *gibberdi* nov.