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Cacyreus marshalli BUTLER, 1898, a new night-flying butterfly?

(Lepidoptera, Lycaenidae)

by

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Abstract: This paper deals with an unusual behavior of the Geranium Bronze. This butterfly has been collected in 2002 in a light trap and in 2003 in Ners, Gard, France, was attracted at night with a 100W lamp.

Résumé: Ce papier traite d'un comportement insolite du Brun des Pelargonium. Ce papillon a été capturé, de nuit, en 2002 dans un piège lumineux et en 2003 à Ners, Gard, France, attiré aussi de nuit par une ampoule de 100 W.

Zusammenfassung: Diese Arbeit behandelt ein ungewöhnliches Verhalten des Geranien-Wanderbläulings. Der Pelargonienbläuling wurde 2002 in einer Lichtfalle und 2003 in Ners, Gard, Frankreich, angezogen nur durch eine 100W-Lampe in der Nacht gesammelt.

Very few records of butterflies collected in light traps have been published so far. ABADIEV (1993) reported the capture of *Lasiomma (Kirinia) roxelana* and *Quercusia (Neozephyrus) quercus* attracted by a 400W mercury vapour lamp, in Bulgaria.

BESHOV (1998) reported numerous butterflies and day-flying moths attracted by light traps. Amongst them, *Colias crocea*, *Plebejus argyrognomon*, *Polyommatus coridon*, *Vanessa atalanta*, *Cynthia cardui*, *Melitaea didyma*, *M. phoebe*, *Maniola jurtina*, *M. telmessia* and *Hipparchia syriaca* represented the butterflies. In most cases all attracted butterflies were abundant during daytime at the collecting sites. All butterflies attracted during the nights by an artificial light were collected under excellent weather conditions, warm and unwindy nights.

Most recently, we reported (MÉRIT & MÉRIT, 2002), *Pararge aegeria tircis* attracted by 5×40W lamps at home. This butterfly was attracted during a warm and unwindy night at 21: 30 local time.

MOTHIRON (2002) reported the attraction of *Cynthia cardui* in 1998 with light traps, during a year in which the Painted Lady was particularly abundant. He also reported the collection of *Cacyreus marshalli* attracted by a light on 03.XI.2001.

During the very warm summer of 2003, *Cacyreus marshalli* was very common near Nîmes (France, Gard F-30) in Ners. At about 21: 30, local time, on 21.VIII.2003, during a warm, wet and unwindy night, *Cacyreus marshalli* was attracted by the 100W lamp in the home we rented.

This is the second known report of this unusual behavior of the Geranium Bronze. Once again, we should note that the butterfly was attracted by the lamp during a warm and unwindy night.

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