



International Flutterings

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Butterflies—Why Not Breed Some of the Species Ourselves in Our Own Butterfly House?



By Sefan Reisch
Butterfly House Mainau
Island

The post-conference-tour, following the ECBES conference in October of this year, ended with a visit to the Butterfly House on Mainau Island in Lake Constance, South Germany.

The participants were particularly interested to learn that we breed many of the butterflies ourselves. We don't have a separate breeding station here on Mainau. Our butterflies breed right in the Butterfly House. The aim of our own 'breeding' program has less to do with buying fewer pupae but is more about giving our visitors the chance of seeing the complete life-cycle of a butterfly live instead of just reading about it from an information board. Apart from this added attraction, breeding the butterflies ourselves means that many more butterflies can be seen in the Butterfly House. Children in particular are fascinated by the butterfly eggs and the different shapes and sizes of the caterpillars, but most of all by the different stages

in metamorphosis from caterpillar (larva) to pupa and butterfly.

Luckily, our Butterfly House is situated right amongst the Mainau greenhouses where there's an area designated to the cultivation of forage plants. At first, we planted out some of the forage plants in the flower beds. However, they didn't look very attractive for most of the year; although they make up an important part of the butterflies' habitat. We now grow most of the forage plants in pots so that we can easily replace those stripped bare by the hungry caterpillars. Here are my experiences and observations on the favorite forage plants of the various butterfly species which I am pleased to share with my colleagues from IABES.

Caligo memnon, C. eurilochus, C. atreus

Forage plants:

Musa sp., *Canna indica*, *Tapanochilus ananassae*, *Calathea sp.*, *Hedychium gardnerianum*

Apart from these plants, we often observe that Caligos

also eat various Bromelias and some types of palm e.g. *Areca catechu*

Morpho peleides

Forage plants:

Mucuna pruriens, *Strongyloдон macrobotrys*, *Erythrina fusca*, *E. cristagalli*

Phoebis philea, P. sennae

Forage plants:

Senna corymbosa, *S. didymobotrya*

Greta oto

Forage plants:

Cestrum elegans, *C. aurantiacum*, *C. nocturnum*

Prepona demophon

Forage plants:

Theobroma cacao, *Annona cherimola*, *A. muricata*, *A. squamosa*



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Eryphanes polyxena

Forage plants:

Cyperus alternifolius, *Bambusa* sp.



Hypolimnas bolina

Forage plants:

Sida rhombifolia, sometimes also *Abutilon*-Hybr.

Dryas julia

Forage plants:

Passiflora biflora, *P. caerulea*, *P. suberosa* and various other types of *Passiflora*

Dryadula phaetusa

Forage plants:

Passiflora biflora

Dione juno

Forage plants:

Passiflora-Hybr. 'Lady Margaret', *P. foetida*, *P. biflora*

Danaus plexippus

Forage plants:

Asclepias curassavica, *A. angustifolia*, *A. (Gomphocarpus) physocarpa*, *A. (Gomphocarpus) fruticosa*

Danaus chrysippus

Forage plants:

Asclepias (Gomphocarpus) physocarpa, *A. (Gomphocarpus) fruticosa*

Heliconius erato

Forage plants:

Passiflora suberosa, *P. ornithoura* and various other *P.*-Hybr.

Heliconius charitonius

Forage plants:

Passiflora suberosa, *P. ornithoura*, *P. caerulea*, *P. biflora* and various other *P.*-Hybr.

Heliconius melpomene

Forage plants:

Passiflora caerulea, *P. biflora*

Heliconius hecale

Forage plant:

Passiflora caerulea



Heliconius ismenius

Forage plants:

Passiflora alata, *P. quadrangularis*

Precis octavia

Forage plant:

Plectranthus fruticosus

Siproeta stelenes

Forage plants:

Ruellia graecizans (amoena), *R. makoyana*, *R. squarrosa*

Siproeta epaphus

Forage plant:

Ruellia graecizans (amoena)

Neptis hylas

Forage plants:

Mucuna pruriens, *Brachycthon populus*

Graphium agamemnon

Forage plant:

Annona cherimola



***Parides* sp.**

Forage plant:

Aristolochia littoralis

Euploea core

Forage plants:

Ficus binnendijkii, *Ficus benghalensis*



I would be pleased to hear your suggestions about other forage plants on which various butterfly species like to breed, as this topic interests me greatly.

I wish all IABES members and butterfly lovers a peaceful Christmas and a good butterfly year 2011.



Industry News—New Permit Restrictions for USA

By Uli Hartmond
Magic Wings Butterfly
House and Insectarium

As all of our US members and our suppliers know, importing, transporting and exhibiting butterflies is regulated here in America by the US Department of Agriculture through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) division. Butterflies are plant pests and thus, we need permits that require us to keep them under lock and seal at all times.

This fall, it was time to renew our permits, issued usually for a 3-year period. The still somewhat cumbersome on-line process (“e-permit”) went well, and Wayne Wehling, the USDA’s chief regulator and expert for the butterfly industry approved our renewal.

However, when those permits arrived, which list all

the species that we would be allowed to import (we have over 350 species listed, just in case), we were surprised by a significant number of “denied species”. *Papilio demoleus* had already been stricken from the import list to the US a few years ago “because of the unusually high risk it poses to citrus” (following the discovery of *P. demoleus* in citrus groves in the Dominican Republic (http://insects.oeb.harvard.edu/caribbean/Farrell_1.pdf)). Now there were 14 more species added to the “denied list”, including *Papilio polytes*, *Neptis hylas* or *Danaeus chrysippus* that we regularly import.

When questioned, Wayne explained that the only species that had been readily imported and had developed into a problem was *Danaus chrysippus*. He added that the USDA

went through its database to come up with a complete list of host plants for each species. For the species that are now denied, the host list is generally fairly lengthy and often extends to more than one plant family. While sometimes a tough call and knowing that some of these are common in our trade, it was felt that the newly denied butterflies are too risky to take chances with.

Mark Deering, the IABES government liaison for the USA and curator at the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House in Chesterfield, Missouri, added that an escape artist like *Neptis hylas* could be replaced with similar looking *Athyma* species. But it would be terrible to lose more of the swallowtails that feed on citrus, but are also reported to feed on other Rutaceae, including genera that occur along the east coast. *P.*

lowii, *P. memnon*, *P. demodocus*, *P. palinuris*, *P. cresphontes* and others are standard additions to our flight areas and crucial to many breeders.

As exhibitors (and I am sure as breeders too), we are quietly waiting to learn more from the ‘behind-the-scenes’ at the USDA. It is unclear whether there are more species under review for denial, as the USDA’s host plant list is admittedly incomplete. The USDA has not specified if some species would be limited only to certain geographical US areas and could potentially still be imported to areas further north (e.g., Dakotas that lacks the climate to support the host plants and butterflies). Over the coming year(s), it will be interesting to hear from other exhibits that are renewing their permits to find out, how our industry has to adapt.

Autobiography—Will-Power To Live

By David Goh
Tropical Entomological
House

I belong to a group of pre-historic plants (*Cycas rumphii*) since The Jurassic Period. I am here to share my life and death experience with you. I may look ugly and deformed, but my inner-self is all that matters in my “2nd Life” of today.

5 years ago, being down with a “supposedly” fatal

disease and abandoned in the wild by my master, I refused to accept death. I plucked up all my courage and set off with optimism to go all out to fight this disease. I believed that Mother Nature who created me must have given me a built-in power to fight against all odds before my genetic expiry (end of my natural lifespan).

In the process of struggling, some kind soul spotted me,

picked me up and brought me to Penang Butterfly Farm. I found new love and attention in this world! My will-power to live was further strengthened and here I am with my heroic scars and blessed with a lot of offsprings around me!!

My Remark:

The fondness of my bond with the human race (which is the most superior race on earth) has strengthened my

respect that the human race definitely has the strongest will-power and survival sense than all other life forms on earth. Therefore, don’t give up life without fighting till the end!



Value of IABES

By Tamás Papp
Budapest Zoo and
Botanical Garden, Hungary

It was very useful to participate in the IABES Conference 2010 in Switzerland. The most important factors represented by the members were:

- Experiences exchange
- Advisory issues
- Sharing protocols and standards

• Cost effective ideas
During the conference, members gave us ideas to find the answers to such questions as construction of exhibits, maintenance of the gardens, education methods, basic captive breeding guidelines, etc. Although we know there are differences in conditions in every exhibit, their past experiences can be helpful for us.

Meeting the suppliers was an easy way to find

solutions for problems of stock, shipping, packing, etc.

Overview of the actual running programs of IABES and member's own programs were interesting. For example, we heard a presentation about the *Papilio homerus* conservation program (Save Homerus), research of artificial food materials for caterpillars, the biological pest control low

budget management, etc.

Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden is not a member of IABES, but this association gives help for anybody who needs it without any premise. Thank you for the possibility to participate and get information about the butterfly industry.



Happy Holidays from IABES!

Glückliche Ferien

Joyeux Vacances

Heldig Fridage

Prettige Feestdagen

Felice Vacanze

חופשות שמחות

Felices vacaciones

開心假日

Счастливого Праздник

快乐假日

Feliz Días de fiesta

Alegre Feriados