

**SCOTCH ARGUS** *Erebia aethiops* (ABH 59.008)

Numerically one of our commonest species, the Scotch Argus is widespread over a large part of the mainland, but is surprisingly absent from most of East Sutherland, the north coast of Sutherland, and all of Caithness (one old record from 2004). It is absent also from the Western and Northern Isles. Although it is one of the UK's few distinctively northern butterflies, it is not especially upland in its occurrence, being found from sea-level to about 500m and wandering occasionally to higher levels in hot weather.

**Distribution trend.** Distribution has been very stable over the recent period, although there is some indication of increasing frequency in East Sutherland.

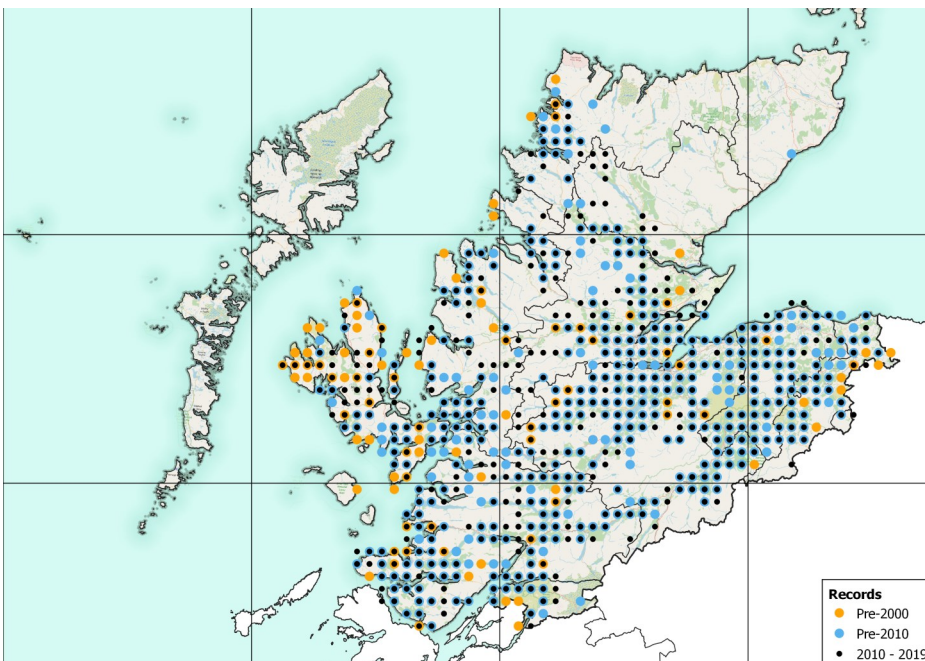
**Habitat.** A wide range of grassland habitats is favoured, particularly sheltered areas such as woodland rides and clearings, woodland edges and open scrub sites. More open situations such as coastal slopes and upland rough pasture are also occupied.

**Flight period.** Early July to mid-September.

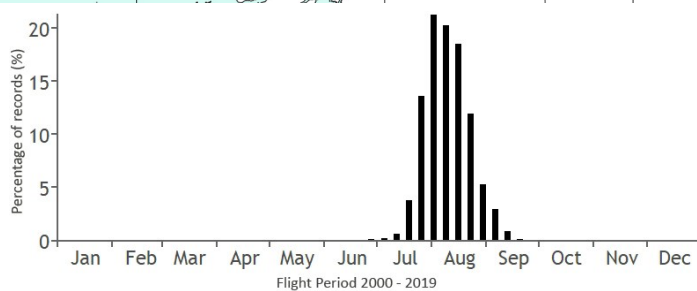
**Larval food plant.** Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*.



Michael Taylor



There are currently no records from the Northern Isles.



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	1811
2000 - 2009	3169
2010 - 2019	4608



Catriona Matheson



Peter Eeles



Peter Eeles