

SMALL TORTOISESHELL *Aglais urticae* (ABH 59.027)

A widespread and mobile species with migratory tendencies. Found throughout Highland but no breeding records in Shetland.

Distribution trend. There appears to be a small net loss in distribution since the 2007 atlas, which mirrors UK-wide concerns for the decline of this species.

Habitat. Very widespread but, breeding on nettles, it is commonest in areas with some 'enrichment' due to human activity.

Flight period. After hibernation, flying from late February to mid-June, the next brood appearing from mid-June through to end of October.

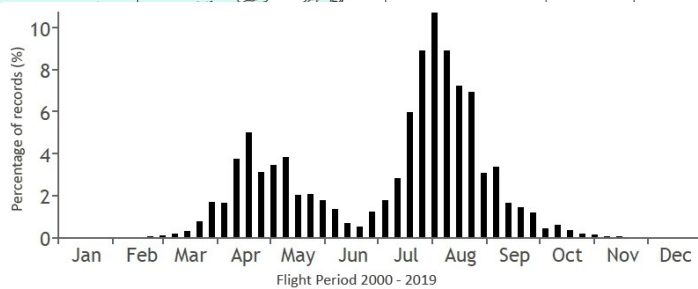
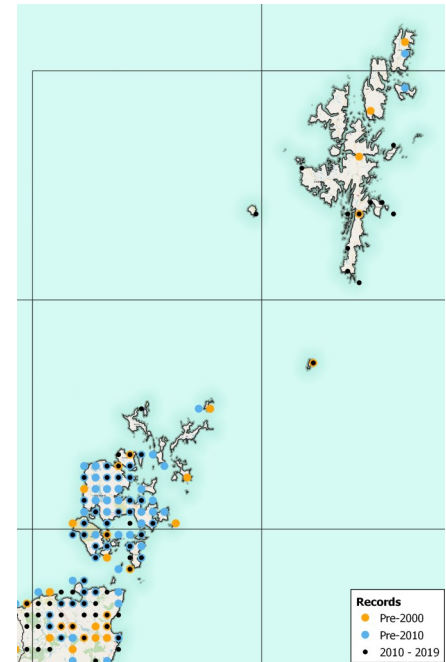
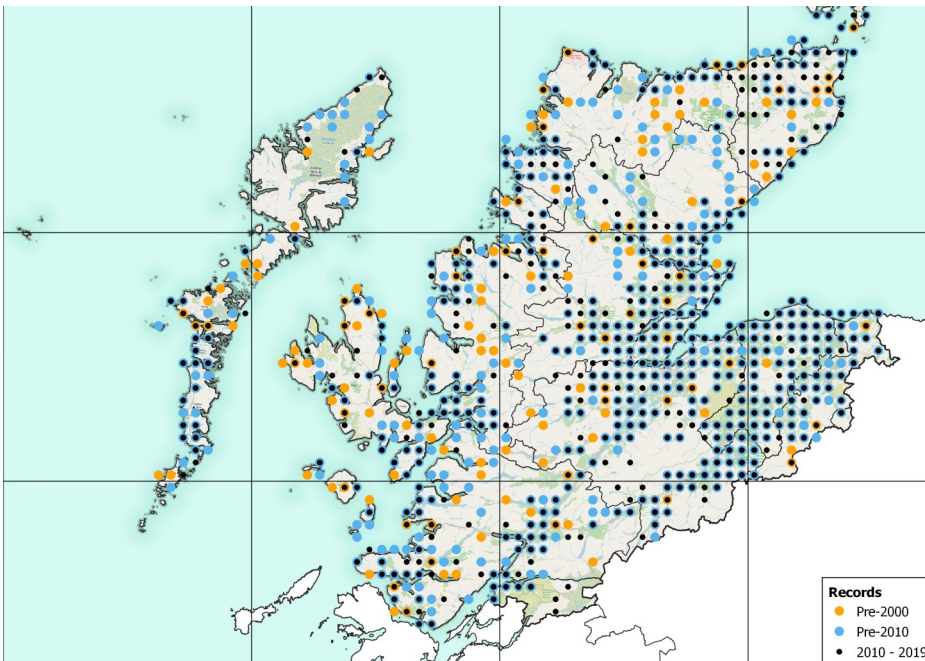
Larval food plant. Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*.

Appearance and behaviour. This handsome tawny-red butterfly with thin, blue-lined margins to the wings is familiar to all. It is probably still our commonest garden butterfly, particularly noticeable in the autumn when feeding on Buddleia etc. Adults frequently enter houses and other buildings, from quite early in the autumn, to hibernate.

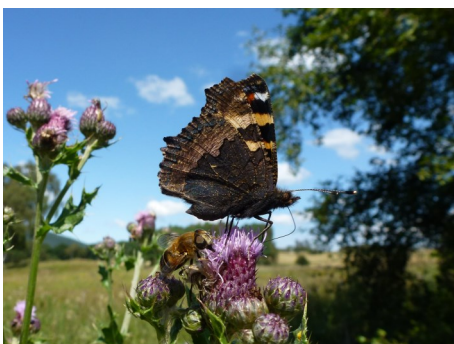
The larvae feed colonially on Common Nettles in summer.



Michael Taylor



Number of Records	
Pre-2000	2481
2000 - 2009	4053
2010 - 2019	5581



Bob Turner



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