

ACTIAS breeding report

Theme Erebia epiphron KNOCH, 1783 – Mountain Ringlet – NYMPHALIDAE, SATYRINAE from the High Tatra

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Place of origin Slovakia, The High Tatras mountains, 1686m, meadow over knee timber boarder with low grasses and flowers.

Mating Pairing was seen in the nature on 2.8.2011
Pairing is very quick-only 15 minutes, after pairing female lays first eggs and then she is ready to be paired again.



Oviposition 2.-3.8.2010- in captivity females do not need foodplant, they lay the eggs on the paper in small groups. Freshly layed eggs are dark yellow, then brown with pink dots.



Photo: freshly layed eggs

Caterpillar hatching and date

12.8.2010-freshly hatched larvae are without pigment, they are 2mm long. Young larvae are eating mostly during dark days on the tops of grass leaves.



Photo: freshly hatched caterpillar

Skimming to L2

24.8.2010-larvae very similar to L1, they are more greenish with the indication of white strips on the sides.



Photo: skinning L1 to L2



Photo:skinning from L2 to L3

Skinning to L3

6.9.2010-larvae are green with two white strips on the sides. Larvae start to eat on the whole plant, not only on the tops of leaves. They start to eat tougher leaves.



Photo:L3 larvae



Photo:skinning L3 to L4

Skinning to L4

26.9.2010-larvae are more colourful with more whit strips



Photo:skinnins L4 to L5

Skinning to L5

8.11.2010



Photo:L5 larvae



Photo:skinning L5 to L6

Skinning to L6

15.1.2011-larvae in the last instar eat also cutted grass (younger caterpillars die). In this season it is difficult to get fresh grass, but larvae go very well on the greenish grass from under snow. Foodplant have to be changed daily, because unfrozen grass rots and molds very quickly and larvae can get intestinal diseases and after that they will die.



Photo:L6 caterpillar, about 2cm long

Diapauses No diapauses in captivity and inside rearing.

Pupation 6.2.2011-Larvae change the colour before pupation from green to yellow. They pupate near the ground in a thin cocoon.



Photo:Larvae before pupating



Photo: Prepupa



Photo:Pupae-left is a female pupa, right is a male pupa

Eclosion of imago 21.2.2011



Photo-freshly hatched male of *Erebia epiphron*

<i>Original foodplant</i>	unknown
<i>Food plant used for breeding</i>	Poa sp.
<i>Keeping of caterpillars</i>	Growing foodplant in the flower pot is the best not only for young but also for adult caterpillars.
<i>Overwinter as</i>	No diapauses in captivity and inside rearing.
<i>Heaviness of breeding</i>	Breeding is not difficult but very long. Very difficult is the change of growing foodplant for cutted grass leafes. In this case caterpillars need time to adaptate to new conditions. It can takes couple of days until they start to eat. Some caterpillars can not stand the change and they will die,
<i>Specialist conditions</i>	No special conditions. Breeding is good inside in the room temperatures. Larvae can be water once o twice a week.
<i>Behaviour of adults in wild</i>	Males are very active, they fly very quickly and change the flight direction very quickly as well (zig-zag flight). They fly near the ground (in the 40-50cm high) and look for females which sit in the grass. Females are very lazy to fly. When they are full of eggs they are very heavy and they are just waiting in the grass for a male. Their flight is very heavy and very slow. They can fly for only short distances.



Photo: male has just found a female.



Photo: few second after meeting.



Photo: male is feeding