May 23rd 1948.

My dear Ron,

I have been away for three days inspecting a colony of *Melitaea aurinia* in which a big fluctuation in numbers is apparently taking place, so the letters of Friday and Saturday have had to await my return today (Sunday).

First; I think the method of presentation of the *icarus* data (returned herewith) is most clear and helpful. I am sure it would be excellent to set them out in this way.

I am interested to see that you are using different death-ratios for the two sexes, and this must surely be in accord with reality. The two sexes are indeed different populations, with different habits and times of emergence from the pupa (the ♀'s

on the average appear the latter) so that
they have a different ecology. There is
indeed every reason for thinking the two sexes
may have different lengths of life.

The calculations show that at
first the ♂♂ outnumber the ♀♀ and that
later the ♀ numbers rose rapidly. This is
fully in accord with observation and general
expectation. As you say, the estimate
for ♂♂ for the last two days must be
heavily in excess of the facts. Indeed it
depends upon a single recapture, so that the
error involved must be very great.

The only factual points which
need raising are these :—
Area I ♂ for the 23rd.

You give 5 marks recaptured, which
accords with my data. These are as
follows :—

Date.	Sex.	Marks per Specimen.	Dates of previous capture.
23rd.	♂	1	22nd
"	♂	1	22nd
"	♂	1	19th
"	♂	2	19th & 22nd

This seems to give for total age of marks caught 11, but you have 9 for this entry. I wonder if I have set down the data incorrectly here.

The only other points relate to the days on which two ~~days~~ samples were taken (28th & 29th). I have set these data out more fully on a separate sheet, to make them clearer.

The results accord perfectly with your columns 4, 5, 6. Yet they do not quite seem to fit your column 2. I see this works strictly as indicating new marks released. Thus on the 22nd (♂) 41 unmarked were caught of which 40 were released (after being marked), while 3 previously marked

were caught. (and released.) This gives your figure 43.

unmarked However, on 28th morning (your 28A) 28 were caught & 26 released (after having been marked) while 1 previously marked was caught. & released. This makes 27 new marks (against your 28).

You will see there are other similar corrections for these two days (28th & 29th only) and for Column 2 only. I am afraid I did not set out well what had happened in regard to these days on which morning and afternoon samples were caught. I think this will be clear from the sheet of figures I now send.

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So I think the calculations are splendid, and exactly set forth what is needed. And thank you, my dear Ron, for all your work and interest.

Yours ever,

Henry

Am I correct in thinking you shall if called at time (Kendrick) as reported by you yesterday?