

Luehdorfia puziloi (“Princess Gifu Butterfly”) and Its Habitat

Both *Luehdorfia puziloi* and *Luehdorfia japonica* (Japanese *luehdorfia*, or Gifu butterfly) are butterflies known as “spring goddesses”. They are attracting attention among researchers, who prize them highly.

Although *Luehdorfia puziloi* closely resembles the Gifu butterfly, it is generally smaller, and while the Gifu butterfly is orange, *Luehdorfia puziloi* is largely yellow and can be seen around the time local cherry trees bloom.

In Japan, *Luehdorfia puziloi* is found in Hokkaido and Honshu, while in Honshu it is found in the mountains further north of the Gifu butterfly’s habitat.

Adult butterflies appear once a year, feed on plants in the genus *Asarum sieboldi* (wild ginger), family *Aristolochiaceae* (birthwort family), and overwinter as chrysalises.

Unfortunately, indiscriminate collection at the hands of collectors and inconsiderate people continues unabated, which risks bringing the species to the point of extinction in the near future if it continues in the same way.