Растителна защита
електронно списание за растителна защита
семена, торове и земеделие
ISSN 2815-522X

Butterfly greenhouse

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Дата: 30.07.2016 *Брой:* 7/2016

Battus philenor is a butterfly from the *Papilionidae* family, which is primarily distributed in the southern states of North America. Guatemala is the southernmost boundary where the conditions for the species' development are favorable. The milder and warmer the climate, the greater the probability of encountering the *Battus philenor* butterfly.

In recent years, the species has been threatened with extinction from the territory of North America. Thanks to aquatic biologist Tim Wong from the California Academy of Sciences, the beautiful butterflies have increased their population over the last 3 years, not in laboratory conditions, but in the scientist's backyard. The biologist creates the perfect conditions for the development of *Battus philenor* - sufficient sunlight, high air temperature, and suitable food. Wong discovered that the butterflies feed only on *California aristolochia,* which is a typical plant for the area. Therefore, he first planted the climbing plant in the backyard of his house and then brought in 20 caterpillars. The butterflies feel at home with biologist Tim Wong.

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In Bulgaria, the plant *Aristolochia, Dutchman's Pipe (Aristolochia macrophylla)*, which belongs to the same family as *California aristolochia*, can thrive.

The climbing plant reaches a height of 10 m, growing 1-2 m per year. It has impressive large leaves, reaching 30 cm in length in the shape of a heart, which is why it is often used as an ornamental plant in gardens. They sit on petioles 5-10 cm long, are deep green and soft to the touch. It possesses unusually small flowers in the shape of a pipe, which bloom in spring (May-June). It thrives best in partial shade and rich, moist soil.

Origin: North America.

Location: Shady to semi-shady and sheltered from wind.

Watering, Fertilizing: Water abundantly during the growth period. Young plants are fertilized 2-3 times, and mature ones 2 times.

Other Care: Provide a climbing structure.

Overwintering: Outdoors without winter protection. It sheds its leaves. Water moderately on warmer days if it dries out.

Pests, Diseases: Rarely.

Based on materials from boredpanda.

View the gallery below.