

Subject: **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* / **Beech** *Fagus sylvatica*

Medium: Acrylic

Size of original: 170 mm x 160 mm

Working Time: 35 hours

Completed:

Comments: **All research drawings and photographs by the illustrator.**
For this painting unlike the painting of the Alder/Small Tortoiseshell a wash of *Burnt Sienna* was added, giving a much more warmer tone to the background, with a wash of *Cobalt Blue* to the leaves adding to the contrast.

Notes: **Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta*
Whereas the caterpillar feeds on stinging nettles and thistle the adult feeds by sucking sap from trees and juices from fruit. The adult migrates from southern Europe by July/August but can be seen as early as May. The butterfly will hibernate through winter, although not many survive.*

Beech *Fagus sylvatica*
Grows to around 20 -30 metres with a rounded crown; some branches grow almost horizontal. The bark is smooth and grey coloured. The leaves are ovoid in shape with a glossy dark green colour turning red in Autumn. The fruit is in a three cornered woody spiked casing.*

* Chinery, Michael: **Collins Gem Guide to Butterflies and Moths**
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Sutton, David: **Larousse Pocket Guide to Trees in Britain and Europe**
Kingfisher
1990
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Aventinum Publishing
2000



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