

**ALDER BUCKTHORN (*Frangula alnus*)**

This is the leaf of the Alder buckthorn. It is a small tree, related to Alder, with a similar yellow colour when the wood is cut and favoured for charcoal as one of the elements for production of gunpowder, in particular in old flintlock guns.



Alder buckthorn is the preferred plant for Yellow Brimstone butterflies. I have deliberately cultivated a small grove of self sown Alder buckthorn for the Yellow Brimstone. The one to the left below is a male

butterfly, a stronger colour than the female. I also found caterpillars this year, see below; but disappointingly I could not find any chrysalises!



In the Spring on a warm day the Alder buckthorn grove hums with the sound of the small bees attending the flowers. The bees almost certainly come from a nest in an Oak about 100m away down the next slope. They recently relocated from a similar hole in a Sweet chestnut!



The flowers produce green berries which turn red and later turn black.

