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THE COLEOPTERIST

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THE
COLEOPTERIST

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EDITORIAL

First of all, a few words in recognition of the small group of people who have produced the *Coleopterist's Newsletter* since 1980 - has it really been going for that long! In recent years, Jon Cooter who founded '*The Newsletter*' has been editor in overall control, Roy Anderson has been responsible for production and Peter Hodge has worked hard in the background as Hon. Treasurer.

I am very pleased that Peter Hodge will be continuing in his capacity as Hon. Treasurer and his support will be especially valuable at a time when change is inevitable. The change in title from *Coleopterist's Newsletter* to *Coleopterist* is an indication that content will be more substantial than might be implied by the term 'newsletter'. However, 'news' will continue to be a feature and the ability to publish copy quickly will be one of the strengths of the *Coleopterist*. Copy received by the due copy date is most likely to appear in print about 6 weeks later; within 6 months if it is held over to the subsequent issue. Coleopterists are particularly encouraged to 'register' species new to Britain in the *Coleopterist*, even if they are to be written up more fully elsewhere.

The *Coleopterist* is now the official outlet for information and news about the various Coleoptera recording schemes, and published progress reports will largely replace the individual scheme newsletters previously issued by the Biological Records Centre. Martin Collier has taken on the job of listing papers and notes about Coleoptera that appear in the British entomological literature and will, from time to time, notice or review relevant papers published in local and foreign journals. Editorials will not feature in every issue of the *Coleopterist* but will appear irregularly and may be written by any member of the Editorial Panel.

With the formation of an editorial panel, the management of the *Coleopterist* has been broadened. Looking to the future, it is likely that the management will be more formally constituted, for financial reasons and to provide opportunities for new blood. One of the options under consideration is the formation of a 'Coleopterist's Society' which would, amongst other things, publish the *Coleopterist*. The future health and long-term success of the *Coleopterist* depends on wide involvement and support.

THE DISCOVERY OF *LIXUS SCABRICOLLIS* BOHE. (CURCULIONIDAE) IN BRITAIN

N.F. Heal

On the 25th August 1987 my entomological friend, Mr Gerald Dicker, offered me 2 'pink weevils' that he had found nine days previously while grubbing under *Beta maritima* (L.) along the sea wall at Grain, Kent (TQ8975). The specimens were obviously a *Lixus* species, a rare enough sight at the best of times. On 29th August he very kindly showed me the precise location whereupon a search among the debris which had collected under the *Beta* plants soon produced a good series. The specimens were subsequently identified at the British Museum (Natural History) as *Lixus scabricollis* Bohe., a species not previously recorded in Britain but which I understand is a significant pest of Sugar Beet on the Continent.

My specimens range in size between 4.5 and 6 mm in length. The otherwise shiny black beetles are covered in a powdery substance (or 'bloom') - rather like the chalky residue left when the school blackboard cleaner is used as a missile to attract wandering attention! It is very unstable and abrades at the slightest touch which is a great pity as it is a magenta-pink on most specimens and mottled yellow/rusty red on others. Interestingly, my friend Mr John Parry has observed that his specimens, which were kept alive in captivity with the food plant for a short while, appeared to have the ability to 'regenerate' the coloured coating.

Further search along the coast and at similar localities in the county have, so far, failed to suggest any wider distribution than the very restricted area where first found. The species survived the succeeding unusually mild winter and was again present in good numbers during the autumn of 1988, certainly up until 24th September. The character of the sandy beach substantially changed due to fierce storms in January/February 1989 and the shingle virtually obliterated the sandy area and even migrated well into the adjacent salt-marsh; however it is still surviving as I found specimens at the site in flood debris on 14th May 1991.

My thanks are due to Mr John Parry for facilitating ultimate identification of the weevil and for allowing me to record his observations on 'colour regeneration' and also to Mr Gerald Dicker for permission to publish his original discovery.

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TETROPS STARKII CHEVROLAT (CERAMBYCIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN

T. D. Harrison

On 16th June 1991 I joined a field meeting of the Oxfordshire Invertebrate Group (organised by Keith Porter), which visited a wet meadow just north of Swinbrook, near Burford, Oxfordshire. The meadow was fed by a number of springs and supported fairly rank vegetation. Unfortunately it started to drizzle just as I got the sweep net out; sweeping proved difficult but I did manage to obtain a few specimens of *Aphthona lutescens* Gyllenhal.

In the afternoon a number of us walked to nearby Widley Copse, a mixed deciduous wood, where we had been given permission to collect. As the sun came out I began to bake inside my rain gear but nevertheless managed a bit of desultory beating. A specimen of *Tetrops* sp. landed on my beating tray as a result of tapping a fairly high branch of an oak growing on the margin of the wood. Because the specimen did not look 'quite right' for *T. praeusta* (L.) - at the back of my mind lurked a vague recollection of having read J. Cooter's article entitled, 'One to look for' (*Coleopterist's Newsletter* no. 39, pp. 6-7) - I decided to take it home, together with a couple of specimens of *Dryophilus pusillus* Gyllenhal.

The *Tetrops* keyed to *T. starkii* Chevrolat. Dr R. Colin Welch of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology kindly checked and confirmed the identification. This is apparently the first time this species has been recorded from Britain. It is conceivable, however, that examples of this species masquerading as *T. praeusta* may yet turn up in collections. The two species are superficially similar but distinctly different when compared. In the field *T. starkii* may be recognised by the lighter legs and generally darker elytra. According to the account in *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* (Bílý, S. & Mehl, O., 1989) the habitat of *T. starkii* is ash. There was plenty of ash in evidence in Widley Copse but my specimen was beaten from oak. It would no doubt be worth attempting to establish the nature of the larval habitat of this species in Britain.

A full account of this find has been submitted to the *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*.

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METOECUS PARADOXUS (L.) (RHIPIPHORIDAE) - MORE PARTS TO THE PUZZLE

Michael P. T. Gillett

In *Col. Newsl.* 44/45 : 9-10, Mr E. Ives has given an interesting and puzzling account of an encounter with *Metoecus paradoxus* which prompts me to offer a couple of recent records of my own, the circumstances of which are remarkably similar. Both concern the fortuitous discovery of these curious beetles outdoors but adjacent to active nests of *Vespa vulgaris* (L.) in non-underground situations.

On 27 August 1987, a single male *M. paradoxus* was found alive in a sand heap at the top corner of my garden in Finchley (North London). No subterranean wasp nests were known to be present in either my garden or those of my neighbours. However, a week or so later I learned that my next door neighbour had just had a troublesome nest removed from her loft. The wasps were *V. vulgaris*. Apparently, several other specimens of the beetle had been found indoors but had been disposed of. This suggested to me that my specimen (the first that I have ever seen) most probably originated from this indoor wasp nest which was almost directly above the sand heap.

On 5 September 1989, I had a second casual encounter with *M. paradoxus*, this time at Henley-on-Thames (Oxon). Five specimens were taken within a couple of minutes. Two were crawling on the wall of a low wooden building just below the busy entrance to a nest of *V. vulgaris* in the building's roof. The other three were found on the ground and on grass below the nest's entrance. Three were females and had uniformly black elytra; the other two were males with dull orange-brown elytra and similar to the male taken at Finchley.

I was intrigued to have come across this beetle twice at times when I was not intent on collecting Coleoptera, the more so because of its supposed rarity in Britain, but also because in both cases the apparent host nests were in buildings and not underground. This had continued to puzzle me until I read of Mr Ives' experience.

Perhaps there are some more questions which may be asked:

Firstly, is *M. paradoxus* really as rare as older writers have suggested? Or is the species undergoing some form of population explosion in SE England and, if so, why?

Secondly, is *M. paradoxus* a significant component of our urban

coleopterous fauna, especially in the suburbs where, perhaps, a larger proportion of wasp nests may be in buildings rather than in well-tended gardens?

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HIGH-ALTITUDE *MELOE* WITH PRESUMED HIGH-ALTITUDE HOST

J. A. Owen

On 25th May 1991, while walking towards and nearly at the summit of Mam na Gualainn (OS ref. NN115625; altitude 796m.) on the north side of Loch Leven, Westerness, my son Mr T. A. Owen, who was a little ahead of me, picked up a perfect, live, male *Meloe violaceus* Marsham. The site was quite exposed, with the nearest higher ground about 3 km to the north. The surprising thing about this record (to me at least) is the exposed nature and altitude of the site. It seems inescapable that the beetle had developed in the nest of a host nearby. I know of no evidence that the species can fly and *Meloe* species are considered to be distasteful to predators which makes carriage to the spot by a bird unlikely. Anyway, the specimen was not in any way damaged. Elsewhere in Scotland, I have come across the beetle at sea level on Skye and Arran and in a pine-wood at the Linn of Dee, Aberdeenshire.

Mr George Else, British Museum (Natural History), to whom I mentioned this find, adds: 'Oil beetles in the genus *Meloe* are known to develop in the nests of bees, though there are very few confirmed hosts from Britain. The most likely host of the above specimen is a "mining bee" in one of the following genera: *Andrena, Halictus* or *Lasioglossum* (more than one genus could be involved). A record of one of these from so high and barren a locality would be as unusual as that of the beetle!'

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TROGLOPS CEPHALOTES (OLIVIER) (MELYRIDAE) IN SUFFOLK

Martin Collier

The first known British specimen of *T. cephalotes* was captured in 1979 at Stone, Buckinghamshire (R.S. Key, 1983, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **119**: 71-72). The proximity of waste ground used by continental lorries was suggested by the author as an indication of accidental introduction. A further single specimen was found at Letchworth, Hertfordshire in 1984 (T. J. Jones, 1987, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **123**: 179-80). Since this record I am not aware of any further captures.

On 6th July, 1991 a female *T.cephalotes* was caught in flight at Thornham Magna, Suffolk (TM 1070), a locality somewhat different to those previously reported, being outside an isolated public house in a typical Suffolk country lane. The nearest village or town of any size is several miles away. The specimen, as in both previous cases, is an example of the var. *cruentus* Kiesenwetter, having a red pronotum.

T. cephalotes could possibly be a previously undetected native, perhaps enjoying an increase in range or population. However, a gradual dispersal after accidental introduction still seems the more probable explanation of recent records. In either event, the species appears to be well established in Britain and further records are awaited with interest.

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FIELD MEETING

Saturday May 30th 1992: Join the North Wales Invertebrate Group on a day-long visit to BUBNEY MOOR, Denbighshire. This new Nature Reserve lies 2 miles west of Whitchurch on the north side of the A525 and runs along the west side of the Red Brook, the Wales/England border. Totally unknown entomologically, this 20 acre site has alder carr, marsh, woodland and clearings. Meet at 11 am. Park at SJ504415 by access gate and bollards.

Contact M. Joan Morgan for further information, tel.(0248)600308.

RARE AND NOTABLE BEETLES FROM CARDIGANSHIRE (VC46) NEW TO WALES

A. P. Fowles & D. C. Boyce

Over the past 4 - 5 years we have been collecting information on the occurrence of beetles in the vice-county of Cardiganshire. In common with most of Mid Wales, the area has historically been neglected by entomologists and it is only in recent years that a concerted effort has been made to identify the extent of the beetle fauna. There are few published records and collections are also scarce in museums. We have steadily tracked down as much information as we can and the county list currently stands at 1518 species, one of the highest totals amongst the Welsh vice-counties. During our fieldwork and research we have encountered a number of scarce species that appear, as far as we can tell, to be previously unreported from Wales. Most of these records have been published in recent issues of the Dyfed Invertebrate Group Newsletter but are perhaps not widely known amongst coleopterists elsewhere in Britain. Some of the records of river shingle beetles have already appeared in the national literature (Fowles 1989). This article is intended as a summary of those species which have recently been identified from Cardiganshire and which are believed to be new to Wales. Many represent a considerable extension of range in the known distribution of the species concerned, particularly in the case of species considered to be a northern element in the British fauna. All records are from the authors' own fieldwork unless otherwise stated.

Carabidae

Agonum gracilipes (Duftschmid): A single specimen was identified amongst a reference collection of beetles captured on Ynyslas Dunes, Dyfi NNR (SN605935), between 1982 and 1987. This material came from a study organised by Dr J. Gee of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, in which pitfall traps were operated for a fortnight in October of each year. The identification of this species was confirmed by Dr M. L. Luff.

Lionychus quadrillum (Duftschmid): Nationally there have been few records of this ground beetle in the latter half of this century. It had previously been associated with coastal shingle habitats and the discovery of strong populations on river shingle banks in Wales was unexpected. It was first recorded at Lovesgrove

(SN617807) on the Afon Rheidol on 22 April 1987 and has subsequently proved to be widespread on the rivers Ystwyth and Rheidol in Cardiganshire. It has also been found on the Tywi in Carmarthenshire. Specimens have been confirmed by Dr M. L. Luff.

Sphaeritidae

Sphaerites glabratus (Fabricius): A northern species in Britain with no previous records south of Yorkshire (M. Parsons, pers. comm.). An adult was found in a decaying birch polypore in a narrow strip of deciduous woodland at Glaspwll (SN745972) on 16 April 1988. The specimen was determined by Dr R. S. Key.

Histeridae

Gnathoncus buyssoni Auzat: Pitfall traps operated by the warden, J. E. Davis, in the ancient sessile oakwood of Coed Rheidol NNR (SN742779) captured a single male between 13 and 27 June 1988. Another specimen was found elsewhere in the county, on 14 June 1989, in a sample of the lining of a red kite's nest which was collected by A. V. Cross and P. E. Davis.

Leiodidae

Leiodes lucens (Fairmaire): Two specimens (a male and a female) were collected at the edge of Pond Llywernog (SN721815) on 6 September 1991. One was swept from the marginal fen of this upland lake and the other was caught nearby as it flew around a rotting log in the adjacent plantation of mature larch trees. The specimens were identified by J. Cooter.

Scydmaenidae

Stenichnus poweri (Fowler): A single adult was taken in a nest of the ant *Myrmica scabrinodis* underneath a stone in heathy grassland at Banc-y-mor (SN562743) on 19 March 1989. Another specimen has been taken in a pitfall trap, operated by P. M. Burnham, on the raised mire of Cors Fochno, Dyfi NNR (SN635915), in June 1990.

Staphylinidae

Proteinus crenulatus Pandellé: Numerous specimens were taken in grass traps and at rotting fruit in the valley woodland of Coed Nant Llolwyn (SN587769) between 14 November and 17 December 1989.

Lesteva hanseni Lohse: Specimens were found in characteristic habitat on coastal cliff seepages at Creigiau Gwbert (SN162491) on 22 June 1988 and at Penbryn (SN293525) on 29 January 1989.

Xylostiba monilicornis (Gyllenhal): A single individual was found under the bark of a fallen beech in the parkland of Hafod (SN761732) on 17 December 1989. The second county record was a specimen found under the bark of an ancient oak at Trawscoed (SN668723) on 1 January 1992.

Carpelimus halophilus (Keisenwetter): This estuarine species was found to be quite common in sandy deposits and muddy sediment on the banks of creeks at the mouth of the Afon Teifi at Poppit (SN162478) on 15 October 1989. Identification was confirmed by P. M. Hammond.

Carpelimus similis Smetana: Two individuals were excavated from river shingle at the edge of the Afon Teifi at Henllan (SN353405) on 6 May 1990. The specimens were identified by Prof. J. A. Owen.

Thinobius bicolor Joy: Three specimens were excavated from river shingle at the edge of the Afon Rheidol at Glanrafon (SN614804) on 2 October 1988 (det. Prof. J. A. Owen). A teneral specimen was found at the same site on 1 July 1990.

Thinobius newberyi Scheerpeltz: Two specimens which were captured in pitfall traps on river shingle at Ty'n-yr-helyg, Afon Ystwyth, (SN595765) between 20 June and 18 July 1987, are the first records of this endemic species for almost fifty years. Identification was confirmed by P. M. Hammond and Prof. J. A. Owen. Subsequently, a further five specimens were excavated from shingle at the same site on 27 August 1988. Another specimen was excavated from shingle at Glanrafon, Afon Rheidol (SN614804) on 2 October 1988, and two were found under a stone at this latter site on 1 July 1990 by J. Cooter.

Thinobius strandi Smetana: A single female was excavated from river shingle at Grogwynion, Afon Ystwyth (SN695715) on 26 July 1989. The specimen was identified by Prof. J. A. Owen.

Stenus incanus Erichson: A single specimen was collected from river shingle on the bank of the Afon Ystwyth at Ty'n-yr-helyg (SN595765) on 1 July 1990 by J. Cooter. Identification was confirmed by A. A. Allen.

Lathrobium dilutum Erichson: Seven specimens were captured between 4 July and 12 September 1987 in pitfall traps operated on river shingle at Ty'n-yr-helyg, Afon Ystwyth (SN595765). Identification was confirmed by Prof. J. A. Owen.

Cypha pulicaria (Erichson): A singleton was found in litter on the upper saltmarsh at Poppit on the Afon Teifi (SN160480) on 15 October 1989.

Silusa rubiginosa Erichson: A singleton was collected from a decaying *Polyporus squamosus* bracket on the trunk of an old sycamore tree at Hafod (SN765735) on 7 August 1991.

Tachyusa scitula Erichson: A single specimen was found underneath a stone on damp sand at the edge of a pool in the sand quarry at Banc-y-warren (SN202485) on 25 March 1990. Identification was confirmed by Prof. J. A. Owen.

Atheta strandiella Brundin: Two specimens were caught in pitfall traps operated by the warden, M. P. Bailey, on the raised mire of Cors Fochno, Dyfi NNR (SN635915), in August 1991. Identification was confirmed by Prof. J. A. Owen.

Pselaphidae

Bibloplectus minutissimus (Aubé): This tiny subterranean species was first recorded in Cardiganshire by Prof. J. A. Owen when three specimens were excavated from river shingle at Grogwynion (SN710720), Afon Ystwyth, on 22 August 1988. On 2 October 1988 and 10 October 1989 further specimens were excavated from shingle at Glanrafon (SN614804) on the Afon Rheidol.

Elateridae

Ampedus nigrinus (Herbst): A singleton was beaten from foliage in the conifer plantation at Cwm Llyfnant (SN737972) on 14 May 1989.

Anobiidae

Anitys rubens (Hoffmann): Two specimens emerged from a sample of red-rot taken from an ancient oak at Lluest (SN633813) on 10 May 1991. Dead adults have since been found in oak red-rot at Trawscoed (SN674732) and Park Pont Faen (SN496590).

Phalacridae

Olibrus liquidus Erichson: Sieving grass litter at the sand quarry of Banc-y-warren (SN202485) on 15 October 1989 and 25 March 1990 revealed several specimens of this scarce species.

Corylophidae

Orthoperus nigrescens Stephens: Two specimens were found amongst red-rot in an old ash pollard at Cwm Cilfforch (SN439616) on 27 December 1988. On 9 March 1991 a specimen was shaken from grass tussocks on the cliff top at Llanon (SN518683) and on 25 August 1991 one was sieved from red-rot in an ancient oak and many were beaten from oak trees at Old Cilgwyn (SN316416). All specimens have been identified by S. Bowstead.

Coccinellidae

Scymnus nigrinus Kugelann: Two specimens were beaten from Scots pines growing on an area of wet heathland at Comins Capel Betws (SN616572) on 20 June 1991.

Tetratomidae

Tetratoma ancora Fabricius: A single specimen was collected at night on a tree trunk in Coed Nant Llolwyn (SN587769) on 8 May 1989.

Aderidae

Aderus oculatus (Paykull): A single dead specimen was found in a spider's web on the trunk of an ancient oak tree in the parkland of Old Cilgwyn (SN316416) on 25 August 1991.

Curculionidae

Trachyphloeus laticollis Bohemann: A single specimen was found underneath a stone on the coastal grassland of Foel-y-mwnt (SN193520) on 8 July 1989. The specimen was identified by Dr M. G. Morris.

Procas granulicollis Walton: A single specimen was shaken from bracken litter on the RSPB reserve at Allt-ddu (SN7197) on 28 April 1991 and a further four specimens were found in bracken

litter at the same site on 14 May 1991. A second site for the species was found at Coed Cnwch-yr-arian (SN698792), where five specimens were sieved from bracken litter on 17 May 1991 and another specimen on 4 July 1991. This little known species has subsequently been found in single sites in Radnorshire and Breconshire. All of the specimens found so far appear to resemble *P. granulicollis* as described by Kenward (1990) but the question of whether there are indeed two species of *Procas* in Britain should perhaps be re-examined in light of the recent comparative abundance of specimens.

Pelenomus (=Phytobius) olssoni Israelson: A single male was collected amongst water purslane, growing at the edge of a farm pond, on the Dyfed Wildlife Trust reserve at Rhos Pilbach (SN366528), on 8 July 1989. Identification was confirmed by R. T. Thompson. On 25 August 1991, two males and a female were collected amongst the foodplant on the banks of an ornamental pond at Old Cilgwyn (SN314416).

Thamiocolus (=Ceutorhynchus) viduatus (Gyllenhal): The J. H. Salter Collection in the National Museum of Wales at Cardiff contains a single specimen (NMW.1942.362, specimen number 7670) which is labelled as having been taken in Salter's greenhouse at Llanbadarn (SN598810) on 4 May 1926. Identification was confirmed by Prof. J. A. Owen. Confirmation of the occurrence of the species in Cardiganshire came with the discovery of six specimens on marsh woundwort at the edge of the basin fen of Rhos Rydd (SN574734) on 16 June 1991. Specimens were subsequently taken on the foodplant at Henllan (SN351404), Glanrafon (SN614804) and Rhos Llawr-cwrt NNR (SN421495).

Anthonomus humeralis (Panzer): A single female was beaten from apple trees in the orchard at Plas Gogerddan (SN630838) on 21 March 1991 and two males were found at the same site on 23 March 1991. Identification was confirmed by Dr M. G. Morris.

Anthonomus rufus Gyllenhal: The J. H. Salter Collection in the National Museum of Wales contains three specimens of this rare weevil (NMW.1942.362, specimen numbers 12535 and 14162). Two of these were collected at Glanrafon (SN6180) on 27 June 1935 and the other from Las Crug (SN5881) on 7 July 1938. The identification was confirmed by Prof. J. A. Owen. Recently, specimens have been beaten commonly from blackthorn thickets at Cwm Cilfforch (SN440615) on 24 March 1991 and Llanayron

(SN477603) on 28 March 1991.

Anthonomus ulmi Gyllenhal: Previous records of this species in Wales are probably referable to *A. bituberculatus* Thomson (see Morris 1976 and Johnson 1991). Specimens of *A. ulmi sensu stricto* were beaten from wych elm in Coed Nant Llolwyn (SN587769) on 30 March and 21 May 1991.

Ellescus bipunctatus (Linnaeus): The J. H. Salter Collection in the National Museum of Wales contains two specimens (NMW.1942.362, specimen numbers 8085 and 8094) which were collected on 22 and 26 August 1926, respectively, in the Rheidol gorge below Ponterwyd (SN747805).

Scolytidae

Scolytus laevis Chapuis: On 1 December 1991 a dead adult was found under bark on a young wych elm sapling at Parc Nanteos (SN621781). The tree appeared to have been recently killed and scolytid galleries were abundant in the bark of the trunk and lower branches. The specimen was identified by Dr T. G. Winter.

Polygraphus poligraphus (Linnaeus): Tomlin (1915) records this species from pit props in Barry Docks, Glamorgan, but there do not appear to be any previous records of this species breeding in the wild in Wales (Dr T. G. Winter, pers. comm.). A specimen was reared from a pupa collected from beneath the bark of an old Norway spruce in mixed woodland on the Dyfed Wildlife Trust reserve at Coed Penglanowen (SN611786) on 18 May 1991. A return visit to this site on 15 June 1991 revealed numerous teneral specimens of *P. poligraphus* under spruce bark.

Dryocoetinus alni (Georg): Adults and larvae were abundant under the sappy bark of a fallen grey sallow in Coed Gwenffrwd (SN596601) on 21 April 1991. There are apparently no previous reports of this beetle breeding in any species of willow anywhere in Europe (Dr T. G. Winter, pers. comm.). Identification was confirmed by Dr Winter. Dead adults were also found in the bark of a fallen alder in Coed Allt Craig Arth (SN498623) on 17 June 1991.

Pityogenes trepanatus (Nordlinger): A dead female was found under the bark of a fallen Corsican pine at Rhydyfelin (SN593792) on 11 May 1991. Another female was found in a breeding gallery in Norway spruce in mixed woodland on the Dyfed Wildlife Trust

reserve at Coed Penglanowen (SN611786) on 15 June 1991. Both specimens were determined by Dr T. G. Winter.

Although we have attempted to consult as many sources as possible, we are aware that a number of coleopterists have undertaken fieldwork in Wales without publishing their results. We would be pleased to hear details of any Welsh records of the above species which pre-date those presented here. We would also be pleased to receive any other Cardiganshire records. We hope eventually to produce a full account of the beetles of Cardiganshire and all contributors will be gratefully acknowledged.

Acknowledgements

We are extremely grateful to all of the individuals named in the text for their assistance with the documentation of Cardiganshire's beetle fauna. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the specialists, not all of whom are named in this article, who have assisted with the identification of specimens from the vice-county in recent years. We would also like to thank Mark Parsons of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee for providing information on the status and distribution of each of the species detailed above. Gratitude is also due to the National Museum of Wales for allowing access to the Salter Collection of Coleoptera, much of which still remains to be identified.

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REVIEW

A preliminary study of the weevil genus *Euophryum* Broun (Coleoptera : Curculionidae : Cossoninae). *New Zealand Journal of Zoology*, 1989, Vol. 16 : 65-79.

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Probably the main interest of this article, to British coleopterists at least, is that it enables the separation of our two species, *confine* (Broun) and *rufum* (Broun). A third species is described, *chilense* sp.n., and a key separating the closely related genera *Zenoteratus*, *Pentarthrum* and *Torostoma* is also given. The main external distinguishing features between *confine* and *rufum* relate to the rostrum and antennal club. In *rufum* the lower rim of the scrobe is abruptly excised posteriorly, causing a distinct angulation; the antennal club is rounded at its apex. In *confine* the lower rim of the scrobe is straight or sinuous, without the angulation; the apex of the antennal club is acuminate. I have yet to put the key to the test with my own specimens but many excellent photomicrographs and figures are given and I believe some of my colleagues have successfully sorted out their series, apparently with little difficulty. Distribution data relates primarily to New Zealand.

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LAUREL BOTTLES

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In the latest edition of the '*Coleopterist's Handbook*' (Amateur Entomologists' Society) the laurel bottle is mentioned as a piece of apparatus that coleopterists either swear by or swear at. The latter group have probably not made up or used the laurel bottle correctly. When I first became interested in beetles I was lucky enough to be instructed in the making up of a laurel bottle, and many other things, by the late Dr A.M. Massee, and have used one ever since. The following notes might be of interest to those who wish to keep their insects relaxed in a laurel bottle before setting, presented much in the style as they were related to me.

First, collect your Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*) leaves during the Whitsun weekend after a shower of rain (or, more realistically, at any time during late Spring or early Summer when the young leaves are nice and turgid, i.e. not during a drought). Pick only fresh, young leaves and green twigs which should by then be about three to four inches in length at the growing tip of each branch. These leaves should be cut into pieces of not more than half an inch square. Take a handful of these cut leaves at a time and crush them by putting them between newspaper and giving them a good hammering with a wooden mallet. These leaves are then ready to use.

Wash and thoroughly dry a glass sweet jar or large glass coffee jar with a screw lid. Put a layer of cotton wool in the bottom of the jar and then start putting in the prepared laurel leaves, pressing them down firmly with a blunt piece of wood such as a hammer handle. Continue until the jar is between a third to half full of tightly packed crushed laurel leaves. Cut two pieces of blotting paper (or five sheets of absorbent newspaper) to fit inside the jar on top of the laurel leaves. Then cut a length of the same thickness of either blotting paper or newspaper to make a sleeve that will sit against the glass inside the jar so as to be in a position to absorb any moisture that condenses on the inside of the jar. Your laurel bottle is now ready for action. Once the beetles have been killed (preferably with ethyl acetate) they should be put in a screw of tissue paper together with their data and placed in the jar. The beetles may be taken out the next day or the next month and they will be completely relaxed.

In practice I use two laurel bottles and make up a fresh one each year. For most beetles I use the current year's bottle but for plant bugs and very fragile beetles I use the one year old bottle else the limbs will become so relaxed as to drop off. Some specimens might after a long spell in a laurel jar lose some of their brightness particularly in parts coloured yellow or red. This is due to the specimens becoming greasy and can be cured by normal degreasing methods. I have specimens kept in a laurel jar that once set and degreased look as fresh as the day that they were caught.

One word of warning when collecting and cutting up the laurel leaves - use only an old pair of scissors, once used on laurel leaves they will never again be fit for normal household duties!

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INITIATIVE FOR SCOTTISH INSECTS

Graham E. Rotheray

Scottish-based entomologists, aware that the insects of Scotland are rich in significance yet poorly understood and in uncertain need of conservation, have recently formed the Initiative for Scottish Insects. The ISI exists to promote the appreciation, knowledge and conservation of the Scottish insect fauna. ISI consists of a number of working parties, each devoted to a particular insect order (including one for arachnids). Working parties are currently assessing the species within the group to which they refer. We would like to contact anyone who has or would like to record or study Scottish insects. For entomological visitors to Scotland, information about sites, species and collaborative projects as well as further details of the ISI are available from the author.

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PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BRUCHIDAE/CHRYSOMELIDAE RECORDING SCHEME

M. L. Cox

Introduction

The seed beetle (Bruchidae) and leaf beetle (Chrysomelidae) Recording Scheme was set up in 1980 and has now accumulated about 8500 cards with records of the 14 bruchid and 255 chrysomelid species found in Great Britain and Ireland. The majority of these have been contributed by about 100 recorders (only three in Scotland!), although relatively few of these (about fifteen) have continued to submit records and specimens for identification/checking since the scheme's inception. Over the last ten years I have verified most of the records or made the identifications. If any records submitted appear dubious I endeavour, whenever possible, to examine specimens to confirm recorder's determinations. As yet, few records have been incorporated from publications. One failing of some recorders is that specimens submitted often lack an accurate grid reference or even a 10 km square, nor is this information included on recording cards after the specimens have been returned. This means that I have to look up this information in a gazeteer which may lead to inaccuracies and the time spent on such identifications may be wasted.

The maps

Figure 1 is a map showing the progress of the scheme in Great Britain. Ireland has been excluded since, in common with other recording schemes, there is a paucity of records from there. The majority of records are post-1900 and no division has been made into date classes. The total coverage compares quite favourably with that for the Carabidae scheme for a similar ten year period (Luff, 1982), even considering that there are many more recorders for that scheme. Coverage is slightly better than for the Elateroidea scheme (Mendel, 1988) which was launched in 1983. However, there are still large blank areas in certain parts of England and Wales, and Scotland is relatively poorly covered.

Records have been received for 1800 of the 3033 (about 60%) of the 10km squares in Britain. Coverage of certain parts of England is good, especially Essex, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Sussex, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire. Less well covered are central South-west England; east Wiltshire, Somerset, East Anglia, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, the West Midlands, the Welsh border counties and Lancashire. Parts of

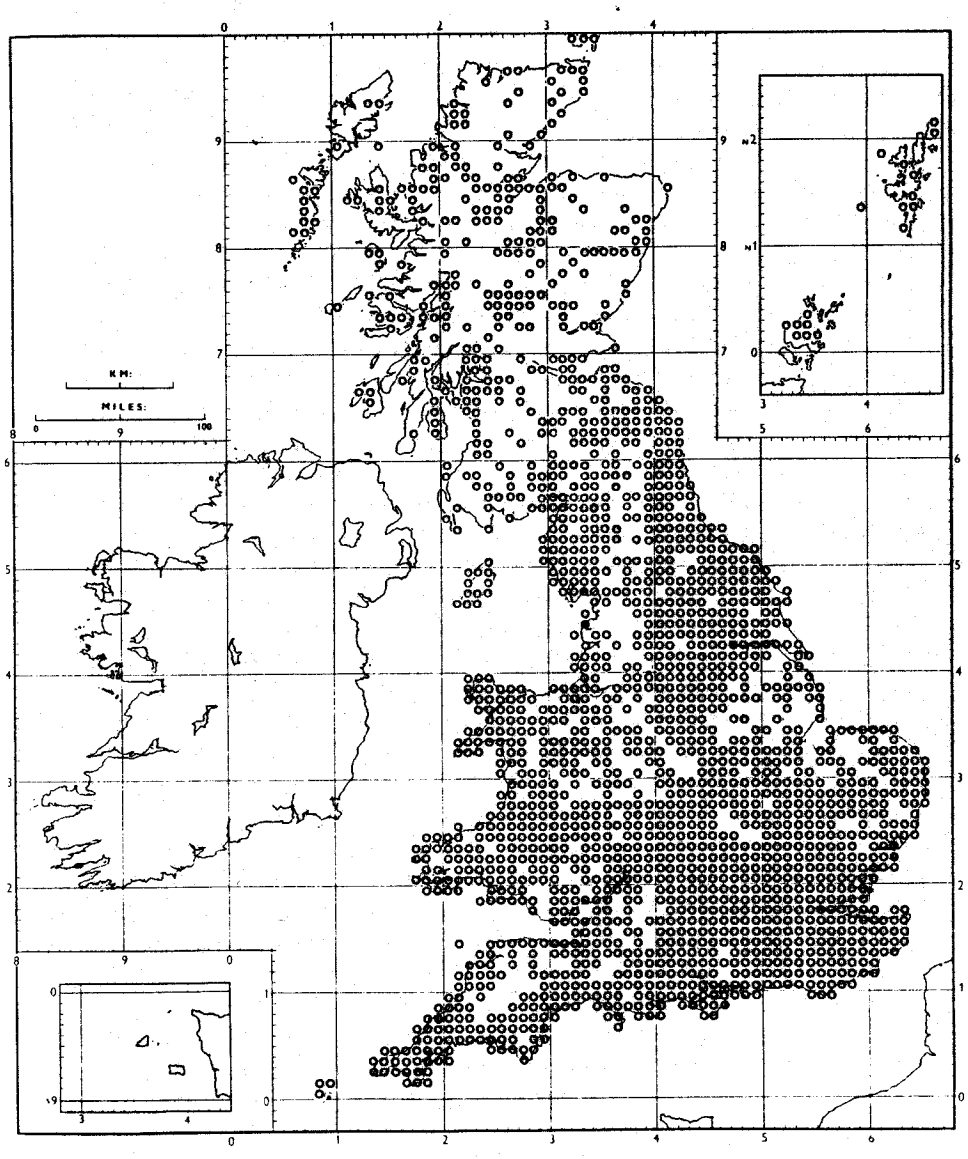

Fig.1. Records received

North and South Wales are well covered but records for Central Wales are very scattered. Scotland is very poorly covered, but this may be a reflection of the general paucity of the chrysomelid fauna. None of the bruchid species occur that far north. Moreover, it may reflect the relatively low population in many parts of Scotland as well as the low number of recorders in Scotland generally. The Isle of Man is reasonably well recorded. Ireland which is not covered in this report is generally poorly recorded and no records have been submitted by Irish entomologists! (except those gleaned from specimens identified by me).

It is interesting to note that several of the blank areas in England, for example the South West, East Anglia and Lincolnshire are common to a number of the Coleoptera Recording Schemes (including Carabidae and Elateroidea) and probably the map to some extent reflects the distribution of entomologists.

Over the last two years I have prepared preliminary maps by hand for all of the species covered by the scheme. They clearly demonstrate the varying distribution patterns of the species, even within the same genus. The extent to which many species are limited to the south and east of the country is obvious. In addition, many species occur south of a line drawn between the Wash and the Bristol Channel. It is also evident that some species, for example *Chrysolina staphylaea* (Linnaeus), *Galerucella tenella* (Linnaeus) and *Longitarsus succineus* (Foudras) are restricted to the coast near the northern limits of their range. Some species for example *Phaedon concinnus* Stephens, *Longitarsus plantagomaritimus* Dollman, *Crepidodera impressa* (Fabricius), *Chaetocnema sahlbergi* (Gyllenhal) and *Psylliodes marcida* (Illiger) are restricted to coastal areas because their host plants are limited to such habitats. Some chrysomelids are genuinely rare and have precise habitat requirements. The aquatic donaciines are influenced by the oxygen content of their freshwater habitats and have potential as indicators of habitat quality which might be useful to conservationists. Only as the ecology, biology and distribution of British species become apparent can the importance of seed and leaf beetles to conservation be realised.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of one of the commonest British leaf beetles, the cereal leaf beetle, *Oulema melanopus* (Linnaeus). It is polyphagous and feeds on various cereals and

grasses. There are numerous post-1970 records and I would expect to fill in many more squares, especially in the major cereal growing areas of eastern England.

Figure 3 shows the distribution of *Longitarsus ganglbaueri* Heikertinger, a nationally notable (Na) species recorded from fewer than 30 post-1970 10km squares. Prior to 1986, I doubted that this was a valid British species, especially since Shute (1980) in a paper on wing polymorhism in British *Longitarsus* species stated that all of the British specimens of this species in the NHM were incorrectly identified. However, in 1986 Professor John Owen collected specimens of *ganglbaueri* from Rye Harbour which I duly confirmed as this species. This alerted me to the fact that it is an authentic British species and on checking series of species with a similar habitus, namely *L. gracilis* Kutschera and *L. suturellus* (Duftschmid) in the NHM collection I located specimens of *ganglbaueri* from several localities. Since then I have received specimens from several localities in England. *L. ganglbaueri* is usually associated with *Senecio viscosus* in Britain and on the continent. There are post-1970 records for a range of habitat types, including coastal shingle banks and cliffs, chalk grassland, fens and marshes, rides, clearings and edges of woodland, cultivated and ruderal habitats.

Records plotted on the distribution maps (Figs. 2 and 3) have been divided into four date classes:

✻ 19th Century	O 1900-1970
● post-1970	⊙ unknown, probably 1900-1970

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the contributors to the scheme for their efforts over the past ten years and, in particular, Keith Alexander of the National Trust who has submitted over 450 completed record cards. Thanks also to Paul Harding and Brian Eversham of the Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood for assistance in co-ordinating the scheme. It is hoped that this progress report will stimulate present and future recorders to provide more records, especially for the 'barren' areas, which will be used to produce a provisional atlas of the British Bruchidae and Chrysomelidae within the next two years.

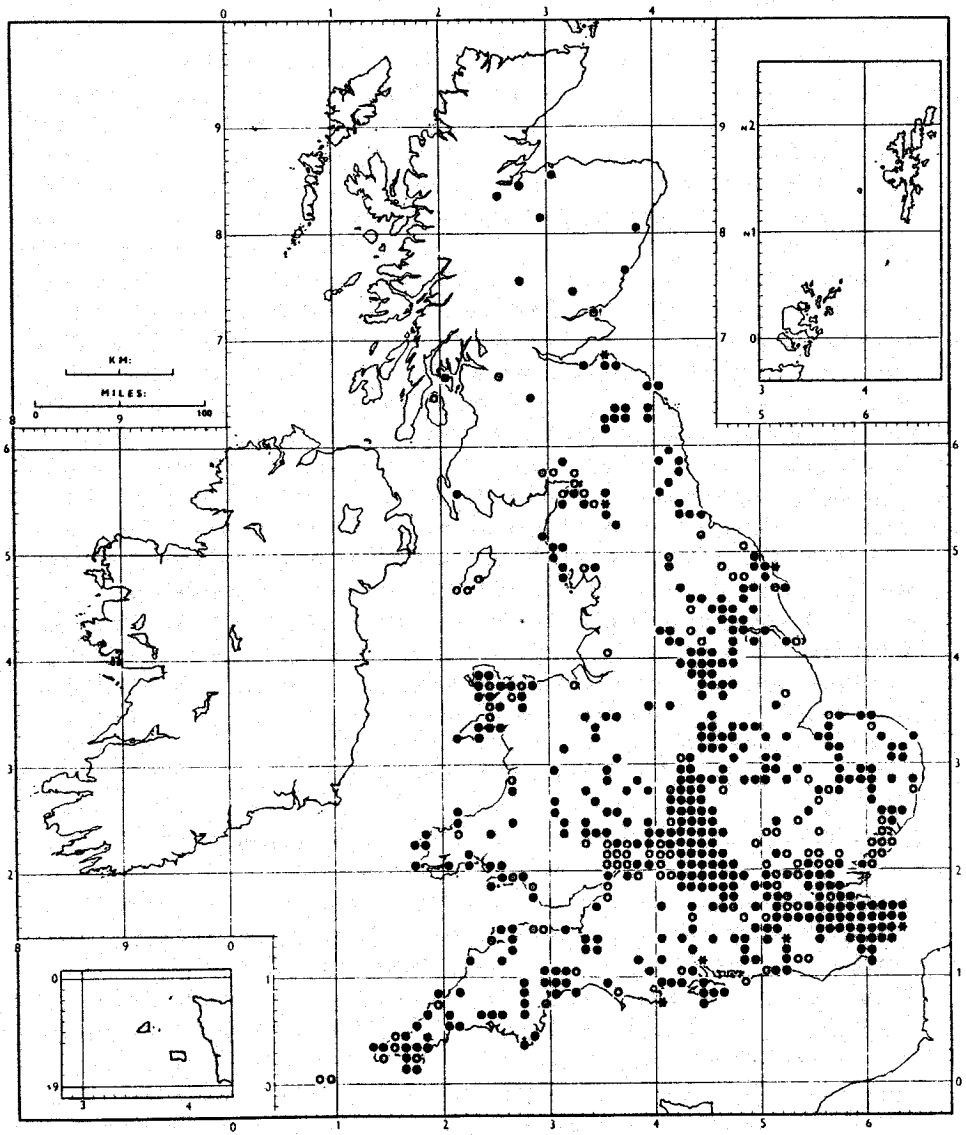

Fig.2. Oulema melanopus (Linnaeus)

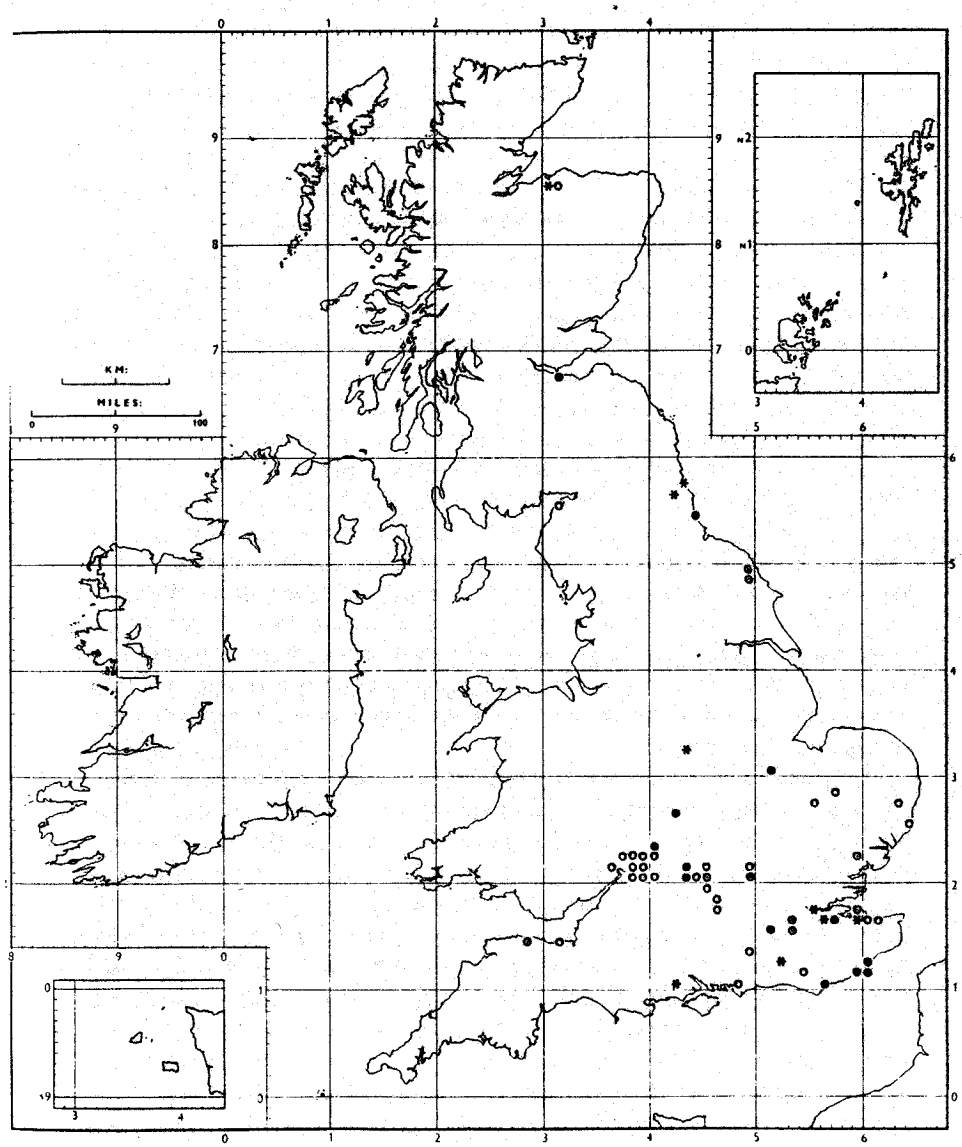

Fig.3 Longitarsus rangibaueri Heikertinger

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COCCINELLIDAE RECORDING SCHEMES

M. E. N. Majerus

Two recording schemes for the coccinellids currently exist. The Biological Records Centre's 'Coccinellidae Distribution Maps Scheme' has been co-ordinated for many years by Dr. John Muggleton. Distribution maps are built up from records in the literature, from museum material and from the reports and observations of recorders, mainly experienced coleopterists, across the country.

The second scheme, 'The Cambridge Ladybird Survey', began in 1984 and will continue until September, 1994. The survey is run by a team of scientists from the Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, and is co-ordinated by Dr. Michael Majerus. The primary aim of this survey is to collect up-to-date information on a range of aspects of the biology and ecology of ladybirds and other coccinellids. Information is obtained by a large number of recorders (over 2500 in October, 1991) of all ranges of experience. A second aim of the survey is to give children an interest in natural history in general, and entomology in particular, using the inherent attractiveness and popularity of ladybirds.

The findings of the CLS are reported back to recorders through a newsletter, and are disseminated more widely by publication in entomological and other scientific journals. Of particular note

has been the recent (1989) publication of a book in the Naturalists' Handbooks Series entitled *Ladybirds*, by Majerus and Kearns. This includes field keys to the larvae and adults of the 24 British coccinellids considered by the authors to be ladybirds, and a more detailed key to adults of all 42 British species of Cocccinellidae. Also included is a series of colour and black and white plates by Sophie Allington to aid identification.

The BRC 'Coccinellidae Distribution Maps Scheme' will shortly be publishing *A preliminary atlas of the ladybirds (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) of Britain and Ireland*, which will contain distribution maps for all the British coccinellids and a short text by Muggleton on the habits and habitats of each species. Thereafter, co-ordination of the BRC scheme will pass to Dr Majerus who will operate the two schemes in parallel until 1994 when CLS ends. From October, 1994 a single survey will operate under the BRC umbrella. The aims will be a combination of those of the two current surveys in that precise geographical distribution data will be sought, along with information on other aspects of coccinellid biology of which we remain ignorant. It is hoped that the launch of the merged scheme will attract the same level of media attention as the launch of the CLS attracted in 1984.

Details of both surveys can be obtained by sending a large S.A.E. to Dr M. E. N. Majerus.

Recent publications

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MAJERUS, M. E. N., O'DONALD, P., KEARNS, P. W. E. and IRELAND, H., 1986. The genetics and evolution of female choice. *Nature*, **321**; 164-7.

MAJERUS, M. E. N. and WILLIAMS, Z., 1989. The distribution and life history of the orange ladybird (*Halyzia 16-gutta* L.) (Coleoptera : Coccinellidae) in Britain. *Entomologist's Gaz.*, **40**: 71-8.

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IN THE JOURNALS

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The aim of the following section is to keep readers up to date with publications relating to Coleoptera, with the emphasis on the British fauna. Few of us are able to subscribe to all of the British entomological journals, never mind the foreign ones. Coverage of the British journals will largely be limited to listing the titles and authors of papers, with occasional reviews of key works. Material from other sources which comes to my attention will be reviewed or noticed and I shall be pleased to receive copies of relevant papers from local and foreign publications for inclusion. The author's address will be given with each review.

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May/June/July/Aug (Nos. 1524-27)

Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec (Nos. 1528-31)

BRITISH JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY VOLUME 4 (1991)

Part 1

Part 2

Editorial Policy

Short notes and longer papers about the species of Coleoptera recorded from, or likely to occur in, the British Isles are eligible for publication in the *Coleopterist*. In addition, the Editor invites more general articles and news items which are of relevance to British coleopterists. Authors who intend submitting papers which are longer than 3,000 words should consult the Editor. Selected papers will be submitted to a referee. Subject areas within the scope of the *Coleopterist* include: identification, species new to Britain, new county records, recording schemes, conservation, ecology, biology, behaviour, sampling and collecting techniques, rearing, specimen preparation, curation, field meeting news and book reviews.

There will be three issues of the *Coleopterist* each year, in March, July and November. Material accepted for publication will appear in the next issue of the journal, provided that it reaches the Editor before the stated copy date. In this way the majority of submissions will be published within 4 months of receipt. Exceptionally, a paper will be carried over to the subsequent issue. Opinions expressed in the *Coleopterist* are not necessarily shared by the Editor or the Editorial Panel.

Instructions to Contributors

Manuscripts for publication should be typewritten, double-spaced with 3 cm margins, on one side only of white A4 sized paper. Footnotes should be avoided and pages should be numbered. Only names of species and genera should be underlined.

Illustrations (figures) should be in black ink, boldly drawn and scaled to allow for a reduction to about 50% of original size. They must be the originals and not photocopies. The ideal position of figures should be indicated in the text. Every effort will be made to care for original artwork but the Editor cannot be held responsible for loss or damage. Material submitted on computer disc should be in ASCII format and accompanied by hard copy. Most disc sizes can be accommodated.

References to journals and books should be in the form:

Heal, N.F., 1992. The discovery of *Lixus scabricollis* Bohe. (Curculionidae) in Britain. *Coleopterist*, 1: 2.

Joy, N.H., 1932. *A practical handbook of British beetles.* 2 volumes. London: H.F. & G. Witherby.