

The Coleopterist

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Erratum The cover of Volume 10 Part 3 showed *Malthinus flaveolus* (Herbst)

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Anaspis septentrionalis and *A. thoracica*
Saproxylic Coleoptera of Hatchlands Park
Leptophloeus clematidis in Surrey
Notes Review

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Addresses

Papers, notes, reviews, notices, advertising:

A.J. Allen, 56 Windsor Way, Alderholt, Fordingbridge, Hants SP6 3BN
E-mail: allentonyallen@aol.com

Subscriptions, back issues, missing issues, change of address:

P.J. Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5HJ
E-mail: peter.j.hodge@tesco.net

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Are *Anaspis septentrionalis* Champion and *A. thoracica* (Linnaeus) (Scraptiidae) a single variable species?

Brian Levey

National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NP

Abstract

Species differentiation and colour variation in *Anaspis* is discussed. An analysis of the colour variation and morphological characters shown by British *A. thoracica* and *A. septentrionalis* suggests that they may be one variable species.

Introduction

A. septentrionalis Champion, 1891 = *A. schilskyana* Csiki, 1915 = *A. marginicollis* Lindberg, 1925 is an uncommon, sporadically distributed species recorded from England, Scotland, N. Germany, N. Poland, Denmark, Sweden and possibly other parts of Scandinavia (Levey, 1996). In Britain it is considered to be a Grade 1 indicator of ancient woodland (Harding & Rose, 1986), and is classified as indeterminate (RDBI) in Hyman (1992). The larvae are reported as living in red-rotten wood of oak (Allen, 1975).

A. thoracica (Linnaeus) is a widely distributed species in northern and central Europe (Ermisch, 1956). In Britain it is not common and is classified as notable (Na) in Hyman (1992). It is a woodland species. Palm (1959) records this species from recently dead wood of trunks and boughs of trees.

Species differentiation in *Anaspis*

Due to the large amount of colour variation shown by many species of *Anaspis*, differentiation has often been based on male secondary sexual characteristics. Males of many species have appendages on the abdominal sternites. These have been widely used in species identification as they show little variation within species but are normally different in each species. Males also often show species specific differences in the proportions and shape of the fore tarsal segments and the shape of the mid tibia. The male genitalia have not been used as extensively, but do show species specific differences.

Intraspecific colour variation is found in many species of *Anaspis*, and different species often show similar kinds of colour variation. Although in many species colour can be useful in the identification of specimens, atypically coloured specimens, especially females often cause difficulties in identification. For example Schilsky (1898) lists four colour forms of *thoracica* (L.), and six colour forms of *frontalis* (L.). Many of the colour forms of *Anaspis* were originally described as species, for example *florenceae* Donisthorpe, a completely dark form of *maculata* Fourcroy.

In species with discrete elytral markings colour variation can affect the form of the markings on the elytra. For example the typical form of *humeralis* (Fabricius) has black elytra with yellow humeral patches, the form *quadrimaculata* Costa has in addition a small yellow patch in the posterior half of the elytra, the form *subfasciata* Stephens has the posterior yellow patch enlarged, and another variant has the elytral markings the same as in typical *maculata*.

Species in which the typical form is predominately yellow or pale brown often have darker colour variants. The darkening may primarily affect the elytra, for example the ab. *schilskyi* Pic of *A. (Nassipa) flava* (L.), but sometimes the darkening is more general as in the dark variant *florenceae* of *maculata*.

There are also, more rarely, cases where the widespread typical form is predominantly black but where yellow or pale brown variants occur in part of the range, for example the predominantly yellow variety *hopffgarteni* Schilsky of *frontalis* (L.) from southern Russia.

Much of this colour variation in *Anaspis* can be considered to be melanism in its broad definition (Majerus, 1998).

Colour variation in *A. thoracica*

In Britain *A. thoracica* exists in two main colour forms. Most specimens from southern England are entirely reddish yellow except for the apical segments of the antennae. These specimens correspond to the colour form *latipalpis* Schilsky.

In N.W. England (Cumberland) and S.W. Scotland (Kirkcudbright) most specimens I have seen have the elytra and the underside except for the prothorax dark brown. I have also seen single specimens from Askham Bog, S.E. Yorkshire and Horsell Common, Surrey, similarly coloured. These specimens being the nomino typical colour form.

Intermediate colour forms also occur. I have seen specimens from Dunham Park, Cheshire and Budworth, Leicestershire and Great Salkeld, Cumberland (the latter mounted with a specimen of the nomino typical form) and Hell Copse, Stanton St. John, Oxfordshire, which have the elytra reddish yellow but with the tips of the elytra, and sometimes the area around the scutellum, somewhat darker, and the underside yellow-brown. Some specimens of the nomino typical form and the specimens from Budworth and Hell Copse also have the pronotum partly brown. The hind legs and sometimes the mid legs especially the femora are also more or less darkened in the nomino typical and intermediate forms. Some of these specimens also have a slight darkening of the head. The specimen from Askham Bog has a pale brown head that becomes darker posteriorly. In the specimen from Budworth the head is yellow with a pair of red brown spots. I have seen both colour forms and intermediates from the same part of Cumberland.

Because darker specimens appear to predominate in the north it is possible that this is a case of thermal melanism (see Majerus, 1998).

Colour variation in *A. septentrionalis*

A. septentrionalis shows less colour variation but some exists in the limited amount of material I have seen. The head is usually yellow in the anterior half and dark brown or black in the posterior half, but in the specimen from Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, the posterior two-thirds is black, and in the specimen from Blenheim, Oxfordshire only the anterior quarter is yellow. Pronotal colour also shows variation. In the specimens from Sherwood, Nottinghamshire, the pronotum is yellow-red with a large brown mark on the disc that reaches the posterior margin in the centre and almost to the lateral margin at its middle. In the specimens from Moccas Park, Herefordshire, Calke Abbey and Blenheim, the pronotum is almost entirely very dark brown or black with only the anterior angles and sometimes the posterior angles yellow-red.

All specimens I have seen have the elytra very dark brown or black. The underside except for the prothorax is dark brown or very dark brown and the mid and hind legs more or less dark brown.

Specific differences between *A. thoracica* and *A. septentrionalis*

Ermisch (1969) differentiates *schilskyana* (= *septentrionalis*) from *thoracica* on the basis of colour. The colour variation shown in *thoracica* and to a lesser extent *septentrionalis* suggest that this is untenable.

Ermisch figures an apparent slight difference in the form of the appendages on the male sternites, although he does not mention this difference in the key. Ermisch's figures indicate that the long appendages in *schilskyana* extend beyond the apex of the last visible sternite, and that in *thoracica* they do not. They also indicate that in *schilskyana* they are slightly curved, and in *thoracica* straight. In contrast the figures in Hansen (1945) indicate that the long appendages in *schilskyana* do not reach the apex of the last visible sternite, but those of *thoracica* extend beyond the apex. His figures show the same difference in shape of the long appendages to those of Ermisch.

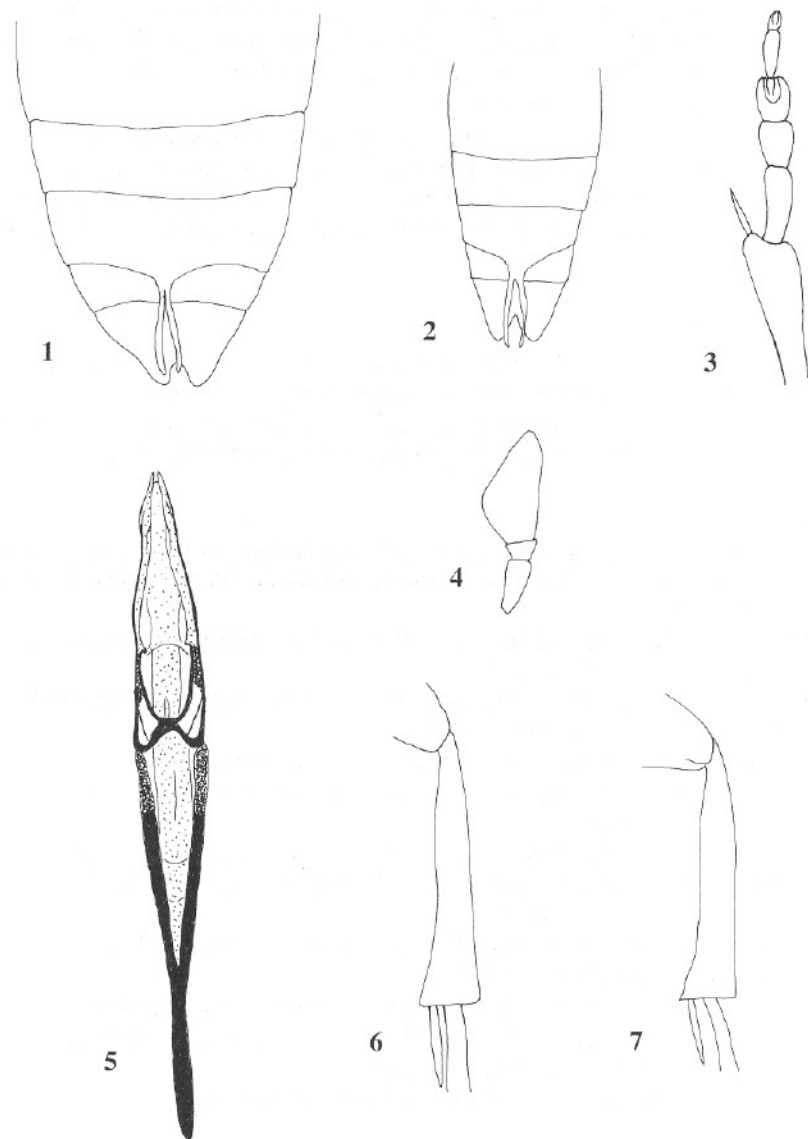
Examination of specimens of *septentrionalis* and the various colour forms of *thoracica* did not reveal any consistent difference in the shape of the appendages (Figs. 1-2). Some specimens of *thoracica* had the appendages extending beyond the apex of the last visible sternite. This seems to be the result of the telescoping of the third and fourth sternites.

Allen (1975) following Hansen (1945) mentions that the lateral margin of the pronotum is sinuate in lateral view and that the sides widen rectilinearly to the base in *schilskyana*. Levey (1996) pointed out that the former character was less well developed in the male syntype of *septentrionalis* than in specimens of *schilskyana* examined.

Examination of specimens of the various colour forms of *thoracica* shows that this species also has lateral margin of the pronotum more or less sinuate in lateral view and the sides sometimes rectilinearly widen to the base.

The male mid tibia (Figs. 6-7) and fore tarsi (Fig. 3) that often differ in *Anaspis* species are also the same in both these species. The last segment of the maxillary

palp is also very large in both species (Fig. 4). The male genitalia do not show any consistent differences (Fig. 5).



Figs. 1-2: *Anaspis* male abdominal sternites: **1** *A. thoracica*; **2** *A. septentrionalis*. **Fig. 3:** *A. septentrionalis* fore tarsi. **Fig. 4:** *A. septentrionalis* maxillary palpi. **Fig. 5:** *A. septentrionalis* male genitalia. **Figs. 6-7:** *Anaspis* male mid tibia: **6** *A. septentrionalis*; **7** *A. thoracica*.

There is a mean difference in size between the two species. The length of the pronotum plus elytra varies between 2.9 - 3.4 mm (mean 3.2) $n=9$ in *A. septentrionalis*, and in *A. thoracica* (all colour forms) between 2.4 - 3.2 mm (mean 2.8) $n=28$, dark form, 2.6 - 3.1 mm (mean 2.8) $n=9$, pale form, 2.4 - 2.9 mm (mean 2.8) $n=19$. Apart from this mean size difference, I have found no other consistent morphological differences between these species.

Without comparing the type specimens of these species and their junior synonyms it is premature to formally synonymise them, but it appears very likely that British *thoracica* and *septentrionalis* belong to one variable species. The use of modern molecular techniques applied to these species would probably help clarify the status of these taxa.

Acknowledgements

I extend my grateful thanks to Michael Bishop (Torquay Museum), Martin Brendell (The Natural History Museum), Jon Cooter, Jonty Denton, Stephen Hewitt (Carlisle City Museum), Colin Johnson (Manchester University Museum) and Darren Mann (Oxford University Museum) for allowing me to examine specimens in their care.

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Uleiota planata (Linnaeus) (Cucujidae) new to Herefordshire from Croft Castle Park

K. N. A. Alexander

National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ

A small group of adult beetles of this species was found beneath loose sappy bark on a recently collapsed old oak (*Quercus*) within Croft Castle Park, 4.viii.1998. The species has not previously been reported from the county, even from the renowned Moccas Park (J. Cooter, pers. comm.). Although Croft is recognised as a nationally important site for wood decay fauna (Harding & Alexander, 1994) this is the first species of this quality that has been found here, the fauna predominantly comprising a notably long list of more widespread species. This however has reflected the formerly very tidy nature of the parkland, and it is only in recent years that fallen wood has been left *in situ* to any extent. This change in policy will hopefully reveal further rarities at this impressive site.

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Mycetophagus populi Fabricius (Col., Mycetophagidae) rediscovered in Yorkshire

K.N. A. Alexander

National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ

On 22.iv.1998 I found a single adult of this very rare beetle beneath loose sappy bark on a collapsed horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* L. in Studley Royal Park (SE27), Mid-West Yorkshire (VC 64).

W. J. Sanders appears to be the only person to have previously found the species in Yorkshire. There are specimens in the Manchester Museum collections labelled 'Leeds' and 'Weeton', both localities dated 27.ix.1947 (C. Johnson pers. comm. 1983). Weeton is at SE2847, a little north of Leeds, and Bob Marsh (in lit.) suggests the two locality labels may refer to the same site, particularly with the coincidence of dates.

Like other *Mycetophagus* species it is strongly associated with fungal decay of wood. The larvae probably develop within fungal mycelia within wood, although whether a heartwood-rotter like *M. piceus* (Fabricius) - associated with *Laetiporus sulphureus* in oak, or a subcortical like *M. atomarius* (Fabricius) - associated with the superficial fungi *Hypoxylon fragiforme* on beech and *Daldinia concentrica* on ash remains unclear. My April record associated with sappy bark is reminiscent of a comment by R. A. Crowson (in lit.) that the adult is attracted to fresh sap in May. The adult is, however, more often found by coleopterists during the winter and spring actually within decaying wood, but of course possibly only over wintering in this situation.

Despite its current official status of Nationally Scarce Category A (Hyman, 1992), this appears to be one of Britain's rarer wood decay beetles. Although, with so little known about its ecology and the best way of detecting its presence, any assessment of status needs to be cautious. There are however remarkably few recent published records of the species - just six post 1970 mentioned in Hyman & Parsons (1992) - and its status should be considered for upgrading to Red Data Book.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Colin Johnson and Bob Marsh.

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A record of *Hylecoetus dermestoides* (Linnaeus) (Lymexylidae) from Cumbria

R.W. J. Read

43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF.

On 28th June 2001 while walking through a small area of mixed woodland on the edge of Whinlatter Forest (FC) at Masmill, Cumbria (NY2124) I observed a large, reddish beetle flying low around some old and rotting beech logs lying by the side of the main footpath through the wood. Due to the very hot and sunny weather conditions at the time the beetle was quite active and after a somewhat frantic chase it was eventually collected and tubed. Later on the specimen was examined at home and proved to be a female *H. dermestoides* (Linnaeus). While in flight the beetle did resemble to some extent the cantharid, *Cantharis livida* Linnaeus.

This appears to be a new record for Cumbria and vice county 70 Cumberland. I have been unable to find any published records for this species from the county and there are no specimens from Cumbria in the collections of local Coleoptera held in the Tullie House Museum at Carlisle.

H. dermestoides is graded Notable B by Hyman (1992) and is widespread but local in Britain being recorded from the Midlands, northern England, Wales and Scotland. The beetle is associated with ancient broad-leaved woodland and also coniferous woodland. It is an Ancient Woodland Indicator species and is given grade 3 status by Harding & Rose (1986).

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Stephen Hewitt, Keeper of Natural Sciences at the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle for allowing me access to the collections of local Coleoptera.

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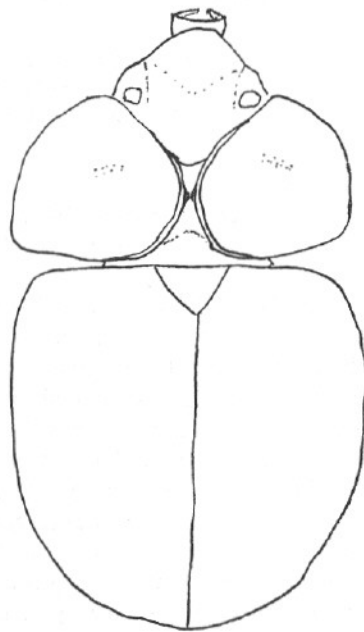
A *Geotrupes vernalis* (Linnaeus) (Geotrupidae) with aberrant pronotum

Gordon B. Corbet

Little Dumbarrie, Upper Largo, Leven, Fife KY8 6JG

On 11th May 2001 I found an abnormal specimen of *Geotrupes vernalis* (Linnaeus) on the dunes at Camusdarach, Morar, W Inverness (VC 97, NM 6691). The pronotum consists of two roughly circular plates that almost touch in the mid-line, as illustrated. The perfect symmetry of both the outline and the detailed sculpture of the plates would suggest that this has a genetic base, rather than being the result of damage during development. Nothing comparable was seen amongst 68 *G. vernalis* and 370 other British *Geotrupes* in the National Museums of Scotland. Since aberrations tend to be selectively preserved in collections this suggests that the condition is much less frequent than these figures might indicate.

A different aberration of the pronotum of *G. vernalis* was described and illustrated by Bunalski & Lubecki (1990) on the basis of a specimen taken in Poland in 1976. In that case the pronotum was intact but was deeply indented at each anterolateral corner.



Acknowledgement

I thank Mark Shaw and Andy Whittington for help in accessing the collection of the National Museums of Scotland and for photographing the specimen.

Reference

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Hatchlands Park, Surrey: A site of European importance for saproxylic Coleoptera?

Jonty Denton¹ & Keith N. A. Alexander²

¹ 2 Sandown Close, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2TG

² The National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ

Background

The National Trust's Hatchlands property (TQ063518) comprises 170ha of mostly mature parkland. It lies on very gentle topography at the foot of the dip slope of the North Downs.

The early history of this landscape has not yet been studied in any detail. The parkland as seen today was laid out according to a design by Humphrey Repton in the late 18th century but incorporated earlier parkland trees. Thomas Moule's county map of 1830 shows only a small area of parkland by the mansion and most of the area presently occupied by parkland as part of the former East Clandon Common. As many of today's older parkland trees would have been mature then, this indicates that the parkland was created by incorporating wood pasture trees into the newly designed landscape. The park presently has a very good concentration of mature and retrenching oaks, with a reasonable age distribution and many new plantings. Unfortunately there are early signs of problems, with several mature oaks dying over the past two summers, most probably due to the intensive nature of the current pasture management.

The predominant tree is pedunculate oak *Quercus robur* L., occurring mainly as individuals of girth ranging from 1m to 4m. Most are full-crowned and only a few are beginning to crown-thin as the trees retrench into ancient condition. The present absence of ancient trees presumably reflects a past management practice of removing trees once the high canopy began to break up.

The Park was first visited on 17th July 1998 by KNAA. This revealed a surprisingly interesting range of wood-decay beetles, including many that are regarded as collectively indicative of relict old forest conditions (Harding & Rose, 1986). This discovery was therefore followed up by a more detailed investigation of the fauna. JD visited on the following dates, 19th October 2000, 18th May, 4th, 22nd June, 16th, 25th July, 6th, 8th, 11th, 17th, 28th August, 8th September 2001.

Results

A total of 168 saproxylic beetles have been found so far (see below, appendix A) and these include 10 of British Red Data Book status and 49 graded Nationally Scarce (Hyman, 1992 and 1994).

The Index of Ecological Continuity (IEC) (Alexander, 1988; Harding & Alexander, 1994) achieves a figure of 82, placing it among the top ten sites in Britain. In Surrey, only Richmond Park and Ashted Common have superior scores, and these have enjoyed well over a century of recording!

Table 1 summarises the scores of sites in Surrey where an IEC has been calculated. This illustrates the park's importance. It seems probable that other woodland areas in the vicinity of Hatchlands - such as The Sheepleas and Mountain Wood which have yielded important finds in the past may well support very important saproxylic faunas.

Table 1. Dead wood sites in Surrey ranked according to the IEC.

SITE	IEC
Richmond Park	116
Ashted Common	95
Hatchlands Park	82
Box Hill Estate	52
Bookham Common	47
Thursley Common NNR	39
Farnham Park	31
Leith Hill	25

The method outlined by Fowles *et al.* (1999) was used to calculate the Species Quality Index (SQI) and Species Quality Score (SQS). The Species Quality Score of 830 is only bettered by six broadleaved sites when compared with the table in Fowles *et al.* (1999). The SQI of 509 places the site rather lower when compared with this table. However, many of the sites with higher SQIs have flawed lists with inflated scores as a result of the non-inclusion, or failure to find, many more common species that are most probably present at the sites. Until this inconsistency is resolved the IEC will give a more accurate measure of the importance of Hatchlands. All measures of quality, after only one full season's collecting, show a site of exceptional interest.

Alexander (1996) suggests that a IEC threshold of 80 indicates sites of European importance. Fowles *et al.* (1999) suggests that a SQI in excess of 590 places a site as having European importance. The two approaches to site assessment therefore do not quite agree on Hatchlands, but it is clearly a discovery of major nature conservation importance. Hatchlands presently has no nature conservation status other than protection through ownership by the National Trust.

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APPENDIX A. SAPROXYLIC COLEOPTERA RECORDED AT HATCHLANDS PARK

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
Histeridae			
<i>Plegaderus dissectus</i> Erichson*	beech	2	8
<i>Aeletes atomarius</i> (Aubé)**	beech	1	16
<i>Paromalus flavicornis</i> (Herbst)	beech, oak		2
<i>Dendrophilus punctatus</i> (Herbst)	hollow oak		
Ptiliidae			
<i>Ptinella aptera</i> (Guérin-Méneville)	beech, oak		2
<i>Ptinella denticollis</i> (Fairmaire)*	oak		8
Leiodidae			
<i>Agathidium nigrinum</i> Sturm	clematis		2
Scydmaenidae			
<i>Scydmaenus rufus</i> Müller & Kunze**	beech, oak, pine	3	24
Scaphidiidae			
<i>Scaphisoma agaricinum</i> (Linnaeus)	beech		2
<i>Scaphidium quadrimaculatum</i> Olivier	beech, oak		2

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
Staphylinidae			
<i>Dropephylla ioptera</i> (Stephens)			1
<i>Dropephylla vilis</i> (Erichson)			1
<i>Phloeonomus punctipennis</i> Thomson	oak, beech		2
<i>Siagonum quadricorne</i> Kirby	oak		2
<i>Atrecus affinis</i> (Paykull)	beech, oak, ash		1
<i>Xantholinus angularis</i> (Ganglbauer)*	ash	3	16
<i>Gabrius splendidulus</i> (Gravenhorst)			1
<i>Sepedophilus bipunctatus</i> (Gravenhorst)	oak, pine		8
<i>Sepedophilus testaceus</i> (Fabricius)*	beech		8
<i>Gyrophaena latissima</i> (Stephens)			2
<i>Gyrophaena minima</i> Erichson			2
<i>Anomognathus cuspidatus</i> (Erichson)	oak		2
<i>Bolitochara lucida</i> (Gravenhorst)	beech		2
<i>Leptusa fumida</i> Kraatz	oak		1
<i>Leptusa ruficollis</i> (Erichson)	oak		1
<i>Dinaraea aequata</i> (Erichson)	oak		1
<i>Atheta liturata</i> (Stephens)	oak		2
Pselaphidae			
<i>Bibloporus bicolor</i> (Denny)	oak		2
<i>Euplectus karsteni</i> (Reichenbach)	oak		2
<i>Euplectus punctatus</i> Mulsant***	oak		1 24
Lucanidae			
<i>Lucanus cervus</i> (Linnaeus)*			8
<i>Dorcus parallelipedis</i> (Linnaeus)	beech, ash, oak		2
<i>Sinodendron cylindricum</i> (Linnaeus)	ash	3	2
Scirtidae			
<i>Prionocyphon serricornis</i> (Müller)*	beech		2 8
Buprestidae			
<i>Agrilus angustulus</i> (Illiger)*	oak		8
<i>Agrilus laticornis</i> (Illiger)*	oak		8
<i>Agrilus pannonicus</i> (Pill. & Mitt.)*	oak	2	8
<i>Agrilus sinuatus</i> (Olivier)*	hawthorn		4
Elateridae			
<i>Denticollis linearis</i> (Linnaeus)			1

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<i>Stenogostus rhombeus</i> (Olivier)	beech, oak	3	4
<i>Procræus tibialis</i> (Bois. & Lacord.)**	oak	1	16
<i>Melanotus villosus</i> (Fourcroy)			1
Cantharidae			
<i>Malthinus balteatus</i> Suffrian*			8
<i>Malthinus flaveolus</i> (Herbst)			1
<i>Malthinus seriepunctatus</i> Kiesenwetter			2
<i>Malthodes marginatus</i> (Latreille)			1
Lycidae			
<i>Platycis minuta</i> (Fabricius)*	beech, apple, ash	3	8
Dermestidae			
<i>Ctesias serra</i> (Fabricius)*	oak	3	4
<i>Attgenus pellio</i> (Linnaeus)	red-rot oak		1
Anobiidae			
<i>Ptinomorphus imperialis</i> (Linnaeus)*	oak, ivy		8
<i>Grynobius planus</i> (Fabricius)	ivy		2
<i>Ochina ptinoides</i> (Marsham)	ivy		2
<i>Xestobium rufovillosum</i> (Degeer)	oak	3	4
<i>Gastrallus immarginatus</i> (Müller)**	field maple	1	32
<i>Hemicoelus fulvicornis</i> (Sturm)	oak		1
<i>Anobium inexpectatum</i> Lohse*	ivy		8
<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (Degeer)	oak, beech, ash		1
<i>Ptilinus pectinicornis</i> (Linnaeus)	oak		1
<i>Dorcatoma chrysomelina</i> Sturm	oak	2	4
<i>Dorcatoma flavicornis</i> (Fabricius)*	oak	3	8
<i>Anitya rubens</i> (Hoffmann)*	oak	1	8
Cleridae			
<i>Opilo mollis</i> (Linnaeus)*		3	8
Melyridae			
<i>Dasytes aeratus</i> Stephens			2
<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i> (Linnaeus)			1

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
Lymexylidae			
<i>Lymexylon navale</i> (Linnaeus)**	oak	1	32
Nitidulidae			
<i>Epuraea longula</i> Erichson*			8
<i>Epuraea marsueli</i> Reitter			1
<i>Epuraea silacea</i> (Herbst)**	oak		1
<i>Cryptarcha strigata</i> (Fabricius)*	oak		8
Rhizophagidae			
<i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i> (Fabricius)	sycamore		1
<i>Rhizophagus dispar</i> (Paykull)	oak		1
Cucujidae			
<i>Uleiota planata</i> (Linnaeus)*	beech, oak, sycamore	1	8
<i>Pediacus dermestoides</i> (Fabricius)	oak	3	4
Laemophloeidae			
<i>Cryptolestes duplicatus</i> (Waltl)	oak		2
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i> (Stephens)	oak		2
<i>Notolaemus unifasciatus</i> (Latreille)*	oak	2	16
Silvanidae			
<i>Silvanus unidentatus</i> (Olivier)	oak	3	4
Cryptophagidae			
<i>Cryptophagus dentatus</i> (Herbst)	oak		1
<i>Cryptophagus ruficornis</i> Stephens*	beech, sycamore		8
Biphyllidae			
<i>Biphyllus lunatus</i> (Fabricius)	ash, beech, sycamore	3	4
<i>Diplocoelus fagi</i> Guérin-Ménéville*	beech	2	8
Erotylidae			
<i>Triplax aenea</i> (Schaller)	beech	3	2
<i>Dacne bipustulata</i> (Thunberg)	beech		2
<i>Dacne rufifrons</i> (Fabricius)			2

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
Cerylonidae			
<i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens	oak, beech		2
<i>Cerylon histeroideus</i> (Fabricius)	oak, beech		4
Endomychidae			
<i>Symbiotes latus</i> Redtenbacher*	ash	3	8
Latridiidae			
<i>Enicmus brevicornis</i> (Mannerheim)*		2	8
<i>Enicmus testaceus</i> (Stephens)			2
Ciidae			
<i>Octotemnus glabriculus</i> (Gyllenhal)			1
<i>Sulcacis affinis</i> (Gyllenhal)			2
<i>Cis alni</i> Gyllenhal			2
<i>Cis boleti</i> (Scopoli)			1
<i>Cis festivus</i> (Panzer)*			2
<i>Cis hispidus</i> (Paykull)	oak		4
<i>Cis nitidus</i> (Fabricius)	oak		2
<i>Cis pygmaeus</i> (Marsham)	oak		2
<i>Ennearthron cornutum</i> (Gyllenhal)			2
Mycetophagidae			
<i>Pseudotriphyllus suturalis</i> (Fabricius)	beech	3	4
<i>Triphyllus bicolor</i> (Fabricius)	beech, oak	3	4
<i>Litargus connexus</i> (Fourcroy)	beech		2
<i>Mycetophagus atomarius</i> (Fabricius)	beech	3	2
<i>Mycetophagus multipunctatus</i> Fabricius	beech		2
<i>Mycetophagus piceus</i> (Fabricius)*	beech	3	4
<i>Mycetophagus quadripustulatus</i> (Linnaeus)	beech		2
Colydiidae			
<i>Bitoma crenata</i> (Fabricius)	beech, oak, pine	3	4
<i>Colydium elongatum</i> (Fabricius)**	oak, ash	1	16
Tenebrionidae			
<i>Eledona agricola</i> (Herbst)*	oak	3	4
<i>Prionychus ater</i> (Fabricius)*	ash, oak	3	8
<i>Gonodera luperus</i> (Herbst)			2
<i>Alphitobius diaperinus</i> (Panzer)	bracket fungus on oak		

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
Tetratomidae			
<i>Tetratoma fungorum</i> Fabricius	beech	3	2
Salpingidae			
<i>Lissodema quadripustulata</i> (Marshall)*	field maple, hawthorn		8
<i>Rhinosisimus planirostris</i> (Fabricius)			1
<i>Salpingus reyi</i> (Abeille)			2
Pyrochroidae			
<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i> (Scopoli)	oak, beech		1
<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i> (Linnaeus)*	oak	3	4
Melandryidae			
<i>Orchesia minor</i> Walker*	oak		8
<i>Orchesia undulata</i> Kraatz	oak	3	4
<i>Anisoxya fuscata</i> (Illiger)*	willow	3	16
<i>Abdera biflexuosa</i> (Curtis)*	oak	3	8
<i>Abdera quadrifasciata</i> (Curtis)*	oak	1	16
<i>Melandrya caraboides</i> (Linnaeus)*	oak	3	4
<i>Conopalpus testaceus</i> (Olivier)*	oak	3	8
Scaptiidae			
<i>Scaptia testacea</i> Allen**		1	16
<i>Anaspis frontalis</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<i>Anaspis humeralis</i> (Fabricius)	oak		2
<i>Anaspis lurida</i> Stephens			2
<i>Anaspis rufilabris</i> (Gyllenhal)			1
<i>Anaspis thoracica</i> (Linnaeus)			8
Mordellidae			
<i>Tomoxia bucephala</i> Costa*		1	16
<i>Mordellochroa abdominalis</i> (Fabricius)			4
<i>Mordellistena neuwaldeggiana</i> (Panzer)**	hawthorn, oak		16
<i>Mordellistena variegata</i> (Fabricius)			8
Oedemeridae			
<i>Ischnomera cyanea</i> (Fabricius)*			4
Aderidae			
<i>Aderus oculatus</i> (Paykull)*		3	8
Cerambycidae			
<i>Rhagium mordax</i> (Degeer)	oak		1
<i>Stenocorus meridianus</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i> (Fabricius)			1
<i>Alosterna tabacicolor</i> (Degeer)			2
<i>Anoplodera livida</i> (Fabricius)			8

Species & Status ** Red Data Book * Nationally Scarce	Host tree(s)	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<i>Anoplodera scutellata</i> Fabricius*	beech		16
<i>Leptura maculata</i> (Poda)			1
<i>Leptura melanura</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Leptura quadrifasciata</i> (Linnaeus)		3	2
<i>Molochrus umbellatarum</i> (von Schreber)*	hawthorn		16
<i>Phymatodes testaceus</i> (Linnaeus)	oak	3	4
<i>Clytus arietus</i> (Linnaeus)	oak		1
<i>Leiopus nebulosus</i> (Linnaeus)	oak		2
<i>Pogonocheirus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)	ivy		2
<i>Tetrops praeusta</i> (Linnaeus)	apple		2
Curculionidae			
<i>Magdalis armigera</i> (Fourcroy)	elm		2
<i>Magdalis barbicornis</i> (Latreille)*	hawthorn		8
<i>Phloeophagus lignarius</i> (Marshall)	oak		2
<i>Acalles misellus</i> Bohemann	ivy, hawthorn		2
<i>Scolytus intricatus</i> (Ratzeburg)	oak		2
<i>Scolytus multistriatus</i> (Marshall)	elm		1
<i>Scolytus rugulosus</i> (Mueller)	sloe		2
<i>Scolytus scolytus</i> (Fabricius)	elm		2
<i>Hylesinus oleiperda</i> (Fabricius)	ash		2
<i>Hylesinus varius</i> (Fabricius)	ash		1
<i>Taphrorychus bicolor</i> (Herbst)*	oak		8
<i>Pteleobius vittatus</i> (Fabricius)	elm		2
<i>Drycoetinus villosus</i> (Fabricius)	oak		2
<i>Trypodendron domesticum</i> (Linnaeus)	oak	3	2
<i>Ernoporus fagi</i> (Fabricius)*	beech	3	8
<i>Xyloborinus saxeseni</i> (Ratzeburg)	beech	3	4
Platypodidae			
<i>Platypus cylindrus</i> (Fabricius)*	oak	3	8
Total species			164
SQS			832
SQI		82 IEC	507.3

Notes on *Oulema melanopus* (Linnaeus) (Chrysomelidae) in Ireland

J.P. O'Connor¹ and J. Walsh²

¹ National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

² 26 Verbena Grove, Dublin 13, Ireland

In 1983, M.L. Cox identified a Wexford specimen of *Oulema melanopus* (L.) among a collection of Irish Chrysomelidae sent to him by JPOC. The beetle was afterwards presented to the National Museum of Ireland. Subsequently, Berti (1989) showed that two species existed under the name "*O. melanopus*" on the Continent. Booth (1994) drew the attention of workers in the British Isles to the problem and proved that the second species also occurred in Britain. As a result, the Wexford individual required re-identification. Cox (1995) provided a key to the two species (*O. rufocyanea* (Suffrian) and *O. melanopus*). In his paper, he confirmed the presence of the true *O. melanopus* in Waterford, using the figures of the spermatheca and spermathecal duct provided by Berti (op. cit.). This record refers to a single specimen swept off riverine vegetation by Roy Anderson in the Kilbarry Marshes (S604106) in August 1990 (Anderson *et al.*, 1997). The authors are unaware of any other reliable Irish records of *O. melanopus*. Indeed, the distribution and relative abundance of the two species have yet to be determined in the British Isles (Hodge & Jones, 1995). As a result, it was decided to re-determine the Wexford individual. A search through the National Museum collections yielded another two Irish specimens named as *O. melanopus* in the Bullock Collection. All the material was dissected and identified as the true *O. melanopus* using Cox (1995). The records are as follows: -

KERRY: Flesk, Killarney, September 1964, E. F. Bullock.

Muckcross, Killarney, September 1949, E. F. Bullock.

"Flesk" probably refers to an area beside the River Flesk (V9689) while "Muckcross" is near the Middle or Muckcross Lake (V9585) (O'Connor *et al.*, 1986).

WEXFORD: Curracloe (T1127), 12 June 1982, swept from the sand dunes near the marsh, J. P. & M. A. O'Connor.

The species is now also known from the southeast and southwest of Ireland. The discovery of the two specimens in the Bullock Collection is very interesting. An Englishman, Edwin Bullock went to Killarney in or before 1912 where he became a professional photographer. He collected, when weather permitted, every day for more than fifty years usually within a few miles of his home in Killarney (Beirne, 1985). He formed a huge collection of beetles that is now in the National Museum of Ireland. Most species, including some very scarce Irish ones, are represented by long series mainly from the Killarney area. It is significant therefore that he only managed to find two specimens of *O. melanopus* over the years, indicating that the beetle was very rare in the area.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank M. L. Cox for his identification of the Wexford specimen. JPOC is very grateful to his wife Mary for her help with fieldwork.

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A further Welsh locality for *Psylliodes cucullata* (Illiger) (Chrysomelidae: Alticinae)

M.V.L. Barclay¹ and J. Davies²

¹ Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD

² Willow House, Slad Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1AJ

Psylliodes cucullata (Illiger) was first collected in the British Isles by Mark Pavett at two localities in Glamorgan (VC 41), Wales in 1991 (Cox, 1995): Dare Country Park, SN 9602, 19.viii.1991 and Craig y Llyn, SN 9003, 14.x.1991. J.A. Owen and A.J. Allen took a further ten examples by sweeping at the former site on 5.x.1996 (Allen, 1998, J.A. Owen pers. comm.), but there appear to be no other published British records. *P. cucullata* develops and feeds on various grasses (Poaceae) and is a pest of grass crops in the Saratov Region of Russia (Moiseev, 1956); a summary of published information on host plants is given by Cox (2000). The beetle is widespread in most of northern, western and southern Europe (Cox, 1995) with the apparent exception of Ireland and Portugal. Cox (1995) discusses the status of *P. cucullata* in Britain, and concludes that it is probably a previously overlooked native; as the species is micropterous, it is not likely to have colonised these islands naturally. Furthermore, much of Wales is under-recorded for Coleoptera. However, the possibility that *cucullata* was imported into South Wales and spread some distance before being detected should not be disregarded. Other Coleoptera new to Britain recently collected in Wales, such as *Bembidion inustum* (Duval) (Carabidae) and *Atomaria turgida* Erichson (Cryptophagidae) (Levey & Pavett, 1999), are also of uncertain native origin, especially considering the proximity of imported tree plantations to at least one of their known localities. Identification of *cucullata* is straightforward using Cox (1998).

Ten examples of *P. cucullata* were taken during routine survey work at Ogmores Forest, near Lewisham, Glamorgan, near the River Ogwr Fawr (SS9388) during August 2001. A single specimen was collected in a flight interception trap (although flightless), and the remaining nine were swept from a small area of woodland ground flora some distance away. Sweeping, flight interception trapping and pitfall trapping elsewhere on the site produced no further specimens.

This site is the third British locality for *P. cucullata*; it is about 14 km south of the nearest of the original localities, thus representing a new 10 km square for the species. There is probably still insufficient data to judge whether the beetle is spreading, or whether this is a

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long-standing population that had formerly escaped notice. To shed light on this problem it would be useful to search for it in appropriate grassy areas of nearby well-recorded sites, such as Crymlyn Bog NNR (SS69), and amongst undetermined material in collections containing Welsh Coleoptera, such as those of Tomlin and Hallett.

Material has been deposited in the collections of the Natural History Museum, London, the Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford and The National Museums and Galleries of Wales, Cardiff.

Acknowledgements

Particular thanks to Mike Cox for confirming the identification of this and many other Chrysomelidae, and also to Mark Pavett, Mike Cox, Darren J. Mann, Howard Mendel, Adrian Fowles, Tony J. Allen and John Owen for useful discussions.

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Dryops nitidulus (Heer) (Dryopidae) on Holy Island, Northumberland

R.G. Booth

Scientific Associate, Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD

While on family holiday in Northumberland, we visited Holy Island on 23rd August 2001. Walking around part of the island, my attention was drawn to a bare area of damp, sandy soil forming a gentle slope close to the footpath at NU122430. A somewhat shining *Dryops* specimen was quickly found at the edge of the bare sand, although further hand searching for 30-45 minutes revealed only two other specimens. It was only later, after the specimens (one male and two females) were dissected, that their identity was confirmed as *D. nitidulus* (Heer). One of the females held about 22 eggs in her abdomen.

Although *D. nitidulus* is on average more finely punctured and shining than the much more common and widespread *D. ernesti* des Gozis, there is variation in both species and they cannot be separated reliably using this external character. In the few *D. nitidulus* examined subsequently, the legs, especially the tibiae, seem to be more slender and the front angles of the pronotum, viewed from the side, more projecting than in *D. ernesti*, but again, these characters may not be reliable. The male genitalia, as illustrated for example in Lohse & Lucht (1992), must be examined for accurate species separation.

Dryops nitidulus is a rare (RDB3) species in Britain, recorded mainly from the west of England, Wales and southern Scotland (Foster, 1995), many of its sites being coastal. The Holy Island record is the first coastal site for the east of England, a new record for North Northumberland (Cheviotland; V.C. 68) and the most northerly UK record to date. The species was first recorded as new for Northumberland by Eyre *et al.* (2000), based on a record from the River Tyne near Watersmeet, NY9165, in 1995. Across the border into Scotland, it was found recently at Northhouse Burn, Roxburghshire, NT4406, in 1988 (Lott, 1990) and subsequently by various others.

As there have been few published insect records from Holy Island in the past (Smith & Smith, 1983), the other Coleoptera species recorded during the same day are listed as follows: *Pterostichus madidus* (Fabricius) (Carabidae), *Helophorus brevipalpis* Bedel, *H. minutus* Fabricius (Helophoridae), *Ochthebius minimus* (Fabricius) (Hydraenidae), *Bledius subniger* Schneider, *B. fuscipes* Rye, *Stenus brunnipes* Stephens, *Gnypeta carbonaria* (Mannerheim), *Amischa analis* (Gravenhorst), *Atheta (Thinobaena) vestita* (Gravenhorst) (Staphylinidae), *Aphodius foetidus* (Herbst) (Scarabaeidae), *Atomaria atricapilla* Stephens (Cryptophagidae), *Neocrepidodera transversa* (Marshall) (Chrysomelidae) and *Sitona lineatus* (Linnaeus) (Curculionidae).

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Leptophloeus clematidis (Erichson) (Laemophloeidae) in Surrey, with notes on its biology and an overview of its occurrence in the British Isles

M.V.L. Barclay

Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD.

During a visit to Battersea Park, Surrey (VC 17) on 6th May 2000, Sylvain Piry and I examined a very large stand of *Clematis vitalba* L. (Ranunculaceae) (Traveller's Joy or Old Man's Beard) in 'The Meadow' nature reserve (TQ2877). The vines were found to be heavily infested with the clematis bark-beetle *Xylocleptes bispinus* (Dufts.) (Curculionidae), and in the galleries of this beetle I found a pair of

laemophloeids in cop. which were readily identified as *Leptophloeus clematidis* (Erichson). A further four specimens were discovered later; two on the 11th May 2000 (with R.G. Booth), and two on the 4th February 2001, all in the *Xylocleptes* galleries in the same stand of *Clematis*.

L. clematidis is known to be associated with *Xylocleptes bispinus*, which is associated with *Clematis* spp. It has been observed feeding on the immature stages (eggs and larvae) of the bark beetles (R. Wittenberg pers. comm.), although Wichmann (1964), by examination of the gut content, suggested that it fed directly on the plant tissue. Many Laemophloeidae are omnivorous (e.g. *Cryptolestes* spp.) (Halstead, 1993), and this is probably also true of *L. clematidis*. All five species of *Leptophloeus* naturally occurring in Europe are more-or-less strongly associated with one or more species of bark beetle (Curculionidae: Scolytinae) (Lefkovitch, 1959). *L. clematidis* is the only species known to occur naturally in Britain, although the African *Leptophloeus janeti* (Grouvelle) is occasionally imported with stored products, especially cocoa (Halstead, 1993), and has been listed in the British checklist as an import (Kloet & Hincks, 1977). The genitalia of the central European *Leptophloeus* spp. are illustrated by Karner (1996). The genus is also represented in America, and specimens collected away from *Clematis* may repay careful checking. In particular the European *Leptophloeus juniperi* (Grouvelle) might be found in Britain in the galleries of *Phloeosinus thujae* (Perris) (Curculionidae) in ornamental Cupressaceae.

Historical Overview

Leptophloeus clematidis (Erichson) was formally brought forward as a British insect by Janson (1857) based on specimens taken near Gravesend, Kent (VC 16), 'in dead stems of the travellers joy'. Janson also alludes to an older specimen lacking data purchased by Wollaston with the Spry collection, but states 'as that gentleman had incorporated many continental specimens with his British insects, he [Wollaston] considered it inexpedient to announce the indigeness of the species'. In the following half-century, numerous specimens were taken in Kent, at and near the original Gravesend locality, by a number of collectors. Cox (1874) described the species as 'moderately common', and the Oxford Museum of Natural History (OUMNH) has a long series of Cox's specimens (lacking data). Fowler (1889) was more circumspect, describing it as 'rare'. He indicated Janson's records from Gravesend (TQ67) and Champion specimens from Dartford (TQ57), as well as a specimen (now in the Natural History Museum London, BMNH) taken by Power in Henley (Oxfordshire, VC 23, SU78). Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913) add J. J. Walker records from Higham (TQ77), apparently from near Higham railway station (N. Heal pers. comm.). Data from collections add further Kent localities: - 'Shorn' (? = Shorne TQ67) (Power: BMNH), Darenth (TQ57) (Power and Champion: BMNH) and Chatham (TQ76) (Walker: OUMNH). There is some confusion as to the exact number of Kent localities where the beetle was collected, as many specimens lack data, and data labels on specimens are often inconsistent with published reports. Mass-produced printed labels with names of towns or large woodlands were frequently applied to specimens from surrounding localities. It is reasonable to

assume that Champion's 'Darenth' specimens are the same as the 'Dartford' specimens cited by Fowler, and that Darenth Wood is the most likely locality. Similarly Walker's specimens in OUMNH labelled 'Chatham' probably correspond to Fowler and Donisthorpe's 'Higham' records.

Following Walker's captures in Higham, no further specimens were taken from Kent localities in spite of assiduous searching by A.A. Allen and A.M. Masee (Nash, 1980); it was even suggested that the beetle may be extinct in Kent (Nash, *l.c.*, Welch in Shirt, 1987). The species was not seen in Britain at all for more than 60 years until April 1977, when a colony was discovered at Little Blakenham, East Suffolk (VC 25, TM 14) by Nash (*l.c.*). H. Mendel and P.S. Hyman confirmed the continued existence of this colony in 1992 (H. Mendel pers. comm.). The species was given RDB2 (vulnerable) status by Welch in Shirt (1987) but upgraded to RDB1 (endangered) in Hyman (1992), on the grounds that there was only a single extant locality.

Collecting notes

The Battersea Park colony represents the first record of this species in Surrey, the first in the Thames valley for almost a century, and the second known extant locality in Britain. Battersea Park is just less than 30 km from Darenth, the nearest of the original Kent sites, and renewed searching in these localities, and other parts of the Thames Valley, may prove fruitful.

Xylocleptes bispinus is not restricted to *Clematis vitalba*; Wichmann (1964) found the bark beetle's breeding galleries in more than 20 species and cultivars of *Clematis*, including the popular ornamental creeper *Clematis montana* Buch, in a German Botanic Garden. It may be that *Xylocleptes* and even *Leptophloeus* can exist unnoticed in ornamental *Clematis* plants in suburban gardens, especially now that much of *Leptophloeus*'s former range has been urbanised. However, Wittenberg (pers. comm.) doubts that the association between *Xylocleptes* and ornamental *Clematis* noted by Wichmann can be very strong, or the bark beetle would have attracted more attention as a pest.

It is hoped that in future *Leptophloeus clematidis* will be shown to be much more widespread than currently believed. The beetle's reputation for extreme rarity may have discouraged coleopterists from working *Clematis* for it. As Nash (1980) rightly points out 'great diligence or luck' is required to find it. His paper discusses in detail how he collected it, suggesting that the beetle is most typically found in the large stems of *Clematis*. However, my experience differed. I found that *Leptophloeus* frequented the vines most heavily infested by *Xylocleptes*, which were typically around 6mm in diameter (an observation corroborated by Wittenberg pers. comm.), with internodes every 15-20cm. The knuckle-like internodes were large, up to 1cm in diameter, and heavily lignified. In May, the infested tendrils were still partially green, but in the winter they were completely dead, presumably because of the bark beetles' depredations; adjoining tendrils of the same diameter, but not attacked by *Xylocleptes*, were green and sappy when broken. Heavily infested pieces are more easily found in winter due to the absence of foliage and by the numerous small

circular emergence holes. Additionally, in the winter the bark of such pieces is split and loose because the tissue beneath has been bored away. It comes off easily between the fingers, and is filled with greenish-brown dusty frass. The vast majority of *Xylocleptes* occurred in a lignified chamber running down the centre of the vine, in heavy infestations running nose to tail like a string of beads; they also occurred in enlarged burrows in the 'knuckle'. In February 2001 two 120cm vines were collected and split open over a white tray. The first contained ten *Xylocleptes*, and the second fifty-one *Xylocleptes* and two *Leptophloeus*, which were among their hosts in the central channel. In May 2000 R.G. Booth and myself also collected two specimens, but it was much more difficult, taking almost two hours of searching. The beetle is probably found most easily in winter, when infested vines are more easily recognised. In early spring newly infested vines can also be found by the yellow dust on the fresh leaves below the burrows (Wittenberg, pers. comm.).

Adult *Leptophloeus* have been taken in Britain in February, March (Janson specimen in the Newbery Collection, Cambridge Museum of Zoology, dated 16/iii/1860), April, May and July. Janson (1857.) observes that three of his five July specimens were 'dead, dry and considerably mutilated', implying that it was toward the end of their season. I observed both *Leptophloeus* and *Xylocleptes* mating in May. It appears that *Leptophloeus* is a spring breeder, spending the summer as a larva feeding on eggs and larvae of *Xylocleptes*, with adults emerging in late summer-autumn and over-wintering. This life cycle coincides with that of *X. bispinus*.

The only other insects found in the vines were the generalist scavengers *Aridius bifasciatus* (Reitter) (Lathridiidae) and *Entomobrya intermedia* Brook (Collembola: Entomobryidae). Material of *Leptophloeus* has been deposited in The Hope Entomological Collections (OUMNH) and The Natural History Museum, London. Part of the material was exhibited at the BENHS annual exhibition (Barclay, 2001).

Taxonomic notes

The family Laemophloeidae has been raised from a subfamily of Cucujidae (see Lawrence & Newton, 1995), and includes the British genera *Laemophloeus*, *Notolaemus*, *Leptophloeus* and *Cryptolestes*. *Laemophloeus clematidis* Erichson was transferred to *Leptophloeus* Casey by Lefkovitch (1959). The family 'Scolytidae' was sunk to a subfamily of Curculionidae by Crowson (1955), a change that has been acknowledged almost universally (e.g. Lawrence & Newton 1995), though not in Kloet & Hincks (1977).

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A recent record of *Hister quadrimaculatus* Linnaeus (Col. Histeridae) in South Hampshire

John Owen

8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU; jaowen@talk21.com.

On 10th April 2001, my friend David Appleton, seeking Hemiptera at Gilkicker Point, South Hampshire, collected a bag of moss which he took home for examination. In the moss, he found a specimen of *H. quadrimaculatus* that he very generously passed on to me. Lacking ready access to entomological literature, David asked me if I would compose a note, putting his find into perspective.

In Britain today, *H. quadrimaculatus* appears to be very rare. Like a number of beetles on the British list, it was found far more often in the 1800's than in the 1900's. Fowler (1889) writes of it as usually rare but occasionally abundant, citing a report from early in the 19th century of its appearance at Southsea Common in such numbers that "many were crushed under foot at each step." Fowler lists as localities for the species the London district and various places in the counties of East and West Kent, South Hampshire and Isle of Wight, to which Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913) add Dorset.

I have found only a very few recent records. Whicher (1952) recorded finding a single specimen under a stone at Stoke on the Isle of Grain, West Kent and Parsons (1989) recorded two specimens from a single pitfall trap set on M.O.D. land on Dungeness. Duffy (1945) reported finding larvae in cow-dung in Surrey that he recorded as larvae of *H. quadrimaculatus*. It is not clear, however, whether this identity was confirmed by rearing adults. Certainly no relevant adults could be found on a recent examination of material in the Natural History Museum. In their review of the status of the rarer British beetles, Hyman & Parsons (1992) give North Essex as a relevant pre-1970 vice-county but do not provide a reference or an exact date.

As far as the wider distribution of this beetle goes, it is not recorded from Ireland (Anderson, Nash & O'Connor, 1997). Darby (1991) describes it as not uncommon on the Continent in contrast to its present great rarity in Britain. It is widespread in Central Europe (Lucht, 1987), mainly in the warmer, lowland areas (Witzgall, 1971) but it is not present in Denmark (Hansen, 1996) nor in Scandinavia (Silfverberg, 1992). Its absence from Denmark and from Scandinavia, its preference for warm sites where it occurs in central Europe together with its appearance in Britain only in southern England suggests that climatic factors control its northern limit in Europe.

H. quadrimaculatus has been found as adults mainly in cow and horse dung, carcasses and decomposing vegetable matter (Fowler, 1889; Halstead, 1963; Witzgall, 1971). Duffy (1954) states that the larvae feed on dipterous larvae in dung.

One can only speculate on the immediate origin of the specimen from Gilkicker Point. The site has received a lot of attention in recent years from entomologists seeking examples of the weevil *Pachytychius haematocephalus* (Gyllenhal) without, as far as I am aware, the histerid being encountered. The immediate area is not usually grazed by cattle. Dead sea birds washed up on the south side of the area could be a source of carrion. The site is only a few kilometres from Southsea Common where the beetle was apparently common many years ago but this could be simply a coincidence. Aided or unaided travel from the Continent would seem a remote possibility but the site is not far from the busy ports of Southampton and Portsmouth.

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Recent records of aquatic Coleoptera from Denbighshire

Jonty Denton

2 Sandown Close, Alton, Hants GU34 2TG

This note summarises some of the regionally significant records of water beetles I have made in Denbighshire in recent years. Many appear to be the first published records for VC50.

Hygrobiidae

Hygrobia hermanni (Fabricius) - near Bryn Estyn (SJ3651), frequent in a silty field pond 13.v.01, and near Pentre Maelor (SJ3649) in a heavily polluted field pond, 13.v.01. New for VC50?

Dytiscidae

Hydroglyphus pusillus (Fabricius) - Nant (SJ1857), abundant in large puddles in a recently closed limestone quarry, 13.v.01. New for VC50?

Hygrotus decoratus (Gyllenhal) - Borrás Bog (SJ3552), adults in small partially shaded peaty pools in an isolated and heavily wooded bog, 18.x.1999. This is the first record for VC50, and first modern record for Wales. The same pools also supported *Hydroporus melanarius* Sturm, *H.neglectus* Schaum (both new for VC50?), as well as *H.incognitus* Sharp.

H.striola Gyllenhal, *Agabus affinis* (Paykull), *Copelatus haemorrhoidalis* (Fabricius) and *Helochares punctatus* Sharp (Hydrophilidae). A large kettlehole nearby yielded *Suphrodytes dorsalis* (Fabricius) on 12.v.01.

Porhydrus lineatus (Fabricius) and *Hydaticus seminiger* (De Geer) - Cross Lanes (SJ35), adults frequent in well vegetated field ponds, x.1999, v.2000 and 2001, both new for VC50? *Agabus didymus* (Olivier) was a surprising capture in one isolated field pond on 18.x.1999. This is the fourth occasion that I have taken this supposedly flightless beetle in isolated stagnant pools.

Dytiscus circumcinctus Ahrens - Cross Lanes (SJ3747), frequent in three separate well-vegetated field ponds, 11.v.2001. New for VC50?

Dytiscus circumflexus Fabricius - Bryn Estyn (SJ3651) one female in open, silty field pond, 13.v.01, new for VC50? The same pond yielded *Hydaticus seminiger* (De Geer) and *Rhantus suturalis* (Macleay) in rafts of *Glyceria fluitans* (L.), x.1999, and the latter may be new for VC50.

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Lochmaea suturalis (Thomson), the Heather Beetle, swarming

Harold C. Gough

58 Hookfield, Epsom KT19 8JG

My son (C. J. Gough) whilst climbing Scottish peaks, told me he had seen a swarm of beetles on a stone cairn at the top of Creach Bheinn 853m, Morven (NM871577) west Inverness-shire (VC97) Scotland. The cairn is about 4m square and 1m high. He thought there must have been hundreds of thousands as the top and sides of the cairn were black with them and they were settling on his hands and sleeves. This was on 8.v.2001, an exceptionally hot day with the sun blazing down. Apart from a few on the grass near the cairn and some flying hardly any were to be seen a few yards away. Unfortunately he never thought of collecting any but on his return he found a squashed one in his rucksack that he sent to me. I did not recognise it at the time but Professor Owen confirmed it as *Lochmaea suturalis* (Thomson) and suggested I consulted Dr Michael Cox. Although he knew of nothing quite comparable, I am indebted to him for the following comments. He had reports of very large numbers washed up on the shore of Shandwick Bay, East Ross, Scotland (NH87) on 1.vi.1992 and thousands of beetles on the upper shore strandline at Parktown, Cornwall (north coast SW64) on 4.iv.1968. These observations showed the formation of extensive migrating swarms which had been carried out to sea on offshore winds and then back to the shore after being forced to land in the sea.

Cameron, McHardy & Bennett (1944) credit Cornelius with the first reference to this insect in 1858, when he recorded that in 1853 vast swarms invaded houses and gardens near Elberfeld in Germany. They also mention the occurrence of swarms in Scotland quoting a number of observations e.g. 'millions of beetles were seen on the shores of Loch Awe in May 1936 and trout greedily devouring those in the water'. In the same year in SW Scotland, 'on a

fine day they were continually on the wing flying down wind' and large swarms were seen on 9 April. The authors suggest these flights were a means of dispersal; probably after food supplies were exhausted, rather than a definite migration.

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Rare and Uncommon Coleoptera Records, 2001

Jonty Denton

2 Sandown Close, Alton, Hants GU34 2TG email: JontyDenton@AOL.COM

SOUTH DEVON (VC3) Killerton Park (SS9700) Dermestidae: *Cesia serra* (Fabricius) larvae under oak bark, vi-vii. Lycidae: *Platycis minuta* (Fabricius) on beech *Fagus* and oak *Quercus*, viii. Nitidulidae: *Cryptarcha strigata* (Fabricius) several at sap run on large oak, 21.viii. Melandryidae: *Abdera biflexuosa* (Curtis) several beaten from moribund oak boughs, v-vi. *Orchesia minor* Walker one swept off oak, 20.vi. Tenebrionidae: *Prionychus ater* (Fabricius) larvae in rotten oak, 21.viii. Curculionidae: *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Froelich) a dead specimen in a spider's web on a large oak, 20.vi. Scolytidae: *Kissophagus hederæ* (Schmitt) on old ivy *Hedera helix* L., 20.vi. Platypodidae: *Platypus cylindrus* (Fabricius) in felled oak, 21.viii.

DORSET (VC9) Portland Harbour (SY6874) Carabidae: *Licinus punctatulus* (Fabricius) several under stones. Anthicidae: *Anthicus tristis* Schmidt (RDB1), one under tidal refuse on foreshore with several *A.instabilis* Schmidt. Curculionidae: *Lixus scabricollis* Boheman, abundant under *Beta vulgaris* L., all found on 6.viii.

ISLE OF WIGHT (VC10) Newport College (SZ4990) Drilidae: *Drilus flavescens* (Fourcroy) (Na). Male on recently created bank with ruderal vegetation, 25.v.

SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (VC11) Hurn Airport (SZ1098) Chrysomelidae: *Chrysolina oricalcia* (Müller), 22.viii.

NORTH HAMPSHIRE (VC12) Yateley Common LNR (SU8159) Cucujidae: *Cryptolestes spartii* (Curtis), Anobiidae: *Dryophilus anobioides* Chevrolat, on old broom *Cytisus* iv-v. Buprestidae: *Trachys scrobiculatus* Kiessenwetter, on ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea* L., 24.v. Coccinellidae: *Platynaspis luteorubra* (Goeze) two with many *Lasius niger* sensu stricto (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in vacuum sample from open disturbed heath, 21.vi, new for VC12?

Melandryidae: *Melandrya caraboides* (Linnaeus) under bark of recently burnt birch *Betula*, 3.vii. Cerambycidae: *Leptura livida* (Fabricius), one swept off umbels, 8.vi. Brentidae: *Apion stolidum* Germar, *Apion rubiginosum* Grill, 20.vi. Curculionidae: *Strophosoma faber* (Herbst), *Sitona waterhousei* Walton, *Orthochaetes setiger* (Beck), vacuum samples from disturbed heathland, vi. Bentworth Lodge (SU6940) Curculionidae: *Cionus nigritarsis* Reitter, abundant on dark mullein *Verbascum nigrum* L., vi-vii.

WEST SUSSEX (VC13) Westhamptnett (SU8804) Staphylinidae: *Neobisnius procerulus* (Gravenhorst) margins of flooded gravel pit, new for VC13? Curculionidae: *Phytobius (Litodactylus) leucogaster* (Marsham) in weedy pond, *Gymnetron villosulum* Gyllenhal in numbers on hybrid water speedwell *Veronica lackschewitzii* J.B.Keller growing in ponds and in desiccated dykes, 5.vi.

WEST KENT (VC16) Tunbridge Wells (TQ5937) Chrysomelidae: *Mantura obtusata* (Gyllenhal), Curculionidae: *Tanymecus palliatus* (Fabricius) and *Cneorhinus plumbeus* (Marsham) all in vacuum samples from unimproved meadow 30.vi.

SURREY (VC17) Lakeside Park, Guildford (TQ0052) Carabidae: *Stenolophus skrimshiranus* Stephens, one male in ditch side litter, 4.vi. Nower Wood (TQ1955) Hydrophilidae: *Enochrus quadripunctatus* (Herbst) one male in *Sphagnum* marsh, 14.vi., new for VC17. Hagthorne Bog (SU9260) Staphylinidae: *Myllaena kraatzi* Sharp on wet *Sphagnum* in boggy seepage, 13.viii. First modern Surrey record? Lammas Land, Godalming (SU9744) Cantharidae: *Silus ruficollis* (Fabricius) several swept from *Phalaris* beside River Wey, vi-vii., Elateridae: *Selatosomus nigricornis* (Panzer) one swept from tall grasses beside the Hell Ditch, 23.vii. 'The Glen', Ash Ranges (SU9252) Colydiidae: *Colydium elongatum* (Fabricius) dead adult under bark with *Prionychus ater* (Fabricius) (Tenebrionidae) larvae in loose frass on old oak 13.viii. Newdigate Brickpits (TQ2042) Curculionidae: *Rhynchaenus pratensis* (Germar), abundant on common knapweed *Centaurea nigra* L.

MONMOUTHSHIRE (VC35) Waun Afon (S02110) Dytiscidae: *Stictonectes lepidus* (Olivier) several in barren pools in a small stream on old colliery workings, 29.v. Derodontidae: *Laricobius erichsoni* Rosenhauer, one swept off *Calluna*, remote from conifers, 29.v. Mynydd Llanhilleth (SO2301) Hydrophilidae: *Laccobius atratus* (Rottenburg) in *Sphagnum* at edges of seepage, in old quarry with *Helochares punctatus* Sharp, 3.vii.

CHESHIRE (VC58) Partington (SJ7293) Carabidae: *Stenolophus mixtus* (Herbst) (apparently rare in Cheshire), Hydrophilidae: *Helochares punctatus* Sharp, both in flooded moss and grass at margins of base rich pond on old fly ash tip on 10.x. Lyme Green near Macclesfield (SJ9170) Staphylinidae: *Quedius brevicornis* (Thomson) a female taken in flight, 4.ix.

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Psylliodes luteola (Müller, O.F.) (Chrysomelidae) in Derbyshire

Keith N. A. Alexander

14 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1BQ

Cox (2000) has recently reviewed the status and distribution of this flea beetle in the UK. It is very much concentrated in the Oxfordshire area. Cox mentions an unconfirmed record from Nottinghamshire, however, and so the recent discovery of one in Derbyshire adds some credence to this older record. One was swept in Kedleston Park (SK312403), just outside of Derby, 20.viii.2001.

Cox mentions that the species is associated with grasses and has the potential as an economically important agricultural pest. Winter wheat is mentioned and one wonders if the

huge move to winter wheat over recent decades – perhaps aided by global climate change – has provided a new bountiful food supply for the species. It is certainly increasing in abundance and spread in southern England. Kedleston Park is surrounded by intensive arable farmland.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to M.L. Cox for confirmation of the Derbyshire find and his continued help with determining difficult Chrysomelidae.

Reference

COX, M.L. 2000. The current status of *Psylliodes luteola* (Müller, O.F., 1776) (Chrysomelidae) in the U.K. *The Coleopterist* 9(2): 55-63.

Review

Ladybirds of Surrey by Roger D. Hawkins Surrey Wildlife Trust 2000 price £12. Obtainable from the Trust: Atlas sales, Surrey Wildlife Trust, School Lane, Pirbright, Woking, Surrey GU24 0JN (£12 plus £2 postage)

This book is not just the report on a twenty year-long survey of Surrey beetles. The introduction has brief but interesting sections on a range of topics including finding ladybirds, identification, life history and conservation. There are also details of the recording methods and area and a list of recorders.

The species accounts include a tetrad map and a wealth of fascinating detail with much original material from personal observations. This presented simply and clearly.

Sixteen excellent colour photographic plates show a good number of adults and larvae. These photographs and the wide-ranging text ensure that this book is pertinent to ladybird observers anywhere in the country.

A.J. Allen

Subscribers' Notices

This section is for subscribers to advertise requests for information, specimens wanted for loan, or entomological items wanted or for sale. Notices will be repeated with each issue while space is available (or until withdrawn), newer ones appearing first, and may be edited for brevity.

Montgomeryshire beetle records wanted: I am setting out as new recorder for this vice-county and would be grateful for any records, past and present. Any information on museum or private collections containing Montgomeryshire species would also be gratefully received. *Dr W. Schaefer*, Cwm-Weeg, Dolfor Newtown POWYS SY164AT. E-mail: wolfgang@dial 1.co.uk.

New British Beetles (revised edition) by Peter Hodge & Richard Jones: Work on a new and improved version of this book is progressing well, but it would enhance its usefulness still further if the sections entitled 'Errors in Joy' were more comprehensively covered. Therefore, if you know of any previously unrecorded errors in Joy, or can supply other useful information that would make his keys work more effectively, the authors would be pleased to receive details. Reply to *Peter J. Hodge* 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5HJ. Tel.: 01273 812047.

New *Stenus* recording scheme: Please send all records of *Stenus* (Staphylinidae) species to *Jonty Denton*, 2 Sandown Close, Alton, Hampshire GU34 2TG. E-mail: jontydenton@aol.com.

Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus* records wanted: Further to a paper in this journal which intimately linked the Stag Beetle's Sussex range with temperature and its local distribution with rainfall, I am performing more research into the species for a proposed follow-up paper on the beetle's national status. I would be

pleased to receive any records from any era from any British locality. All due acknowledgement will be given. Colin Pratt 5 View Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex BN10 8DE. E-mail: colin.pratt@talk21.com.
For Sale: *Entomologist's Gazette*, volumes 23 (1972) to 35 (1984) inclusive. Unbound in wrappers, with indexes. £5 each or £60 the set, postage extra. D. B. Atty, Beckhouse Mill, Embleton, Cockermouth, Cumbria CA13 9TN. Tel.: 01768 776586.

Wanted: "*The Biology of the Coleoptera*" by R.A. Crowson (1981). Can anyone help? If so, please contact Michael O'Sullivan, 20 St. James Gardens, Killorglin, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

Chrysolina graminis (tansy beetle) records wanted: I would like to receive both old and recent records to assess this species' current status and the extent of range contraction. It would also be useful to know whether *C. menthastri* has been reported from the same area as the *C. graminis* records submitted, as these two species have been confused in the past. Duncan Sivell, Dept of Biology, University of York, PO Box 373, York YO1 5YW. E-mail: dms103@york.ac.uk.

Literature Notices

compiled by James Hogan

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