The Coleopterist

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A Review of Staphylinidae doubtfully recorded from the British Isles

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Abstract

As a result of a review of records of 11 species of Staphylinidae (Coleoptera) previously noticed to be of doubtful occurrence in the British Isles, *Orochares angustatus* (Erichson), *Aleochara verna* Say and *Myrmecocephalus concinnus* (Erichson) are confirmed as British. There is insufficient evidence to include *Bryaxis clavicornis* (Panzer), *Parabolitobius formosus* (Gravenhorst), *Myllaena graeca* Kraatz, *Ocalea concolor* Kiesenwetter, *Philhygra rugulosa* (Heer), *Stenus cautus* Erichson and *Lathrobium laevipenne* Heer in the British list. *Dimetrota clintoni* Kevan is synonymised with *D. laevana* (Mulsant & Rey).

Introduction

The most recent, widely available checklist of British beetles (Pope, 1977) listed several species that were considered doubtfully British in some way. In that publication, species names were annotated with an asterisk to indicate that they were "species of doubtful status, including immigrant and adventitious species of fairly regular occurrence". Question marks were used to annotate species that were "doubtfully British" and whose records required confirmation. The recent compilation of a new checklist of British Staphylinidae (Lott & Duff, 2001) has made it necessary to review the position of doubtful staphylinid species 25 years on. Two staphylinid species were annotated as doubtfully British by Pope (1977). Nine were annotated as species of doubtful status. One of these was listed under the Pselaphidae, a taxon that is now considered to be a subfamily of the Staphylinidae (Newton & Thayer, 1995).

The British list is something of an institution in British entomology, so it is surprising that there are few written criteria for inclusion of species. Pope (1977) explicitly omitted *non-breeding introductions, both regular and occasional.* This avoids the inclusion of large numbers of casually imported exotic species, but leaves open the question of what to do with species that manage to survive for just a few generations. Students of zoogeography would probably accept continental European species that from time to time establish ephemeral breeding populations, but reject exotic species that are not persistently recorded in the wild. Those concerned with pest control might favour a more inclusive approach.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the history of the British list of Coleoptera is the past inclusion of doubtfully recorded species. Some of the species traditionally listed as British are included on the basis of records that would not get past the first

stage of verification of a modern recording scheme. A properly labelled voucher specimen whose identification can be checked by an independent party is surely essential for a first British record to be accepted. The retention of voucher specimens is particularly important in the event of subsequent taxonomic revisions affecting the recorded species.

In this respect, it is worth mentioning the valuable role of collectors who visit the sites of first British captures in order to keep their collections as comprehensive as possible. They provide very useful confirmation, not only of the accuracy of the original record, but also of the status of the population. Many museums have benefited from their activities.

Species

Orochares angustatus (Erichson)

The British status of this species was investigated by Hammond (in Shirt, 1987) who confirmed two records from Hertfordshire and Berkshire, the most recent dating from 1903. Two Scottish records were considered doubtful. This species therefore deserves to remain in the British list, albeit as one that is possibly extinct.

Bryaxis clavicornis (Panzer)

According to Pearce (1974), the inclusion of this species in the British list rests on the identification by Dr Claude Besuchet of four specimens without labels in 'the old collection' in the Natural History Museum, London. There is no certainty that these specimens were taken in the British Isles and they cannot serve as a basis for assigning British status to this species.

Pearce (*op. cit.*) also quoted some early 19th century literature records, but there are some inconsistencies in these. Most of the records seem to originate in Dillwyn's Swansea list, but the species was not included in a later edition of that list. No vouchers for these records are known and attempts to link them to the four specimens cited above are at best speculative. Consequently, there appears to be no reliable evidence that this species has ever occurred in the British Isles, and it should be deleted from the British list.

Parabolitobius (= *Bolitobius*) *formosus* (Gravenhorst)

Allen (1971) recommended the deletion of this species from the British list, having reported no evidence of any records since the early 19th century and no supporting vouchers for these old records.

Myllaena graeca Kraatz

The British records of this species are confined to two 19th century specimens taken on the coast at Scarborough (Fowler, 1888). According to Kevan (1968), *M. graeca* has a Mediterranean distribution and it is doubtful that its occurrence in the British Isles is anything other than "adventitious". There is no evidence that the Scarborough population was more than transient. Consequently, this species should be removed from the British list.

Ocalea concolor Kiesenwetter

The only published British record of this species rests on the identification by Allen (1988) of one specimen, now lost, but seen in the collections of the British Museum in the 1930s. The specimen was reportedly labelled Meathop, Westmorland by its captor, K.G. Blair. No date was given, but Allen (*op. cit.*) presumed it to be June 1929 based on Blair's itinerary in his collecting diaries. *O. concolor* is a montane species from Central Europe with isolated records in Jutland and Holland (Horion, 1967). Its occurrence in the British Isles is quite plausible, but there is insufficient supporting evidence to unreservedly accept the only British record published to date. It should therefore be deleted from the British list.

Philhygra rugulosa (Heer) (=*Atheta brisouti* (Harold))

This species was added to the British list by Hawkins (1949) who took a single specimen on the coast of the Isle of Wight on 16 July 1948. The specimen was identified by Dr Malcolm Cameron. In Europe *P. rugulosa* is an alpine species associated with the snow line (Koch, 1989). Its occurrence on the south coast of England is, therefore, rather anomalous.

Attempts to trace the specimen in question in the Hawkins collection in Somerset County Museum, or in Cameron's boxes in the Natural History Museum have proved fruitless. Unfortunately, no voucher specimen has yet been located in order to confirm the original identification. However, even if the original record proves to be authentic, the subsequent lack of further records and the known European distribution of the species strongly suggest that it is highly unlikely to have established a sustained breeding population on the Isle of Wight. It should therefore be removed from the British list.

Dimetrota (= Atheta) clintoni Kevan

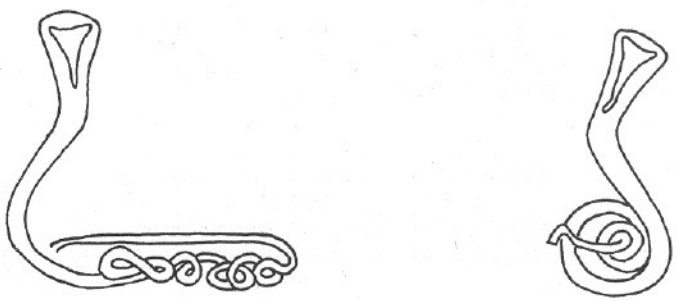
This species was described from the single female holotype collected by E.C. Pelham-Clinton on 15 April 1957 from sheep dung at Aviemore in Scotland (Kevan, 1969). It was taken together with two males that were inseparable from *Dimetrota laevana* (Mulsant & Rey). No further specimens of *D. clintoni* have been reported from the British Isles, nor from anywhere else in the world.

Kevan described the general form of the holotype as indistinguishable from *D. laevana.* The only distinguishing feature that he could find was in the form of the spermatheca. In *D. laevana* the head of the spermatheca is conical and slightly flared like a trumpet. The stem is elbowed near the head and then gently curved in the opposite direction until it tapers into an irregularly spiral, chitinised duct as in figure 1. Examination of the holotype of *D. clintoni*, which is housed at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, confirms that its external morphology is typical of *D. laevana.* The head of the spermatheca is also identical to that of *D. laevana.* However, the stem is much more tightly curved so that it forms three coils, as illustrated by Kevan (*op. cit.*). What Kevan's illustration fails to show is the presence of a short section of chitinised duct that ends abruptly, close to the outer edge of the largest stem coil (see figure 2). From an examination of the duct at 150x

magnification, the duct appears to have been broken at this point and any remaining part lost.

Consequently, the lack of a chitinised duct in the spermatheca of *D. clintoni* cannot be inferred with any confidence, and its variation from *D. laevana* may well be limited to the more pronounced curvature of the stem. Given the occurrence of occasional intraspecific variations in the spermathecae of several other species in the Athetini it is highly likely that the holotype of *D. clintoni* is a specimen of *D. laevana* with an aberrant spermatheca. This results in the following synonymy:

Dimetrota laevana (Mulsant & Rey, 1852) = *D. clintoni* (Kevan, 1969), new synonymy.



1 **2**

Figs. 1-2: Spermathecae of: **1** *Dimetrota laevana;* **2** *D. clintoni.*

Aleochara verna Say
This species is now known to be well established in the British Isles (Welch, 1997) and appears to be widely distributed. Earlier doubts about its British status were due to problems of identification.

Myrmecocephalus (=*Falagria*) *concinnus* (Erichson)
There are scattered records of this species occurring in S.E. England between 1944 and 1999 (Jones, 2001). According to Hammond (1987), this is a cosmopolitan sub-tropical species that is probably frequently imported, but there are sufficient records of the species taken outdoors, sometimes in numbers, to suggest that it has on several occasions become established in the wild. It should, therefore, remain on the British list.

Stenus cautus Erichson (=*vafellus* Erichson)
British records previously referred to *S. vafellus* were reassigned to *S. cautus* by Kevan & Allen (1961). However, after studying the types, Puthz (1966) found that these two names were synonymous and belonged to a continental species. The

species occurring in Britain and elsewhere in Western Europe was given a new name, *Stenus europaeus* Puthz. Nevertheless, both *S. europaeus* and *S. cautus* (as *vafellus*) appeared in Pope (1977). Allen (1978) reiterated that the true *S. cautus* had not been recorded in the British Isles, and that the name should be deleted from the British list.

Lathrobium laevipenne Heer
I am aware of no published British records of this species. Hodge & Jones (1995) regarded it as doubtfully British. Until further evidence is forthcoming, it should not be accepted onto the British list.

Acknowledgments
I am grateful to Dennis Parsons, Somerset County Museum, and Peter Hammond, Natural History Museum, for their efforts in trying to find the British specimen of *Phylhygra rugulosa.* I am grateful to Graham Rotheray, National Museum of Scotland, for the loan of the type of *Dimetrota clintoni.*

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Thalassophilus longicornis *(Sturm) (Carabidae) in Kent*

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I found a single example of *Thalassophilus longicornis* (Sturm) at Dungeness, East Kent (VC 15) on 18 May 2001. This specimen was shown at the British Entomological and Natural History Society Annual Exhibition in November 2001. The beetle was caught by pushing gravel into the water of a long established pit at grid reference TR 084179.

Thalassophilus longicornis is mentioned by Hyman (1992) for East Kent before 1970 and this reference is referred to by Luff (1998). I have not been able to trace the source of this East Kent record. Mark Telfer has informed me that there are no Kent records held by the National Ground Beetle Recording Scheme and Eric Philp, who keeps a list of Kent species, also has no records.

There are a few recent records from Wales, one from Northumberland and two from west Scotland (Luff, 1998). All of these are from river shingle.

Acknowledgements
I thank John Owen for joining me for the collecting trip, Peter Whitton for confirming my identification and Mark Telfer and Eric Philp for looking up records.

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Some notable Coleoptera from The Oaks, Kingston Lacy, Dorset, including *Sphaerites glabratus* (Fabricius) (Sphaeritidae) new to Southern England

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Site description and history

'The Oaks' is an isolated block of deciduous woodland situated on a ridge running north from the Badbury Rings Iron-Age hill fort, at Grid reference ST9603. It is on a cap of clay-with-flints, underlain and surrounded by chalk downland converted mostly to arable, with some pasture.

The area is part of the National Trust estate of Kingston Lacy, and lies within the former Badbury deer park and warren that dates back to at least 1348. Oak *Quercus* is the predominant tree with several very old pollards, with only occasional other species – ash *Fraxinus,* wild cherry *Prunus avium* (L.), spindle *Euonymus europus* L., wych elm *Ulmus glabra* Huds., and wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana* L. This is an interesting composition characteristic of an ancient wood pasture (Keith Alexander pers.comm.). The site has been degraded by use for pheasant rearing that has resulted in nutrient enrichment and disturbance to soil and vegetation. This could have serious long-term consequences for the ancient trees, and the under-storey is rather species poor with abundant brambles *Rubus* and nettles *Urtica.*

Methods

The main aim of my survey was to target the saproxylic Coleoptera. Two flight interception traps were used in 2000 to supplement the captures made by standard field techniques (beating, sweeping etc.). The list of saproxylic Coleoptera from the site was used to calculate the Index of Ecological Continuity (IEC) as outlined in Harding & Alexander (1994), and the Species Quality Index (SQI) (Fowles *et al.,* 1999).

Results

The list of saproxylic beetles captured is shown in table 1. The IEC for the site was **11** made up of nine grade 3 indicators, and one grade 2.

In all 72 saproxylic species from the list in Fowles *et al.,* (1999) were found with a Species Quality Score (SQS) of **197** giving an SQI of **273.6.** This is a modest total for a site with undoubted continuity. Despite the abundance of dead and decaying timber, the overall diversity of saproxylic invertebrates was somewhat disappointing. Sampling in May and early June when the hawthorn was in flower was not very

productive, and the captures from the two flight interception traps confirmed the relatively modest diversity of saproxylics. Despite this the site is amongst the most important for saproxylics in the county, along with Melbury Park and Sherborne Park (Keith Alexander, pers. comm.).

Other Coleoptera

The most important and surprising discovery was *Sphaerites glabratus* (Fabricius) (Sphaeritidae). This RDB3 species is primarily a woodland beetle, with previous records from birch polypore *Piptoporus betulinus* and rotting *Boletus luteus*. At 'The Oaks' it was found in the rotting remains of the oak polypore *Buglossoporus pulvinus* on a large fallen red rotten oak on 7 August 2000. Ted Green had recently discovered this very rare fungus as new for the county. *S. glabratus* has a primarily northern distribution, with the nearest record coming from Cardiganshire (Boyce, 1989). The nearest English localities are in Yorkshire and Cumberland, with the bulk of records from Scotland (Hyman, 1992). *Hallomenus binotatus* (Melandryidae) was also found on rotting *Buglossoporus pulvinus* on 26 July 2000.

Psylloides luteola (Müller, O.F.) (Chrysomelidae) (RDBK) appears to be undergoing a major expansion in numbers, and it is certainly abundant in the area, as many thousands were found on the foliage of trees and bushes in and around the wood in late summer, presumably preparing to hibernate. This little beetle has the nasty habit of nipping one's skin, inflicting quite a painful pinch!

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the National Trust for supporting this survey work, to Dr. Keith Alexander for useful comments on the text and the NT Regional Archaeologist Martin Papworth for further information on the site's history.

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Table 1. Saproxylic Coleoptera recorded at The Oaks in 2000-2001
Capture dates relate to 2000 unless stated. FIT = Flight interception trap

Species	Notes/dates	Harding & Rose Grade (1986)	SQS
Leiodidae			
Anisotoma humeralis (Fabricius)	v-vi in FITs		2
Anisotoma orbicularis (Herbst)	vi in FIT		2
Scaphidiidae			
Scaphidium quadrimaculatum Olivier	vi, viii		2
Staphylinidae			
Dropephylla ioptera (Stephens)	v-vi		1
Dropephylla vilis (Erichson)	v-vi		1
Atrecus affinis (Paykull)	v-ix		1
Gabrius splendidulus (Gravenhorst)	v-ix		1
Gyrophaena angustata (Stephens)	26.vii		8
Gyrophaena minima Erichson	26.vi		2
Gyrophaena latissima (Stephens)	vi-vii		2
Leptusa ruficollis (Erichson)	v-vii		1
Dinaraea aequata (Erichson)	v-viii		1
Lucanidae			
Dorcus parallelipipedis (Linnaeus)	26.vi		2
Buprestidae			
Agrilus sinuatus (Olivier)	Larval workings		4
Elateridae			
Denticollis linearis (Linnaeus)	vi		1
Melanotus villosus (Fourcroy)	vi		1
Eucnemidae			
Melasis buprestoides (Linnaeus)	25.v	3	4
Cantharidae			
Malthinus balteatus Suffrian	1.vii.01		8
Malthinus seriepunctatus Kiesenwetter	v-vi		2
Malthodes marginatus (Latreille)	v-vi		1
Malthodes fuscus (Waltl)	v-vii		2
Anobiidae			
Grynobius planus (Fabricius)	v		
Ochina ptinoides (Marsham)	v		2
Hemicoelus fulvicorne (Sturm)	v-viii		1

Species	Notes/dates	Harding & Rose Grade (1986)	SQS
Anobium inexspectatum Lohse	25.v		8
Anobium punctatum (Degeer)	dead adults		1
Ptilinus pectinicornis (Linnaeus)	dead adults		1
Cleridae			
Thanasimus formicarius (Linnaeus)	23.vi	3	4
Melyridae			
Dasytes aeratus Stephens	v-vi		2
Malachius bipustulatus (Linnaeus)	v-vi		1
Nitidulidae			
Epuraea marseuli Reitter	v-vi		1
Rhizophagidae			
Rhizophagus bipustulatus (Fabricius)	v		1
Rhizophagus dispar (Paykull)	v, ix		1
Sphindidae			
Aspidiphorus orbiculatus (Gyllenhal)	vi		2
Cryptophagidae			
Cryptophagus dentatus (Herbst)	vi		1
Cryptophagus ruficornis Stephens	23.vi		8
Biphyllidae			
Biphyllus lunatus (Fabricius)	26.vii	3	4
Cerylonidae			
Cerylon ferrugineum Stephens	22.viii		4
Corylophidae			
Orthoperus mundus Matthews	26.vii		4
Lathriidae			
Enicmus brevicornis (Mannerheim)		2	8
Ciidae			
Octotemnus glabriculus (Gyllenhal)	v-viii		1
Cis boleti (Scopoli)	v-viii		1
Cis pygmaeus (Marsham)	23.vi		2
Cis vestitus Mellié	23.vi		2
Ennearthrum cornutum (Gyllenhal)	v-viii		2
Mycetophagidae			
Triphyllus bicolor (Fabricius)	26.vii, 22.viii.01	3	4
Mycetophagus quadrimaculatus (Linnaeus)	26.vii		1

Species	Notes/dates	Harding & Rose Grade (1986)	SQS
Salpingidae			
Lissodema quadripustulatus (Marsham)	26.vi		8
Rhinosimus planirostris (Fabricius)	v-viii		1
Pyrochroidae			
Pyrochroa serraticornis (Scopoli)	Larvae v-ix		1
Melandryidae			
Hallomenus binotatus (Quensel)	26.vii	3	8
Abdera biflexuosa (Curtis)	23.vi	3	8
Orchesia undulata Kraatz	5.v	3	4
Scraptidae			
Anaspis frontalis (Linnaeus)	v-vii		1
Anaspis humeralis (Fabricius)	v-vii		2
Anaspis lurida Stephens	v-vi		2
Mordellidae			
Mordellochroa abdominalis (Fabricius)	v-vi		4
Aderidae			
Aderus oculatus (Paykull)	26.vii	3	8
Cerambycidae			
Grammoptera ruficornis (Fabricius)	v-vi		1
Leptura maculata (Poda)	vii		1
Clytus arietus (Linnaeus)	vi		1
Leiopus nebulosus (Linnaeus)	v-vii		2
Pogonocherus hispidulus (Piller & Mitterpacher)	iv-vi		2
Pogonocherus hispidus (Linnaeus)	22.viii		2
Tetrops praestus (Linnaeus)	v-vi		2
Curculionidae			
Acalles misellus Bohemann	v-viii		2
Trachodes hispidus (Linnaeus)	1.vii.01	3	8
Scolytus intricatus (Ratzeburg)	v-viii		2
Scolytus multistriatus (Marsham)	v-viii		1
Hylesinus varius (Fabricius)	vi		1
Dryocoetinus villosus (Fabricius)	23.vi		2
Xylocleptes bispinus (Duftschmid)	v-viii		
Kissophagus hederae (Schmitt)	v-vi		8

IEC 11
Total No. of qualifying species 72
SQS 197; SQI 273.6

Prasocuris phellandrii (Linnaeus) (Chrysomelidae) in the Orkney Islands

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Prasocuris phellandrii (Linnaeus), a local species in the UK (Mann, 2000) was unexpectedly sampled during a pitfall trap survey of the RSPB Durkadale reserve, Orkney West Mainland during 2000/2001. Beetles were recorded from one pitfall trap trio located within an area of fen (HY30263502), immediately adjacent to a natural spring, marked by a huge tussock of the greater tussock-sedge *Carex paniculata* L. No other *Prasocuris* were recorded in marsh or fen from the three other Orkney sites surveyed.

Previously unrecorded for Orkney (Lorrimer in Berry, 1985), northernmost records for this conspicuous species were formerly from the Outer Hebrides on the west coast and Moray (Elgin) on the east (Watsonian vice-counties), records from the Scottish Insect Records Index. Existing vice-county records in Scotland correspond to the known distribution of the aquatic umbellifer host-plants, fine-leaved water-dropwort *Oenanthe aquatica* (L.), and the much more widely distributed hemlock water- dropwort *Oenanthe crocata* L. (Perring and Walters, 1983). This is primarily a plant of southern and western coastal distribution in Scotland in 'Atlantic' habitats (Matthews, 1955).

Hemlock water-dropwort has only been recorded on one occasion from elsewhere in Orkney as a suspect introduction (Bullard, 1995) and is not known from East Ross, East Sutherland or Caithness. The Durkadale site contains the most species rich area of fen in Orkney and has been well known to previous and present generations of resident and visiting botanists. Hemlock water-dropwort has not been noted there and is not present by the pitfall trap. However, angelica *Angelica sylvestris* L. does occur here in very wet conditions. Angelica is given for *Prasocuris* by Jolivet & Hawkeswood (1995) in their list of chrysomelid host-plants of the world. Further examination will be required to confirm the use of angelica by *Prasocuris* at this site. With regard to the existing known distribution of *P. phellandrii*, could coleopterists in the far north have confined their search to the better-known host plant rather than angelica, which might be used at the edge of the species range in the absence of hemlock water-dropwort?

***P. phellandrii* pitfall trap captures: April-November 2000, Durkadale**

trap date	1.iv-6.v	6.v-3.vi	3.vi-7.viii	7.viii-10.ix	10.ix-12.xi
individuals	9	10	3	1	5

Acknowledgements
I would like to thank Ms B. Pederson (Librarian, Royal Entomological Society), Mr D.J. Mann (Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford) for most helpful comments received, Mr A. Whittington (Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh) for extracting records from the Scottish Insect Records Index, and Mr E. Meek (RSPB, Orkney) for permission to survey the Durkadale reserve. The pitfall trap survey was financially assisted by a 'Natural Pioneers' award from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

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Diaperis boleti (Linnaeus) (Tenebrionidae) new to Essex

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Following its rediscovery in Suffolk in 1996 (Alexander & Edwards, 1997) and the first record from Norfolk in 1997 (Denton, 1997), it is perhaps not surprising that *Diaperis boleti* (Linnaeus) has now been found in Essex.

Having become familiar with the habitat frequented by the species in Suffolk I searched likely spots in northeast Essex (VC 19) and on 6 October 2001 located two specimens in Cockayne's Wood at Arlesford (TM0521). They were in old *Piptoporus betulinus* brackets growing by the public footpath on standing dead silver birch *Betula pendula* Roth. Cockayne's Wood is a small, open deciduous wood on light soils and contains several stands of birch. It is situated on the edge of gravel workings that will ultimately destroy part of the wood.

This is apparently the first record of the species' occurrence in Essex (Hammond, 1999).

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Notes on the distribution, status and ecology of the Large Poplar Longhorn Beetle *Saperda carcharias* (Linnaeus) (Coleoptera; Cerambycidae) in the Scottish Highlands

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Introduction

During the past 10 years there has been an extensive amount of work carried out on the insects associated with aspen *Populus tremula* L. in the Scottish Highlands, particularly with respect to the rich fauna of saproxylic Diptera (Rotheray *et. al.*, 2001). Throughout this period we have been aware of the presence of the Large Poplar Longhorn *Saperda carcharias* (Linnaeus) within the aspen stands and during 2000 and 2001 a more intensive study of this species was undertaken. The results are presented below.

Survey methodology

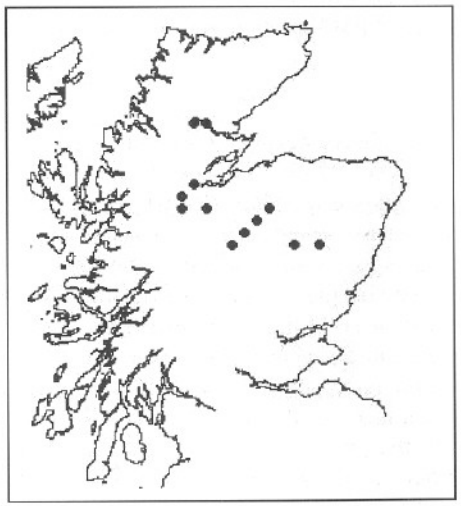
Despite being one of Britain's largest longhorn beetles adults are not often encountered. This may be due to their cryptic coloration and habit of resting on the higher branches of trees. During this survey, despite spending a considerable amount of time in suitable habitats, we only came across an adult beetle on one occasion. We have found that the key to recording this species and understanding its ecology lies in locating and identifying the characteristic borings of the larvae in the host tree. After a larva had been extracted from an aspen and kindly confirmed as that of *S. carcharias* by Richard Lyszkowski we were able to identify the characteristic signs of this species. This allowed us to visit a range of suitable sites and to record the species indirectly, without causing any damage to the habitat or to individual populations. The optimum time to identify the presence of *S. carcharias* is during July and August when a considerable amount of frass and wood fibres are ejected from active tunnel entrances that are formed as an enlargement of the oviposition site. The tunnel entrances can obviously be identified at any time of year but then there is no way of easily knowing whether or not it is occupied.

We surveyed a range of aspen sites across the Scottish highlands to find out whether *S. carcharias* was present. At two sites, the Insh Marshes RSPB reserve and at a site in Deeside, a detailed assessment was made of its preference for size of tree for oviposition and height and aspect of the larval hole.

Distribution

Saperda carcharias was classified by Hyman (1992) as being Notable A indicating a species which is thought to occur in 30 or fewer 10km squares. This assessment was confirmed by Twinn and Harding (1999) in their atlas of British longhorn beetles that only noted 11 recent 10km squares for this species, nine in England and two in Scotland. Uhthoff-Kaufmann (1991) noted that this species 'has become very scarce due to over collecting'.

MacGowan (1993) noted that there had been four previous records of *S. carcharias* in Scotland, only two of which were from the 20th century. Evans (1892) records that whilst staying at Cromdale, near Grantown on Spey, his son brought him a specimen captured at rest on an aspen. Ritchie (1915) records a specimen found one mile east of Kincardine O'Neil on Deeside. The other records are from Sutherland in 1852 (Murray, 1853) and Braemar in 1954 (Scottish Insect Record Index). Two further records have updated this situation. Owen (1999) beat an adult from an aspen sapling on Speyside in 1995 and McKellar and Entwhistle (2000) recorded an adult *S. carcharias* in 1997 from Migdale Wood in Sutherland.



Map showing post 1990 records of *Saperda carcharias* in the Scottish highlands.

Following our survey work we can now add further sites in Sutherland, two sites in Easter Ross, one in Moray, four in Inverness-shire, four in Deeside and seven in Strathspey. With the inclusion of the McKellar and Entwhistle (2000) record this results in the species being recorded in twelve 10km grid squares in highland Scotland since 1990. As would be expected we found *S. carcharias* in the greatest abundance in localities where aspen occurred most frequently such as in Strathspey and in Deeside.

Habitat

Uhthoff-Kaufmann (1991) states that the larva of *S. carcharias* may be found in the trunks and thicker branches of trees growing in wet woodlands and along riverbanks. He states that aspen is the preferred larval tree but that other Poplar species, larger willow species *Salix* and even occasionally oak *Quercus* are also utilised. Hyman (1992) also states that the preferred habitat in Britain is predominantly wet woodland, fens and carr.

Whilst these may be the characteristic situations in southern Britain where aspen is mainly associated with these types of wet habitats this is not the case throughout the British Isles. In the Scottish Highlands aspen is typically a tree found growing in association with birch *Betula* and common juniper *Juniperus communis* L. on relatively fertile, well drained morainic deposits or steep sided river gorges and as a consequence it is in these situations that *S. carcharias* is to be found.

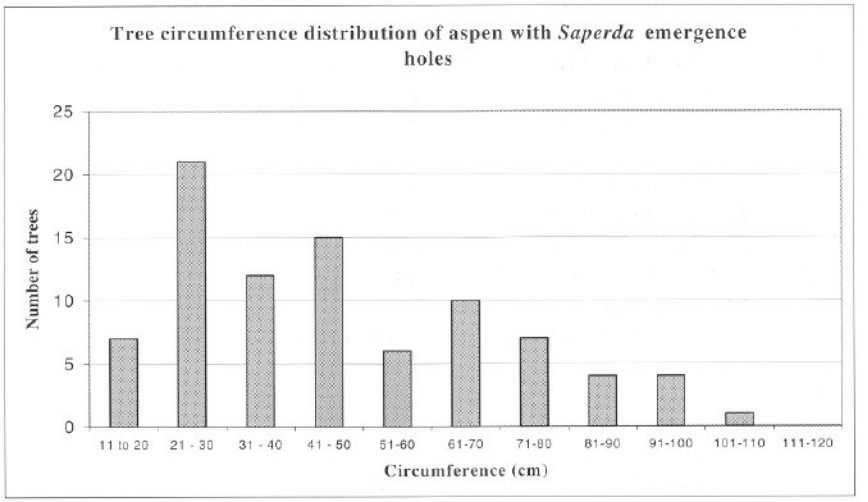
Ecology

Detailed observations were made at two sites, at Insh Marshes and in Deeside. Measurements and observations were made where trees were found to show characteristic signs of *S. carcharias* activity and emergence. These measurements include the tree circumference at breast height (CBH), the height of the hole from the ground, number of holes and the orientation of each hole. At Insh Marshes the total number of trees found to have emergence sites was 61. Thirty-two trees in Deeside and 11 from other sites were recorded for tree size only

Tree size

For trees with emergence holes the circumference was within the range 13 -187 cm CBH, the mean circumference being 47.4 cm. Measurements of over 2000 aspen trees made across the Scottish Highlands show that the mean size for aspen overall lies in the 81-90 cm CBH size range so it is evident that *S. carcharias* is selecting for smaller trees within the aspen population. This is probably due to the thinner bark on the smaller trees which allows easier access to the adults when egg laying. The preference for small trees in the related Canadian species *Saperda calcarata* Say is also noted by Drouin and Wong (1975) who found that the most susceptible trees for attack were of between 4 and 20 cm in basal circumference. The following histogram (Figure 1) shows *S. carcharias* emergence sites in relation to tree circumference. The histogram is positively skewed towards lower values, with the range 20-29 cm having the highest frequency. Two trees with circumferences of 187 cm and 124 cm have been omitted from the histogram as in these cases the holes were in the thinner bark of exposed roots rather than in the bark of the trunk itself.

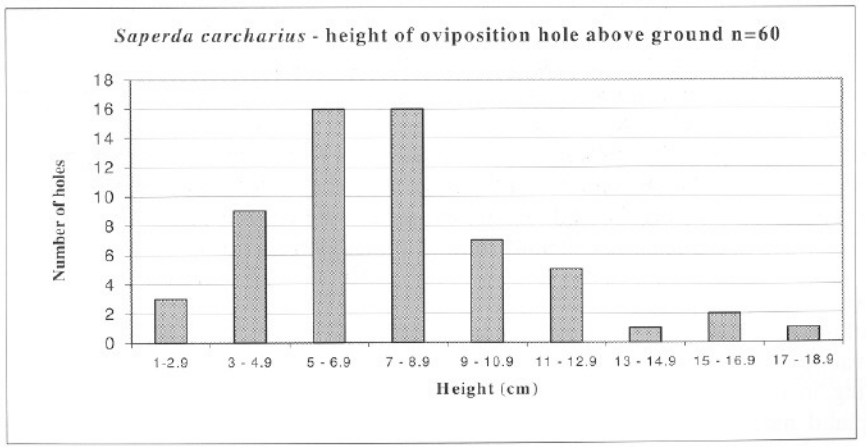
Figure 1



Height of tunnel entrances

The height of tunnel entrances above ground level lay within the range 1-19 cm, the mean being 7.19 cm. The histogram below (Figure 2) shows the distribution of the distances from the ground of *S. carcharias* tunnel entrances. The data is positively skewed towards lower values, the range 5.0 – 8.9 cm having the highest frequency.

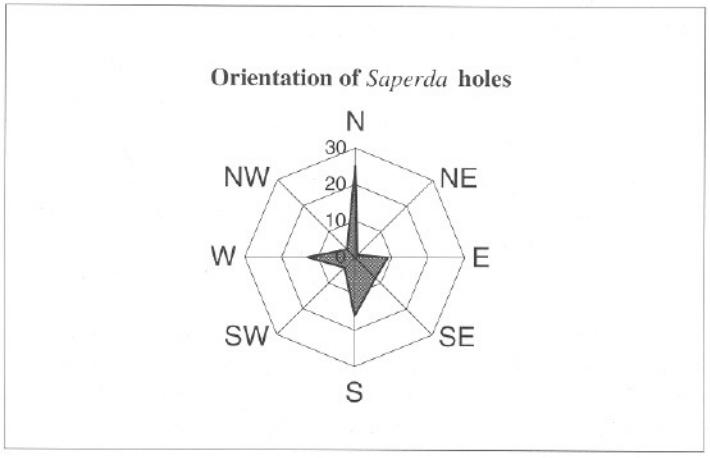
Figure 2



Orientation

The following pie chart (Fig.3) shows the orientation of the 81 tunnel entrances found at Insh Marshes. There appears to little preference shown by the adult females with regard to the orientation of their original oviposition sites from which the tunnel entrances are formed. The key factor seems to be the position of the tree itself within the stand.

Figure 3



Most tunnel entrances were found to be on trees at the edge of the stand, next to open ground. Only a few sites were found within dense cover, i.e., at the centre of stands. Trees in open situations where sunlight can reach the trunk are less likely to have moss or lichens encrusting their bases a factor which may make the cutting of an oviposition slit by the female an easier task, in addition these trees will generally be warmer than shaded trees which may assist larval development.

It was also noted that generally, where there was deep vegetation, damp conditions or a proliferation of moss growing around the tree base, no tunnel entrances were found. Only one tree with a moss-covered trunk was found with an emergence hole. This was at Insh Marshes. Where trees were in a line, e.g. along a wall, fence or on a road verge, tunnel entrances were found to be more common, possibly due to the open aspect consistent with these sites.

Associated species

Uhthoff-Kaufmann (1991) gives records of parasites reared from *S. carcharias* larvae. Drouin and Wong (1975) also list parasites and other insects that are found living in the same poplar trunks - a hornet moth, two wood boring beetles and a hepialid moth. We can find no record in the British literature of insects living in association with *S. carcharias* but the sappy material which collects on the inside of

active or recently active tunnels is attractive to species of Diptera which live in naturally occurring sap runs on trees. The first Scottish record of the fly *Systenus pallipes* (von Roser) Diptera: Dolichopodidae was an adult female found prospecting at the mouth of a *S. carcharias* tunnel. Subsequently we have reared this species from the sappy material on the inside of the tunnels on three separate occasions. We have also recorded larvae of another dipteran genus, *Mycetobia* (species probably *M. pallipes* Meigen) Diptera: Anisopadidae from this situation.

Impact on aspen stands

In Scotland aspen regenerates almost entirely by producing suckers from the parent tree. If conditions are favourable and grazing pressure low this gives rise to dense stands of young trees. It is these small trees, in the more open sites on the edge of the stand, which are mainly utilised by the *S. carcharius* larvae. Although their presence does not apparently directly kill the host tree it no doubt weakens it by allowing entry of diseases and by making the tree more susceptible to windblow. Trees without the larval workings would soon out compete the affected trees and gradually the stand will thin from its outer edges. In cases of high numbers of larvae in an individual tree the base of the tree becomes swollen as extra wood is produced in a response to the tunnelling activities.

The thinning of dense stands of young aspen to produce large relatively open grown trees is in general a benefit to the specialised insects and lichens associated with aspen. By acting as an agent in this thinning process *S. carcharias* can be beneficial and play an important role in the ecology of aspen stands.

The importance of aspen in the Scottish Highlands for a range of rare and specialised insects, lichens and fungi is now being realised and management schemes are proposed for the majority of the key sites. These generally involve fencing and regeneration of the stands and in the course of the next few decades this should provide an adequate supply of young trees for *S. carcharias* to colonise. Fencing and aspen regeneration at Insh marshes is now underway and we hope that with the baseline monitoring already established we should be able to track the response of this population to this management.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Tom Prescott RSPB for his encouragement and for access to the Insh Marshes reserve, to R. Lyszkowski for identification of *S. carcharias* larvae and to Graham Rotheray for access to the Scottish Insect Record Index.

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Changes to the British Coleoptera List published in 2000 and 2001

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This review follows that of Mann (2000a) and gives brief details of additions to and deletions from the British coleopterous fauna arising from publications in 2000 and 2001 or those omitted from Mann (loc. cit.).
The following codes are used:

- **A: Adventive**: A species that appears to have arrived in (or been introduced to) the British Isles within the last 25 years or so and has become an established breeding species.
- **C: Cryptic**: A species that has been only recently been taxonomically separated from another species or a species confused in the past with another.
- **H: Historical**: A species known only from historical specimens.

- **M: Misidentification**: A species deleted from the British list due to the specimens the record is based on being subsequently proven to be misidentified.
- **N: Native**: A species apparently native or long naturalised in the British Isles that has previously escaped detection.
- **R: Reinstated**: A species considered to be a distinct, native species by some authorities in the past but not included as such on the British List.
- **S: Synonymous**: A species deleted from the British List through being synonymised with another species.
- **V: Vagrant**: A species, introduced but unlikely to become established, unless otherwise stated. Species given this status are not true additions to the British Fauna and should not be included on the British Coleoptera Checklists. These are merely highlighted in this paper to bring them to the attention of British coleopterists.

Additions

CARABIDAE

Ophonus subsinuatus Rey, 1886 **H/V**
Three specimens were noted by Telfer (2001b) in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History), London and a single male in Zoological Collections, Cambridge. The BM(NH) specimens were collected by J.J. Walker at Portland (SY67; VC 09) during 1886, the Cambridge specimen is without data. *O. subsinuatus* will key in Lindroth (1974: 101) to *O. melleti* Heer, confirmation of the species requires dissection of the male genitalia, although Sciaky (1986) gives external characters for the separation of the species. A key is given in Sciaky (1986: 34-41) and Jeannel (1942: 634-637). Telfer (loc. cit.) figures the male genitalia. According to Kadar & Szel (1995) this species is attracted to light.

Bembidion coeruleum Serville, 1826 **A**
This species was first noted by Ligaard (Telfer, 2001a) in 1999 at Dungeness (TR01; VC 15). Subsequent examination of other Dungeness material has shown that the earliest records are from 1989. *B. coeruleum* is similar to *B. tibiale* Duftschmid, but in Lindroth (1974: 51) would key to *B. geniculatum* Heer. Identification can be achieved though the keys of Jeannel (1941: 481-490; 499) [as *Peryphus coeruleus* Serville] and Freude *et al.* (1976: 111). Telfer (loc. cit.) gives characters for the separation of *coeruleum* from similar British species.

Paratachys pallidulus (Antoine, 1943) **V**
A single specimen of this southern European/ North African species was taken at Bookham Common (TQ15; VC 17) in 2000 by I.S. Menzies (Menzies & Barclay, 2000; Menzies, 2001). The specimen was taken on mud between two ponds. No further specimens have been found, in spite of careful searching. Although teneral at the time of capture (M.V.L. Barclay pers. comm.) the species should be treated as a

vagrant until evidence to the contrary is uncovered. The species is keyed in Machado (1992).

PTILIIDAE

Euryptilium gillmeisteri Flach, 1889 **A**

Three specimens of this beetle were collected from oak leaf litter under oaks in Fountains Abbey, West Yorkshire (SE26; VC 64) (Johnson, 2001). Based on European data it appears as though this species is associated with old woodlands, where it occurs in decaying organic matter at tree bases. A key for the separation from the only other British member of the genus is given by Johnson (loc. cit.) and Freude, *et al.*, (1971: 324).

SCYDMAENIDAE

Euthiconus conicicollis (Fairmaire & Laboulbène, 1855) **A**

A single female of this species was taken by flight interception trap at Silwood Park (SU96; VC 22) during survey work in 1999 by Booth (2001: 161-162). This tiny (1-1.2 mm) scydmaenid is associated with old woodlands. Borowiec (1991) reports this species new to Poland, and Paulsen (1991) records it new to Norway, so it would appear as though this species is spreading across Europe. The single European species is keyed in Freude, *et al.* (1971: 271-272; 273).

STAPHYLINIDAE

Bledius talpa (Gyllenhal, 1810) **H/V**

Allen (2000a, 2001a) reports two specimens of this species in the J.A. Power material in the British collection of the BM(NH), but unfortunately both are without data. The provenance of this material is uncertain, the specimens may have been introductions, or even sold to Power as genuine British examples under false pretences. This distinctive species is keyed in Freude, *et al.* (1964: 98-99) and Palm (1961: 40-46, 64).

Carpelimus despectus (Baudi, 1870) **N/R**

The previous British record of this species (Bannister, 1936) was based on a unique specimen that was later lost, though Allen (1970) believed it was based on a misidentification of *C. halophilus* (Kisenwetter, 1844). Bannister (1971) later retracted his record of this species, as the identification could not be confirmed. Hammond (2000: 257; 274) lists the species as British on the basis of recently confirmed records. According to Hammond (loc. cit.) this species burrows in the substrate on mud/sand flats. Identification can be achieved using Freude, *et al.* (1964: 75-81) and Palm (1961: 17-24), in both publications standing under the genus *Trogophloeus* Mannerheim.

Gyrophaena rousi Dvořák, 1966 **N/C**

Two males of this species were collected in fungi at Chippenham Fen NNR (TL66; VC 29) by R.C. Welch in 1999 (Welch, 2000). This species resembles *G. affinis* Mannerheim but can be separated on antennal and male sexual characteristics that are

figured by Welch (loc. cit.). A key including figures of male genitalia and male secondary sexual characteristics of central European species is given in Freude, *et al.* (1974: 27-33).

Halobrecta algophila (Feynes, 1909) **A/C**

Listed as British by Hammond (2000: 257; 275) on the basis of an as yet unpublished revision of the British species of *Halobrecta* (Hammond, in press). According to Hammond (2000) this species was confused under *H. flavipes* Thompson, C.G. The species occurs in tidal debris on sandy seashores and estuaries in southeast England.

SCARABAEIDAE

Onthophagus furcatus (Fabricius, 1781) **V**

A single specimen of this widespread European species was reported by Allen (2001b) from Kew Gardens, London (TQ17; VC 17), where K.C. Lewis found it in goose droppings. Although somewhat similar in appearance to *O. joannae* Goljan, *O. furcatus* is easily separated by the sinuate anterior lateral angles of the pronotum and on the presence of a pair of cephalic horns in the male. A key for the separation of this from other European *Onthophagus* is given in Baraud (1992: 349-350).

Aphodius pedellus (DeGeer, 1774) **N/C**

Wilson (2001) during chromosome studies of scarabaeid beetles discovered two different karyotypes of *Aphodius fimetarius* (Linnaeus). The two karyotypes could be assigned to two species based on morphological characters: *A. fimetarius* and *A. pedellus*. This was based on the examination of the Types. The two species appear to occur sympatrically over much of Britain, though *A. fimetarius* is the predominant species in the southeast. No habitat or phenological differences have yet been found. Wilson (loc. cit.) reported A. *pedellus* as being recorded from the following vice-counties: Dorset (VC 09); Hampshire (VC 11); Sussex (VC 13); Surrey (VC 17); Middlesex (VC 19); Berkshire (VC 22) and Worcestershire (VC 37). Separation of the two species is based on the endophallus of the male genitalia, the head shape of males, and the punctuation of the thorax in females. Figures of the separating characters and a key for the two species are given in Wilson (loc. cit.).

Aphodius punctatosulcatus Sturm, 1805 **N/H**

A number of historic specimens of *A. punctatosulcatus* (= *A. sabulicola* Thompson of earlier works e.g. Baraud, 1992, Krell, 1991; 1997) have been found in museum collections (Mann, 2000b: 179; and in preparation), collected around Deal, Kent (TR35; VC 15) and dating from around the early part of the 20th century. The species resembles *A. sphacelatus* (Panzer) but can be separated on pronotal colour and genitalia. Keys for the separation of this species from its congeners is given in Lohse, *et al.* (1992: 224-226).

ANOBIIDAE

Stegatus pellitus (Chevrolat, 1859) **A**

Harvey (2001) reports an infestation discovered in part of the fungi collection (Boletacea) at Kew Gardens, Surrey (TQ17; VC 17) during 1997-1998. *S. pellitus* is predominantly a Mediterranean species, found from North Africa as far north as southern France. This species is associated with decaying and fungal infected wood. A key to species is given in Reitter (1901: 39-42) [as *Theca pellita*], and in Freude, *et al.* (1969: 54-55) a key to separate this genus from other European dorcatomines is given. Freude, *et al.* (1969: 55-56), has a single species of the genus: *Stagetus pilula* (Aubé), from which *pellitus* can be separated by the absence of a puncture or scutellary striae either side of the scutellum, which are present in *pilula*.

NITIDULIDAE

Cybocephalus fodori Endrödy-Younga, 1965 **A**

A number of examples of this small beetle were taken during 2000 on birch bark at Putney Heath (TQ27; VC 17) (Prance, 2001). R.G. Booth and others took numerous examples at the original locality during 2002 (Booth, pers. comm.). This widespread European species is associated with scale insects (Coccoidea: Diaspididae) on various tree species. This distinctive beetle is keyed and figured in Endrödy-Younga (1968) and Freude, *et al.* (1967: 77-79). The family Cybocephalidae is considered to be a subfamily of the Nitidulidae in recent works e.g. Lawrence & Newton (1995) & Kirejtshuk, *et al.* (1997).

MONOTOMIDAE

Monotoma quadricollis Aubé, 1837 **N/C**

This species was recently separated from its close relative *M. bicolor* Villa & Villa by Vorst (1999). Booth (2001) initially discovered the species at Epsom Down (TQ25, VC 17) by sieving grass. Booth (loc. cit.) has subsequently examined museum material of *bicolor* and found material from Surrey (VC 17), Cambridge (VC 29) and South Kerry (H 1). The two species can be separated on the male genitalia and the orientation of setae on the head. Vorst (loc. cit.) figures the separating characters. The family Rhizophagidae is now treated as the family Monotomidae (Lawrence & Newton, 1995).

CORYLOPHIDAE

Orthoperus corticalis (Redtenbacher, 1849) **N/C**

This species has been shown by Bowestead (1999: 117-118) to be a valid species and not as in Pope (1977: 62) a synonym of *O. atomus* (Gyllenhal, 1808). A key to the members of the genus is given in Bowestead (loc. cit.).

COCCINELLIDAE

Rhyzobius lophanthae (Blaisdell, 1892) **V**

A single specimen of this Australian ladybird was found in Morden Park, Surrey (TQ26; VC 17) by D.A. Coleman during 1999 and exhibited by Booth (2000: 173).

This species has been exported across the world (e.g. the Americas, Russia, Mediterranean region and South Africa) as a biological control agent of scale insects, and has become established in a number of southern European countries. Studies, such as those of Stathas (2000) have shown that this species has a low temperature threshold. This, along with the recent records from Belgium (Van den Heuvel, 1988) and Canada (M^{c}Namara & Humble, 1991) suggest that this species may become established in other parts of Europe, including Britain. *R. lophanthae* is 1.7-2.9 mm in length, with its head, pronotum and underside a reddish yellow, the elytra are pitchy with pale yellow pubescence and sparse erect setae (Booth, *et al.*, 1990: 87).

CERAMBYCIDAE

Anoplophora glabripennis (Motschulsky, 1853) **V**

A number of examples of the Asian longhorn beetle *Anoplophora glabripennis* have been intercepted in Britain, most often in packing cases originating from China (Cooter, 1999, 2000; Wright, 2000). This beetle is a widespread economically important species in Southeast Asia, originating in China. It has now become established in the USA where it has become a pest. The host plants include a number of deciduous trees, such as *Acer* spp. (Aceraceae); *Alnus* spp. (Betulaceae); *Malus* spp. (Rosaceae); *Populus* spp., *Salix* spp., (Salicaceae). According to Wright (loc. cit.) this species has the potential to become established in Britain. A picture and key features of this distinctive species are given in Wright (loc. cit), and a key and figures of the identification features of the species group are given in Wu & Jiang (1998). The species is easily confused with *Anoplophora chinensis* (Forster), another Asian species frequently imported with bonsai trees and similar products (M.V.L. Barclay pers. comm.). *A. glabripennis* can be separated from this species by the absence of granules on the base of the elytra (Cooter, 2000).

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Altica carinthiaca Weise, 1888 N/C

First recorded by P. Hammond in the Windsor area, Berkshire (SU97, VC 22) during 2000, where large numbers were taken on meadow vetchling *Lathyrus pretensis* L. (Cox, 2000: 70; Hammond, in prep.). This species has been recorded at 8 sites across Warwickshire (VC 38) where it has been taken by sweeping post-industrial and grassland sites (Lane, *et al.*, 2002: 159). Douget (1990) notes that the species was expanding its range in France. This species resembles *A. palustris* Weise but can be separated by the characteristic aedeagus, the deep blue violet colouration, and a squatter shape and by the shorter length of the first tarsal segment (Lane *et al.*, loc. cit.). Douget (1994: 329-331; 339; 341; 347-348) keys the species and figures the male and female genitalia. Fruede *et al.* (1966: 231-236) and Lohse & Lucht (1994: 138) figure the male genitalia.

APIONIDAE

Ixapion variegatum (Wenckner, 1864) **A**

This distinctive weevil was taken in numbers in three vice-counties; Brockhampton Estate, Herefordshire (SO65; VC 36); Bollow, Gloucestershire (SO75; VC 34); Pershore, Worcestershire (SO94; VC 94) during 2000 (Foster, *et al.*, 2001). In Britain *I. variegatum* is associated with mistletoe *Viscum album* L. on various tree species. Identification can be achieved through the description, figure and modified couplets provided in Foster, *et al.* (loc. cit.) to supplement Morris's (1990) handbook covering the family.

CURCULIONIDAE

Cycloderes espaniola Roudier, 1954 **V**

A single specimen of this tanymecine weevil was taken at Kew Gardens, London (TQ17; VC 17) by K.C. Lewis (Allen, 2000b). The keys in Hoffman (1950) will allow this species to be keyed to genus.

Otiorhynchus armadillo (Rossi, 1792) **V**

A single specimen of this weevil was discovered in Chelsea, Middlesex (TQ27; VC 21) during 1998 (Barclay, 2000: 172). Since then it has been taken elsewhere in the Chelsea area (Barclay, pers. comm., & in press) where it appears to be breeding. According to Palm (1996) this is a polyphagous species of open forests, occasionally found in northern Europe and recently listed as new to Sweden by Borisch (1997), and northern Germany (Gollkowski, 1990). It is possible that this species may become established in Britain. This species keys to *O. aurifer* Boheman in Morris (1997), a habitus picture and genitalia figures are given in Palm (1996: 29; pl. 1:1), and the species is keyed in Freude, *et al.* (1981: 186- onwards) and Reitter (1912a, b, 1913).

Otiorhynchus corruptor (Host, 1798) **V**

A single specimen was taken in grapes in a supermarket in Cardiff, Glamorgan (ST18; VC 41) (Barclay, 2001: 160). A native of southern Europe this is one of the most frequently intercepted weevils in imported produce, especially grapes (Barclay, pers. comm.), although it appears not to have become established in northern Europe. Recently recorded new to Finland (Anon, 2000) and Germany (Lucht, 1985). A habitus picture and genitalia figures are given in Palm (1996: 66, 67, pl. 2:7) and the species is keyed in Freude, *et al.* (1981: 186-223), Hoffman (1950: 46-58) and Reitter (1912a, b, 1913).

Otiorhynchus parvicollis Gyllenhal, 1834 **V**

A single specimen of this species was taken at Kew Gardens, London (TQ17; VC 17) by K.C. Lewis (Allen, 2000b). *O. parvicollis* appears to be restricted to the Iberian peninsular and North Africa. The species is keyed in Reitter (1912a, b, 1913).

Rhytideres plicatus (Olivier, 1790) **V**

A single specimen of this entimine weevil was taken at Kew Gardens, Surrey (TQ17; VC 17) by K.C. Lewis (Allen, 2000b). A widespread species in southwest Europe, most often associated with sandy or calcareous soils, where it has been recorded on Brassicaceae and Resedaceae plants. The species is keyed in Hoffman (1954), who also includes a full habitus figure (p. 625).

Deletions

STAPHYLINIDAE

Bolitochara reyi Sharp, 1875 **M**

Hammond (2001) deletes this species, as the only British specimens known are in fact misidentifications of *Bolitochara lucida* (Gravenhorst).

Liogluta nitidiuscula (Sharp, 1869) **S**

This is listed as a valid species in Pope (1977: 36) but is placed as a synonym of *L. alpestris* (Heer, 1839) in Assing & Schülke (2001: 143) and Lott & Duff (2002).

CORYLOPHIDAE

Orthoperus mundus Matthews, A., 1885 **S**

This species has been shown by Bowestead (1999: 101) to be synonymous with *O. nigrescens* Stephens, 1829.

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Galerucella grisescens (Joannis, 1866) **M**

All British material of this species examined are misidentifications of *G. sagittariae* (Gyllenhal) (Shute *in* Cox, 2000: 70).

CURCULIONIDAE

Caulophilus oryzae (Gyllenhall, 1838) **V**

A species listed by Pope (1977: 83) as 'occurring only under artificial conditions', this species is regarded by Morris & Ostojá-Starzewski (2001) to be a vagrant species and never as an established breeding species in Britain.

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Is *Meloe* (*Micromeloe*) *decorus* (Brandt & Erichson) (Coleoptera: Meloidae) a British species?

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In a short and often overlooked paper, Dr William Ramsey M^{c}Nab (1870) added *Meloe decorus* (Brandt & Erichson, 1832) to the British list based on a single specimen collected at the Royal Agricultural College, near Cirencester (SP00, VC 33) in October 1870. This species is omitted from all subsequent checklists of British Coleoptera (e.g. Matthews & Fowler, 1883; Sharp, 1883; Fowler, 1887-1891; Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913; Pope, 1977) and to date has been given no status in the British fauna. In fact, apart from the original paper, there appear to be only three references to this species ever having occurred in Britain. Rye (1871: 46), in the list of new coleopterous species in 1870, appears to accept the species as British, but later (1872: 185) Rye states "probably *rugosus*, Msh". The reason for Rye's doubt over the identity of the specimen is not iterated. Atty (1983: 89), in *The Coleoptera of Gloucestershire* states, "The unique British record for this Mediterranean species" without giving any further discussion.

M^{c}Nab (loc. cit.) refers to having compared his specimen with those in the Oxford Museum (=Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford University Museum of Natural History [HEC]), stating that: "I was enabled, by Professor Westwood's assistance, to compare this insect with the various species of *Meloe* in the Oxford Museum, of which it seems to agree best with *M. decorus*". The drawer (still in the same arrangement) that contains the *decorus* specimens also holds the material of *rugosus* Marsham (= *rugosus* and *mediterraneus* Müller, G. mixed series, D.J. Mann pers. obs.). It therefore seems unlikely that both M^{c}Nab and Westwood would have misidentified the specimen. Further, David Sharp also compared this *decorus* specimen with material held in the British Museum (Natural History) collections, and concluded it was not any known British species. Sharp was aware of *rugosus*, having collected material of this species himself. Unfortunately, the specimen collected by M^{c}Nab has been untraceable, although according to the Fenscore database (Anon, 1999) and *Collectiones entomologicae* (Horn, *et al.*, 1990) his collection is housed partly in the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and the National Museum of Ireland (NMI). However, both Garth Foster [SAC] (pers. comm.) and Jim O'Connor [NMI] (pers. comm.) have been unable to find any *Meloe* specimens that can be attributed to M^{c}Nab in their respective collections.

Bologna (1991: 361) in the discussion of the geographical distribution of *decorus* states that "citata dell'Inghilterra meridionale, Gloucester: dato meritevole di conferma, anche se la descrizione corrisponde perfettamente a questa specie" which roughly translates to "cited from southern England, Gloucester: needing confirmation of data, although the description corresponds perfectly to this species." I agree with Bologna that there can be little doubt of the correct identification of this specimen as *decorus*. However, since Britain is beyond the natural range of *decorus*, it seems most likely that the specimen was an accidental introduction, and that it never became established.

However, there are several examples of species that have been introduced to the British list based on a small number of historic specimens (e.g. *Ophonus subsinuatus* Rey *teste* Telfer, 2001), with little evidence of proven breeding, but have subsequently been shown to have done so. One such case involved another *Meloe* species, *Meloe mediterraneus* that was introduced to the British list (*teste* Whitehead, 1992; Hodge & Jones, 1995: 113) and even included, although somewhat tentatively in the *Review of the Scarce and Threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain* (Hyman, 1994: 207) as an extinct resident. In this instance, it has since been discovered that this species was present at two localities in different counties, and in at least one of these, recorded over a period of at least five years (Mann, in preparation), consequently fulfilling the requirements as given by Pope (*loc. cit.*) for inclusion on the British list. It is therefore important that coleopterists are aware of species such as these, since old material in museum collections may still exist, and, as with *M. mediterraneus*, evidence may come to light that the species did indeed breed in this country.

Meloe decorus is most similar to *M. rugosus* and *M. mediterraneus*, but can be distinguished from these by the flattened pronotum, which has three moderately deep impressions. The pronotal hind angles of *decorus* are broadly angulate not rounded as in the latter two species. Bologna (1991) has an illustrated key to the European *Meloe* species.

In conclusion, *Meloe decorus* should be regarded as a 'Vagrant' species, until evidence of its sustained breeding in Britain has been shown.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Max Barclay (NHM) and James Hogan (HEC) for their helpful discussions and comments, to Stella Brecknell (Librarian, OUMNH) for assisting in obtaining the literature. Finally thanks to Garth Foster (SAC) and Jim O'Connor (NMI) for information about their collections.

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An unusual abundance of some subterranean Coleoptera above ground

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During a short visit to Belsize Wood Nature Reserve (TQ2685, Middlesex VC 21) on 29 August 2001 to collect *Saprosites mendax sensu lato* (Blackburn) (Scarabaeidae) for study, we encountered a surprising abundance of some subterranean Coleoptera. The beetles were found amongst fungus, detritus (mostly from the burrows of *Dorcus*

parallelipipedus (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae) and soil on the undersides of the cut ends of sycamore logs *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. The assemblage of subterranean beetles in order of relative abundance consisted of *Langelandia anophthalma* Aubé (Colydiidae) (x40+), *Saprosites mendax s.l.* (x39), *Rhizophagus perforatus* Erichson (Rhizophagidae) (x23), *Parabathyscia wollastoni* (Jansen) (Leiodidae) (x19+), and *Anommatus duodecimstriatus* (Müller) (x3) (Bothrideridae).

Langelandia anophthalma is a well-known subterranean species that so far seems to be restricted to southern Britain from Kent to Cornwall (Owen, 1999), although it may well be spreading. Originally recorded by Wood (1886) from seed potatoes, these and the underside of logs are the most often recorded situations for this species. Owen (loc. cit. & 2000) proposed that this species might in fact be an established synanthropic alien, since it has almost exclusively been recorded from 'man-made' habitats. Denton (1997) suggests this species may be more widespread than current records suggest, but due to its subterranean habits it is under-recorded. It is likely that with more collecting, especially using the technique of underground pitfall trapping as outlined by Owen (1995), this species will be found to be more widespread in southern Britain, and thus undeserving of its current RDB 3 status.

Saprosites mendax sensu lato is currently known from Arundel Park, Sussex and several woodland localities in the London area (e.g. Jones, 1999, 2000; Hackett, 1999; Barclay, 2000), although the status of the species in Britain is currently under review (Angus & Mann *et al.*, in prep.). Jessop (1986: 18) maintains that it is most often found in the borings of *Dorcus parallelipipedus* (Linnaeus) and *Sinodendron cylindricum* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae). However, this is more of an anecdotal association due to the three species having similar microhabitat requirements. It is likely that adult *Saprosites* feed on fungal hyphae and detritus/wood associated with the decaying wood microhabitat. Unlike the larvae, the adults are primarily fluid feeders, with liquid being squeezed out of the substrate and filtered through their specialised mouthparts. On both visits scarabaeid larvae were found, which were later identified as *Saprosites* by examination of their chromosomes (which have a distinctive karyotype). These larvae were found amongst the detritus on the undersides of the logs, though not in large numbers. Subsequent examination of the gut contents of the larvae under oil immersion (x100) revealed small fragments of wood.

Parabathyscia wollastoni is regarded as an obligatory subterranean species and is rarely taken above ground. Owen (1999) recorded this species in abundance, using underground pitfall trapping in a small number of gardens in the London area. Both *Rhizophagus perforatus* and *Anommatus duodecimstriatus* have often been recorded by underground pitfall trapping, under logs and in compost in similar suburban habitats.

In a previous visit to this site (RA), only three specimens of *Saprosites* were found, plus a single larva, and none of the other species were noted in abundance. However, heavy rains in the intervening time may have caused the water table to rise, thus forcing the beetles from their more usual subterranean habitat. Jones (1999)

reported finding *Anommatus*, *Langelandia* and *Saprosites* in similar circumstances at Battersea Park. Although only a few species were recorded at Belsize, it would appear as though this sort of assemblage may well be typical of suburban habitats, such as gardens and parks in the London area, thus adding weight to the importance of suburban nature reserves.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Dan Hackett for details of this site, and to Max Barclay (The Natural History Museum) for helpful discussions.

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Two new inland records of *Microlestes minutulus* (Goeze) (Carabidae)

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The likely existence of *Microlestes minutulus* (Goeze) in Britain was first postulated by Lindroth (1971) and the species was added to the British list by Eversham & Collier (1997) following the collection of a specimen from the Essex coast in 1995, together with the subsequent re-identification of a specimen taken in Holbrook Bay, Suffolk during 1976. The species has since been found in coastal litter at several localities in southeastern England. A

specimen was also taken inland in the Lea Valley (TQ3799, VC 18, South Essex) on 22 May 2002 from unmanaged grassland on the clay cap of an old landfill (Mark Telfer, pers. comm.).

In light of these largely coastal and southeasterly records, two new Vice County records from inland sites in East Anglia are of particular interest. On 12 May 2001 I found two specimens of *M. minutulus* while hunting for carabids with a group of other coleopterists at an old gravel extraction site situated near Kennett (TL6968, VC 29, Cambridgeshire). Both specimens taken by myself proved to be male and separation from *Microlestes maurus* Sturm was possible using differences in the structure of the aedeagus following genital dissection by Mark Telfer. Several individuals taken by other coleopterists also proved to be *M. minutulus*.

The second record of note refers to a single specimen of *M. minutulus* taken on 4 April 2002 from amongst rubble adjoining the ruin of a Benedictine nunnery within a private garden in Thetford (TL873823, VC 26, West Suffolk). The site at which the specimen was taken adjoins a nature reserve sited on old gravel workings and dominated by areas of bare ground and short Breckland heath. Although a thorough search of the capture site has since been carried out, no other specimens have been located and it could be postulated that the specimen may be from an established, but unknown, population living nearby (*M. minutulus* is macropterous). The specimen proved to be female. Although separation from *M. maurus* using structural differences in the male aedeagus was not possible, the size of the specimen (3.5 mm) was well-above the known range for *M. maurus* (2.0-2.8 mm, Lindroth 1974, Hůrka 1996) and the initial identification of the specimen as *M. minutulus* was subsequently confirmed by Mark Telfer. Both size and microsculptural differences between *maurus* and *minutulus* appear to be reliable (Lindroth 1986, Eversham & Collier, 1997).

That the inland records so far discovered can be linked to sites at which gravel extraction had previously taken place could suggest that extraction of gravel (and subsequent landfill) may have aided the movement of this species to new sites within Britain. It seems likely that the species is established at other inland sites within Breckland and southeastern England and that future new Vice County records will be forthcoming. The small size of *M. minutulus*, coupled with its surprisingly fast movement over the ground may have contributed to its under-recording, although with some effort this could be remedied.

Acknowledgements
I am most grateful to Mark Telfer and Brian Eversham for stimulating my interest in carabids and for help with identification of *M. minutulus*, to the Ground Beetle Recording Scheme for providing information on previous records, and to the landowners concerned for granting access to their sites.

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Procraerus tibialis (Boisduval & Lacordaire) (Elateridae) new to Derbyshire from Kedleston Park

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A single elytron of this species was knocked from the inside of a hollow ancient ash tree *Fraxinus excelsior* L. within Kedleston Park at SK309401 on 21 August 2001, together with fragments of the weevil *Phloeophagus lignarius* (Marsham). The ash tree is about 4-5 m in girth at breast height and had been hollowed by a non-pathogenic wood-decay fungus of the white-rot type, almost certainly *Inonotus hispidus* (Bull. ex Fr.) Karst. The elytron was identified by comparison with reference material from ancient hollow ash trees in the Cotswolds and which Howard Mendel has confirmed.

Procraerus tibialis (Boisduval & Lacordaire) has a classic relict old forest distribution in Britain and is known from a number of ancient wood pasture sites scattered across the southern and eastern counties, extending westwards into Herefordshire and northwards into the Midlands (Mendel & Clarke, 1996). Only one previous record lies further north than Kedleston - Sherwood Forest (by the late E.C. Bedwell, in Allen, 1971), and the other closest record is an unsubstantiated 19th Century report from Gumley, Leicestershire (D. Lott, pers. comm.). Hyman & Parsons (1992) allocate its status to Red Data Book Category 3 (Rare) although this should now be revised to Nationally Scarce on the basis of the data presented in Mendel & Clarke (1996).

Kedleston Park is well known to support a relatively species-rich assemblage of wood decay Coleoptera (see Johnson, 1988) and this new discovery adds further weight to the nature conservation case there.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to Derek Lott for details of the Gumley situation and to Howard Mendel for advice on identification of fragments.

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A record of *Paralister obscurus* (Kugelann) (Histeridae) from the New Forest, Hampshire

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At the end of a three-day visit to the New Forest at the end of May 2001 I decided to finish my trip at Stagbury Hill, SU290160, in the northern part of the forest. This is an open area where a herd of Belted Galloway cattle have been rough grazing for several years. The ground itself is not subjected to either pesticide or herbicide and the cattle are left very much to their own devices and these two factors have, I think, contributed to the very healthy population of dung associated insects in this and other similar areas. I spent an hour or two looking through many cow pats and took, amongst other things, several histerids. Using the keys by Halstead (1963) one specimen ran down to *Margarinotus stercorarius* (Hoffmann). This is now known as *Paralister obscurus* (Kugelann). It is listed by Hyman (1992) as Red Data Book 1 Endangered, the most recent confirmed record being in 1947 from Colyton, South Devon. It formerly had a scattered distribution in southern Britain but has not been known consistently from any given area.

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Dromius longiceps Dejean (Carabidae) from East Kent

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In Britain this species is largely confined to East Anglia and a few other locations in eastern England as far north as Yorkshire (Luff, 1998).

On 13 May 1993, whilst investigating the area around Pegwell Bay, East Kent, TR3462, I saw a small dry *Phragmites* reed-bed and searched for beetles amongst the reed litter. Amongst several carabids collected was a specimen of what later turned out to be *Dromius longiceps* Dejean. Unfortunately, not realising its significance at the time, I made no effort to search other microhabitats in the reed-bed.

According to the recent distribution map by Luff (1998) this is both the first record from south of the river Thames and a new county record for Kent. The closest record is represented by a dot on the national distribution map for TQ57 in Luff (1998). This refers to a 1990 record by D. Bartlett from Wennington Marshes (TQ5379), South Essex VC18. This data, extracted from the Ground Beetle Recording Scheme database, was compiled by Dr M.L. Luff from an unspecified literature source.

Acknowledgements
My thanks to Peter Hodge for confirming my identification and to Mark Telfer for searching the Ground Beetle Recording Scheme database.

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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 SHJ. 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 that 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 BN1O 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 YOI 5YW. E-mail: dms1O3@york.ac.uk.