

## The Coleopterist

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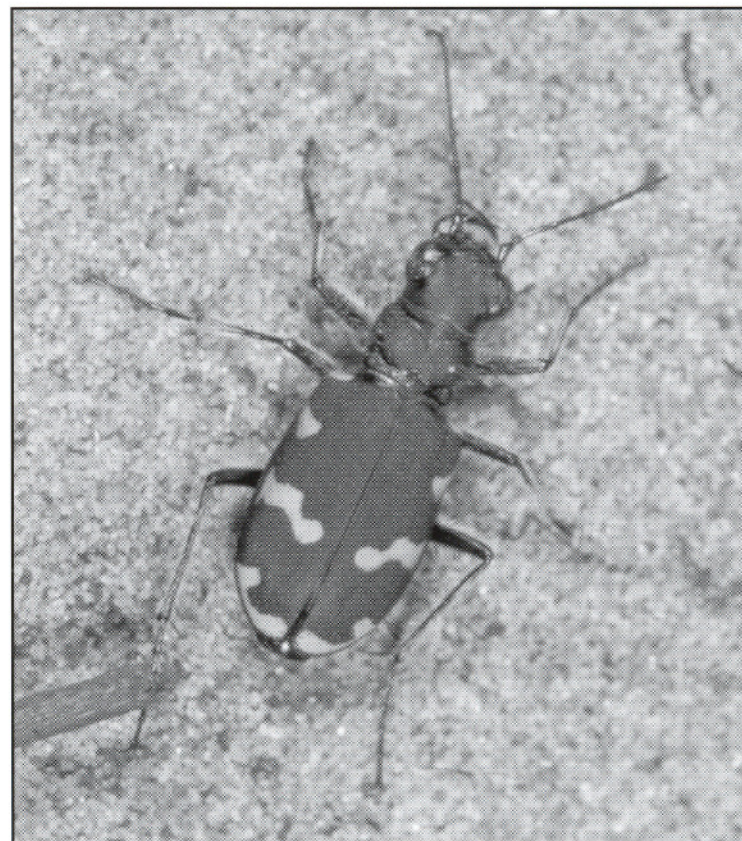
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*Malthodes lobatus* (Kiesenwetter) new to Britain  
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*Tachys edmondsi* *Lathrobium rufipenne*  
A record of *Diachromus germanus* British *Poecilium lividum*?  
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## The Saproxylic Coleoptera of Petworth Park, West Sussex

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### Introduction

Petworth Park (SU9623) is one of the jewels in the National Trust's Crown, and is considered the finest example of the work of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (Turner, 1999). The park dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century when a series of deer parks were established for the Earl of Northumberland. Oak *Quercus*, beech *Fagus sylvatica* L. and sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa* Mill. are the commonest trees scattered across open grassland. The real veteran oaks which pre-date Brown's planned plantings are all to be found on the fairly level central plain of the park, west of the middle pond, though many large standards occur around the eastern and northern boundaries. Beech trees are most numerous along the western ridge where several huge trees seem to have withstood the prevailing winds on what appears a somewhat exposed escarpment. Planted non-native trees including horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., sweet chestnut and holm oak *Q. ilex* L., dominate the southern half of the park.

Ivy *Hedera helix* L. is very rare within the park, and the absence of understorey bushes and shrubs meant that many small wood breeders were not found, although some were present just outside the park along the roadside strip.

The park is situated in a richly wooded area, within a few kilometres of other famous sites including Ebernoe Common to the north, 'The Mens' to the east and Cowdray Park to the west. There is a continuity of woods and old hedgerows between all these sites, which is likely to enable many of the scarcer species to disperse and mix with neighbouring populations.

### Site visits

Standard field methods were employed on most visits. In addition, bottle traps primed with a fermenting 'sap' mix were placed in hollows at the base of two of the largest oaks. The park was visited on the following occasions; - 12, 24, 31 July, 6, 24 September 2001, 15 April, 22 May, 21, 23 and 27 June 2002.

### Results

The list of qualifying saproxylic beetles found at Petworth is shown in Appendix 1. In all 142 qualifying species have been recorded in the park to date, 136 in this study, plus a further 6 species recorded by Keith Alexander (KNAA), Peter Hodge (PJH), and Roger Key (RSK). One of the most fortuitous records was that of the remains of



two *Prionus coriarius* (Linnaeus) adults in a pellet deposited by one of the park's resident pairs of little owl *Athene noctua*.

### Measuring the site's importance

The Index of Ecological Continuity (IEC) (Alexander, 1988; Harding & Alexander, 1994) of 56 clearly shows that Petworth Park supports a nationally important dead wood beetle fauna, which places it in the top 20 sites in Britain after only one survey season, albeit spread over two years.

The method outlined by Fowles *et al.* (1999) was used to calculate the Species Quality Index (SQI). Unfortunately, not enough reliable lists have been generated, especially within Sussex, for meaningful comparisons to be made, see Table 1. At present Parham Park has a higher SQI than Petworth, but with only 63 species listed. At present its IEC is only 32; in reality Petworth and Parham probably support faunas which are quite similar in richness, see Table 1. Arundel Park is the only Sussex site currently with a higher IEC than these sites, but the score is based on pre Great Storm data and it is almost certainly of much less interest now, as the storm and subsequent clear up may have removed much of the richness (Keith Alexander pers. comm.). Peter Hodge has supplied a 'post-Storm' list that gives an SQI of 448.7 from 39 species – sufficient to suggest that the SQI will be about 450. These 39 species have an IEC of 18 (Adrian Fowles pers. comm.).

**Table 1.** Provisional List of Important Sussex Sites for Saproxylic Coleoptera

	Number of species	IEC	SQI
Arundel Park	131	62	542
Petworth Park	142	56	437.3
Buxted Park	136	43	420.6
Eridge Park	81	31	342
Parham Park	63	32	498.4

The richness of the saproxylic coleopteran fauna at Petworth highlights the need for further survey at Cowdray Park which lies just over 3 km to the west of Petworth, and has many more ancient trees. Although some recent survey work has been carried out there (Peter Hodge pers. comm.), no scores have been calculated, but early indications are that the site supports a very important fauna.

A stand of storm shattered beech trees on the western ridge at Petworth Park yielded some important finds. *Sepedophilus bipunctatus* (Gravenhorst) was abundant in the damp crumbly rotten wood. Several adult *Leptura aurulenta* (Fabricius) were seen flying around one large fallen trunk. One large female alighted on the trunk and disappeared down a small hole in the timber. Some of the most important finds, *Ampepus cardinalis* (Schioedte), *Procrærus tibialis* (Bois. & Lacordaire), came from one huge oak which has been split in half in the past, exposing a massive open face of red-rotten heartwood. A small remnant of the outer margin of the otherwise

completely lost half was itself hollow, and the debris inside included the remains of dozens of *Procrærus*. This amazing tree also yielded the oak polypore *Buglossoporus pulvinus* (confirmed by Ted Green) which is only known from a handful of sites in the World, most of which are in Britain (Ted Green pers. comm.). Thus even at such large sites, single trees may now be critical for the survival of some of our rarest fauna and flora, and measures to ensure continuity of niches like red-rotten heartwood are paramount.

### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the National Trust, in particular to Katherine Hearn and Gary Liddle for organising this survey, Adrian Fowles and Keith Alexander for looking through the drafts and supplying additional information, and Roger Key and Peter Hodge for allowing me to include their records.

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### Appendix 1. Saproxylic Coleoptera used to calculate the Index of Ecological Continuity (IEC) and Species Quality Score and Index.

Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<b>Histeridae</b>			
<i>Plegaderus dissectus</i> Erichson	Under beech bark	2	8
<i>Abraeus globosus</i> (Hoffman)	Under beech bark		2
<i>Paromalus flavicornis</i> (Herbst)	Under beech bark		2
<b>Ptilidae</b>			
<i>Ptinella aptera</i> (Guerin-Meneville)	Under beech bark		2
<i>Ptinella denticollis</i> (Fairmaire)	Under oak bark		8



Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<b>Scaphidiidae</b>			
<i>Scaphisoma agaricinum</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Scaphidium quadrimaculatum</i> Olivier			2
<b>Staphylinidae</b>			
<i>Dropephylla ioptera</i> (Stephens)			1
<i>Dropephylla vilis</i> (Erichson)			1
<i>Phloeonomus punctipennis</i> Thomson			2
<i>Siagonium quadricorne</i> Kirby			2
<i>Atrecus affinis</i> (Paykull)			1
<i>Gabrius splendidulus</i> (Gravenhorst)			1
<i>Quedius maurus</i> (Sahlberg)	Hollow oak	3	4
<i>Sepedophilus bipunctatus</i> (Gravenhorst)	Damp beech		8
<i>Sepedophilus testaceus</i> (Fabricius)			8
<i>Gyrophana minima</i> Erichson			2
<i>Placusa pumilio</i> (Gravenhorst)			2
<i>Anomognathus cuspidatus</i> (Erichson)			2
<i>Leptusa fumida</i> Kraatz			1
<i>Leptusa ruficollis</i> (Erichson)			1
<i>Bolitochara lucida</i> (Gravenhorst)			2
<i>Dinaraea aequata</i> (Erichson)			1
<i>Phloeopora testacea</i> (Mannerheim)			1
<b>Pselaphidae</b>			
<i>Euplectus infirmis</i> Raffray			2
<i>Euplectus kirbyi</i> Denny	Under oak bark		8
<b>Lucanidae</b>			
<i>Dorcus parallelipedus</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Sinodendron cylindricum</i> (Linnaeus)		3	2
<b>Scirtidae</b>			
<i>Prionocephon serricornis</i> (Müller)	Beech	2	8
<b>Buprestidae</b>			
<i>Agrilus laicornis</i> (Illiger)	Oak		8
<i>Agrilus pannonicus</i> (Piller & Mitter.) (KNAA 1995)	Oak	2	8
<i>Agrilus sinuatus</i> (Olivier)	Hawthorn		4
<b>Elateridae</b>			
<i>Denticollis linearis</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<i>Stenagostus rhombeus</i> (Olivier)	Beech	3	4
<i>Ampedus cardinalis</i> (Schioedte)	Red rotten oak	1	32
<i>Procaerus tibialis</i> (Bois. & Lacordaire)	Red rotten oak	1	16
<i>Melanotus villosus</i> (Fourcroy)			1

Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<b>Cantharidae</b>			
<i>Malthinus flaveolus</i> (Herbst)			1
<i>Malthinus frontalis</i> (Marsham) (PJH 1988)			8
<i>Malthinus seriepunctatus</i> Kiesenwetter			2
<i>Malthodes marginatus</i> (Latreille)			1
<b>Lycidae</b>			
<i>Platycis minuta</i> (Fabricius)	Beech	3	8
<b>Dermestidae</b>			
<i>Ciesias serra</i> (Fabricius)		3	4
<b>Anobiidae</b>			
<i>Ptinomorphus imperialis</i> (Linnaeus)			8
<i>Grynobius planus</i> (Fabricius)			2
<i>Ochina pinooides</i> (Marsham)			2
<i>Xestobium rufavillosum</i> (Degeer)	Red rotten oak	3	4
<i>Hemicoelus fulvicornis</i> (Sturm)			1
<i>Anobium punctatum</i> (Degeer)			1
<i>Ptilinus pectinicornis</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<i>Dorcatoma flavicornis</i> (Fabricius)	Large oaks	3	8
<b>Cleridae</b>			
<i>Tillus elongatus</i> (Linnaeus)		3	8
<b>Melyridae</b>			
<i>Dasytes aeratus</i> Stephens			2
<i>Axinotarsus ruficollis</i> (Olivier)			4
<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<b>Nitidulidae</b>			
<i>Carpophilus sexpustulatus</i> (Fabricius) (KNAA 1988)		3	8
<i>Eपुरaea fuscicollis</i> (Stephens)	Sap trap on oak		8
<i>Eपुरaea marsueli</i> Reitter			1
<i>Eपुरaea silacea</i> (Herbst)			1
<i>Soronia punctatissima</i> (Illiger)	Sap trap on oak		2
<i>Glischrochilus quadriguttatus</i> (Fabricius)	Sap trap on oak		2
<b>Rhizophagidae</b>			
<i>Rhizophagus bipustulatus</i> (Fabricius)			1
<i>Rhizobius dispar</i> (Paykull)			1
<b>Sphindidae</b>			
<i>Sphindus dubius</i> (Gyllenhal)			8
<b>Cucujidae</b>			
<i>Uleiota planata</i> (Linnaeus)	Oak	1	16
<i>Cryptolestes ferrugineus</i> (Stephens)	Oak		2



Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality Score
<i>Pediacus dermestoides</i> (Fabricius)	Oak and beech	3	4
<b>Silvanidae</b>			
<i>Silvanus unidentatus</i> (Olivier)		3	4
<b>Cryptophagidae</b>			
<i>Cryptophagus dentatus</i> (Herbst)			1
<i>Cryptophagus ruficornis</i> Stephens			8
<i>Biphyllus lunatus</i> (Fabricius)	Ash	3	4
<i>Diplocoelus fagi</i> Guerin-Meneville	Beech	3	8
<b>Erotylidae</b>			
<i>Triplax aenea</i> (Schaller) (RSK 1995)		3	2
<i>Dacne bipustulata</i> Fabricius			2
<i>Dacne rufifrons</i> (Fabricius)			2
<b>Cerylonidae</b>			
<i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i> Stephens			2
<i>Cerylon histerooides</i> (Fabricius)			4
<b>Endomychidae</b>			
<i>Mycetaea subterranea</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<b>Latridiidae</b>			
<i>Enicmus brevicornis</i> (Mannerheim)		2	8
<b>Ciidae</b>			
<i>Octotemnus glabriculus</i> (Gyllenhal)			1
<i>Cis alni</i> Gyllenhal			2
<i>Cis boleti</i> (Scopoli)			1
<i>Cis hispidus</i> (Paykull)			4
<i>Cis pygmaeus</i> (Marsham)	Oak		2
<i>Cis vestitus</i> Mellie	Oak		2
<i>Ennearthron cornutum</i> (Gyllenhal)			2
<b>Mycetophagidae</b>			
<i>Litargus connexus</i> (Fourcroy)	<i>Daldinia</i> on ash		2
<i>Mycetophagus atomarius</i> (Fabricius)	Beech	3	2
<i>Mycetophagus quadripustulatus</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<b>Colydiidae</b>			
<i>Bitoma crenata</i> (Fabricius)		3	4
<b>Tenebrionidae</b>			
<i>Eledona agricola</i> (Herbst)		3	4
<i>Helops caeruleus</i> (Linnaeus) (KNAA 1988)			8
<i>Prionychus ater</i> (Fabricius)	Oak	3	8
<i>Mycetochara humeralis</i> (Fabricius)	Oak bough	3	16

Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality score
<b>Salpingidae</b>			
<i>Lissodema quadripustulata</i> (Marsham)	Hawthorn, elm		8
<i>Vincenzellus ruficollis</i> (Panzer)			2
<i>Rhinosimus planirostris</i> (Fabricius)			1
<b>Pyrochroidae</b>			
<i>Pyrochroa serraticornis</i> (Scopoli)			1
<b>Melandryidae</b>			
<i>Hallomenus binotatus</i> (Quensel)	Bracket on beech	3	8
<i>Orchesia micans</i> (Panzer) (KNAA 1995)			4
<i>Orchesia minor</i> Walker			8
<i>Orchesia undulata</i> Kraatz		3	4
<i>Abdera biflexuosa</i> (Curtis)	Oak boughs	3	8
<i>Abdera quadrifasciata</i> (Curtis)	Oak boughs	1	16
<i>Phloiotrya vaudoueri</i> Mulsant	Beech	2	8
<i>Conopalpus testaceus</i> (Olivier)	Oak boughs	3	8
<b>Scraptidae</b>			
<i>Anaspis frontalis</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<i>Anapsis humeralis</i> (Fabricius)			2
<i>Anapsis lurida</i> Stephens			2
<i>Anapsis rufilabris</i> (Gyllenhal)			1
<i>Anapsis thoracica</i> (Linnaeus)	Oak boughs		8
<b>Mordellidae</b>			
<i>Mordellochroa abdominalis</i> (Fabricius)			4
<i>Mordellistena neuwalldeggiana</i> (Panzer)			16
<b>Aderidae</b>			
<i>Aderus oculatus</i> (Paykull)	Oak	3	8
<b>Cerambycidae</b>			
<i>Prionus coriarius</i> (Linnaeus)	Little owl pellet	3	16
<i>Rhagium mordax</i> (Degeer)			1
<i>Stenocorus meridianus</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i> (Fabricius)			1
<i>Alosterna tabacicolor</i> (Degeer)			2
<i>Leptura aurulenta</i> (Fabricius)	Beech	3	16
<i>Leptura maculata</i> (Poda)			1
<i>Leptura melanura</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Phymatodes testacea</i> (Linnaeus)		3	4
<i>Clytus arietus</i> (Linnaeus)			1
<i>Leiopus nebulosus</i> (Linnaeus)	Oak		2
<i>Pogonocherus hispidus</i> (Linnaeus)			2
<i>Tetrops praestus</i> (Linnaeus)			2



Species	Host trees/fungi	Harding & Rose (1986) Grade	Species Quality score
<b>Curculionidae</b>			
<i>Magdalis armigera</i> (Fourcroy)	Elm		2
<i>Acalles misellus</i> Bohemann			2
<i>Phloeophagus lignarius</i> (Marshall)	Oak		2
<i>Scolytus intricatus</i> (Ratzeburg)	Oak		2
<i>Scolytus multistriatus</i> (Marshall)	Elm		1
<i>Scolytus scolytus</i> (Fabricius)	Elm		2
<i>Hylesinus varius</i> (Fabricius)	Ash		1
<i>Dryocoetinus villosus</i> (Fabricius)	Oak		2
<i>Taphrorhynchus bicolor</i> (Herbst)	Beech		8
<i>Trypodendron domesticum</i> (Linnaeus)	Oak	3	2
<i>Ernoporus fagi</i> (Fabricius)	Beech	3	8
<i>Xyleborus dispar</i> (Fabricius)	Oak	3	8
<i>Xyleborus dryographus</i> (Ratzeburg)	Oak	3	8
<i>Xyloborinus saxeseni</i> (Ratzeburg)	Beech	3	4
<b>Platypodidae</b>			
<i>Platypus cylindrus</i> (Fabricius)	Oak, beech	3	8
<b>Total species</b>			142
<b>IEC</b>		56	
<b>SQS</b>			621
<b>SQI</b>			437.3

### *Globicornis rufitarsis* (Panzer) (Dermestidae) at Blenheim Park, Oxfordshire

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On 31 May 2002 while carrying out some survey work in Blenheim Park, Woodstock (SP4315), I spotted a specimen of *Globicornis ruficornis* (Panzer) alighting on a small immature bracket of the fungus *Ganoderma adspersa* growing from the exposed heartwood on the trunk of an ancient oak *Quercus*. Conditions were warm, still and humid. Interestingly this ancient parkland is midway between the two previously known areas with this very rare beetle – Windsor and Tewkesbury.

#### Acknowledgements

Many thanks to John Smith of Mosaic Mapping for stimulating this survey, English Nature for funding it, and the Blenheim Park Estate for permission to work in the private areas of the park.

## *Malthodes lobatus* (Kiesenwetter) (Cantharidae) new to Britain

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On 24 July 2002, while surveying invertebrates on an area of chalk grassland at Whitehawk Hill, near Brighton, East Sussex (VC 14: TQ338053), one of us (MVLB) collected three female specimens of an unfamiliar cantharid of the genus *Malthodes*. The specimens were exceptionally small (around 1.5mm) and soft-bodied, with very reduced elytra lacking any yellow coloration. Only one species of this approximate size occurs in the British Isles, *Malthodes pumilus* (Brebisson). The three Brighton specimens differed from that species in having shorter elytra without any yellow, and in the proportions of the antennal segments. MVLB was unable to match them with any species in the General Collection of the Natural History Museum (BMNH), London, and they were provisionally labelled as "*Malthodes* ?sp. near *pumilus*". In February 2003, AK visited the BMNH Collections, and immediately recognised the three specimens as *Malthodes lobatus* Kiesenwetter, 1852.

*Malthodes lobatus* has not previously been recorded from the British Isles. Re-examination of the long series of *pumilus* in the BMNH's British Isles Collection, the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, and the Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford, as well as the private collection of the National Recorder, K.N.A. Alexander, revealed no further British examples of *lobatus*. The species was also absent from the Natural History Museum's General Collection, but four examples from Northern Italy were found, standing under the older name *Malthodes apterus* Mulsant, 1862 in European accession material from the G.C. Champion collection, determined by Ganglbauer. In continental Europe *M. lobatus* is recorded from Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Poland, Serbia, Czech Republic, Slovakia (list based on Horion, 1953), The Netherlands (Brakman, 1966), and was recently added to the Swiss List (Scherler, 1981).

#### Identification

*Malthodes lobatus* (Fig.1) can be identified using continental literature (Wittmer, 1979), but his key relies quite heavily on males, which are extremely rare in *lobatus*. He mentions their rarity in his introduction, and states [our translation] that females of *lobatus* and *pumilus* can be separated by the very reduced elytra in *lobatus*, and reduced antennal segments in female *pumilus*. The elytra of female *lobatus* (Fig.1) rarely extend further than the hind coxae, and have a total length less than or equal to the combined length of the head and pronotum, while in *pumilus* they are always considerably longer than the combined head and pronotum. In most specimens we



have seen of *lobatus*, the soft elytra have collapsed against the abdomen, and are barely visible. Additionally, the hind wings of *pumilus* are quite developed and project from beneath the elytra, lying exposed on the abdomen, while *lobatus* is apterous or brachypterous. Most specimens of *pumilus* also have a yellow spot on the apex of the elytra, which is always absent in females of *lobatus*. Size is a difficult character to use, because of the soft bodies of these insects, but these two species are considerably smaller than other British representatives of the genus. Continental specimens of *lobatus* in the collection of AK are from 1.5-2.3mm (♀) and 2.3-2.8mm (♂). Should males be found, the terminal structures of the abdomen are figured in Wittmer (1979).



Figure 1. Habitus *Malthodes lobatus* (Kies), female, Wilson's Avenue, Whitehawk Hill, Brighton, M.V.L. Barclay leg. Specimen in British Isles Collection, BMNH

### Collection

The beetles were collected using a 'McCullough' petrol-powered blow & vac tool, converted for entomological use (see Stewart & Wright, 1995), from an area of short rabbit-grazed sward adjoining an old hedgerow with elder *Sambucus nigra* L., blackthorn *Prunus spinosa* L., ash *Fraxinus excelsior* L., apple *Malus* etc. A sampling period of about one-two minutes was used, and the catch sieved into a white tray, the sides of which the *Malthodes* quickly climbed. All three *Malthodes* were taken in the same sample, along with very large numbers of the local staphylinid *Falagria thoracica* Stephens. Pitfall and flight interception trapping were also employed on the site, but collected no further examples of the *Malthodes*. Females of *Malthodes lobatus* are unable to fly.

In continental Europe, AK usually collects the species from shady grasses in warm, sunny woodlands, or from the margins of hedgerows. The females can be swept from grass or herbage (e.g. ground elder *Aegopodium*), often in large numbers, especially between mid-June and the end of July. Males are very rare, found individually, mostly between mid-June and early July.

The section of Whitehawk Hill where the specimens were collected is known locally as Wilson's Avenue. Until recently, the site was threatened by a housing development. It falls outside the area currently proposed for the South Downs National Park, but it is hoped that this will be revised in the light of this interesting new discovery. Part of the site was formerly used for allotments, and is now somewhat overgrown with nettles, willowherb, brambles etc. A second area, near the road, has also degenerated through being regularly cut without removal of the cut material. However, a large central area has been kept short by rabbit grazing, and still supports a characteristic downland flora and fauna; it was here that the *Malthodes*, and the majority of other species of interest, were collected. It is important that the site's integrity is maintained, and that scrubbing-over or nutrient-enrichment of the short, species-rich grassland is prevented. The ancient hedgerows add considerably to the interest of the site, and presumably provide the dead wood necessary for the larvae of the *Malthodes*.

A number of Nationally Scarce (Hyman, 1992) Coleoptera were recorded on the site, including *Panagaeus bipustulatus* (Fabricius) (Carabidae), *Athous campyloides* Newman (Elateridae), *Drilus flavescens* (Fourcroy) (Drilidae), *Scymnus schmidti* Fuersch (Coccinellidae), *Scaphidema metallicum* (Fabricius) (Tenebrionidae), *Longitarsus dorsalis* (Fabricius) (Chrysomelidae), as well as the uncommon Hymenoptera *Psithyrus rupestris* (Fabricius) (Apidae), *Mutilla europaea* Linnaeus (Mutillidae), the neuropteran *Nothochrysa capitata* (Fabricius) (Chrysopidae), and, among the vertebrates, strong populations of Slowworm *Anguis fragilis* Linnaeus (Anguillidae) and Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara* Jacquin (Lacertidae).

It is difficult to decide whether *Malthodes lobatus* is a long-overlooked native species or a recent colonist in Britain. Since the females are unable to fly, natural



dispersal from the continent can effectively be ruled out. Continued investigation of material standing under *pumilus* in collections may shed further light on this question.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to Jon Davies for arranging MVLB's visit to the site, and to Peter Hodge and Dave Bangs for valuable comments, to Darren J. Mann and James Hogan of the Hope Entomological Collections, and William Foster of the Cambridge University Museum of Zoology, for allowing MVLB to examine their series of *M. pumilus*, and to K.N.A. Alexander, the National Recorder for Cantharoidea, for making his material available. Thanks also to Howard Mendel and Darren J. Mann for comments on the manuscript.

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### *Dorytomus taeniatus* (Fabricius) (Curculionidae) on grey poplar

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In his key to the true weevils (Part 1) Morris (2002) states in respect of this species that records of its occurrence on poplars *Populus* species require confirmation. On 29 June 2003 I obtained two of these weevils by beating grey poplars *Populus x canescens* (Aiton) by the River Wissey in the Stanford Military Training Area near Thetford, Norfolk (TL8396). The identification was confirmed by Professor M.G. Morris.

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## Recent records of *Lathrobium rufipenne* Gyllenhal (Staphylinidae) in Britain and Ireland

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#### Introduction

*Lathrobium rufipenne* Gyllenhal has been recorded from wet habitats on peat, especially in *Sphagnum* moss, throughout northern and central Europe and south to alpine areas of Italy and to Arcachon in SW France (Horion, 1965). In Britain, it is listed as "vulnerable" in the national red data book (Hammond, in Shirt 1987), who reported that a number of old records were based on misidentifications and that authentic records are confined to wet reed litter and *Sphagnum* beds in the Delamere Forest, Cheshire and the Norfolk Broads. Since then an old record from the Aviemore area in Scotland has been extracted from a museum collection (Hammond, pers. comm.).

#### Modern records

The most recent record from the Broads that is known to me, relates to a single specimen collected from sedge litter at Mill's Fen, Ranworth on 20 June 1991 (J. Owen and A. Foster). A single specimen was also collected from sedge litter at Woodbastwick Fen, also referred to as the Bure Marshes in some documents, on 12 April 1989 (J. Owen). This was the only specimen of *L. rufipenne* recorded during the extensive East Anglian Fen Invertebrate Survey that investigated 87 sampling areas in 43 sites (Lott, Procter & Foster, 2002). The only other post-1970 Broads record that I have been able to trace is from Upton Broad, 1980 (P. Hammond). Thus all known recent records from the Broads are confined to fens along a 7 km stretch of the River Bure.

The most recent record from the Delamere Forest area is of a single specimen collected from Flaxmere on 6 April 1980 (P. Hodge). There are several other post-1970 Delamere Forest records from Flaxmere and Petty Pool and the range of grid references quoted in various databases suggests that it may have been recorded from a third locality in the Forest. On 10 June 2003, in company with Jon Webb, I visited Wybunbury Moss (SJ6950) in Cheshire, where *L. rufipenne* was found to be abundant in a small patch of wet *Sphagnum*. Wybunbury Moss is 25 km away from its previously recorded sites in Delamere Forest, so this find establishes both the continued presence of *L. rufipenne* in Cheshire and a wider distribution in the county than previously realised. Wybunbury Moss is a SSSI and already noted for several other nationally rare spiders and insects. It is privately owned and access is not



possible without permission. A visit to Flaxmere on 11 June failed to yield any further specimens. This may be because the wet microhabitat, where it is most easily collected, was absent from the site at the time of the visit. Wherever I have collected this species in Ireland, Britain, Denmark, Finland or Poland, I have always captured it by pushing emergent vegetation below water and waiting for individuals to float to the surface. However, the species has been collected in small numbers from dryer microhabitats, namely "Juncus refuse and roots of grass" (Hodge, pers. comm.) and from "sedge refuse" (see above).

On 22 May 2003 I collected two female *L. rufipenne* at Knocklahard Lake (M191665) near Ballinrobe, Co Mayo, Ireland. This constitutes the first known Irish record of this species. Both specimens were found in the same patch of low-growing emergent sedges and rushes in a shallow marginal area of the lake. Several other rare beetles were recorded there including *Pselaphaulax dresdensis* (Herbst), *Hygropora cunctans* (Erichson), *Schistoglossa aubei* (Brisout), *Stenus fornicatus* Stephens, *S. palustris* Erichson and *Philonthus corvinus* Erichson. Knocklahard Lake is a proposed National Heritage Area (Foss, O'Connell & Crushell, 2001) and is clearly a site of considerable interest for the conservation of wetland beetles.

It is worth noting that out of the two specimens found in Ireland and the eight taken for examination in Cheshire, only one (coll. J. Webb) was a male. A similar imbalance in gender is apparent neither in reports of other occasions when it has been found in Britain, nor in samples taken on the continent.

#### Identification characters

The only other British or Irish species with similar habitats that could be confused with *L. rufipenne* is the much more widespread *L. elongatum* (Linnaeus), but there are easily observable differences in both external morphology and genitalia. *L. rufipenne* is smaller with a much more densely punctured head, especially by comparison with the elytral puncturation (see Table 1). The elytra are coloured bright red with the basal third abruptly black. This gives the insect a strikingly attractive appearance in the field. By contrast the red coloration on the elytra of *L. elongatum* is often, though not always, darker and only gradually separated from the black basal area. Indeed, it is not uncommon to find examples of *L. elongatum*, whose elytra are all black.

The aedeagus of *L. rufipenne* is quite distinctive and has been illustrated both by Lohse (1964) and Coiffait (1982). The ventral apical process is longer than the dorsal process, which from a dorsal perspective has a triangular apex. By contrast the ventral process in *L. elongatum* is relatively short and flattened in side-view, whereas the dorsal process is relatively long and produced into a narrow, pointed spine. Booth (2003) used the abdominal sternite VIII and tergites IX and X to distinguish between females of the larger *Lathrobium* species. These structures in *L. rufipenne* are intermediate between those in *L. geminum* Kraatz and *L. elongatum*, in that the

excision in tergite IX is slightly larger than it is in *L. geminum*, but appreciably smaller than it is in *L. elongatum*.

#### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Martin Collier, Peter Hammond, Peter Hodge, John Owen and Steve McWilliam (Cheshire BRC) for providing details of previous records and to Roy Anderson for information on the Irish status of *Lathrobium rufipenne*. I am also grateful to Jon Webb (English Nature) for arranging access to Wybunbury Moss SSSI and other Cheshire meres and mosses, and for providing information from the Invertebrate Site Record

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**Table 1.** Characters for separating *Lathrobium rufipenne* and *L. elongatum*

Character	<i>L. rufipenne</i>	<i>L. elongatum</i>
Body length	6-8mm	7.5-9.5mm
Punctures on head	Head much more closely punctured than elytra	Head and elytra with similar density of punctures
Colour of elytra	Basal third black sharply separated from bright red coloration on remainder of elytra	Variable ranging from similar coloration to <i>L. rufipenne</i> to all black
Aedeagus	Dorsal apical process with triangular apex and shorter than ventral process	Dorsal apical process attenuated into long, finely pointed apex and longer than ventral process



## *Velleius dilatatus* (Fabricius) (Staphylinidae), the first record for Sussex

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A friend who owns horses, Sue Harris, complained about the number of horse flies that were attacking the horses and more importantly herself. I asked her to let me have any flies that she might catch or kill to see if any were unusual for her area which is Bignor Park Road, Bignor, West Sussex, SU 9916.

The second batch of flies that she sent me, during the last week of July 2003, had amongst them a large staphylinid beetle, at least 15mm long in its curled up state. This beetle had apparently flown into her bathroom and drowned itself in the hot bath water! I identified the beetle as *Velleius dilatatus* (Fabricius). This determination was later confirmed by Peter Hodge, who said that it was the first record of this beetle from Sussex.

Shirt (1987) cites recent (?post-1950) records for: the New Forest, S. Hampshire (several from 1864 - 1971); Windsor Forest, Berkshire (1952); Moccas Park, Herefordshire (1964) and Castle Drogo, S. Devon (undated) and old (?pre-1950) records for Cokethorpe Park, Oxfordshire; Wanstead, Greater London (?S. Essex according to Hyman, 1994) and Bury St Edmunds, W. Suffolk.

The beetle is associated with hornet *Vespa crabro* (Hymenoptera, Vespidae), nests and coincidentally Sue Harris had phoned me a week before the beetle turned up to ask about a hornet nest that she had discovered in the eaves of her house. I have since had cause to investigate three other hornet nests in houses due to their close proximity to bat roost sites. This raises a question - are hornets changing from their traditional tree hole nest sites to buildings and is this due to the unnecessary removal of ancient hollow trees? Whatever the reasons it does seem that the hornet is increasing its range in England, so it is reasonable to expect more records for *Velleius dilatatus* in the future.

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Sue Harris for sending me batches of insects periodically and Peter Hodge for confirming the identity of *V. dilatatus*.

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## A recent record of *Diachromus germanus* (Linnaeus) (Carabidae) and a discussion of its occurrence in Britain

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### A recent record for *Diachromus germanus* (Linnaeus)

On 10 September 2002 a single male of *Diachromus germanus* was collected by suction sampling (using the Vortis suction sampler, see Stewart & Wright, 1995) from open grassland close to Sprays Wood (TQ71), near Battle, East Sussex (VC 14). At present *Diachromus germanus* is presumed an extinct native in the UK (e.g. Hyman, 1992: 126; Lindroth, 1974: 110). The area where the specimen was collected was part of a study site used on the DEFRA funded 'HAYSPREADING project' investigating management practices used in the re-creation of chalk grassland on ex-arable farmland. The arable field in question had been placed into set-aside in 2001; during that year the area became dominated by black nightshade *Solanum nigrum* L. By 2002 a low-level grass sward had become established, and was grazed periodically by sheep throughout the year.

*Diachromus germanus* (Carabidae: Harpalini) superficially resembles some of the larger *Ophonus* spp. (Carabidae). It is the only member of its genus found in Europe (Trautner & Geigenmüller, 1987: 315) and the adult can instantly be distinguished from other harpalines by its unique colouration. Descriptions of larval instars are given by Nekulisyana (1992). Lindroth (1986: 366-367) considers the species to occur in dry meadows, particularly in shaded sites, although in Central Europe it has been found in cereal fields (Lindroth, 1986; Luka *et al.*, 2000). The adults are at least partly phytophagous, feeding on pollen and seeds (Koch, 1989; Trautner *et al.*, 1988).

### Historical records of *Diachromus germanus*

*Diachromus germanus* is known to occur from Western Europe to North Africa, Asia Minor, Syria, Iran and North West China (Lindroth, 1986). Historical records for this species in Britain are few, for while specimens have been located in several museum collections (e.g. Oxford University Museum of Natural History; National Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff; Liverpool Museum; Manchester Museum; The Natural History Museum, London) the majority are without any data. The first recorded capture of *germanus* in Britain was by a Mr. Cranch, who in 1816 collected a series



of an unspecified number of specimens which were subsequently presented to Dr Leach (Dawson, 1854: 132; Stephens, 1828: 164). Further records based on data collated by the authors are given in Table 1, although as can be seen the available data is often poor. Moore (1957) in his tabular county distribution of British carabids, which is mostly based on data taken from Fowler (1887) and the *Victoria County History* series, lists the following counties for *germanus*: Cornwall, Devon, Sussex and Kent. Of these it can be reasonably safe to assume that the Cornish record is that from near Falmouth (SW83); the Devon record is that from Kingsbridge (SX73); Sussex records are those from St Leonards (TQ70) and Hastings (TQ80) and the Kent record is that from Deal (TR35) [see Table 1. for details].

**Table 1.** A list of localities determined from the literature and museum collections for *Diachromus germanus* in Britain.

Site	NGR (approximated)	Vice County	Date	Collector	Source
Kingsbridge	SX73	South Devon (3)	1816	Cranch [Leach]	Stephens, 1828; Dawson, 1854
Ryde	SZ59	Isle of Wight (10)	1839	Holme	Dawson, 1856
Deal	TR35	East Kent (15)	1860	F. Smith	Smith, 1860; BMNH coll.
St Leonards	TQ70	East Sussex (14)	1860; 1863	S. Stephens; E. Saunders; T. Rowe	Fowler, 1887; BMNH coll.
Hastings	TQ80	East Sussex (14)	-1887	S. Stephens; E. Saunders	BMNH
near Falmouth	SW83	West Cornwall (1)	1904	?	Clarke, 1906
near Sprays wood	TQ71	East Sussex (14)	2002	A. Brook & S. Harris	N/A

The last known published record of this species according to Hyman (1992: 126) and others was that collected by Holme during the summer of 1839 at Ryde (SZ59) on the Isle of Wight (VC 10) (Dawson, 1856: 77; Hyman, *loc. cit.*). Dawson (1856: 67) complains of the absence of *germanus* from the majority of contemporary coleopterists' cabinets, and considered it likely that it had become extinct. A published, but often overlooked account of *Diachromus* in Britain by Smith (1860) records the capture of a specimen at Deal during September 1860. There are also two contemporary female specimens in The British Collection of the Natural History Museum, London that bear data. Both specimens are from St Leonards (TQ70, East

Sussex VC 14), and have the label data: 'St Leonards taken by Thom<sup>s</sup>[as] Rowe 1860'; 'St Leonards taken by man at gateway 1863' [both Ex Power coll.]. These data and the most recent capture form a cluster of records from East Sussex, namely the St Leonards, Hastings and Sprays Wood localities, which adds weight to the 'resident breeding population' theory. The last known capture of *germanus* in Britain is that of a record listed in the *Victoria County History* for Cornwall (Clarke, 1906: 188 *vide* Allen, 2000) with the data 'taken on the pathway, near Falmouth station, in June, 1904' (SW83, West Cornwall VC 01). This, as Allen (*op. cit.*) points out has since been overlooked by most British authors. A distribution map showing the historical distribution of *D. germanus* (Dmap v. 7.0d) is given in Figure 1.

**Figure 1.** Distribution map of *Diachromus germanus* based on data from Table 1. Vice counties for which no 10km could be ascertained (i.e. data from Moore, 1957; Hyman, 1992) are indicated by grey infill.



#### The present status of *D. germanus* in Britain

The status of *D. germanus* in Britain is ambiguous. It is not known from any fossil or subfossil records in Britain (Buckland *et al.*, 1997), but as it is not associated with areas where large deposits of organic matter are likely to occur, this absence from the fossil records is unsurprising. Smith (1860) firmly believed that *germanus* was established in areas of Southern England, based on the capture of specimens during a



period when weather conditions made it unlikely that they had migrated from the continent. While Smith's argument does not account for individuals that had arrived prior to the period of unsuitable weather, the occurrence of multiple specimens collected from several sites (e.g. Dawson, 1854; Smith, 1860; Stephens, 1828) does suggest that populations were established and breeding in southeast England between 1839 and 1863, with periodic captures from 1816 and 1904 from the southwest. Furthermore, the total absence of any records after this period throws doubt on the suggestion that *germanus* had not been breeding in Britain but migrating here; as if this were the case further records of migrating individuals would have still turned up periodically in intervening years or even post 1904. Such occasional migrations would, however, be influenced by the abundance of *germanus* on the continent, the present population of which is likely to be considerably lower than existed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kotze & O'Hara, 2003). However agricultural intensification, both on arable land and pasture land, occurred primarily after the end of the Second World War (Robinson & Sutherland, 2002; Vickery *et al.*, 2001). This leaves approximately 60 years in which populations of *germanus* on the continent could have migrated to southern England, although no specimens were ever reported. It would therefore seem most likely that the majority of those specimens collected in Britain in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were from resident breeding populations, and that *germanus* was either an indigenous species, with discrete breeding populations or was represented by occasional breeding populations established for short periods of time (*ca.* 1-2 years) from continental immigrants. It should be mentioned that Cheng & Birch (1978) found that, while Carabidae were recorded flying across the English Channel, they represented a very small proportion of the total Coleoptera fauna that were noted to do this (out of 2722 individuals only 16 were Carabidae). Therefore, the establishment of populations of carabids originating from the continent via migration over the Channel would be extremely infrequent. In all probability *germanus* did have breeding populations in Britain, the most prominent of which was the East Sussex cluster, which may have become extinct at some point post *ca.* 1863. As to the present specimen, it is possible that this is a migrant from the continent, rather than a part of an as yet undiscovered resident breeding population, although the latter should not be ruled out, especially considering the locality's close proximity to known former sites (i.e. St Leonards and Hastings). However, without the discovery of further specimens at the site, it will remain unclear whether the species maintains a breeding population in Britain.

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and access to distribution records. The specimen has been deposited in the Hope Entomological Collections, OUMNH.

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### A further Scottish record of *Psylliodes laticollis* Kutschera (Chrysomelidae)

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Cox (1998) regarded *Psylliodes laticollis* Kutschera as rare in Scotland and restricted to the Lothians. The recent record of this species from South Aberdeenshire (Ewing, 1999) suggests that *P. laticollis* may yet prove to be widespread in Scotland. The eastern bias of current Scottish records however is misleading, since I found a specimen by sweeping a heavily vegetated wet ditch at Porta Leacach near Dippen (NS042215) at the extreme southeast of Arran on 24 June 1999, which was subsequently identified as *P. laticollis* by Michael Cox. The species was not recorded from the Clyde area by Fergusson (1901), nor since, despite much interest in the beetle fauna in the area.

#### Acknowledgements

My thanks to Dr. Michael Cox for identifying the specimen of *P. laticollis*.

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## Further recent records of *Tachys (Paratachys) edmondsi* Moore (Carabidae) in the New Forest

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*Tachys (Paratachys) edmondsi* Moore, 1956, described as *Tachys piceus* Edmonds, 1934 (nec Dalla Torre, 1877) is considered the only endemic British carabid beetle (Luff 1998: 78). It has only been found in the New Forest, Hampshire, the last previous non-recent record apparently being that of a capture by A.M. Masee on 15 September 1937 (specimen in the Natural History Museum London (BMNH)). Luff (1998) had not received any more recent records. However, the status of *Tachys edmondsi* was investigated by Hammond (2002), who concluded that *T. edmondsi* was almost certainly not an endemic British species after all. He provisionally matched UK material with previously unidentified specimens from Spain and Morocco in The Natural History Museum, and found that there were three previously described taxa, from Algeria, France, and Morocco, which were likely candidates to be conspecific with *T. edmondsi*. Hammond (2002) pointed out that *T. edmondsi* was probably a relict species in the UK, and being isolated from other populations, was no less deserving of conservation measures now its claim to endemism was refuted.

The species was rediscovered in the New Forest on 26 May 2000 and recorded in some numbers (both fully-winged and short-winged) by several coleopterists at Wood Crates, SU266083, on 27 May 2000 (RGB included) during a weekend of Coleoptera recording under the New Forest Life Project. Telfer & Eversham (2000) made passing reference to the rediscovery of *Tachys edmondsi* in Britain (section 3.1, Appendix 1, Appendix 3), but without providing specific details. However, they did note that the species was taken in company with *T. walkerianus* Sharp by sieving moss from *Sphagnum* hummocks on the edges of an open boggy flush through ancient deciduous woodland.

In 2002, a single fully-winged male *T. edmondsi* was extracted from Winkler samples (leaf litter and loose top soil) of the monthly soil macroinvertebrate transect of the Soil Biodiversity Programme of The Natural History Museum taken from Whitley Wood, SU299057, on 24 October 2002. No *Sphagnum* moss was present at this site, so the habitat was rather different from previous sites where the species had been taken. This site is about 4 km from the Wood Crates site.

Two fully-winged specimens, one male and one female, were sieved (by RGB) from the edge of a damp *Sphagnum* hummock on a gently sloping moss/ grass lawn at Millyford Bridge, SU267077 on 19 April 2003. This site is less than 1 km from the 2000 site. Its discovery at this new site was not accidental, because both sites were of



similar habitat types. The moss at Millyford Bridge was searched deliberately in order to look for *T. edmondsi*, in the light of experience gained in 2000.

The exact locality within the New Forest for earlier finds of *T. edmondsi* is not mentioned in the original description (Edmonds, 1934), in Moore's (1956) revision, on the labels of two paratypes (labelled as co-types) in the British collection of The Natural History Museum London, nor on the labels of Masseur's specimens (BMNH). However, a specimen from the C.E. Tottenham collection (BMNH) has a label indicating Brockenhurst as the collecting locality. This might be the type locality because Edmonds mentioned that he collected his new species at 'the locality for *Tachys walkerianus* Sharp'. The latter was described from Brockenhurst (Sharp, 1913) and his specimens (BMNH) are similarly labelled. However, data labels on the five paratypes (labelled as co-types) of *T. piceus* Edmonds remaining in the H.W. Ellis collection at the Yorkshire Museum, York, indicate that the original captures came from Aldridge Hill in the New Forest, just to the west of Brockenhurst (Denton, 1993).

Apart from the very brief habitat references for *T. edmondsi* in Edmonds (1934) ('in *Sphagnum*! this bog in the New Forest') and Moore (1956) ('in moist *sphagnum*') and reiterated by Luff (1998), nothing appears to have been recorded about its habits prior to its rediscovery in 2000. However, some extra snippets of information can be derived from the species' known association with *T. walkerianus*. Sharp (1913) recorded taking the latter from wet moss by the side of a little stream and Champion (1913) gave its habitat as *Sphagnum* in or near woods, while Walker (1927) recorded taking *T. walkerianus* in wet *Sphagnum* near Rhinefield and elsewhere, 'in some quantity, its congener, *T. bistriatus* [almost certainly *T. edmondsi*] being much scarcer'. However, Deville (1919) noted *T. walkerianus* from sandy paths in forests in France.

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### *Bruchidius varius* (Olivier) (Col. Bruchidae) in Leicestershire

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A single specimen of the seed beetle, *Bruchidius varius* (Olivier), was found in a Malaise trap sample of 1,847 beetles collected in 1999 from a suburban garden in Leicester (SK624054) as part of a long-running study on garden ecology (Owen, 1991). *B. varius* has only recently colonised Britain, first being recorded in 1994 from Sussex (Hodge, 1997) and it has been expanding its range rapidly in England and in adjacent areas of the continent (Hodge, 1998; Cox, 2001; Barclay & Ismay, 2001). The Leicester record is the most northerly British record published so far and also predates many of the records away from the south coast. However, there is no evidence, as yet, of an established population in Leicestershire. No further specimens were present in Malaise trap samples collected in 2000 and 2001 and the single example captured in 1999 may have been the product of long-range dispersal.

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## On some British examples of *Poecilium lividum* (Rossi) (= *Phymatodes lividus*) (Cerambycidae) from the New Forest: are they authentic?

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*Poecilium lividum* (Rossi, 1794) (Cerambycidae) (= *Phymatodes lividus*) is well known to have occurred in Britain as an introduced synanthropic species in Reading, Berkshire (VC 22), for several years in the late 1800s and early 1900s (Bouskell, 1905; Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913). It was breeding in the wooden hoops of brandy and wine barrels that originated in France. As a result the species is mentioned by Joy (1932) as 'Very Rare, Berks', and appears, without comment, in Duffy (1952) and Ball (1992). It is included in the British checklist of Kloet & Hincks (1945), but, after an impassioned plea by Kauffman (1946) that it was never a true native species, it was not included in the most recent British List (Pope, 1977). Twinn & Harding (1999) list it as a 'doubtfully native species', citing the Reading records and stating that it was 'certainly an introduced species but seemed to establish a synanthropic breeding colony for at least 10 years'. Numerous specimens were collected from the Reading cellars by W. Butler, W. Holland, W. Dutton, A. Hamm and others, and were distributed among many contemporary collectors. Thirty-seven Reading examples are now in the British Isles Collection, Department of Entomology, The Natural History Museum (BMNH), originally from the following collections: Padwick (3), Champion (2), Dollman (4), Butler (6), Masee (3), Rothschild Bequest (19). Three are in the Newbery Collection, Cambridge University Museum of Zoology. A further 20 Reading examples are at the Hope Entomological Collections, Oxford, from the following collections: Walker (7), O' Mahony (1), Harwood (12). The species was first collected in Reading in 1894, when it was mistaken for *P. testaceus* (Bouskell, 1905); the latest-captured example seen is a Padwick specimen (BMNH 1929-527) labelled '1923'. We can infer from this that the colony persisted for at least twenty-nine years. The length of the life-cycle of *P. lividum* is apparently not known (M. Rejzek pers. comm.) but it seems likely that, if adults were present for almost thirty years, it must have bred in the cellars. It is not clear whether the population was reinforced by the importation of further infested barrels during this time. Martin Rejzek suggests (pers. comm.), based on observations in southern Europe, that larvae of this species, especially when older, may develop in the wood itself, rather than subcortically, and that they may prefer wood of smaller diameter. If

the species was breeding in the Reading cellars, this would lend support to both of these assumptions.

While curating the British Isles Collection of Coleoptera (BMNH), I found, alongside the nineteen Reading specimens in the collection of Lord Rothschild, six Rothschild specimens of *P. lividum* with a label reading: 'New Forest' [hand-written, black Indian ink]. The handwriting on the labels is very characteristic, and matches that on most other Rothschild specimen labels (from various different sources). It is presumably either that of Lord Rothschild himself, or of one of his employees. The six specimens also have a printed label, typical of Rothschild's material, with the data: 'T.G. Bishop'. The Hope Entomological Collection also has a single specimen labelled 'New Forest, Hants., A. Ford', from the Eugene O' Mahony Collection (which also includes a Reading example). These specimens suggest that *P. lividum* may once have occurred in the New Forest, a famous woodland locality in Hampshire, southern England. This is intriguing, as there are apparently no published records of it ever having occurred in the wild state in Britain.

The presence of seven New Forest specimens in two separate collections at first seems compelling evidence that the species occurred at that locality. However, there is evidence that suggests that one or more labelling errors are involved, and that the New Forest material may not be authentic. Although none of the New Forest specimens are dated, Bishop (1846 - 1922) and Ford (1871 - 1943) were both active in the early 20th century, at the time when the Reading colony was extant. Ford was a dealer in entomological specimens, who collected widely in the New Forest, and handled great volumes of material, mostly without associated locality data (Darby, 2002). The Ford specimen of *P. lividum* from O' Mahony's collection at Oxford is incorrectly determined, having the determination '*Callidium variable*' [= *Phymatodes testaceus*] hand-written on the underside of the card in blue fountain pen, which suggests that Ford did not differentiate between *lividum* and *testaceus*. Confusion between the two species could have occurred quite easily, and indeed did (Bouskell, 1905). Specimens of *P. lividum* from Reading were being widely distributed by Butler and others at the time, and *lividum* will key to *testaceus* in Fowler (1890), the standard reference work until the publication of Joy in 1932. Both species were placed in the genus *Phymatodes* at that time. Much of Ford's British material was sold without data, but it was well known that much of it originated in the New Forest, where *P. testaceus* is abundant. Rothschild's collection, as well as O' Mahony's, contains numerous specimens of Cerambycidae collected by Ford in the New Forest.

T.G. Bishop apparently also collected for Rothschild, and Rothschild's collection contains numerous specimens taken by Bishop in the New Forest. Bishop was also an important collector in his own right, and his collection is now in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. This collection contains no New Forest material of *P. lividum* (G. Hancock pers. comm.), but it does have a series from Reading. It seems unlikely that an avid collector like Bishop, possessing a unique series of six New Forest *P. lividum*, would part with the whole series without retaining any for his own



collection. Bishop was also a close friend of the renowned coleopterist David Sharp (Darby, 2002.), who lived in the New Forest, and with whom Bishop often collected there. Sharp's collection (BMNH) contains no New Forest specimens of *lividum*, and nor does Sharp mention the species in his extensive writings on the British beetle fauna.

Furthermore, it is very uncharacteristic of Rothschild's material to have only 'New Forest' on the data labels. Most of the New Forest Cerambycidae in his collection, which he obtained from various collectors, including A. Ford, W.E. Harwood and T.G. Bishop, have a date, and often a locality within the forest such as 'Brockenhurst'. In most cases the material appears to have been passed to Rothschild unlabelled, possibly with the data in a letter or list, and was later labelled by Rothschild or his employees. The fact that the labels read only 'New Forest' suggests that Rothschild did not have complete data to hand for these particular specimens of *lividum*, and increases the probability that he was mistaken when he labelled them as 'New Forest'.

It may also be significant that the card mounts and the style of mounting of the Rothschild 'New Forest' specimens corresponds extremely closely, so much so that they could be taken for parts of a single series, to that of six Reading specimens presented directly to the BMNH by W.E. Butler in 1909. The three Padwick specimens and two further Rothschild specimens, labelled on the underside of the card "Reading, Butler" and with Rothschild's printed label 'W.H. Harwood & Co.', are also mounted almost identically. It appears that the style of mounting is Butler's own, and that he distributed specimens already mounted. Possibly Bishop obtained extra mounted Reading specimens from Butler, and passed them on, unlabelled, to Rothschild, who subsequently mislabelled them 'New Forest', which was the source of most other Cerambycidae in the Rothschild collection received from Bishop.

It should also be taken into account that the New Forest has been intensively studied by coleopterists for over 200 years, but apparently, no other specimen of *P. lividum* has been found. Other cerambycids that have supposedly become extinct in Britain in the last 150 years, such as *Obrium cantharinum* (Linnaeus), *Plagionotus arcuatus* (Linnaeus), *Lepturobosca virens* (Linnaeus) and *Strangalia attenuata* (Linnaeus) are well represented in historical collections, but no other British material of *P. lividum* has been seen. In Europe, *P. lividum* is of a largely southern distribution (Bense, 1995), being absent from Germany, Scandinavia and northern European Russia, although it does penetrate into northern France. Bense (1995) discounts records from Germany, Poland, Austria and the former Czechoslovakia on the grounds that they are based on imported specimens. He also discounts very old records from Belgium. On balance, it seems highly unlikely that this species has occurred in the wild state in Britain in historical time.

### Taxonomic Note

Examples of *Poecilium lividum* from Reading are not uncommon in historical collections (I have seen more than 60 to date), and, at a superficial glance, *P. lividum* falls well within the natural range of variation exhibited by *Phymatodes testaceus*. Existing British keys rely heavily on colour, which is not always reliable in either species. A couplet to separate them is given below.

### Key couplet to separate *Poecilium lividum* (Rossi) and *Phymatodes testaceus* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae).

1. Elytra with dense but very shallow, superficial puncturation. Antennae with segment 3 as long as 4. Hind tarsi with segment 1 distinctly longer than 2 and 3 combined. 6-18 mm .....*testaceus* (Linnaeus)  
(*Very variable species, uniformly testaceous, or with elytra blue, or whole body dark brown*).

- Elytra with dense, coarse puncturation, almost rugose, especially towards apex. Segment 3 of antennae considerably longer than 4. Hind tarsi with segment 1 subequal to 2 and 3 combined. 5-12 mm.....*lividum* (Rossi)  
(*All UK specimens seen are dark, chocolate brown, usually with the disk of the pronotum yellow. However, Rejzek (pers.comm.) remarks that continental examples are occasionally metallic blue or green*).

This paper follows the most recent classification Sama (2002), which places *lividus* (Rossi) and *alni* (Linnaeus), usually treated by British authors in the masculine genus *Phymatodes* Mulsant, in the neuter *Poecilium* Fairmaire. The adjective *lividus* therefore changes gender to *lividum*; the genitive *alni* is unaffected.

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### The breeding-site, etc., of *Malthodes crassicornis* (Mäklin) (Cantharidae)

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Keith Alexander (2003) convincingly shows that the few known British exponents of *Malthodes brevicollis* (Paykull) are in fact all *M. crassicornis* (Mäklin). The species being poorly known here, I give a few details from my own experience.

On 5 June 1954, in Moccas Park, Herefordshire, I encountered this *Malthodes* in some small numbers. Despite much beating of old oaks *Quercus*, etc., no specimen was found at large. The beetles occurred in a decayed (more or less red-rotten) oak log, previously indicated to me by the late G.H. Ashe. By chipping away at a sort of crevice running along its length, they were found ensconced in little cells in the wood; never more than one to a cell, while about half the latter were occupied not by a beetle but by a small springtail (Collembola). Although, at that date, one would expect the adults of *M. crassicornis* to have emerged into the open, none were found in the course of beating oaks, etc., so this may be a somewhat 'cloistered' species.

Elsewhere I have met with very occasional examples in Windsor and Epping Forests, once swept, twice on fallen beech *Fagus*, and once inside a hollow oak.

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### *Lycoperdina bovistae* (Fabricius) (Endomychidae) in Gloucestershire

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Turner (2003) lists the few recent records known to him for this rare beetle, reminding me that I should have perhaps published my own record before now. I found some *Lycoperdon* puffballs riddled with beetle larvae at Saddlewood Roughs (ST88), part of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Midger Reserve on 18 May 1991. They were placed in a box and then promptly forgotten for some time. Eventually the box was re-discovered and found to contain dozens of dead adult *Lycoperdina bovistae* (Fabricius). The site is an area of open limestone grassland on the brow of a Cotswold valley.

I am aware of one other recent record from the county: one in leaf litter in dense beech *Fagus* woodland, Stinchcombe Hill (ST79), 20 June 1998, John Bratton. David Atty found one in another ancient beech wood, Buckholt Wood (SO81), 24 September 1966 (Atty, 1983). Otherwise, there is just one old undated record from Newnham (SO61) by E.W. Morse, pre-1900.

*Lycoperdon* fungi occur in undisturbed freely draining soils with semi-natural vegetation, so it should not be a surprise to find the beetle in both shaded and unshaded situations. It is the long-established semi-natural vegetation, reflecting undisturbed soils, which is the key habitat, not whether the site is woodland or open.

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My thanks to John Bratton for passing me copies of his Gloucestershire records.

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#### Publication notice

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Brief list of main contents: size variation in the stag beetle, conservation of *Lucanus cervus* in Spain, status of *Lucanus cervus* in Switzerland, British saproxylic fauna, noble chafer in Britain, the great stag hunt, dead wood and conservation, hedgerows in the west of France, saproxylic Latvia, saproxylic beetles in Sweden, subcortical space and sap-beetles, the violet click beetle in Britain, saproxylics of Navarra, *Saprosites mendax* and *S. natalensis* in Britain.



## A first record of *Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) (Buprestidae) in Essex

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Over the past 30 years, I have collected many times along the green lanes in Bardfield Saling, Essex, frequently beating the few accessible branches of five old standard hawthorn trees *Crataegus monogyna* Jacq. in an ancient mixed hedge. On 31 July 2003, the exercise was repeated and three *Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) adults were taken from two of these trees. From reference to Alexander (2003), kindly confirmed by Henry Arnold (Biological Records Centre, CEH), this appears to be a new record for Essex. \* Over the next few weeks repeat examinations of these trees, which all show evident crown die-back symptoms, and others nearby, with or without die-back, yielded no more specimens. Subsequently, a wider area was searched for further evidence of the species, helped by recent hedging and ditching which has made more trees accessible. This (continuing) survey is not exhaustive because many hawthorn trunks remain buried in thick hedges and recording the attack of upper branches relies on finding dead fragments dislodged during hedging. The population is not confined to old trees with die-back, although all such trees which could be examined have been attacked. Trunk exit holes or mined branch pieces were found in otherwise unremarkable hedge lines and also in deep shade within a small wood. By 26 October twenty-six trunks were recorded with at least one exit hole and nine other trees listed on the basis of branch fragments, within an area of just over 0.5 km<sup>2</sup>. Three live larvae were found in one branch that had been cut but remained suspended. The trunk remains of one old hawthorn with die-back, which had died and was mainly removed twenty years ago, is now accessible and traces of serpentine mines were found in the remains. *A. sinuatus* is thus not a recent arrival and this fact emphasises the ease with which the presence of the species can be missed by normal collection methods. The Bardfield Saling colony (TL6825/6826/6927) is not an isolated one in Essex for recently another has been found 7 km away. On 21 October, during a casual walk on the outskirts of Great Dunmow (TL629223), a serpentine mine scar was seen on a branch some four metres above ground and a probable exit hole on the next branch. Exit holes and mines were subsequently found in the trunk of an old hawthorn nearby.

### Reference

ALEXANDER, K.N.A. 2003. *Provisional atlas of the Cantharoidea and Buprestoidea (Coleoptera) of Britain and Ireland*. Huntingdon: Biological Records Centre.

\*This species was found by KNA to be widespread in Hatfield Forest, north Essex (TL9320), during 2002, too late to appear in the *Provisional Atlas*.

## The influence of soil pH on the abundance of the Glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* Linnaeus (Lampyridae) in Essex

Tim Gardiner, Michelle Pye and Robin Field

Centre for Environment & Rural Affairs (CERA), Writtle College, Lordship Road, Writtle, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR

### Introduction

The occurrence of *Lampyris noctiluca* Linnaeus is assumed to mainly depend upon the availability of larval food (British Naturalists' Association, 1971). Some authors, particularly of field identification guides, state that *L. noctiluca* is mainly restricted to chalk and limestone regions (Chinery, 1985), where an abundance of snails and slugs (its larval prey) may be found.

Soil conditions affect the species density and abundance of land gastropods (Pfleger, 1999), with most species favouring chalky soil where there is a plentiful amount of calcium for shell construction. On very acidic soils, such as those found on heaths and moorlands, there is very little calcium available for shell building. Consequently, the shells of species found in these habitats tend to be very thin and fragile.

In Essex, much of the underlying geology is London Clay or Glacial Tills (Hunter, 1999), with the main chalk regions located in the extreme north-west near Saffron Walden and in the Tilbury area in the far south of the county. Therefore, much of the Essex landscape has underlying geology and derived soils that would seem to be unfavourable for supporting populations of *L. noctiluca*. The aim of this paper is to ascertain the abundance of *L. noctiluca* at 16 Essex sites using a simple transect method, and to compare this with soil pH. This study should help to elucidate the importance of edaphic factors for *L. noctiluca* in Essex.

### Sampling of *Lampyris noctiluca* populations

A transect was established at each of 16 sites (Table 1) with a known *L. noctiluca* colony to allow the abundance of glowing adult females to be ascertained. Habitats recorded at the transect sites included ancient woodland, unimproved meadow and scrubland. Each transect was at least 100m in length and was walked once in each of three two-week periods in 2001: 9-22 July, 23 July-5 August, and 6-19 August. Any glowing adult females that were observed along the route were recorded. It was felt that these three periods adequately incorporated the peak glowing season in Essex when most adult females will be displaying.

The walks were standardised so that comparisons could be made between the density of females per 100m at different sites. Survey participants were required to commence each walk between 22.00 and 23.00 hours, and to terminate by 00.00



## A first record of *Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) (Buprestidae) in Essex

David C. Twinn

Arundels, Bardfield Saling, Braintree, Essex CM7 5ED

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A transect was established at each of 16 sites (Table 1) with a known *L. noctiluca* colony to allow the abundance of glowing adult females to be ascertained. Habitats recorded at the transect sites included ancient woodland, unimproved meadow and scrubland. Each transect was at least 100m in length and was walked once in each of three two-week periods in 2001: 9-22 July, 23 July-5 August, and 6-19 August. Any glowing adult females that were observed along the route were recorded. It was felt that these three periods adequately incorporated the peak glowing season in Essex when most adult females will be displaying.

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hours. A slow strolling pace was recommended for the walks to reduce the risk of overlooking glowing females along the route. Surveys were not conducted in unfavourable conditions, for example, when it was cold, wet or windy, because counts may be reduced under such climatic extremes (Alexander, 1992).

**Table 1. Characteristics of the 16 transect sites in Essex**

Site	Site name	Grid ref.	Soil pH	Mean no. of females per 100m
A	Benfleet Downs	TQ7885	6.7	3.9
B	Bulford Mill Lane	TL7720	6.1	2.3
C	Finches Nature Area	TQ9094	6.8	11.3
D	Danbury Woods	TL7806	4.3	2.2
E	Dry Street	TQ6986	8.0	5.0
F	Hadleigh Castle	TQ8186	6.3	19.1
G	Hatfield Forest	TL5420	7.3	0.1
H	Iron Latch	TL9526	4.8	3.6
I	Marks Hill	TQ6888	7.7	5.0
J	One Tree Hill	TQ7086	7.3	19.2
K	Shut Heath Wood	TL8513	5.4	10.0
L	Manwood Chase	TM0019	7.3	16.7
M	Gray's Chalk Quarry	TQ6079	8.2	6.0
N	Saffron Walden	TL5538	4.9	10.9
O	Heron's Paddock	TL0778	4.7	3.2
P	Stow Maries Halt	TQ8399	6.4	8.6

#### Collection and analysis of soil sample data

One soil sample was randomly taken from each of the 16 transect sites to a depth of 10cm in 2001. These samples were analysed for pH (MAFF, 1986). In order to relate the density of *L. noctiluca* females at each site with soil pH, Spearman's Rank Correlation ( $R_s$ ) was used (Fowler *et al.*, 1998). The total density of *L. noctiluca* adult females per 100m was compared with soil pH to determine whether any significant relationship was evident.

#### Results and discussion

In this survey, *L. noctiluca* occurred on soils with a very wide range of soil pH (4.3-8.2) (Table 1). There was no statistically significant correlation (at  $P < 0.05$ ) evident in this study between soil pH and the density of *L. noctiluca* per 100m ( $R_s = 0.273$ ), as might be expected from statements in some of the literature. Published evidence suggests that there are few snail species on very acid soils (Pfleger, 1999); therefore, this survey raises some interesting points. Larvae at some of the Essex sites with extremely acidic soils (pH < 5) must be able to exist on small populations of a limited number of snail species. Tyler (1997) states that a larva can kill over 70 snails in this

life stage. Therefore, if there are few species of snails on acid soils, the larvae's potential range of food sources is limited and they may have little choice in what species they can consume. Further work is needed to ascertain the diet of larvae in different habitats on a range of soil types, because analysis of snail populations was not possible in this small-scale study.

This survey suggests that the best place to start a search for *L. noctiluca* in Essex is not necessarily in areas with chalky soils, which in any case are rare in Essex. Site D (Danbury Woods), is situated on a ridge of Bagshot and Claygate Beds (well drained sand and gravel), where the soil conditions are very acidic and there is much ancient woodland and remnant heathland (Hunter, 1999). The authors suggest that these wooded ridges form the ideal place to search for undiscovered *L. noctiluca* colonies, as there is extensive favourable habitat, which has persisted due to the infertile, acid soil conditions that are unsuitable for arable cropping.

In conclusion, the often-stated claim that *L. noctiluca* is restricted to chalky, calcareous soils does not seem to be confirmed by this small-scale study of Essex populations.

#### Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank all survey participants who walked transects at the different sites. Our gratitude is also extended to Writtle College for providing finance and resources for the duration of the survey.

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***Carpelimus similis* Smetana (Staphylinidae) and *Carpophilus marginellus* Motschulsky (Nitidulidae) infesting a hotel in South Devon**

**M.V.L. Barclay**

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

The Natural History Museum's 'Insect Information Service' recently asked me to identify 'adult and larval' beetles (BMNH enquiry 2001-1101) that had apparently been infesting a hotel at Stoke Gabriel, Totnes, South Devon (VC 3: SX8557) in late summer 2001. The hotelier explained that the insects were accumulating in large numbers on the mantelpiece and windowsills of the hotel's dining room. The sample consisted of a pillbox approximately 60 x 30mm almost half filled with dead nitidulids and staphylinids, at a ratio of approximately 6:1 respectively. All specimens were adult, and the customer had clearly mistaken the staphylinid for the larva of the nitidulid. On examination I was surprised to note that the staphylinid was *Carpelimus similis* Smetana and the nitidulid *Carpophilus marginellus* Motschulsky. Both species are recent additions to the British List (see Hodge & Jones, 1995 and references therein) and neither is common, although the latter is quite frequently imported with stored products (e.g. Aitken, 1975). No information was given by the hotelier that would explain the occurrence of these beetles in such extraordinary numbers, and although we advised him to search for compost heaps, piles of kitchen waste, sacks of dried fruit or any other possible source of the infestation, we did not hear from him again. It is difficult to imagine a substrate that would be appealing to both *Carpophilus*, which is generally associated with fermentation, such as sappy moist compost heaps, and *Carpelimus*, which is predatory and generally occurs near water. It is conceivable that both species were attracted from different places by artificial light or some other attractant. *Carpelimus bilineatus* (Stephens) and *Carpelimus fuliginosus* (Gravenhorst) occur in compost heaps, but P.M. Hammond (pers. comm.) states that *C. similis* is not generally found in such habitats, but is typically associated with the margins of dirty water, and often recorded from sewers and flooded basements. In the absence of further information, the question of the origin of these beetles in the hotel will have to remain open.

Material has been deposited in the British Isles Collection of the Natural History Museum, in the National Museums and Galleries of Wales and in the Hope Entomological Collections, (OUMNH).

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks to P. M. Hammond and A. G. Kirejtshuk for confirming my identifications of the beetles, and to H. Mendel and D. J. Mann for comments on the manuscript.

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**Deletion of *Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus* Linnaeus (Chrysomelidae) from the Sussex list**

**P.J. Hodge<sup>1</sup> and J.A. Owen<sup>2</sup>**

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A list of the beetles of Sussex (Fowler, 1905) includes *Cryptocephalus decemmaculatus* Linnaeus, stated to have been found by C. Morris very rarely in Abbots Wood. In drawing attention to this, Allen (1970) wrote - "It would be well if the record could be checked". Recently, P.J.H. at the suggestion of J.A.O. examined the relevant material in the Morris collection which is housed in the Booth Museum in Brighton.

It turned out that the collection contains two specimens standing above the name *C. decemmaculatus*. One bears a label with the code 'RB 597' for which an entry in Morris' diary reads 'Abbots Wood, 1884'. The other bears the code '238 89' for which a diary entry reads 'New Forest, July 1885'. Both specimens are examples of *C. fulvus* Goeze.

In the light of this, and the apparent lack of any other reports of *C. decemmaculatus* in Sussex, there would seem to be no justification for retaining this species on the Sussex list. This would mean that all the confirmed records for the species in Britain are for sites north of a line between the Severn and the Humber (Piper, 2002).

It is perhaps of interest that Fowler did not give Sussex as a county for *C. decemmaculatus* in his accounts of the Coleoptera of the British Islands either in volume 4 (1890) or in volume 6 (1913) of which Donisthorpe was a co-author. It may be that Fowler was unaware of Morris' claim at the time he wrote volume 4 but he certainly knew about it long before volume 6 was published. It seems unlikely that Fowler and Donisthorpe simply forgot to include it. Possibly, they felt that the identification of Morris' specimens was uncertain. Champion (1897), reported that Bennett and Donisthorpe had taken at Battle several specimens of *C. parvulus* var *barbarea* Stephens. Champion wrote that "according to recent writers, *C. barbarea* is a black variety of *C. decemmaculatus*" but this conclusion was apparently not upheld by Champion himself (Fowler and Donisthorpe, 1913). Abbots Wood, however, is a relatively short distance from Battle. Possibly Fowler and Donisthorpe felt that Morris' specimen(s) from Abbots Wood could have been *C. barbarea* wrongly equated with *C. decemmaculatus* and that the record was accordingly unreliable.



### Acknowledgements

We are much indebted to Mr Gerald Legg for permission to examine material in his care at the Booth Museum, Brighton and for information relating to this.

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## The Recent records of *Cleonis piger* (Scopoli) (Curculionidae) in Scotland

### Alex J. Ramsay

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Hyman (1992) notes that 'there are no recent records for Scotland' of *Cleonis piger* (Scopoli), and examination of the literature revealed that *C. piger* was last recorded in Scotland prior to 1970, when Dr Roy Crowson recorded it at Tynninghame, East Lothian between October 1967 and October 1969 (Crowson, 1971a; Crowson, 1971b). Morris (1971) summarised the known distribution of this species in Scotland, noting a further record from Fife at Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve on 18 June 1966, apparently the only recent records for Scotland.

Further enquiries to Dr. Mark Shaw at the Royal Museum of Scotland revealed that he had reared the parasitic wasp *Acaenitus dubitator* (Panzer) from larvae of *C. piger* collected at Aberlady Bay Local Nature Reserve, East Lothian on 20 June and 7 July 1986 (Shaw & Wahl, 1989). This record appears to have been overlooked by Hyman (1992).

The recorded distribution of this weevil in Scotland is distinctly eastern and coastal, there being no records from any of the coastal dune systems of the west of Scotland, but in the east it occurs from Berwickshire north to Forfar (Morris, 2002) and at the Monifieth sandhills (Morris, 1971), its most northerly Scottish site. Concerned at the general lack of recent Scottish records, a brief search was instigated at Tynninghame, East Lothian on 3 January 2003 to search for overwintering adults.

A suitable looking low sandy rabbit grazed ridge at Tynninghame dunes was quickly located (NT657786), the site containing lots of bare sandy areas and a number of dead stems of creeping thistle *Cirsium arvense* (L.), the host plant of *C. piger* (Cawthra, 1958). Grubbing at

the base of stems did not produce any adults in bare areas, but grubbing at the moss covered base of a thistle nearby quickly yielded a live adult *C. piger*, the first confirmed Scottish record since 1986. Although this is the only other post-1970 record, the extensive nature of some its known sites such as Tentsmuir National Nature Reserve suggest that *C. piger* is merely overlooked at many Scottish sites and further searching will locate additional colonies.

### Acknowledgements

My thanks to Dr Mark Shaw, Royal Museum of Scotland, for providing details of his paper, to Berit Pederson, Royal Entomological Society Librarian for locating the reference, and to Rob Bryson for joining me on the Tynninghame trip.

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### Corrigenda

Correction to M.V.L. Barclay's paper '*Otiorhynchus* (s. str.) *armadillo* (Rossi, 1792) and *Otiorhynchus* (s. str.) *salicicola* Heyden, 1908 (Curculionidae: Entiminae: Otiorhynchini) - two European vine weevils established in Britain' (Volume 12, part 2, September 2003). The following two corrections need to be made to the above paper.

P. 49, Line 3. 'Habitus figure 1d' SHOULD READ 'Habitus figure 1e' (*Otiorhynchus aurifer*)

P. 49, Line 37 (3 from bottom) 'Habitus figure 1 c, e' SHOULD READ 'Habitus figure 1 c, d'

### 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.

Change of address for Cantharoidea & Buprestoidea Recording Scheme: Please send all records to Keith Alexander at 59 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AQ. E-mail: [keith.alexander@care4free.net](mailto:keith.alexander@care4free.net). Orders for recording cards or copies of the Provisional Atlas should be directed to BRC Monks Wood as usual. Thanks.

**The Stag Beetle:** A 63 page A5 booklet, also available on CD Rom, entitled "A Modern Review of the History of the Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus* Linnaeus (Coleoptera: Lucanidae) in Great Britain", has been produced. The work contains 25 distribution maps and a county by county textual analysis. Past research is critically considered, the reasons for distribution patterns and changes in range is determined, the sources of rogue records is examined, and the prospects for future conservation briefly assessed. To obtain a copy of this work, specify hardcopy or CD and send a cheque for £2.50 to *Colin R. Pratt*, F.R.E.S., at 5, View Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8DE.

**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@dial1.co.uk](mailto:wolfgang@dial1.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](mailto:jontydenton@aol.com).