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THE COLEOPTERIST

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EPIPHANIS CORNUTUS ESCH. (EUCNEMIDAE), AN 'ANCIENT BRITON' REVIVED?

A. A. Allen

Mr. P. Skidmore's mention of this beetle as a curious omission from the new 'Review' of our scarcer Coleoptera (Hyman, 1992), in his review of that impressive work (*antea*, **1**(3) : 11), reminded me of an interesting suggestion I have seen made. It was by J. Muona, the Finnish entomologist who, besides being a specialist in Aleocharinae (and notably *Atheta*), is a keen student of the Eucnemidae. Discussing the peculiarly disjunct distribution of *E. cornutus*, he writes: 'In Europe, the French records indicate an endemic ....Skidmore (1966) suggests that the British record is the result of an introduction from the USA ....I am of the opinion that *E. cornutus* is in fact an endemic British insect'. The author likens its recent appearance in southern England to the also recent 'totally unexpected' discovery in Sweden of *Dromaeolus barnabita* (Villa), another Eucnemid, whose introduction there is considered unlikely; and points out that many of this family have retiring habits and a short adult life-span. If one accepts Muona's hypothesis, improbable as it may appear at first sight, one must postulate a rather dramatic upsurge of the species over a wide area in the past 30 years, which however would be very far from being without parallel. One such is another Eucnemid, *Hylis olexai* Palm, which now has little of the aspect of an introduction into England and, for that matter, *H. cariniceps* Rtt. also.

Epiphanis is now known from several southern and midland counties - I do not attempt to collate the records, some being, as far as I know, not yet published. The beetle was first bred (3 exx.) from a rotten sycamore log in Wychwood Forest, Oxon., March 1961 (Elton, 1966); but its discovery in numbers in rotten spruce logs at Chedworth, Glos., June 1965 (Skidmore, 1966) was, by a small margin, the first record to be published.

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As National Recorder for the Elateroidea, I have received records of Epiphanis cornutus *from the following vice-counties: Surrey (17), Berks (22), Oxford (23), Bucks (24), West Norfolk (28), East Gloucester (33), West Gloucester (34) and Worcester (37). Without doubt, it will be found in many other areas. Ed.*

BRUCHELA RUFIPES (OLIVIER) (ANTHRIBIDAE) IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

P. Kendall

In June of 1992 I visited a site near my home known locally as 'Oak Hill' (SE718222). Among a series of insects taken were six Anthribid-type weevils, which, due to lack of British literature at the time, remained undetermined. In 1993, having acquired Morris' Royal Entomological Society handbook 'Orthocerous Weevils', I recognised them as *Bruchela rufipes*. I sent two specimens to Mr. P. M. Hammond who compared the 'Oak Hill' specimens with those he found at 'Twin Tumps' London and he confirmed they were the same.

I returned to the site on 21st June 1993 and established that the species was still present in spite of an invasion by 'New Age Travellers' encamped there for six months and later the clearing of the site by British Rail. On that date *B. rufipes* was found in good numbers on its food plant *Reseda lutea* L. (Wild Mignonette), feeding near the tops of the flowers on pollen, many pairs *in cop.* Only one was seen in a maturing seed pod, near to its base. The immediate area had many strong patches of *Reseda luteola* L. (Weld) however no beetles were found on this closely related plant.

The 'Oak Hill' site at Goole is 'waste ground' which in the 'good old days of steam' was the location of the L. N. E. R. engine sheds and repair work shops and is about two miles from the inland port and docks. In the following days, in late June and early July, I searched the area around and to the west of Goole Docks finding a number of small patches of *R. lutea* some with *B. rufipes* present.

Later, a visit to a local Nature Reserve at Barlow Common (SE630287) near Selby, run jointly by Selby D. C. and National Power, revealed good numbers present there.

Thorne Moors is a National N. R. and it is on pit slag heaps there that many unusual insects can be found, including *B. rufipes*. These last two sites are some nine miles from 'Oak Hill' in different directions, indicating that the beetle is well established in this Yorkshire area.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Mr P. M. Hammond for comparing the 'Oak Hill' specimens with those in the Natural History Museum and confirming them as *B. rufipes*.

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TRACHYPHLOEUS ANGUSTISETULUS HANSEN AND *T. BIFOVEOLATUS* (BECK) (CURCULIONIDAE) IN BRITAIN

T. D. Harrison

On the 11th April 1990 I came across a specimen of *Trachyphloeus* while collecting at Hitchcopse Pit, Oxfordshire (SU4599). The specimen keyed out as *T. angustisetulus* using Frieser (1981), which puzzled me somewhat since this species is not listed in Kloet & Hincks (1977). Mark Russell kindly confirmed my identification and informed me that all the specimens in his collection of what he had taken to be *T. bifoveolatus* when compared with material from Czechoslovakia (given to him by Dr. Borovec) turned out to be *T. angustisetulus*.

On a return visit to Hitchcopse Pit on the 29th March 1993 I collected two specimens of *T. bifoveolatus*, two of *T. angustisetulus*, three of *T. asperatus* Boheman and one of *T. scabriculus* (Linnaeus). All eight specimens were found under stones on sparsely vegetated sand banks in a disused sand pit. Prof. M. G. Morris has kindly responded to my request for clarification concerning the status of *T. angustisetulus* and *T. bifoveolatus* in Britain. According to his forthcoming but as yet unpublished Royal Entomological Society 'Handbook' on the British Adelognatha ('short-nosed' weevils) it would seem that *T. angustisetulus* and *T. bifoveolatus* are closely related but the former is the commoner of the two in Britain, with authenticated records from E. and W. Cornwall, Dorset, Isle of Wight, S. and N. Hants, E. and W. Kent, W. Suffolk, W. Norfolk and Shropshire. *T. bifoveolatus*, on the other hand, prior to my recent find was known only from Fleet, N. Hants where *T. angustisetulus* is also known to occur (M. G. Morris, in review).

T. angustisetulus and *T. bifoveolatus* are superficially very similar but appear distinct when specimens are compared side by side; the key given by Frieser (1981) can be relied upon to give an accurate separation. However, it should be noted that the figures on page 240 are wrongly labelled: Fld. 26:8 should read Fld. 26:7 and Fld. 26:9 should read Fld. 26:8. Since both species are usually parthenogenetic and males have been recorded only very rarely, genitalia cannot be used to separate the two species. Prof. Morris quotes a paper by Jermiin *et. al.* (1991) which apparently provides evidence that the two species are quite distinct on the basis of electrophoretic criteria.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mark Russell and Prof. M. G. Morris for the information they have both kindly provided and also Dave Dunlop for granting me permission to collect at Hitchcopse Pit, a B.B.O.N.T. reserve.

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Since the submission of the above paper, a very useful and easily available key separating Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus *and* T. angustisetulus *(as well as* T. spinimanus *and* T. digitalis*) has been published, i.e.*

Jermiin, L.S. & Mahler, V., 1993. Revised descriptions of the morphology of Trachyphloes bifoveolatus, T. angustisetulus, T. spinimanus *and* T. digitalis *(Coleoptera: Curculionidae).* Entomologist's Gazette, ***44****: 139-153.*

It seems likely that T. bifoveolatus *will prove to be more common than was at first thought, once coleopterists have carefully examined material in their collections. The genuine* T. bifoveolatus *is common in my garden at Martlesham Heath, Suffolk (TM2344) and I have a specimen from high on the shore at Sizewell, Suffolk (TM4763), collected on 16th September 1984. I thank Prof. Mike Morris for identifying voucher specimens from these sites. Ed.*

THE IDENTIFICATION OF BRITISH *ISCHNOMERA* STEPHENS (OEDEMERIDAE)

Howard Mendel

At the time of publication of my paper separating *Ischnomera cyanea* (F.) and *I. caerulea* (L.) on the shape of the tarsal claws (Mendel, 1990), British coleopterists were unable to identify, reliably, females of the two species. However, it transpires that this character had already been described (Švihla, 1988). I thank colleagues in the Société Linnéenne de Lyon, through Phil Withers, for bringing this very valuable revision to my attention.

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INITIATIVE FOR SCOTTISH INSECTS - COLEOPTERA SECTION

M. Sinclair

In the first issue of this journal (**1**(1): 17) Graham Rothery intimated the formation of this 'Initiative' and explained the need for it. As 'contact man' for the 'Coleoptera Section' I now want to add a little.

Scotland is a large area with few coleopterists and much of our knowledge of its beetles is gained, necessarily, from the discoveries and observations of those who visit us. We learn of the more outstanding discoveries from publications or via the 'grape-vine' but many useful and locally important observations must get buried in private journals and, in effect, lost. May I appeal, therefore, to all visiting coleopterists to make available two types of information that may be thought not quite to merit publication. These are :

(a) extensions of range of the more uncommon species
(b) any damage or threat to a good site that you may notice.

The information can be sent to the Invertebrate Site Register of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee at Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY.

Our first task, on being apprised of our new responsibilities, was to attempt the compilation of a list of Scottish beetles not occurring in England or Wales. The precise definition of the criteria for inclusion in the list has proved difficult. The very tentative list that follows is based almost entirely on the published information known to us. It consists of species that are known, or can be reasonably assumed, to have bred in Scotland this century, but not in England or Wales. Any comment on this list would be greatly welcomed if sent to me at the address below.

The scarcity status symbols used are those in Hyman (1992). Gratitude for much help is due to the other members of the Section : G. N. Foster, A. Garside, R. Lyszkowski and J. A. Owen.

CARABIDAE

Carabus clatratus Linnaeus, Na
Bembidion virens Gyllenhal, RDB3
Agonum sahlbergi (Chaudoir), Extinct
Amara alpina (Paykull), RDB3
A. quenseli (Schoenherr), Na

DYTISCIDAE

Oreodytes alpinus (Fabricius), Na
Agabus wasastjernae Sahlberg, C. R.

GYRINIDAE

Gyrinus opacus Sahlberg, C. R. Na

HYDROPHILIDAE

Cercyon alpinus Vogt

HYDRAENIDAE

Ochthebius lenensis Poppius, RDB2

PTILIIDAE

Ptiliolum caledonicum (Sharp), RDBK

LEIODIDAE
Leiodes silesiaca (Kraatz), RDBI
Anisotoma castanea (Herbst)
Agathidium arcticum Thomson, C.G., RDBK
Catops nigriclavis Gerhardt, RDBI

STAPHYLINIDAE
Olophrum consimile (Gyllenhal), Na
Eusphalerum sorbicola (Kangas), RDBI
Dropephylla heeri (Heer), N
Bledius arcticus Sahlberg, J., RDBI
Thinobius major Kraatz, RDBK
Stenus ludyi Fauvel, RDBI
Gabrius scoticus Joy & Tomlin, RDBK
Bryoporus rugipennis Pandellé, N
Schistoglossa benicki Lohse, RDBK
Atheta (*Microdota*) *spatuloides* Benick, RDBK
Atheta (Gp. II) *hansseni* Strand, RDBK
A. (Gp. II) *hybrida* Sharp, RDBK
A. (*Acrotona*) *sylvicola* (Kraatz), RDBK
A. (Gp.I) *boletophila* (Thomson, C.G.), RDBK
A. (Gp.I) *procera* (Kraatz), RDBK
A. (*Dimetrota*) *clintoni* Kevan, RDBK
Oxypoda islandica Kraatz, N

ELATERIDAE
Ampedus tristis (Linnaeus), RDB2
Negastrius pulchellus (Linnaeus), RDB2

LYCIDAE
Dictyoptera aurora (Herbst), Nb

PELTIDAE
Ostoma ferrugineum (Linnaeus), RDBI

CLERIDAE
Thanasimus rufipes (Brahm), RDB3

NITIDULIDAE
Epuraea silacea (Herbst), RDB3
E. terminalis (Mannerheim), RDBI

RHIZOPHAGIDAE
Rhizophagus parvulus (Paykull), RDB3

CUCUJIDAE
Dendrophagus crenatus (Paykull), Nb

CRYPTOPHAGIDAE
Cryptophagus badius Sturm, RDB2
C. corticinus Thomson, C.G.
C. lapponicus Gyllenhal, RDB2

Micrambe bimaculatus (Panzer), Na
Atomaria ornata Heer (*A. contaminata* Erichson), Na
A. badia Erichson (*A. sahlbergi* Sjöberg), Na
A. bella Reitter, Na
A. procerula Erichson, Na

LATHRIDIIDAE
Corticarina latipennis (Sahlberg, J.), RDB1

CISIDAE
Rhopalodontus perforatus (Gyllenhal), RDB3
Cis jacquemarti Mellié, Nb

MYCETOPHAGIDAE
Mycetophagus fulvicollis Fabricius, Extinct

TENEBRIONIDAE
Bolitophagus reticulatus (Linnaeus), RDB3

SALPINGIDAE
Salpingus ater (Paykull)

PYTHIDAE
Pytho depressus (Linnaeus), Na

MELANDRYIDAE
Abdera affinis (Paykull), RDB1
Zilora ferruginea (Paykull), Nb

SCRAPTIIDAE
Anaspis bohemica Schilsky, RDBK

OEDEMERIDAE
Chrysanthia nigricornis (Westhoff), RDB1

CERAMBYCIDAE
Judolia sexmaculata (Linnaeus), Na
Acanthocinus aedilis (Linnaeus), Nb

CHRYSOMELIDAE
Zeugophora turneri Power, Na
Chrysolina crassicornis (Helliesin) (*C. latecincta* (Demaison)), RDB2
Phyllodecta polaris Schneider, RDB3

CURCULIONIDAE
Otiorhynchus auropunctatus Gyllenhal, RDB1
O. morio (Fabricius), RDBI
O. scaber (Linnaeus), Nb
Pissodes validirostris (Sahlberg, C.R.), RDB3
Ceutorhynchus insularis Dieckmann, RDB1
C. cakilis (Hansen)
Anthonomus varians (Paykull), Nb

SCOLYTIDAE

Scolytus ratzeburgi Janson, Nb
Pityophthorus lichtensteini (Ratzeburg), RDB3

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CHRYSOLINA VARIANS (SCHALLER) (CHRYSOMELIDAE) NEW TO THE OUTER HEBRIDES

Mark G. Telfer

On 19 May 1992 I collected a single specimen of *Chrysolina varians* on the south-facing bank of a short, steep-sided gully on the west slope of Triuirebheinn, South Uist in the Outer Hebrides (NF809212). The specimen was found amongst lush herbage, seemingly inaccessible to sheep, including flowering *Allium ursinum* L. (Ramsons), *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (L.) Chouard ex Rothm. (Bluebell), *Primula vulgaris* Hudson (Primrose), *Ranunculus ficaria* L. (Lesser Celandine) and *Viola* sp. (violet). The vegetation of the wider area was dominated by *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull (Heather) and *Erica tetralix* L. (Cross-leaved Heath). The specimen was collected during a few minutes casual searching.

This appears to be the first record of this species from the Outer Hebrides. *C. varians* was not mentioned by Waterston (1981), and R. C. Welch (pers. comm.) knows of no subsequent records. *C. varians* is otherwise known from Rhum and Mull in the Inner Hebrides (Welch, 1983) and widely elsewhere in Britain, where it is found on *Hypericum* spp. (St John's-wort) (Harde, 1984). *H. elodes* L. (Marsh St John's-wort) and *H. pulchrum* L. (Slender St John's-wort) are both recorded from South Uist (Perring and Walters, 1962; Parkhurst and Mullin, 1991) but neither was noticed on Triuirebheinn. *H. pulchrum* grows on streambanks and rock ledges in the Outer Hebrides, contrasting with the preference of *H. elodes* for boggy pool margins.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr. R. C. Welch for identifying the specimen and Messrs. P. T. Harding and B. C. Eversham for helpful comments on earlier drafts of this note.

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TYPHAEUS TYPHOEUS (L.) (GEOTRUPIDAE) ON THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Gordon A. Mackenzie

While hiking on the Isle of Arran, early in July 1992, I found a male *Typhaeus typhoeus*. This impressive Geotrupid was found on an area used for sheep grazing at map reference NR986383. This is the first record for Arran.

I thank Mike Denton, entomologist at the Yorkshire Museum, for confirming the identification.

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See : SINCLAIR, M., 1978. Typhaeus typhoeus *(L.) (Col., Geotrupidae) in Scotland.* Entomologist's mon. Mag., ***113*** *(1977) : 166. Thanks to Dr. David Shirt (National Recorder, Scarabaeoidea) for pointing out this useful summary of Scottish records. Ed.*

A RECORD OF *ELODES PSEUDOMINUTA* KLAUSNITZER (SCIRTIDAE) IN SOUTHERN SCOTLAND

M. Sinclair

On 12th July 1982, I swept a male of this species from the general vegetation by the Wauchope Water, near Langholm, Dumfries-shire (V.C. 72, G.R. NY349834). It was determined with the aid of aedeagal figures in *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas* (Lohse, 1979). It was not reported at the time as its introduction to the British fauna was rumoured to be imminent.

The species was eventually added to the British list by Johnson (1992) who cited records from various parts of England as far north as Cumberland, and a Scottish one from the Isle of Rum (V.C. 104, North Ebudes). The present record extends its known range into southern Scotland and makes it more probable that the species will prove to be widespread in at least the south-western quarter of that region.

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ERNOBIUS NIGRINUS (STURM) (ANOBIIDAE) IN ENGLAND - SOME UNPUBLISHED RECORDS

R. J. Marsh

A specimen of this distinctive *Ernobius* was sieved by me from a pile of pine needles under a stand of Scots pine in Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire (43/67) on 20.vi.1991.

The specimen was identified by Colin Johnson of the Manchester Museum, who noted in his excellent review of the northern European species (Johnson, 1966) that *E. nigrinus* was known in Britain only from the Scottish Highlands. At the time of the Clumber Park capture I considered that this might be a first record for England, presumably introduced at some recent time in seedlings of Scots pine or in cut timber (e.g. fenceposts). However, on browsing through the Coleoptera records of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union I happened upon two old records for Yorkshire: Cloughton Bank (54/09) 11.vii.1925 when G. B. Walsh found 2 specimens on a wind-felled pine, and a record for Allerthorpe (44/74) in 1930 when W. D. Hincks found a specimen. Searching the literature revealed that these records have appeared in print (1925, *Naturalist*,**50**: 369 - 1930, *Naturalist*,**55**: 430 - 1931, *Naturalist*, **56**: 54 and 1931, *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **67**: 44). The specimens do not appear in the collections at the Yorkshire Museum or the Manchester Museum. Mr. A. A. Allen tells me that there are three other English records known to him, viz., Carlisle, collected by F. H. Day around 1913 possibly from a local timber yard; New Forest from D. Appleton in 1974; and Slaley, Northumberland, in a batch of beetles sent to Mr. Allen in about 1974 by the late Sir Eric Ansorge.

One assumes that these occurrences are due to introduction via human activity and perhaps very locally established in favourable places.

My best thanks are due to Messrs. A. A. Allen, Mike Denton and Colin Johnson for information and permission to publish records.

Reference

JOHNSON, C., 1966. The Fennoscandian, Danish and British species of the genus *Ernobius* Thomson (Col, Anobiidae). *Opusc. Ent.*, **31** : 81-92.

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OBSERVATIONS FROM AN IRISH MOUNTAIN SUMMIT

K. N. A. Alexander

Mountain summits are places of extremes of weather. In the summer months the summit may be bathed in low cloud and subject to very moist, relatively cool conditions, or exposed to scouring winds and/or hot sunshine. Strong winds create very drying conditions, while sunshine heats any stones which may be scattered around the summit and so rapidly warms up the beetles beneath. Variations in humidity and temperature will affect the activity of the resident fauna considerably and different species will react in different ways.

The summit fauna is a complex one, including boreal species, a few alpine species, the more general arctic-alpine element and species which appear to be indifferent to altitude. These different zoogeographical types may be expected to react to changing conditions differently.

In 1992 I had the unique experience of being on the same mountain top on three occasions within a period of nine days. The observed beetle fauna on the first occasion was strikingly different from the two subsequent occasions. The short time intervals suggest that the observed differences are more likely to relate to the prevalent weather conditions than seasonal changes in species' abundance.

The 2nd July was a very wet dull day on Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains of County Down. It was heavy and overcast all morning, with light showery rain on the mountain slopes, while the summit - at 850m - was invisible in the low cloud. The summit vegetation was covered with water droplets from the cloud's moisture but it wasn't raining as such. The soil was moist but not waterlogged. Stone-turning revealed a relatively abundant and interesting beetle fauna. *Byrrhus pilula* (L.) was plentiful, with more than fifty individuals seen in one hour spent searching, while five individuals of its specialist predator, *Miscodera arctica* (Pay.), were also found. The other beetles noted include *Aclypea opaca* (L.) (five), *Patrobus assimilis* Chaudoir (a few), *Calathus melanocephalus* (agg) (many), *Pterostichus melanarius* (Ill.) (one), *Hypnoidus riparius* (Fab.) (a few), *Nebria gyllenhali* (Schoenherr) (a few), *Otiorhynchus nodosus* (Muller, O.F.) (three), *Athous haemorrhoidalis* (Fab.) (one), and *Notiophilus aestuans* (Motschulsky) (one). The Staphylinidae have not yet been identified.

The rare *Aclypea opaca* has been reported from Irish mountain tops before (Johnson & Halbert, 1902) and has recently been reported from Cadair Idris in North Wales (Whitehead, 1991), so this would appear to be one of its favoured habitats. It has been generally regarded as herbivorous, attacking root crops, oats and barley, but Whitehead (loc. cit.) noted his specimens feeding on spiders. Mountain summit beetles tend to be predatory, feasting on the stunned insects carried up from lower altitudes in the updraughts.

Returning on a very dry windy and sunny day (5th July) to photograph the views, only two *Byrrhus pilula* could be found, and the other coleoptera were also very sparse : *Bradycellus harpalinus* (Serville) (one), *Notiophilus aquaticus* (L.) (three), *Arpedium brachypterum* (Grav.) (one), *Amara plebeja* (Gyll.) (one), *Calathus melanocephalus* (agg) (many) and *Carabus problematicus* Herbst (one). The reduced numbers of *Byrrhus pilula* and the absence of *Miscodera arctica* and *Aclypea opaca* were particularly striking and the opportunity of a third climb on the 10th July was taken in order to check again. Although less windy, this was another warm sunny day, and the fauna was broadly similar to that experienced on the 5th.

Although these observations have limitations, my tentative conclusion is that the dull cool moist weather of the first day had drawn up the *Byrrhus pilula* from the mossy vegetation, together with the *Miscodera arctica*, while the bright warm dry conditions of the subsequent visits had driven the *Byrrhus* deeper into the turf. Interestingly, Lindroth (1945) says that *M. arctica* requires that the surface be somewhat (if only slightly) moist and prefers somewhat shady places. Presumably, in the absence of shade and surface moisture, the only choice on a mountain summit is to migrate downwards into the ground. *Miscodera* has a reputation for being found by pitfall trapping rather than hand searching by turning stones, etc. This probably reflects the fact that pitfalls operate in all weather conditions while few coleopterists work mountain summits in low cloud and rain!

My thanks to Dr Martin Luff for his comments on an earlier draft of this note, and to Dr Harry Heyworth for his translation of the relevant section of Lindroth's tome.

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Contributors to the Cantharoidea and Buprestoidea Recording Scheme, please note Keith Alexander's new home address.

Corrigendum

***Sitona puberulus* Reitter (Curculionidae) in Ireland**

With reference to the above paper by M.G. Morris (1993, *Coleopterist*, **2**(1) : 25-26), 'Flesk, Killarney' (line 18) is of course in Co. Kerry and not Co. Derry as stated. Apologies to the author for this error. Ed.

ANISODACTYLUS NEMORIVAGUS (DUFTSCHMID) (CARABIDAE), NEW TO IRELAND

Howard Mendel

On 1st June 1987, on my way home from a trip to record Elateroidea in the west of Ireland, I decided to take the scenic route back to the port of Rosslare. This took me along the northern shore of Lee Valley Reservoir, Macroom (V37), Co. Cork. The water level was rather low and I stopped to photograph the surreal landscape of dead, standing trees sticking out of the water and mud. Under stones along the shore I picked up a few Carabids, among them a single female *A. nemorivagus*. This species is not listed by Speight, Anderson and Luff (1983) and is apparently new to Ireland. *A. nemorivagus* is a very local, 'notable A' species in southern Britain, normally associated with dry heathland rather than the muddy shores of reservoirs.

I thank the Royal Irish Academy (Praeger Fund) for financial assistance enabling me to visit Ireland to record Elateroidea and Dr M.L. Luff for confirming my identification of *A. nemorivagus*.

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ACLYPEA OPACA (LINNAEUS) (SILPHIDAE) AT SHERWOOD FOREST, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND LOWDALES, NORTH-EAST YORKSHIRE

Roger S. Key

On 30th April 1993 I found a specimen of the silphid beetle *Aclypea opaca* running in sunshine across a limestone footpath at Sherwood Forest Country Park, Nottinghamshire, part of the Birklands and Bilhaugh SSSI (SK621676).

Once sufficiently common to be dubbed the 'beet carrion beetle' and described as a pest of beet in neighbouring Lincolnshire (Roebuck, 1944, 1948, 1950), it would appear that this is now a very scarce beetle in Britain. Hyman and Parsons (1992) record only six post-1970 vice county records for the species, these being South Devon, North Somerset, East Sussex, North-east Yorkshire, Mid-west Yorkshire and Durham. Pre-1970 records include 29 vice counties or 'districts' throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

It is described from Nottinghamshire in Carr (1916), who cites 3 vague literature records including ones in 'Stephens' and Fowler (1889), as well as a localized record by A. Thornley at South Leverton on 7th May 1898. Sheila Wright of the Natural History Museum at Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, informs me that there appears to be no subsequent Nottinghamshire records. My record may therefore be the first in the county for 95 years.

The record quoted in Hyman (*op. cit.*) for North-east Yorkshire was also by me. On 16th July 1978 I swept a single specimen of the species from *Oenanthe* sp. (water dropwort) beside a stream in Lowdales, near Hackness (SE958924) but did not, at the time realise the significance of the record.

It may also be of interest to note that at Sherwood on 30th April *Hylecoetus dermestoides* (Linnaeus) was in abundance, many females ovipositing on dead birch, while a single bracket fungus of *Fomes fomentarius* (L. ex Fr.) on birch had thirty-four specimens of *Triplax russica* (Linnaeus) on its under-surface.

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THE LONGHORNS (CERAMBYCIDAE) OF WALES

R. R. Uhthoff-Kaufmann

Some 45 years have elapsed since the publication of my original list of Welsh Cerambycid beetles and its two supplements and 'Notes on the distribution of British Longicorn Coleoptera' (Kaufmann, 1946; 1947; 1948a,b). Sporadic forays over the years into the Principality have raised the number of species found in most counties; in others, notably Carmarthen and Pembroke, little work has been done. Two-thirds of the total British Longhorn species have now been recorded from Wales. There is no lack of beetles, rather, a paucity of observers and collectors.

Records since 1948 include the following (vice-county number follows the species name and is bracketed where the record is unconfirmed, without data or a probable importation):

PRIONINAE :

***Prionus coriarius* (L.)**: (51) : post-1970, locality not given (Hyman, 1992).

ASEMINAE :

***Arhopalus rusticus* (L.)**: (41) : there is a specimen marked 'Wales' in the Natural History Museum, London.

***Asemum striatum* (L.)**: 48 : Cors y Sarnau, Cynwyd, vi.1968, borings only (Skidmore & Johnson, 1969).

- 43 : Coedydd Glannau, vi.1986, in oak woodlands (Key, 1986).

***Tetropium gabrieli* Weise**: 47 : Gregynog Hall, 1988 (Mrs M. J. Morgan, *in litt.*).

***Stenocorus meridianus* (L.)** v. *rufiventris* Marsh.: 49 : Caernarvon, viii.1948, indoors (R. Boot).

***Grammoptera ruficornis* (F.)**: 52 : Cors Coch, v.1971; Bwrad Arthur, vii.1971; Coed Môr, vi.1980; Porthamel Hall, vi.1983 (Mrs M. J. Morgan, *in litt.*).

- 47 : Gregynog Hall, 1988 (Mrs M. J. Morgan, *in litt.*).

***Leptura sexguttata* F.**: 48 : Talgarth, vi.1968, a singleton by sweeping under oak (Skidmore & Johnson, 1969).

CERAMBYCINAE

***Strangalia quadrifasciata* (L.)**: 42 : Llysdinam, vi.1986, in parkland (Key, 1986).

***Molorchus minor* (L.)**: 48 : Cors y Sarnau, vi.1968, borings found in Norway Spruce but no adults (Skidmore & Johnson, 1969).

***Aromia moschata* (L.)**: 49 : Caernarvon viii.1948, on Oxeye Daisy, *Leucanthemum* x *superbum* (Bergmans ex J. Ingram), late evening (E. A. J. Duffy, pers. comm.).

***Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (L.)**: 52 : Anglesey, reported by Curtis (1830), possibly imported, erroneously marked as doubtfully British (Kloet & Hincks, 1977)

- 42 : Hay-on-Wye, 1952 (Green, 1972); Llysdinam, vi.1986, in flight; Coed Cnwch, vi.1986, off oak; near Elan, vi.1986 (Key, 1986).
- (41) : Swansea, a specimen found in imported oak, now in National Museum of Wales, Cardiff (Green, 1972).
- 43 : Doldowlod, vi.1986, off oak; Bailey Einon, vi.1986 (Key, 1986).

***Phymatodes testaceus* (L.)**: 46 : Aber Magwr, x.1959 (Miles, 1991).

LAMIINAE :

***Lamia textor* (L.)**: 48 : Penmaenpool; Arthog Bog; Trawsfynydd; Morfe Harlech. Typical emergence holes in willows noted in all these localities in 1968, a

diagnosis recently confirmed *in litt.* by Mr. P. Skidmore. The adults remained elusive (Skidmore & Johnson, 1969).

***Pogonocherus hispidulus* (Pill. & Mitt.)**: 46 : Cnwch Coch, ix.1988 (Miles, 1991).

***P. hispidus* (L.)**: 47 : Gregynog Hall, 1988 (Mrs M. J. Morgan, *in litt.*).

***Saperda carcharias* (L.)**: (46) : Cardigan, viii.1965, dead in street, possibly an importation (R. R. U-K.).

***S. scalaris* (L.)**: 49 : Gwydyr, vi.1952, in birch (Davies & Burrows, 1952); Aber Valley, vii.1979, sunning on apple logs (A. G. Gatehouse) and a stone (R. Sharples) (Morgan, 1981).

***Stenostola dubia* Laich.**: 45 : Pembroke, viii.1965, in flight (R. R. U-K.).

- 43 : Ciliau, vi.1986; Glasbury, vi.1986 (Key, 1986). Skidmore and Johnson (1969) made it plain in their Merioneth list that *Stenostola ferrea auctt. Brit.* was wrongly determined, and that our *Stenostola* is *S. dubia*; the error remained uncorrected in the Check List (Kloet & Hincks, 1977).

***Phytoecia cylindrica* (L.)**: (42) : 'South Wales' (Hyman, 1992) - a citation requiring confirmation.

***Tetrops praeusta* (L.)**: 43 : Glasbury, vi.1986 (Key, 1986).

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NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *LOMECHUSA EMARGINATA* (PAYKULL) (STAPHYLINIDAE) IN MID-WALES

D. C. Boyce

Lomechusa emarginata is an unmistakeable rove beetle that is known to be a specialist inhabitant of the nests of ants belonging to the genera *Myrmica* and *Formica* (Donisthorpe, 1927). It is regarded as a scarce species in Britain, being rated nationally notable (Hyman & Parsons, in prep.), i.e. known from less than one hundred ten kilometre squares in Britain.

I thought it would therefore be of interest to detail my own records of this beetle in mid-Wales, where it seems to be local but by no means uncommon. All records for Dyfed and Powys are detailed below, with brief notes on host and habitat, where known. All records are my own, unless otherwise stated.

VC43 Radnorshire (Powys)

9.4.88 Aberedw Rocks (SO083472). Dry, west facing rocky grassland, very abundant under stones with *Myrmica ruginodis* Nylander. 200m. asl.

11.7.92 Llanelwedd Rocks (SO053522). Dry south facing igneous grassland extensively modified by adjacent active quarry, one under stone. 200m. asl.

1.10.92 Bachawy Gorge (SO106427). South-west facing neutral grassland on site of old railway line. One under stone with *Myrmica ruginodis*. 120m. asl.

4.4.93 Burfa Camp (SO2860). South facing rocky neutral grassland in old quarry, one under stone with *Myrmica sabuleti* Meinert. 300m. asl.

VC45 Pembrokeshire (Dyfed)

24.3.89 West Williamston (SN025061). Dry, south-west facing limestone scree in old quarry. One under stone with *Myrmica scabrinodis* Nylander. 10m. asl.

VC46 Cardiganshire (Dyfed)

5.3.89 Llangrannog quarry (SN319542). Dry south facing acid scree slope in disused quarry. One under stone with *Myrmica scabrinodis*. 100m. asl.

24.4.89 Coed Neuadd-yr-ynys (SN653924). Dry acid rocky knoll with scattered oak trees. One under stone. 10m. asl. Coll. A. O. Chater, det. DCB.

Clearly *L. emarginata* favours well insolated, sparsely vegetated rocky slopes and there is an interesting concentration of records from old quarry workings. *L. emarginata* is thought to require both *Formica* spp and *Myrmica* spp for its development and it is probably the need for good colonies of both these ant genera that dictates the habitats in which we find the beetle. Also of note is the concentration of records in the March-April period with *Myrmica* spp.

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COLEOPTERA RECORDING IN LINCOLNSHIRE - VICE-COUNTIES 53 AND 54 - A HISTORY AND THE CURRENT POSITION

Roger S. Key

Historically, the beetles of Lincolnshire have been very well recorded. The earliest publication that I have found referring to beetles in the county is by Vernon Wollaston (1843), describing the results of an entomological excursion to the Gainsborough area, with selected highlights from 'above a thousand specimens of Coleoptera' which he collected. In the mid and late 19th century there were many short notes by various authors on Coleoptera in Lincolnshire in journals such as the Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, Science Gossip, the Young Naturalist and the Entomologist.

The Rev. Canon William Weekes Fowler, author of the six volume *Coleoptera of the British Islands* published between 1887 and 1913 (Fowler 1887-1891; Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913), still the best work for some families of beetles, was resident in Lincolnshire for over twenty years from 1880 to just after the turn of the century. He carried out extensive recording and collecting, finding some species which are almost certainly now extinct in the county and many which are now very rare in Britain as whole.

He published many short notes on his discoveries and included many references to Lincolnshire in his great work. He is biographied in the Transactions of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (Thornley, 1907) and in Michael Darby's serial directory of Coleopterists (Darby, undated). Most of his collection is housed in Wollaton Hall Museum at Nottingham, although there is additional Lincolnshire material of his at Oldham Museum.

In the early volumes of the Transactions of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union (T.L.N.U.) the Rev. Arthur Thornley, from Nottingham, and Dr William Wallace, of Grimsby, produced an excellent county fauna (Thornley & Wallace, 1907-1915). Running to 176 pages, this included approximately 1500 species from well over twenty different recorders. The many thousands of records vary in detail from dated, localised, records with ecological information attributed to a particular recorder and determiner, to vague, undated references to the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union county divisions. Wallace was president of the Union in 1911 and his presidential address that year was on the Coleoptera of the county (Wallace, 1911) in which he mentions 18 coleopterists either resident in the county prior to that time, or who had recorded beetles there. There are biographies of both Thornley and Wallace in the Transactions (Anon, 1912, Anon, 1917). Wallace's collection is currently in the Museum at Lincoln and is eventually to be moved to a natural history centre at Hartsholme Park in Lincoln. Some of Thornley's material is incorporated in the Fowler collection at Nottingham (D. Lott, pers. comm.), although I do not know if this represents the bulk of his collection.

After this time there appears to have been little beetling activity reported in the T.L.N.U. - subsequent entomology recorders (G.W. Mason, A.E. Musgrave and F.L. Kirk) concentrated almost entirely on the Lepidoptera, although they did include references to a few of the more conspicuous beetles such as the 'cockchafer'. A. Roebuck's reports on Economic Zoology in the county (Roebuck, 1936-1951) frequently referred to common beetle pests of crops as well as more interesting species such as such as *Crioceris asparagi* (L.) and *Aclypea opaca* (L.). A paper on the waterbeetles of the county in 1938, by F. Balfour-Browne, was the result of only a couple of short visits. Nevertheless, he recorded 118 species.

In the 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s, Mr E. Carey Riggall, of Louth, wrote a series of annual Coleoptera reports in the T.L.N.U. (1946-1961) as well as a note on the additions to the county fauna in Entomologist's Monthly Magazine (Riggall, 1944). He was president of the Union in 1954-55 and his presidential address was on the Coleoptera of the county (Riggall, 1956). In this he referred to a Mr W. Bevins, who recorded beetles in the southern part of the county and recorded 322 species in his garden at Algarkirk and whose collection had been 'sold out of the district and so complete records are not available'. I have been unable to locate Riggall's collection and the late Mr Joe Duddington of Scunthorpe recalled that it was sold when Riggall died in the 1960s.

Thornley and Wallace, and Riggall referred frequently to 'the records', implying the existence of a book or card index. If such exists or existed, I have no idea of its whereabouts unless this merely referred to a copy of Thornley and Wallace's publication, cut up and pasted to cards and held at the Lincoln Museum, but this can hardly be what Thornley and Wallace referred to!

A number of sites stand out in the old records as being of particular significance for Lincolnshire Coleoptera. Foremost of these was probably Freshney Bog near Grimsby, with an impressive list of very rare species dating back well into the previous century. At the time this was the only known site in Britain for the leaf beetle *Cryptocephalus exiguus* Schneider, which has subsequently only been found in Suffolk and Norfolk and probably now only survives precariously at a single site in the Suffolk Breck (Hyman, 1992). This species was thought to have disappeared from Freshney Bog early this century, but there is a specimen from Freshney in the Yorkshire Museum at York dated 2nd June 1954, although the collector is unknown (Denton pers. comm.). Although Freshney Bog still exists, it is but a shadow of its former self and it is unlikely that the beetle will be rediscovered there. I would very much like to be proved wrong!

'Langworth Wood' appeared to be one of Fowler's favorite haunts, with many records of significant species, although I am uncertain of the precise whereabouts of the site - it may be a vague reference to woods to the south-east of Lincoln. Other sites of prominance for scarcities in the old records were: sandhills at Humberston and Cleethorpes, where there are old records of *Cicindela maritima* Latreille & Dejean, Bradley and Roxton Woods, Irby Dale, the Trent Banks at Torksey, Newton Cliff, the sandy areas around Cadney, Moortown, Scunthorpe (possibly referring to Risby and Crosby Warrens, the latter now largely destroyed), Manton Common, where *Cicindela sylvatica* L. was recorded up to 1926, after which most of the Common was ploughed for agriculture, the Saltfleetlby to Skegness coastline, the foreshore of the Wash near Boston and the Linwood area. Several species were described as new to Britain from Lincolnshire, including *Ernoporus tiliae* (Panzer), *Ellescus scanicus* (Paykull) and *Longitarsus nigerrimus* (Gyllenhal), for none of which are there recent records in the county.

More recently, most beetling activity in the county has been carried out by entomologists visiting Lincolnshire, for example the studies of Grimsthorpe Park by Roy Crowson, Eric Hunter, Colin Johnson and Peter Skidmore in the 1960s (Crowson & Hunter, 1964; Hunter & Johnson, 1966) and Tony Drane in the 1980s, a very extensive survey of water beetles in the county by David Bilton in 1986 and the extensive study of the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe National Nature Reserve by Tony Drane and by Mick Eyre and Martin Luff in 1988 and 1991 (Eyre & Rushton, 1988 & 1992). David Heaver undertook a huge survey of all invertebrates of

Crowle and Thorne Moors in 1990 (Heaver & Eversham, 1991), (although even the Lincolnshire/Humberside part of the Moors is actually in VC 63 - South West Yorkshire!). Alan Lazenby of Sheffield has also recorded many beetles in the south of the county in recent years and the wardening staff at Gibralter Point National Nature Reserve are recording beetles there.

A current generation of native Lincolnshire entomologists includes Dr Peter Kirby, John Bratton and myself, all of whom record beetles as part of wider entomological interests. In 1987, 1988 and 1992 we organized excursions for entomologists from the Nature Conservancy Council (now English Nature and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee) to the Humberside part of the county, and I arranged a joint Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Entomological Section/Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union meeting to Risby Warren and Twigmoor on 20 May 1989 (the first joint meeting for 90 years). I have also organized British Entomological and Natural History Society meetings to Tattershall Carrs and Saltfleetby and to Theddlethorpe NNR in 1991, but they were very poorly attended. I became beetle recorder for the county in 1987. Since then I have undertaken an extensive literature search and now have beetle records on a computer database and am keen to trawl in further records.

I keep Lincolnshire beetle records on a copy of RECORDER, English Nature's site- and species-based computer biological recording package written by Stuart Ball of JNCC. The package has been adopted by the Lincolnshire Trust and the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and I am using the same site codes as those used by them and have a reciprocal arrangement over the exchange of beetle information. Ultimately, after checking, all beetle records will be incorporated into the Trust's database.

To date, I have over 4748 records of 1551 species, from 311 sites, 97 recorders and 99 literature sources in the database and can search these and output them in any way requested. I am refraining from entering the largest block of data, that from Thornley & Wallace's publication, until a future modification of RECORDER facilitates data input from this type of source. Otherwise information is input as it is received.

I would be most grateful to receive any records of beetles from Lincolnshire or South Humberside (including the bits actually in VC 63!) and am prepared to identify specimens of most groups of beetles from the county. I would be particularly grateful for information as to the whereabouts of Wollaston's, Thornley's, Bevin's or Riggall's collections, any other collections containing Lincolnshire Coleoptera, or any journals, notebooks or indexes of coleopterists from, or who have visited Lincolnshire. My ultimate aim is to produce a county fauna.

The fabric of natural habitats in Lincolnshire has been dreadfully modified by agricultural change in the post-war years, such that few coleopterists consider most of the county worthy of attention. There remain, however, a few real countryside gems that retain important faunas of beetles, some of which are becoming 'classic' beetle study sites of our times. Crowle/Thorne Moors supports the endangered *Bembidion humerale* Sturm and *Cumiropsis nigrita* (Palm), one of only two sites in Britain for these species (the other being only a few miles over the border into Yorkshire). Risby Warren has a fauna seemingly more typical of the Norfolk Breckland and the coastal dunes have a recently discovered poulation of the endangered species *Panagaeus cruxmajor* (L.). Significant sites known about up to

the 1980s were documented in the NCC's Invertebrate Site Registers (Key 1986, Kirby, 1987) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee still maintain the database from which those reports were derived. Some of the old collectors' haunts remain and have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest but have not been looked at by a coleopterist for decades, while other sites designated for a rich flora have never been visited by entomologists. There is much to be done.....

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Roger S. Key, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

RECORD OF *APION CARDUORUM* KIRBY (*LACERTENSE* TOTTENHAM) (APIONIDAE) FROM LINCOLNSHIRE

R. W. J. Read

Among some *Apion* weevils submitted to Mr A. A. Allen sometime ago for determination was a specimen of *Apion carduorum*. The beetle was collected from a small plant of *Cirsium arvense* (L.) Scop. (Creeping Thistle) by the edge of Willingham Park near Gainsborough (SK87/84) on 9th August 1968.

Morris (1990) gives the distribution of *A. carduorum* (= *lacertense*) as southern England with no mention of any records for the North. My record may well turn out to be a new one for North Lincs (VC54) but apparently it is not the first for the northern counties. Allen (*in lit.*) mentioned that he once located a specimen of the weevil (standing over the name *dentirostre* in the Natural History Museum, London) which had been taken at Whitby, North Yorkshire.

Now that the differences between *A. carduorum* and the closely related *A. gibbirostre* (Gyllenhal) (= *carduorum* auctt.) have been described by Morris (*loc. cit.*) it is possible that more records will come to light when specimens in collections are re-examined.

I wish to thank Mr Allen for very kindly identifying my specimens and for general information regarding *Apion carduorum* in Britain.

Reference

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NEBRIA LIVIDA (L.) (CARABIDAE) AT AN INLAND SITE IN EAST YORKSHIRE

Barry Constantine

While helping Professor J. J. Lowe and students of Royal Holloway, University of London, to take samples for pollen analysis on 18th June 1993, I collected several specimens of *Nebria livida*, which is a Notable A species (Hyman, 1992). The site, a sand and gravel quarry, is situated in the village of Gransmoor, East Yorkshire (TA1159).

The quarry is on a late glacial esker containing a series of kettle holes which are now filled with layers of organic silts and sands and sealed by substantial late glacial peat deposits. This peat has been exposed for over two years and consequently the face of the section has dried out and cracked. It was while trowelling this section back to moist deposits that I found the first two specimens running rapidly up the face of the section. This face is approximately 10m above the bottom of the quarry, which contains several large flooded pits and a diverse flora providing intermittent cover as disused parts of the quarry are being recolonised. The northern end of the quarry is now used as a landfill site which may result in new species being inadvertantly deposited on the site.

In the afternoon of the same day, Professor Lowe was examining a large block of dried-out felted peat that had fallen away from the face sometime last year. He asked if I was interested in 'a beetle dressed in Wolverhampton colours'. This turned out to be another specimen of *N. livida*. The final example was also found in this block of felted peat several minutes later. The specimens were identified the same day by Dr. Paul Buckland of Sheffield University.

According to Harde (1984), *N. livida* is restricted to the south and west coasts but I have found no record for these areas. Rye (1890) says that 'it has been found abundantly by splitting the clay cliffs at Bridlington' (10km NNW of Gransmoor), whilst Stephens (1839) suggests Scarborough, and Walsh and Dibb (1975) the boulder clay cliffs of East Yorkshire. Linssen (1959) also refers to the Yorkshire coast with the beetle living in cliff crevices, but also mentions that occasionally it has been found inland (without giving details). This could refer to nineteenth century specimens taken at Cannock Chase in Staffordshire by Blatch and others (Collier, 1988). Collier (1988) also records his own specimens from the Flixton Sand Pit taken in 1985-1986 and mentions a record of this species from a sand pit in Staffordshire where the habitat has since been destroyed. The actual habitat where he found the species at the Flixton site has also been destroyed and it is not known whether it still survives at Flixton, or whether Gransmoor is now the only inland site (Collier, pers. comm.).

It is very difficult to determine whether or not *N. livida* can, or does fly. Dr. Martin Luff (pers. comm.) thinks it unlikely, but that if it did, it would only be when the temperature was very high. The phrases 'very high temperatures' and East Yorkshire' do not go together! As Collier (1988) says of the Flixton site, how the beetle became established in the quarry is conjectural. Why it should bother to go in the first place is even more puzzling. Gransmoor is 6km from the nearest point on the coast, at Barmston, which represents a substantial trek even for a fast-moving, long-legged beetle such as *N. livida*. It is always possible that it arrived in a lorry load of spoil brought in as land fill and colonised the available habitat which is not dissimilar to the cliffs of East Yorkshire. Collier (1987) mentions the fact that most of the Flixton sand pit is being returned to agricultural use. *N. livida* could therefore

have arrived at Flixton in the same way, although obviously that can never be proven. Professor Coope (pers. comm.) has suggested that this population may be similar to a European non-halophilus variant of *N. livida* that is not restricted to coastal cliffs and is found inland in Europe.

The Gransmoor site could prove to be quite important in terms of beetle diversity. While working there without specifically looking for beetles I have seen *Apion miniatum* Germar and other weevils, coccinellids, and various species of *Agonum, Amara* and *Pterostichus*. I intend to carry out a survey of Coleoptera at the site with a view to publishing the results and comparing the assemblage found with fossil assemblages from similar habitats of Quaternary date, which is where my main entomological interests lie.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Clifford Watts Aggregates and their Gransmoor site manager for their help and permission to be on the site; Dr. P. C. Buckland for his identification of the specimens; Dr. Martin Luff for his comments on *N. livida*'s 'aerodynamic capabilities' (or otherwise!); and in particular Mr. Martin Collier for quickly providing his earlier papers on *N. livida* and supplying up-to-date information on the current situation at the Flixton Sand Pit; and finally Professor Russell Coope for his information on the European variant of *N. livida*.

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Barry Constantine

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SWARMING IN STAPHYLINIDAE

M. Joan Morgan

April 30th was probably the warmest day of 1993 up to that time. My colleague, Dr. J. B. Ford, was amazed to see the gable end of one of the science buildings covered with vast numbers of beetles in the sunshine. A nearby wall opposite in the shade, had very few beetles resting on it.

I identified the beetles as *Philonthus cognatus* Steph. accompanied by *P. varius* Gyll. in slightly fewer but still great numbers. It would be interesting to know whether other Coleopterists have come across this phenomenon, which is new to us, or whether it is an unusual event. One does not expect a family of mainly predaceous species to ever appear in hundreds simultaneously. The buildings are in a built up area with only small patches of grass nearby, and small gardens of neighbouring houses. It does not seem likely that they were carried on the wind from any distance as this had been mainly NE and the wall on which they congregated was facing South.

M. Joan Morgan

Brambell Building, School of Animal Biology, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2UW.

THE SITE OF STRIDULATION IN *GEOTRUPES* (GEOTRUPIDAE): AN UNSOLVED PROBLEM?

A. A. Allen

Despite their size and familiarity, there still seems to be much uncertainty regarding the actual site of sound-production in those well-studied insects, the dor beetles. Thus, Fowler (1890) writes that the sound is produced by rubbing the back of the hind femora against the abdomen; Jessop (1986) 'by rubbing the hind coxae together'. Both statements appear very questionable. The hind coxae are not naturally in contact and can hardly, or only by an effort, be made to touch one another, being separated by a space of a millimetre or two; nor do their inner surfaces appear to be furnished with the necessary ridges or stridulating-file. Britton (1956), on the other hand, denies that the sound is produced by the hind coxae as commonly stated, and in this he is unquestionably right (adding that a *G. stercorosus* deprived of hind coxae has been observed to stridulate, and remarking, with point, that the mechanism is not obvious).

If a live *Geotrupes spiniger* (or doubtless any other species) is firmly grasped in such a way as practically to immobilize the hind legs, the familiar high-pitched chirping will still be heard; at the same time the tip of the abdomen is seen to be moving rapidly up and down. If this part be then immobilized by pressure, stridulation ceases. The natural inference is that the sound is caused by friction between the internal apical areas of the elytra and the propygidial area of the abdomen. However, if one removes an elytron from a dead specimen and examines its inner surface and that of the exposed propygidium, no obvious stridulating mechanism is revealed. Presumably it must lie elsewhere.

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A. A. Allen

49, Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

A NEW RELAXING FLUID?

Howard Mendel

While collecting in the Pyrenees in July this year I met Spanish entomologist Enric Macias Güell, of Olot, working a flowery roadside verge. We exchanged greetings but unfortunately I spoke no Spanish and he spoke no English. However, after exchanging addresses he pulled from his wallet a slip of paper on which was written his formula for relaxing fluid. On the paper is written:-

Fórmula para reblandecer cualquier insecto, EXCEPTO MARIPOSAS
Alcohol de 96° ..... 330 gr
Agua Destilada ..... 300 gr
Acetato Etblico ..... 150 gr
Eter ..... 120 gr
Acido Acatico ..... 15 gotas

In translation, filling in gaps with the occasional educated guess and interpreting as necessary, the formula is (I think!): ethyl alcohol (96%) 405 ml, distilled water 300 ml, ethyl acetate 167 ml, ether 168 ml and glacial acetic acid 1 ml. I include the original in case my translation/interpretation is found wanting!

Apparently, this relaxing fluid can be used for Coleoptera and most other orders of insects, except butterflies and moths, as well as other arthropods such as scorpions. Depending on size, beetles relax in 1-2 hours. However, some of the finer points relating to use escaped me. For example, I am not sure whether beetles should be immersed in the fluid or placed on tissue soaked in the fluid. Similarly, I don't know if the fluid works only on freshly killed specimens or also on long dry material in collections (or both).

If you have come across this relaxing fluid before please supply me with any information that you know. I should also like to hear from anyone who experiments with the above recipe so that experiences can be shared through the pages of this journal. However, please note the mixture is likely to be highly inflammable and should be used with great care.

H. Mendel

The Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH.

SUBSCRIBER'S NOTICES

RECORDS WANTED - I am preparing a check list of the Coleoptera of the Holkham National Nature Reserve for publication. The reserve covers the area from Burnham Norton in the West to Stiffkey in the East. Unpublished records for any species, even common ones, will be gratefully received.

Bryan Sage (Tel : 0328 710703)

Waveney House, Waveney Close, Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk NR23 1HU

FOR SALE - New and secondhand books on Chinese beetles and natural history. Specimens of Chinese Coleoptera, especially Cicindellidae, Carabidae, Chrysomelidae, Cerambycidae, Curculionidae, Coccinellidae, Elateridae, Buprestidae, Scarabacida, Meloidae and Lucanidae.

Dr Peng Zhong-liang, 361# ERQI North Road, Nanchang, Jiangxi, P. R. of China.

WANTED - BRISTOL BOARD. Does anybody still know of a supplier of **thick** Bristol board? Since the early '80s I have found increasing difficulty in obtaining this card. Grades of thickness/weight also seem to have changed but I can no longer obtain a thickness approximately twice that of the die-stamped setting cards now available. Alternatively, has anybody discovered a suitable substitute?

Martin Collier, 67 Church Lane, Homersfield, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0EU.

FOR SALE - '*The Role of Ground Beetles in Ecological and Environmental Studies*'. Ed. N. Stork. £30.

J. Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ.

FOR SALE - Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, Vols 100-112., Wrappers. No reasonable offer refused.

Garth Foster, 3 Eglinton Terrace, Ayr KA7 1JJ. Tel: (0292) 260064.

'BEETLES FOR BEGINNERS' WORKSHOP, DINTON PASTURES, READING. 2nd OCTOBER 1993. 10.30 - 16.30

The British Entomological and Natural History Society is holding a beginner's beetle workshop. Roger Key of English Nature and Derek Lott of Leicester Museum will be covering field and lab techniques and will provide assistance with identification. The workshop will be held in the Society's Pelham-Clinton Building in Dinton Pastures Country Park off the B3030 (Davis Street) at Hurst near Reading (Grid Reference SU784718).

The Society's collections and library will be available for reference during the day and there will be opportunity for field work in Dinton Pastures itself, which has proved rich for insects of other orders. The workshop is aimed primarily at beginners; non-members will be welcome.

For further information, contact: Roger Key, 67 Peterborough Road, Crowland, Lincs, PE6 0BB. Tel. (0733) 318313 (daytime), (0733) 310541 (evening).

A PLEA FOR SPECIMENS OF *PSYLLIODES CUPREA* (KOCH), *P. CHRYSOCEPHALA* (L.) (CHRYSOMELIDAE) AND *CEUTORHYNCHUS CONTRACTUS* (MARSHAM) (CURCULIONIDAE) TO COMPARE WITH SPECIMENS FROM LUNDY ISLAND

Roger S. Key

Dr Stephen Compton of Leeds University and I are working on the fauna associated with *Coincya* (*Rhynchosinapis*) *wrightii* (O. Schulz) (Lundy Cabbage) on Lundy Island in the Bristol Channel. Part of the work involves further investigation of the relationship of the British endemic Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle, *Psylliodes luridipennis* Kutschera, with other species in the genus, using gas chromatography of cuticular waxes. This should provide a good insight into the evolutionary relationship of the various species of flea beetle in tandem with biochemical analysis of the cabbage itself in relation to its related species. *P. luridipennis* is usually thought to be related either to *P. cuprea* (Koch, J. D. W.) or *P. chrysocephala* (L.) (Shute 1975). We are also trying to determine the larval feeding ecology and life history of *P. luridipennis* and of *P. cuprea*, neither of which seems to be known.

So far we have visited Lundy twice, in May and July of 1993, and found *P. luridipennis*, as well as the Lundy endemic yellow-legged variety (var. *flavipes* Crotch) of the weevil *Ceutorhynchus contractus* (Marsham), feeding in very large numbers on the Lundy Cabbage. We also found the normal black-legged *C. contractus* in equal numbers on the Lundy Cabbage and also on other crucifers on the island, especially *Cochlearia officinalis* (L.) (Common Scurvygrass). We did not, however, find the yellow-legged variety on these other crucifers.

We would be grateful for any specimens (ones that have not been killed with organic solvents such as ethyl acetate or preserved in alcohol, as this effects the cuticular waxes) of any species of *Psylliodes* as well as *Ceutorhynchus contractus* from anywhere in the country (in particular for specimens of *P. cuprea*) to compare with the material that we have from Lundy. We will refund postage on any specimens received and acknowledge contributions of specimens in the paper that we intend to produce from the work.

We would also be grateful to hear of any observations that anyone may have made of the breeding/feeding/larval ecology of these species. We are also interested in any observations of ANY species of insect on *Coincya monensis* (L.) Greuter & Burdet (Isle of Man Cabbage), another scarce species which grows on dunes and cliffs of the west coast of Britain from the Gower north to NW Scotland.

Please send any specimens or observations to Roger Key, English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA (Tel: (0733) 318313). Many thanks in advance.

Reference

SHUTE, S.L., 1975. The specific status of *Psyliodes luridipennis* Kutschera (Col., Chrysomelidae). *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **111** : 123-127.

Roger S. Key

English Nature, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

REVIEW

COLÉOPTÈRES SCARABAEOIDEA D'EUROPE. Jacques Baraud. Fédération française des Sociétés de Sciences naturelles (Fauna de France 78). 1992. Card cover 158 x 242mm. 856pp, 11 plates (black and white) plus 950 text figures. Available from Société linnéenne de Lyon, 33 rue Bossuet, F-69006 Lyon, France. Price 600 FF (490 FF to society members).

These notes aim to advertise the publication of this book rather than provide a comprehensive review. Lack of time, European specimens and linguistic ability prevent the reviewer from testing the keys sufficiently for a thorough critique to be undertaken of such a large publication.

The first twenty pages are devoted to morphology, biology, economic importance, taxonomy and collecting techniques. Simple but clear text figures illustrate critical characters within the keys and each species has a detailed description. Distributional data is very generalised, being mostly limited to countries or large geographical regions. The attractive black and white plates are well drawn with excellent detail although, in the reviewed copy at least, there appears to be some variation in print intensity.

Comparing the number of species in Europe and Great Britain naturally reveals the impoverished nature of our fauna, but also of interest is the additional species covered by this work when compared with *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*. For example, the three species of the genus *Trox* recorded from Britain and the seven in *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas* compare with seventeen in *Coléoptères Scarabaeoidea d'Europe*.

Whether the price of this book represents good value for money is really a matter of personal opinion. A book of this size and price would certainly have benefited from hardback covers and more plates, preferably in colour. Nevertheless, this impressive publication is recommended to British coleopterists who collect regularly in Europe or who have a particular interest in the Scarabaeoidea.

Martin Collier

REVIEW

A critical review of the weevils (Coleoptera, Curculionoidea) of Ireland and their distribution. *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, Vol. 93B, No. 2, 69-84 (1993).

M. G. Morris, Furzebrook Research Station, NERC Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5AS.

The contents of this paper are best summarised by quoting from the author's own abstract: 'A brief introduction to the weevils is given, together with a short account of the biology of this group. Identification of species is discussed. Irish records of species of Curculionoidea (excluding Scolytidae) are reviewed and the sources of records described, with emphasis on published accounts. Brief characteristics of the abundance of each species in Ireland are given, together with summaries of distribution, using the vice-county system. If there are any specimens in the collections of the National Museum of Ireland, this is indicated. Two species have not previously been recorded in the Irish fauna; 246 species are regarded as certainly Irish; the status of 22 others requires clarification. The zoogeography, ecology and conservation of the species are discussed.'

This publication represents an important milestone in the documentation of the Irish Coleopteran fauna. The reviewer's own experience in researching, collating and validating ancient and modern county records helps in appreciating the amount of work which must have been involved in a project of this size. The 129 references listed bear further witness to the literature search that was necessary for this type of review.

The section on historical background provides a concise account of the efforts of previous entomologists and should form an essential part of all such papers. Perhaps of more debatable value is the full-page table devoted to 'Habitat characteristics of major genera of Irish weevils.' The habits and habitat types of genera rather than species are unavoidably so very general that it is difficult to imagine this table being used to any extent by the interested reader.

The annotated species list is arranged by family in alphabetical order of genera and species. Locating an individual species in a family as large as Curculionidae is therefore greatly facilitated. Taxonomic arrangements of species lists are always difficult to cross-reference and serve little purpose, except perhaps to those recorders who have computer databases arranged taxonomically! Names used in the list are up-to-date but the author has thoughtfully included synonyms to enable each species to be traced in both the most recent checklist (Kloet and Hincks, 1977) and the last list of Irish beetles (Johnson and Halbert, 1902). Distributional data are given by listing individual vice-counties, along with general comments on frequency, but more detailed information, including localities, is given for the rarer species. The paper concludes with interesting discussions on zoogeography - where the Irish weevil fauna is compared with that of great Britain - ecology and conservation.

The author is to be congratulated for producing such an authoritative account of the weevils of Ireland. It should remain for many years a source of reference for entomologists interested in the fauna of this under-recorded country, as well as being of considerable interest to coleopterists generally.

Martin Collier

REVIEW OF SELECTED PAPERS IN THE *IRISH NATURALISTS' JOURNAL* VOL. 24 (1992)

MORRIS, M. G., 1992. Five weevil species new to Ireland (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea). *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 24(2) : 65-69.

During an unsuccessful search, in July 1991, for the elusive Irish weevil, *Barypeithes curvimanus*, the author records the following five weevils new to Ireland :

Apion ebeninum - on *Vicia sepium* L. (Bush Vetch) at Summerhill Wood, Co. Meath.

Apion modestum - on *Lotus pedunculatus* Cav. (Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil) near Sraghmore, Co. Wicklow. This species was added to the British list by the author in 1976 (as *A. sicardi*).

Ceutorhynchus pyrrhorhynchus - on *Sisymbrium officinale* L. (Scop.) (Hedge Mustard) in St.Anne's Park, Clontarf, Dublin.

C. cakilis - on *Cakile maritima* Scop. (Sea Rocket) at Five Mile Point, Wicklow. The specific status of this species is discussed and, as only a single female was

captured, the author admits the need for further Irish specimens to confirm the species' presence in Ireland.

Tychius tibialis - on roadside vegetation near Barberstown Castle, Kildare.

Interesting and useful information concerning food plants, taxonomy, identification and distribution is given with each species.

MORRIS, M. G., 1992. New records of weevils (Coleoptera, Curculionoidea) from Kildare, Wicklow, Dublin and Meath. *Irish Naturalists' Journal*, 24(2): 77-78.

This paper consists of an extensive annotated list of species recorded during the survey which produced five weevils new to Ireland (see review above). 76 new county and vice-county records are presented, along with brief notes on selected species (sometimes involving name changes in the British list). The presence, in abundance, of the Red Data Book (Category 1) weevil *Otiorhynchus auropunctatus* is of particular interest, the beetle having been recorded from the same locality almost a century previously.

M. J. Collier

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GLASGOW NATURALIST
VOLUME 22, Part 3 (1993)

M. J. Collier
67, Church Lane, Homersfield, Harleston, Norfolk IP20 0EU.

Editorial Policy

Short notes and longer papers about the species of Coleoptera recorded from, or likely to occur in, the British Isles are eligible for publication in *The Coleopterist*. In addition, the Editor invites more general articles and news items which are of relevance to British coleopterists. Authors who intend submitting papers which are longer than 3,000 words should consult the Editor. Selected papers will be submitted to a referee. Subject areas within the scope of *The Coleopterist* include: identification, species new to Britain, 1st county records, recording schemes, conservation, ecology, biology, behaviour, sampling and collecting techniques, rearing, specimen preparation, curation, field meeting news and book reviews.

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

Instructions to Contributors

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

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

References to journals and books should be in the form:

HEAL, N.F., 1992. The discovery of *Lixus scabricollis* Bohe. (Curculionidae) in Britain. *Coleopterist*, **1**(1): 2.
JOY, N.H., 1932. *A practical handbook of British beetles*. 2 volumes. London: H.F. & G. Witherby.