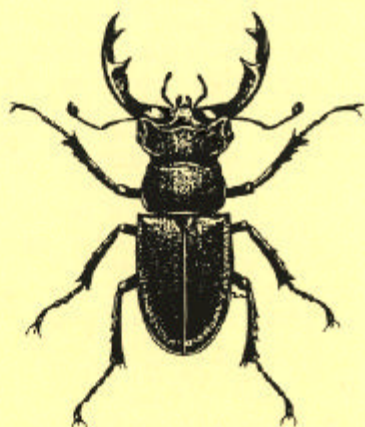


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## CONTENTS

<i>Ischnoglossa turcica</i> Wunderle (Staphylinidae) new to Britain. J. A. Owen.	65
More on <i>Trachyphloeus angustisetulus</i> Hansen and <i>T. bifoveolatus</i> (Beck) (Curculionidae). A. A. Allen	65
Corrections to: an annotated list of recent additions and deletions affecting the recorded beetle fauna of the British Isles. J. A. Owen	67
<i>Rhynchaenus erythropus</i> (Germar) (Curculionidae) not (yet) British. R. T. Thompson	68
<i>Apteropeda splendida</i> Allard (Chrysomelidae) new to Ireland. H. Mendel	70
Further records of <i>Tachyerges</i> (= <i>Rhynchaenus</i> ) <i>pseudostigma</i> (Tempère) (Curculionidae) in Britain. H. Mendel	70
Coleoptera associated with two introduced species of southern beech: part 1 - saproxylic species. R. C. Welch	71
<i>Stenopelmus rufinasus</i> Gyllenhal (Curculionidae) on a car roof. A.G. Duff	79
<i>Carcinops pumilio</i> (Erichson) (Histeridae), an uninvited dinner guest. A. G. Duff	80
Some post-1970 Scottish records of <i>Aclypea opaca</i> (L.) (Silphidae). M. Sinclair	81
Interspecific copulation in Coleoptera - a further record in the Chrysomelidae. M. P. T. Gillett	82
A review of the superfamilies Dermestoidea and Bostrichoidea, and a plea for records. B. Constantine	82
Further information on the first Irish record of <i>Agriotes pallidulus</i> (Illiger) (Elateridae). H. Mendel	85
A not so new relaxing fluid! H. Mendel	86
Subscriber's notices	86
Review	87
Obituary - Donald Tozer	88
Journal contents (Coleoptera). M. J. Collier	
<i>British Journal of Entomology and Natural History</i> , 5 (1992)	89
<i>Entomologist's Gazette</i> , 43 (1992)	90
<i>Entomologist's Gazette</i> , 44 (1993)	91
<b>Author Index, Contents &amp; Species Index to <i>Coleopterist</i>, 2(1-3)</b>	

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 Editor: H. MENDEL
 

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# THE COLEOPTERIST

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## ISCHNOGLOSSA TURCICA WUNDERLE (STAPHYLINIDAE) NEW TO BRITAIN

John Owen

For some years now, I have realised that my British examples of *Ischnoglossa* comprised more than one species. The details provided by Wunderle (1989) in his revision of the middle-European members of the genus suggested that one species was almost certainly *I. prolixa* (Gravenhorst) but the other did not match either of the other two species described in the review, though it seemed close to *elegantula* (Mannerheim). Seeking help with the problem, I wrote to Herr Wunderle who very kindly offered to look at some of my specimens. I now have his conclusions.

One species, he has confirmed as *I. prolixa*. The other he has identified as *I. turcica*, a species recently described by him (Wunderle, 1992). In his letter, Herr Wunderle expresses some surprise that *turcica*, hitherto known only from southern Europe and Turkey, should turn up in Britain. My three specimens (two males and one female) came from Windsor Forest taken on different dates in 1980 and 1981. It is interesting that this is the second member of the genus to be added to the British list in recent times; Lott (1993) added *I. obscura* Wunderle. I hope to publish a more detailed account of my findings in due course.

## Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Herr Wunderle for his kindness in dealing with my specimens. I thank also Mr A. R. Wiseman for authorising access to Windsor Forest and English Nature for arranging this.

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- WUNDERLE, P., 1992. Eine neue Art der Gattung *Ischnoglossa* Kraatz 1856 aus Türkei (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae). *Entomol. Blätter*, 88: 49-52.
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## MORE ON TRACHYPHLOEUS ANGUSTISETULUS HANSEN AND T. BIFOVEOLATUS (BECK) (CURCULIONIDAE)

A. A. Allen

Following the note by Harrison (1993), and the paper by Jermin and Mahler (1993), some further reference to this pair of sibling species may be in order. In 1978 I published a record of a remarkable nocturnal assemblage of *T. bifoveolatus*, adding some brief remarks on my experience of the two forms. This may have been the first mention in the British literature of *T. angustisetulus*, but at that time it was widely regarded as not specifically distinct from *T. bifoveolatus* - being in fact ultimately treated as a variety by Hansen (1965, p. 51) himself; and in the above note I took that view. Actually, in the light of present knowledge, it is *angustisetulus* and not *bifoveolatus* which I found swarming under a street lamp -

the latter not, apparently, occurring in my district, where the former is locally abundant. The rest of what I wrote is not affected, except as to the status of the two forms.

Hansen (*loc. cit.*) gives an excellent figure of the true *bifoveolatus*, showing well the less obese elytral shape. Some caution is requisite, however, since he points out that the characters given for the 'variety' are liable to a certain degree of instability. The results of later work would seem to suggest that such variation is either exceptional or, perhaps, confined to certain parts of the species' range.

In any event, it is already clear that *angustisetulus* is the commoner of the two in many or most parts of Britain, or at least of southern England. In my experience (in this genus extending but little beyond the latter area) the above assessment is even an understatement because, while I have a long series of *angustisetulus* and must have seen a great many more besides, I possess only a single *bifoveolatus*, taken at Littlestone, East Kent, on a sandy flat near the coast, 28th May 1950. At the same place the elaterid *Melanotus punctolineatus* (Pelerin) occurred but no other *Trachyploeus*. The weevil was picked out by the late Dr. L. Dieckmann as the only 'typical *T. bifoveolatus*' among many of the 'variety'; at which he expressed surprise, remarking 'solche dicke Käfer habe ich nicht gesehen'. These were of course *angustisetulus*.

The Littlestone *bifoveolatus* adds a fourth vice-county to those published so far (Oxford, N. Hants, E. Suffolk). It is worth remarking that at three of the sites both species have occurred. The records suggest the possibility that *bifoveolatus* favours sandy soils; while *angustisetulus* is found on a wide range of substrates even including grassland in built-up areas where, moreover, it can be very plentiful (Allen, 1978). It seems, however, to have a marked preference in general for somewhat acid (often gravelly) soils and heathy habitats. To the vice-counties already given for *angustisetulus* (Harrison, 1993), I can add S. Devon (Seaton Cliffs), Hereford (Hereford Beacon), Herts (Broxbourne), Berks (Windsor) and Middlesex (Hounslow Heath).

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## CORRECTIONS TO: AN ANNOTATED LIST OF RECENT ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS AFFECTING THE RECORDED BEETLE FAUNA OF THE BRITISH ISLES

J. A. Owen

The list of 'additions and deletions' (Owen, 1993, *Coleopterist*, 2(1): 1-18) requires the following corrections :-

- [p. 2] *A. stierlini* (Heyden, 1880)  
Focarile (1964, *Mem. Soc. Entomol. Italiana*, 43: 97-120) was the first to report that this species occurs in Britain.
- [p. 3] *Enochrus fuscipennis* (Thomson, C. G., 1884)  
The reference to Hansen should read - 1987, *Ent. Scand.*, 18: 195-207.
- [p. 3] *E. halophilus* (Bedel, 1878)  
The reference to Hansen should read - 1987, *Ent. Scand.*, 18: 195-207.
- [p. 4] *Acrotichis josephi* (Matthews, 1872)  
Attribution requires parenthesis.
- [p. 5] *Stenus glabellus* Thomson, 1870  
The reference to Lott & Foster should read - 1990, *Ir. Nat. J.*, 23: 280-282.
- [p. 5] *Quedius obliterated* Erichson 1840  
This entry should be deleted. It stemmed from conclusions reached by Allen (1990, *Coleopterist's Newsletter*, no. 41, pp. 2-5) which the author tells me are no longer valid. It appears that Williams (1928) was mistaken in his recognition of the type of *humeralis* Stephens.
- [p. 13] *Mordellistena pygmaeola* Ermisch, 1956  
Spelling should be *pygmaeola* not *pygmeola*.
- [p. 14] *Ceutorhynchus cakilis* Hansen, 1917  
*Br. J. Ent. nat. Hist.*, 3: 181 not 81.
- [p. 14] *Ceutorhynchidius thalhammeri* Schultze, 1906  
This name should be added. The species was first recognised in Britain by Mr J. Parry from specimens collected in 1982. Published records of the species in Britain include those of Atty (1983, *Coleoptera of Gloucestershire*) and Copestake (*Br. J. Ent. nat. Hist.*, 3: 84).
- [p. 15] *Rhynchaenus erythropus* Germar, 1821  
See also Thompson (1994, *Coleopterist*, 2(3): 68-69).
- [p. 16] *Dendroctonus micans* Kugelann, 1794  
The article by Bevan & King (1983, *Commonwealth Forestry Review*, 62:) predates the note by Cooter (1983, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 119: 231). There is an even earlier note by Cooter (1982, *Coleopterist's Newsletter*, no. 10, p. 3).

#### Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Mr A. A. Allen, Mr J. Cooter and Mr A. Fowles for drawing my attention to some of these corrections.

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**RHYNCHAENUS ERYTHROPUS (GERMAR) (CURCULIONIDAE) NOT  
(YET) BRITISH.**

**R. T. Thompson**

Ever since Emmet (1975) introduced *Rhynchaenus erythropus* (Germar) as British, on the strength of vacated leaf-mines, I have been trying to confirm its presence in Britain. The purpose of this note is to record that I have failed and to offer a possible explanation for my failure.

Having studied a sample of the mines, kindly sent to me by the late Mr D. W. H. ffennell, I began to search for them and now have records for most parts of England, as far north as Cheshire, and one for South Wales. The mines are made in the leaves of *Quercus ilex* L. (evergreen or holm oak). The larva enters the edge of the leaf, usually at the apex, and works its way along the edge of the leaf towards the base. If it enters near the apex, it proceeds to the apex and then moves down the opposite edge. If it enters near the base of the leaf, it always moves apically. When full grown, it moves away from the edge and excavates a circular clear area. It then cuts through both the upper and lower epidermis around the perimeter of this area and glues the edges together. Thus encapsulated it falls to the ground, leaving a circular hole in the leaf, and rapidly completes its development. The emerging adult cuts a long curved slit in one wall of the capsule and crawls out. The near-circular hole, with the associated marginal shrivelled brown mine is characteristic and can easily be distinguished from the many other mines and perforations to which holm oak leaves are subject. Moreover, it remains on the tree well into the following year so can be looked for at any time. Unfortunately, these mines occur in very low densities, usually in pairs on adjacent shoots, but there is often only a single pair on an entire tree! Although mines can be found on the pendant branches of large trees, it is more efficient to search those trees that have basal growth, are small, or are in the form of bushes, especially when growing together to form a hedge or screen. The mines occur from 0.5m to about 2m above ground level; whether they occur at greater heights is unknown but I have no reason to think they do.

Attempting to identify the species responsible for these mines, using the available literature (Hering, 1958; Hoffmann, 1958; Scherf, 1964), one is led to conclude that it can only be *Rhynchaenus erythropus*. Why, then, have adults of this species never been found in Britain if the mines are so widespread? Clearly, the only way to settle this question was to rear an adult from a mine and this I finally succeeded in doing in June this year, having recovered a capsule from debris below a freshly vacated mine. The beetle which emerged was *R. avellanae* (Donovan), a well known species, described from Britain in 1797. I measured the holes in 51 British mines and compared them with 32 continental ones, supposedly of *R. erythropus*, in the Hering leaf-mine collection at the Natural History Museum. I found that the continental mines fell entirely within the size-range of the British ones and, further, some of the continental ones were larger than that from which my reared specimen had come. Since the length of this specimen (2.60mm) exceeds the maximum recorded for *R. erythropus* (2.40mm), then either the continental mines were made by a mixture of both species or all were made by *R. avellanae*. Certainly it would seem that the assumption of Hering and Hoffmann that *R. erythropus* is mainly responsible for mines in *Q. ilex* while *R. avellanae* occurs only in soft-leaved oaks is false. Mines of the *avellanae*-type have, however, been found in leaves of *Quercus robur/petraea* (pedunculate/sessile oak) and *Q. cerris* L. (Turkey oak). Indeed, those in *Q. cerris* (two samples) were at a higher density than those in the

other species.

The mine described and figured as that of *R. avellanae* by Hoffmann (1958, p. 1343) differs from that described above in that the larva enters the leaf near one of the secondary veins and makes a vermicular mine in the blade. It pupates in a swelling in the leaf and the adults emerge over a period from the end of July to mid-September (the specimen I reared emerged on 30th June). Hoffmann's account reads as though he reared adults from these mines but I am bound to doubt this; he himself remarks that they resemble those of Nepticulidae (Lepidoptera).

An association between *R. avellanae* and *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel) now seems unlikely, though often reported. Donovan (1797, p. 63, pl. 205) adopted Marsham's *in collectio* name; when Marsham (1802, p. 263) published he stated: 'Habitat in *Corylo*'. Donovan himself says: 'Was found on the willow in June' but his figure is clearly of the oak-inhabiting species to which his name is customarily applied. Stephens (1831, p. 64), whose specimens I have checked, states: 'Found abundantly on hazels in the metropolitan district especially in Coombe and Darenth woods'. Hoffmann (1958) records taking *R. avellanae* var. *vestitus* Hoffmann on hazel. I can only assume that, in all these cases, the specimens had come from surrounding oaks. The occurrence of host-specific species on the 'wrong' plant is not very remarkable; I have myself on two occasions beaten *R. fagi* (L.) from *Quercus ilex* some distance from the nearest beeches. There are no *Rhynchaenus* mines in *Corylus* in Hering's collection.

The mine made by the larva of *Rhynchaenus erythropus* may well be similar to that of *R. avellanae* but this has not yet been demonstrated, nor have its host species been identified. Although it is perfectly possible that *R. erythropus* occurs in Britain, its presence here also remains to be demonstrated.

**Acknowledgements**

I wish to thank the following friends for their kind hospitality and assistance in the field in connection with this study: Dr and Mrs J. C. Hartley, Nottingham; Colin and Lesley Simms, Hexham, Northumberland and Dr J. Parkyn, Saxmundham, Suffolk. I also thank Dr Roger Booth (International Institute of Entomology) for contributing several records and giving encouragement. Mr Kevin Tuck (The Natural History Museum) kindly made available to me the Hering leaf-mine collection. Finally, I would like to thank Mr David Stone, Head Gardener, Mottisfont Abbey, Hants and the staff of the National Trust for allowing me to work in the Abbey grounds.

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**APTEROPEDA SPLENDIDA ALLARD (CHRYSOMELIDAE)  
NEW TO IRELAND**

*Howard Mendel*

I found a single example of this rare chrysomelid struggling in the surface film of a roadside spring pool on the Burren (M 1705), Co. Clare, Ireland, 25th May 1987. The species was last recorded in Britain from Ashdown Forest, East Sussex, in 1931 and is classified as 'endangered' (Hyman, 1992). As far as I can tell, it has not previously been recorded from Ireland.

**Acknowledgements**

I thank the Royal Irish Academy (Praeger Fund) for financial assistance with my trip to Ireland in 1987, Dr R. A. Anderson for confirming that *A. splendida* was new to Ireland and Dr M. L. Cox for checking my identification.

**Reference**

HYMAN, P.S. (revised PARSONS, M.S.), 1992. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*. Part 1. UK Nature Conservation: 3. Peterborough: JNCC.

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**FURTHER RECORDS OF TACHYERGES (=RHYNCHAENUS)  
PSEUDOSTIGMA (TEMPÈRE) (CURCULIONIDAE) IN BRITAIN**

*Howard Mendel*

Previously only known from the two vice-counties Cumberland (70) and South Wilts (8) (Morris, 1993), *T. pseudostigma* is surely being overlooked by many coleopterists. In 1993 I beat specimens from *Salix* sp. (sallow) by Powdermill Reservoir (TQ7920), East Sussex (14) on 1st May and from both *Salix* sp. (sallow) and *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertner (alder) in Monkspark Wood (TL9257), Felsham, West Suffolk (26) on 8th May.

**Acknowledgement**

I thank the Suffolk Wildlife Trust for permission to record Coleoptera from their Bradfield Woods Nature Reserve, of which Monkspark Wood forms a part.

**Reference**

MORRIS, M. G., 1993. A review of the British species of Rhynchaeninae (Col., Curculionidae). *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, **129**: 177-197.

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**COLEOPTERA ASSOCIATED WITH TWO INTRODUCED SPECIES OF  
SOUTHERN BEECH: PART 1 - SAPROXYLIC SPECIES**

*R. Colin Welch*

**Introduction**

Between 1978 and 1988 I made a study of the invertebrate fauna colonizing two deciduous species of southern beech, *Nothofagus obliqua* (Mirbel) Blume (roblé beech) and *N. procera* (Poepp. & Endl.) Oerst. (raoul), introduced into Britain from Chile. Sampling, by various methods, was mainly carried out in experimental plots within Forestry Commission forests and arboreta, although some private plantings were also included. This study initially concentrated on the defoliating Lepidoptera and an account of the 81 species recorded is given by Welch & Greatorex-Davies (1993). Many of the Commission plots had been planted in the mid-1950s and were starting to be thinned. These, supplemented by natural mortality and wind-blow, provided an opportunity to investigate which saproxylic, woodboring and subcortical species of Coleoptera were able to exploit these alien trees. A few such species were included in a short comparative list of beetles collected from these two species of *Nothofagus* and *Quercus rubra* L. (= *Q. borealis* Michx. f., red oak) at Thetford in 1978 (Welch, 1981).

In the following list of the 92 species of Coleoptera recorded during this study, 53 are regarded as confirmed saproxylic species associated with *Nothofagus*, with their adult or larval stages found under the bark of one or both of the host trees. In addition, a further 34 saproxylic species (preceded by + in the following list) were collected as adults off the *Nothofagus* foliage, but their breeding in these hosts requires confirmation. These species were collected either by beating the foliage of low peripheral branches onto a Bignell-style folding cloth beating tray, or were 'knocked down' using a pyrethrin-based, insecticidal fogger and collected from polythene sheets laid out on the ground beneath the canopy. One larva of the predatory clerid *Thanasimus formicarius* (L.), collected by this last method, is included in the total for confirmed saproxylic species above. Three species of adult *Dromius*, currently placed in the unconfirmed category, are almost certainly represented among the unidentified larvae collected from fogging samples. The four species of *Cis* recorded during foliage sampling may have been attracted to some unobserved fungal infection of the trees, or could just be chance captures. The records for four species of *Anaspis* are included although the adults were probably visiting the trees mainly during their period of flowering. However, they do all have lignicolous larvae and a number of larvae of this genus were found under *N. obliqua* bark at one site. The same is probably true for many of the other species listed, including four of the species of Cerambycidae. Although the scolytid *Ernoporus tiliae* (Pz.) is usually associated with species of *Tilia* (limes), it has been recorded from *Carpinus* (hornbeams) and *Fagus* (beeches) on the Continent. These are in the same family, Fagaceae, as *Nothofagus* from which two individuals were fogged in separate compartments at Flaxley in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. A further six species, preceded by \* in the following list, have no true association with *Nothofagus* but were merely using it for shelter. These include the two Carabidae, *Abax parallelepipedus* (Pill. & Mitt.) and *Pterostichus madidus* (F.); one Staphylinidae, *Anotylus sculpturatus* (Gr.); one Pselaphidae, *Brachygluta fossulata* (Reich.); and two Curculionidae, *Barynotus obscurus* (F.) and *Rhynchaenus fagi* (L.) (see Welch, in press, for discussion on this last species).

This study adds supportive evidence that saproxylic Coleoptera are more dependent upon the state of decay of hardwood timber, rather than the species of tree from which it originated. Clearly, dead standing *Nothofagus* and cut logs of these two introduced trees provide a suitable pabulum for a substantial coleopterous fauna.

I hope to be able to produce a second part to this paper providing details of those phytophagous and arboreal species of Coleoptera associated with *N. obliqua* and *N. procera*.

#### Acknowledgements

I am deeply indebted to Nick Greatorex-Davies who assisted me throughout these studies, and to the numerous Forestry Commission staff who provided me with access to the forests and arboreta in their charge. I am equally grateful to the Deputy Governor of Leyhill Open Prison for access to Tortworth Court, and to the late Dr H. C. Dawkins for arranging access to Bagley Wood.

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#### Locality abbreviations & grid references

AF	Alton Forest, Hants	SU 6944
AW	Abbots Wood, Blakeney, Forest of Dean, Glos	SO 6611
BP	Bedgebury Pinetum, Kent	TQ 7233
BW	Bagley Wood, Oxon	SP 5101
FC	Flaunden, Chiltern Forest, Bucks	TQ 0099
FW	Flaxley, Welshbury, Forest of Dean, Glos	SO 6815
GF	Grizedale Forest, Force Knot Plantation, Cumbria	SD 3491
GJ	Grizedale Forest, Jack Gap Plantation, Cumbria	SD 3395
GS	Grizedale Forest, Satterthwaite, Cumbria	SD 3391
GT	Grizedale Forest, Thurston, Cumbria	SD 3196
L	Lynford, Thetford, Norfolk	TL 8291
MW	Monks Wood, Huntingdon, Cambs	TL 2079
OP	Olley's Plantation, Thetford, Suffolk	TL 8381
PE	Park End, Forest of Dean, Glos	SO 6007
QW	Queen's Wood Arboretum, Hereford	SO 5151
SD	Santon Downham, Thetford, Norfolk	TL 8188
SH	Speech House Arboretum, Forest of Dean, Glos	SO 6212
TC	Tortworth Court, Falfield, Glos	ST 6992
W	Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury, Glos	ST 8489

Note - under each species entry, localities are listed alphabetically and followed by: dates of capture; tree host (No = *Nothofagus obliqua*, Np = *N. procera*); numbers recorded if more than a single specimen; and habitat or sampling method.

\* no true association with *Nothofagus* + breeding association with *Nothofagus* requires confirmation

#### CARABIDAE

*Trechus rubens* (F.)

FW 27.5.80, Np, under bark of log.

*Bembidion harpaloides* Serv.

FW 26.6.79, Np, beating; 18.9.79, Np, under bark of log; 25.6.80, Np, beating.

\* *Abax parallelepipedus* (Pill. & Mitt.)

FW 29.4.80, Np, under loose bark of log.

\* *Pterostichus madidus* (F.)

AW 18.9.79, No, under bark of felled tree.

+ *Dromius agilis* (F.)

AW 30.6.86, No, fogging; OP 27.5.82, Np, 3 fogging; 5.6.86, Np, fogging; 3.6.88, No, beating; SH 4.6.85, No, fogging; W 28.6.79, No/Np hybrid, 2 beating.

*D. meridionalis* Dej.

FC 8.6.79, No, pupa under bark of standing tree, adult emerged by 25.6.79.

+ *D. quadrimaculatus* (L.)

AW 30.6.86, Np, 2 fogging; FW 18.9.79, Np, beating; 25.6.80, Np, beating; 29.5.86, Np, 4 beating; 20.5.87, Np, 7 fogging; 4.6.88, Np, 3 fogging; OP 27.5.82, Np, 2 fogging; 5.6.86, No, fogging; PE 22.8.79, No, beating; 21.9.82, Np, in bark lesions of wind-blown tree; SH 4.6.85, No, fogging; 4.6.88, No, 11 fogging; W 21.5.87, Np, fogging.

*D. quadrinotatus* (Zenk. in Pz.)

AW 30.6.86, No, 2 fogging; Np, 2 fogging; FW 4.6.85, Np, 6 fogging; 29.5.86, Np, 2 fogging; 20.5.87, Np, fogging; OP 30.6.86, No, 2 fogging; Np, 2 fogging; 3.6.88, No, beating; Np, 5 adults, larva beating; W 20.9.72, No/Np hybrid, 2 beating.

+ *D. quadrisignatus* Dej.

FW 20.5.87, Np, 4 fogging.

*Dromius* spp. larvae

AW 30.5.86, No, fogging; FW 4.6.82, Np, 2 fogging; 20.5.87, Np, fogging; OP 5.6.86, No, fogging, Np, fogging; SH 4.6.85, No, fogging; W 31.5.86, No, fogging; 2.5.87, Np, fogging.

#### PTILIDAE

*Ptinella errabunda* Johns.

FW 18.9.79, Np, several under bark of logs.

#### LEIODIDAE

*Anisotoma humeralis* (F.)

BP 22.4.80, Np, under bark of log; FW 29.4.80, Np, under bark of log.

+ *Agathidium nigrinum* Stm.

GJ 6.6.88, Np, 2 beating.

#### STAPHYLINIDAE

*Acrulia inflata* (Gyll.)

FW 14.3.79, Np, under bark of felled tree.

*Omalius rivulare* (Pk.)  
**FW** 29.4.80, Np, 4 under bark of stump.

*Phloeonomus punctipennis* Th.  
**FW** 18.9.79, Np, 2 under bark of felled tree: **GJ** 6.6.88, Np, fogging: **OP** 22.5.79, No, under bark of fallen tree.

*Phloeocharis subtilissima* Man.  
**BP** 22.4.80, Np, under bark of felled tree.

+ *Anotylus sculpturatus* (Gr.)  
**AW** 21.9.82, Np, under split bark of wind-blown tree.

*Othius angustus* Steph.  
**AW** 18.9.79, No, under bark of log.

*Atrechus affinis* (Pk.)  
**BP** 22.4.80, Np, adult under bark of log: **FW** 18.9.79, Np, larva and adult under bark of logs; 22.4.80, Np, 3 adults under bark of log; 22.9.82, Np, larva under bark of log.

*Quedius lateralis* (Gr.)  
**FW** 22.9.82, Np, under bark of log.

*Sepedophilus littoreus* (L.)  
**BP** 22.4.80, Np, on cut end of log: **FW** 29.4.80, Np, under bark of log.

*Gyrophana fasciata* Th.  
**FW** 18.9.79, Np, under bark of felled tree.

*Leptusa fumida* (Er.)  
**AW** 30.6.86, No, fogging: **BP** 22.4.80, Np, on cut end of log: **FC** 20.8 (3) & 17.9.79 (5), Np, under bark of dead standing trees: **FW** Np, under bark of logs, 5.6, 26.6 (2), & 18.9.79 (3), 29.4 (2), & 27.5.80 (3), 6.5.82 (2 adults, 1 larva); 29.5.86, Np, fogging: **GJ** 6.6.88, Np, 11 fogging: **L** 11.5.82, Np, 2 adults, 1 larva under bark of wind-blown tree: **OP** 22.5.79, No, 4 adults, 3 larvae under bark of fallen tree; 5.6.86 No, 10 fogging: Np, 5 fogging; 3.6.88, No, 14 fogging: **PE** 21.9.82, Np, 2 under bark of wind-blown tree: **SH** 30.6.86, No, 4 fogging; Np, fogging: **W** 31.5.86, No, 5 fogging; 21.5.87, No & Np, fogging.

*L. ruficollis* (Er.)  
**FW** 20.5.87, Np, fogging; 29.5.86, Np, 3 fogging: **GF** 7.6.88, Np, beating; **GJ** 6.6.88, Np, 58 fogging: **GS** 7.6.88, No, 20 fogging, beating dead branches on ground: **OP** 3.6.88, No, fogging: **SH** 4.6.85, No, fogging; 30.6.86, No, 15 fogging, Np, 9 fogging; 20.5.87, Np, 3 fogging: **W** 5.6.85, No, 3 fogging; 31.5.86, No, 4 fogging, Np, 3 fogging; 21.5.87, Np, 6 fogging.

*Bolitochara bella* Maerk.  
**L** 11.5.82, No, under bark of dead standing tree.

*B. obliqua* Er.  
**FW** 5.6.79 & 14.3.80, Np, 2 + 2 under bark of log.

*Dinaraea aequata* (Er.)  
**BP** 22.4.80, Np, under bark of log: **FW** 3.6.85, Np, under bark of log.

*Dadobia immersa* (Er.)  
**AW** 18.9.79, No, under bark of felled tree: **FW** 18.9.79, Np, 2 under bark of log: **OP** 22.5.79, No, 2 under bark of fallen dead tree.

*Aleocharinae* indet. larvae  
**FW** Np, under bark of logs, 5.6.79 (4), 6.6.79 (3), 26.6.79, 14.3.80 (10).

## PSELAPHIDAE

*Bibloporus bicolor* (Denny)  
**FW** 18.9.79, Np, under bark of felled tree.

*Euplectus piceus* Mots.  
**FW** 8.6.85, Np, under bark of log.

\* *Brachygluta fossulata* (Reich.)  
**BP** 22.4.80, Np, under bark of log.

## ELATERIDAE

*Melanotus villosus* (Geof. in Fourc.)  
**FW** 29.4.80, Np, larva under bark of log: **OP** 5.6.86, No, fogging; 3.6.88, Np, beating.

+ *Athous hirtus* (Hbst.)  
**AF** 6.7.78, Np, beating.

+ *A. vittatus* (F.)  
**FW** 4.6.85, Np, 2 fogging; 29.5.86, Np, 12 fogging; 20.5.87, Np, fogging: **GS** 7.6.88, No, 7 beating.

*Dalopius marginatus* (L.)  
**AF** 6.7.78, No, 2 & Np, beating: **FW** 28.5, 26.6, & 23.7.80, No, beating: **GF** 7.6.88, Np, 2 beating: **GJ** 6.6.88, Np, 3 fogging: **GS** 7.6.88, No, 8 beating, 2 fogging: **GT** 7.6.88, Np, 6 beating: **L** 13.6.78, No, 4, Np, beating: **OP** 13.6.78, Np, beating; 22.5.79, No, 2 under bark of fallen tree; 26.5.82, No, beating; 27.5.82, Np, 22 fogging; 5.6.86, No, 20, Np, 3 fogging; 3.6.88, No, 5, Np, 9 fogging: **PE** 6.6.79, Np, 2 beating: **SD** 13.6.78, No & Np, 2 fogging: **SH** 30.6.86, No 2, & Np, fogging.

*Denticollis linearis* (L.)  
**FW** 14.3.80, Np, 3 larvae under bark of logs; 27.5.80, Np, beating; 4.6.85, Np, 1 adult 1 larva, fogging: **L** 13.6.78, No, 2 beating: **PE** 6.6.79, No, beating: **SD** 13.6.78, Np, beating: **SH** 27.6.79, No, 2 beating, 26.7.79, No, 2 beating; 4.6.85, No, 2 fogging: **W** 26.7.79, No, beating; 5.6.85, No, fogging; 21.5.87, Np, 2 fogging.

## THROSCIDAE

+ *Trixagus carinifrons* (de Bonv.)  
**FW** 5.6.79, Np, 4 beating.

+ *T. dermestoides* (L.)  
**FW** 23.7.80, Np, beating: **OP** 27.5.82, Np, 5 fogging; 5.6.86, Np, 3 fogging: **SD** 13.6.78, Np, beating.

## EUCNEMIDAE

*Melasis buprestoides* (L.)  
**FW** 29.4.80, Np, 2 dead under bark of log; 4.6.85, Np, fogging.

## CANTHARIDAE

*Cantharis* sp.  
**FW** 22.9.82, Np, larva under bark of log; **SH**, 30.6.86, No, 2 larvae, fogging.

## ANOBIIDAE

+ *Hedobia imperialis* (L.)  
**TC** 7.6.79, No, beating.

+ *Anobium punctatum* (Deg.)  
**TC** 26.7.79, No, beating.

*Ptilinus pectinicornis* (L.)

FC 20.8.79, Np, several adults emerging from dead standing tree: FW 29.4.80, Np, dead in log: L 11.5.82, No, 4 dead in exit holes of dead standing tree.

CLERIDAE

*Thanasimus formicarius* (L.)

FW 4.6.85, Np, larva fogging.

MELYRIDAE

+ *Dasytes aeratus* Steph.

FW 29.5.86, Np, fogging: W 31.5.86, Np, fogging.

RHIZOPHAGIDAE

*Rhizophagus bipustulatus* (F.)

All under bark of logs, dead standing or wind-blown trees: AW 18.9.79, No: BP 22.4.80, Np: FC 20.8, 17.9 (7) & 18.9.79 (5), Np: FW 5.6 & 18.9.79 (3), 27.5.80, 22.9.82, Np: L 11.5.82, Np.

*R. cribratus* Gyll.

FW 18.9.79, Np, under bark of felled tree.

*R. dispar* (Pk.)

All under bark: FW, All Np, 5.6.79, 3 adult 6 larvae; 14.3 (9), 29.4 (2), & 27.5.80 (2); 6.5.82 3 adult 3 larvae, 22.9.82 (3); 3.6.85: GS 7.6.88, No, beating dead branches on ground: L 11.5.82, No, 3; Np, 3: OP 22.5.79, No, 1 adult 3 larvae; 27.5.82, Np, fogging: PE 6.6.79, Np, 2 larvae.

*R. nitidulus* (F.)

FW 8.6.79 & FW 5.6.79, Np, larvae under bark.

CUCUJIDAE

*Pediacus dermestoides* (F.)

Larvae under bark of logs: AW 18.9.79 (5): FW 5.6, 26.6, 24.7 (plus possible pupa) & 18.9.79; 14.3.80: W 5.6.85, No, adult fogging.

CRYPTOPHAGIDAE

*Cryptophagus dentatus* (Hbst.)

BP 20.4.80, Np, under bark of log: FC 20.8.79, Np, under bark of dead standing tree: FW 29.5.86, Np, fogging: PE 22.8.79, No, fogging.

CERYLONIDAE

*Cerylon fagi* Bris.

FW 18.9.79, Np, 3 under bark of felled tree.

*C. ferrugineum* Steph.

FW 18.9.79, Np, under bark of log; 22.9.82, Np, 2 under bark of log.

*C. histeroides* (F.)

BW 4.5.82, Np, 3 under bark of dead standing tree.

ENDOMYCHIDAE

+ *Endomychus coccineus* (L.)

FW 5.6.79, Np, on bark of felled tree.

LATHRIDIIDAE

+ *Dienerella separanda* (Reitt.)

OP 5.6.86, No, fogging.

CISIDAE

*Cis bilamellatus* Wood

FW 22.9.82, Np, 2 under bark of log.

+ *C. boleti* (Scop.)

TC 7.6.79, No, beating.

+ *C. punctulatus* Gyll.

OP 27.5.82, Np, fogging.

+ *C. setiger* Mellié

W 5.6.85, Np, fogging.

+ *C. vestitus* Mellié

FW 29.5.86 & 20.5.87, Np, fogging.

MYCETOPHAGIDAE

*Mycetophagus* sp.

FW 18.9.79, Np, indet. larva under bark of log.

TENEBRIONIDAE

*Scaphidema metallicum* (F.)

L 11.5.82, Np, larva under bark of wind-blown tree.

*Cylindronotus laevioctostriatus* (Goeze)

BP 22.4.80, Np, 6 under bark of logs.

+ *Gonodera luperus* (Hbst.)

OP 5.6.86, No, fogging.

SALPINGIDAE

+ *Rabrocerus gabrieli* Gerh.

GJ 6.6.88, Np, fogging.

*Rhinosimus planirostris* (F.)

AW 30.6.86, No, 4 fogging: BW 4.5.82, Np, dead under bark: FC 20.8 (3) & 17.9.79 (10), Np, under bark: FW 22.9.82, Np, 4 under bark; 4.6.85, Np, 2 fogging; 29.5.86, Np, fogging, No, fogging; 20.5.87, Np, 2 fogging: GS 7.6.88 No, fogging & 2 beaten from dead branches on ground: L 13.6.78, No, beating: OP 26.5.82, Np, beating; 5.6.86, No & Np, fogging: SH 30.6.86, No & Np, fogging: W 31.5.86 & 21.5.87, No, fogging.

*R. ruficollis* (L.)

AW 30.6.86, Np, fogging: FC 20.8 (3) & 17.9.79, Np, under bark: FW 27.5.80, Np, under bark; 20.5.87, Np, 3 fogging: OP 5.6.86, Np, 2 fogging.

*Rhinosimus* spp. (indet. larvae)

AW 18.9.79, No, under bark of felled tree: FW 20.5.87, Np, 2 fogging: PE 21.9.82, Np, under bark of wind-blown tree.

+ *Vincenzellus ruficollis* (Pz.)

AW 30.6.86, Np, fogging.

SCRAPTIIDAE

+ *Anaspis frontalis* (L.)

SH 27.6.79, No, beating: OP 26.5.82, No, beating; 3.6.88, No & Np (4), fogging: W 31.5.86, Np, fogging.



- + *A. maculata* Fourc.  
 AF 6.7.78, Np, beating: AW 26.6.79, No (4), Np, beating: FW 5.6.79, Np, beating; 4.6.85, Np, 5 fogging; 20.5.87, Np, fogging: GJ 6.6.88, Np, fogging: GS 7.6.88, Np, fogging: OP 5.6.86, Np, fogging; 3.6.88, No, Np (4), fogging: SD 13.6.78, No (2), Np, beating: SH 27.6.79, No, beating; 20.5.87, Np, fogging: TC 28.6 & 26.7.79, No, beating: W 7.6.79 Np, beating; 28.6.79, No, beating; 5.6.85, No, 5 fogging; 29.5.86, Np, fogging; 21.5.87, No (5), Np, fogging.
- + *A. regimbarti* Schil.  
 FW 4.6.85, Np, fogging: OP 3.6.88, Np, fogging: W 5.6.85, No, fogging.
- + *A. rufilabris* (Gyll.)  
 AF 6.7.78, No, 2 beating: AW 26.6.79, Np, beating: FW 24.7.79, Np, beating: GJ 6.6.88, Np, 2 fogging: GS 7.6.88, No, fogging: L 13.6.78, Np, beating: OP 13.6.78, No, beating; 11.5.82, Np, beating; 5.6.86 & 3.6.88 (2), Np, fogging: SD 13.7.78, No & Np, beating: W 28.6.79, No & Np, beating; 26.7.79, No/Np hybrid, 2 beating; 31.5.86, No, 2 fogging.
- Anaspis* sp.  
 L 11.5.82, No, several indet. larvae under bark of dead standing tree.

#### PYROCHROIDAE

- Pyrochroa coccinea* (L.)  
 FW 14.3.80 (2) & 22.9.82 (3), Np, larvae under bark of log.

#### MELANDRYIDAE

- + *Orchesia minor* Walk.  
 GJ 6.6.88, Np, fogging: OP 27.5.82, Np, 2 fogging.

#### OEDEMERIDAE

- + *Ischnomera sanguinicollis* (F.)  
 QW 25.6.79, No, 2 beating: TC 7.6.79, No, beating.

#### CERAMBYCIDAE

- Rhagium bifasciatum* F.  
 BP 22.4.80, Np, larva under log bark: FW 5.6.79, Np, on bark surface of felled log.
- R. mordax* (Deg.)  
 FC 8.6.79, Np, larva under bark of dead standing tree: FW 5 & 26.6, 24.7 & 18.9.79, 29.4 & 14.3.80, 22.9.82, Np larvae common under bark of logs; 20.5.87, Np, adult fogging.
- + *Stenocorus meridianus* (L.)  
 QW 25.6.79, Np, 2 beating.
- + *Grammoptera ruficornis* (F.)  
 SH 27.6.79, No, beating: TC 7.6.79, No, 2 beating: W 7.6.79, Np, beating; 28.6.79, No, beating.
- + *Clytus arietis* (L.)  
 AW 26.6.79, Np, beating.
- Anaglyptus mysticus* (L.)  
 FC 8.6.79, No, dead in nodule-like growth on trunk: PE 6.6.79, No, beating.
- + *Pogonocherus hispidus* (L.)  
 SH 18.9.80, No, beating.

#### ANTHRIBIDAE

- + *Anthrribus nebulosus* (Forst.)  
 AW 26.6.79, Np, beating: SH 30.6.86, Np, fogging.

#### CURCULIONIDAE

- \* *Barynotus obscurus* (F.)  
 AW 18.9.79, No, dead under bark of felled tree.
- \* *Rhynchaenus fagi* (L.)  
 AW 26.6.79, Np, beating: FC 20.8 (2) & 17.9.79, Np, under bark of dead standing tree: W 28.6 (2) & 20.9.79, No, beating; 5.6.85, No, 2 fogging; 31.5.86 & 21.5.87, No, beating.

#### SCOLYTIDAE

- Scolytus intricatus* (Ratz.)  
 MW 7.82, Np, maternal gallery started in log collected from Lynford on 11.5.82.
- Dryocoetinus villosus* (F.)  
 BP 22.4.80, Np, adult & many larvae.
- Xyloterus domesticum* (L.)  
 AW 18.9.79, No, few boring into felled trunk: OP 22.5.79, No, larval galleries under bark of dead standing tree.
- X. signatum* (F.)  
 FW 29.4.80, Np, adult under bark of log; 22.9.82, Np, larva possibly of this species under log bark: PE 21.9.82, Np, several boring into windblown trees: R. Brown (pers. comm.) reports populations present in stems of dying *Nothofagus* at Gwydr Forest, Snowdonia, Gwynedd in 1962.
- + *Ernoporus tiliae* (Pz.)  
 FW 4.6.85, Np, 2 fogging.
- Xyleborus dispar* (F.)  
 BP 22.4.80, Np, 3 under bark of log.
- + *X. saxeseni* (Ratz.)  
 TC 7.6.79, No, beating.
- R. C. Welch, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 2LS.

#### STENOPELMUS RUFINASUS GYLLENHAL (CURCULIONIDAE) ON A CAR ROOF

A. G. Duff

At 8.30am BST on 28th July 1992, I found a single example of this species at Keinton Mandeville on the roof of my car which, at the time, was covered with numerous small pools of rainwater following a shower. No doubt this individual mistook the roof for a body of water during its nocturnal flight. Although I have often found small *Helophorus* spp. (Hydrophilidae), sometimes in swarms, and once *Agabus bipustulatus* (L.) (Dytiscidae) on my car roof, this is the first time I have heard of an aquatic weevil in such a situation.

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**CARCINOPS PUMILIO (ERICHSON) (HISTERIDAE), AN UNINVITED  
DINNER GUEST**

A. G. Duff

This cosmopolitan species, formerly considered as rare or at least very local in Britain (Halstead, 1963) and generally reported from the neighbourhood of large towns, is now in some parts seemingly frequent and sometimes abundant in garden compost (Atty, 1983). In Somerset it is seldom reported, although again invariably from gardens. I first met with it here in August 1990, when one landed on a white patio table, an event which I originally considered to be purely fortuitous.

At around 5.45pm BST on 28th June 1992 a single small histerid, which later proved to be this species, arrived at an open kitchen window and started crawling over the worktop. Moments later my three-year-old daughter piped up, 'Daddy, there's a beetle in your dinner', which turned out to be another. Over the next hour they continued to arrive via the kitchen window and a further sixteen were ejected, the majority found wandering apparently aimlessly over the work surfaces. After about 7.00pm no more arrived. I have no doubt that only one species was involved and that all were *Carcinops pumilio* (Erichson).

Remarkably, this species' fondness for the tea table had already been noted in the entomological literature. In 1980 and 1981 Leech (1984) recorded numbers of this beetle landing on his person while taking tea on the verandah of his house in California, with at least one drowning in his tea and another found in a kitchen light fixture. All arrived on warm days (although the verandah was only used then) and of those whose arrival was timed, all but one appeared between 5.00 and 6.00pm Pacific Daylight Saving Time.

Such persistent positive anthropotropic behaviour, certainly unusual and perhaps even unique in the Coleoptera, clearly requires explanation. Leech noted a suggestion that they might be attracted to the scent of tea, because of its presumed similarity to fermenting leaves. However, this fails to account for the majority which landed on his person or were attracted to light, and in my own case no tea had been prepared. Apart from the second individual, none of the beetles I observed seemed to be especially attracted by either our roast chicken meal or the accompanying gooseberry crumble, and I came to the conclusion that neither food nor drink was the main attraction.

My own feeling is that *Carcinops* is attracted to sources of infra-red radiation, but only late on hot afternoons and if the source of radiation is significantly warmer than the ambient level. Our kitchen was at the time hotter than usual and with a hot oven left open to cool, which could have been detected through the open windows. The attraction to his person which was noted by Leech (1984) could of course be explained similarly, recalling the mechanism by which biting Diptera etc. are attracted to man. Presumably these beetles attempt to locate hot fermenting vegetation but lack the means to distinguish this from other comparatively hot objects.

I would be interested to learn if others have had similar experiences with *Carcinops* and if it is in general as synanthropic as these records suggest. The 19th century record from Sherwood Forest (Blatch in Fowler, 1889), although not conclusively from the area of ancient woodland, is certainly in marked contrast to my experience of the species, and perhaps should be re-examined.

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**SOME POST-1970 SCOTTISH RECORDS OF *ACLYPEA OPACA* (L.)  
(SILPHIDAE)**

M. Sinclair

Fowler (1889) wrote that this species was rather common in Scotland as far north as the Dee and Moray districts. As recently as the few years around 1960, I found it quite frequently in East Lothian and Berwickshire, but I have only the following post-1970 records, all from the south of Scotland.

1. Hawick, Roxburghshire (VC80, NT4914), 15.v.1980. One specimen in the house.
2. Near Garvald, East Lothian (VC82, NT582702), 6.iv.1988. One under a dead rabbit.
3. Ayrshire (VC75). Four specimens were found among over 5000 beetles from a programme of pitfall trapping. On Cairn Hill (NX175935), single specimens iv.1990 and v.1990; in Auchalton Meadows local N.R. (NS336035/6), singletons were caught v.1990 and vii.1990.

It seems likely that the species is widespread in southern Scotland but that it has become much less common over the past 30-40 years.

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## INTERSPECIFIC COPULATION IN COLEOPTERA - A FURTHER RECORD IN THE CHRYSOMELIDAE

Michael P. T. Gillett

Information about interspecific breeding in British beetles is not very plentiful, but cases involving the Coccinellidae have been discussed and hybrid offspring between *Adalia decempunctata* (L.) and *Adalia bipunctata* (L.) have been described by Majerus and Kearns (1989). Several cases of interspecific, even intergeneric, copulation have been recorded by Key (1987, 1992). The species involved were from the genus *Cantharis*, and between the phytophagous species, *Sermylassa halensis* (L.)/*Galeruca tanacetii* (L.) (Chrysomelidae) and *Cionus alauda* (Herbst)/*Cionus scrophulariae* (L.) (Curculionidae). These latter couplings are interesting and curious in that the pairings occurred on plants different from the usual host plants of both of the species involved, situations in which appropriate mates might be lacking.

I would like to add a further record of interspecific copulation for the Chrysomelidae, in this case a more straightforward one in which the dissimilar beetles were found on a shared host plant. On 12th June 1991, I noted copulation between a male *Chrysolina polita* L. and a female *Chrysolina menthastris* (Suffrian) on the foliage of *Mentha aquatica* L. (Water Mint) by the side of a pool in the New Forest, near Brockenhurst, Hants. On nearby plants there were several copulating pairs of *C. menthastris* but no other examples of *C. polita* were in evidence. The beetles were secured and taken home in the faint expectation of rearing hybrid progeny but unfortunately no eggs were laid.

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## A REVIEW OF THE SUPERFAMILIES DERMESTOIDEA AND BOSTRICOIDEA, AND A PLEA FOR RECORDS

Barry Constantine

During a talk with Brian Eversham (zoological co-ordinator, Biological Records Centre) earlier this year (1993), I mentioned the lack of a recording scheme for the Dermestoidea and Bostrichoidea and offered to start one. He suggested, initially, writing this paper and forming a study group for these superfamilies. If interest amongst coleopterists is sufficient and resources become available, then a formal recording scheme may be launched in 2 to 3 years time.

These two superfamilies together form the Bostrichiformia and comprise the Dermestidae, Anobiidae, Ptinidae, Bostrichidae and Lyctidae. Generally speaking, they are a group little studied by non-professional coleopterists. The reasons for this are twofold. Firstly, the common species usually occur only as pests of stored products in such places as warehouses, bakeries, granaries, timber yards and other commercial premises. Secondly, many of the outdoor species are rare and localised in their distribution. There are of course exceptions to both of these statements. Who has been lucky enough not to have come across *Attagenus pellio* L., *Anobium punctatum* De Geer, or *Niptus hololeucus* Faldermann in their homes? *Dermestes lardarius* L. can be common in gardens where old bones are present and the larvae of *Anthrenus museorum* L. and *A. verbasci* L. can be fairly devastating to beetle collections!

Coleoptera are one of the most successful orders in the Animal Kingdom, colonising every non-marine habitat on earth. The Bostrichiformia surely represent one of the most successful and varied groups within the order. They form a microcosm of the whole order with different taxa being adapted to, and utilising, virtually every non-aquatic niche. These include dead wood (*Dorcatoma flavicornis* F.), bark (*Xyletinus longitarsis* Janssen), fungi (*Dorcatoma serra* Panzer), dead animals (*Dermestes lardarius* L.), dried fish (*D. frischi* Kugelann), and cobwebs (*Ctesias serra* F.). Members of the group are found in birds' nests (*Attagenus pellio* L.) and mouse burrows and bees nests (*Tipnus unicolor* Piller & Mitterpacher). *Stegobium panaceum* L. illustrates the extreme eurytopic nature of certain of these stored products pests. It has been found infesting and feeding on flour, bread, meat, dried soups, spices, strychnine, belladonna and aconite, and is recorded as boring through tin foil and sheet lead (Hicken, 1964) and a shelf of 27 folio volumes (Step, 1923). *S. panaceum* has been known to pupate in lead, as has *Bostrychus capucinus* L. (Klausnitzer, 1981).

In terms of rarity, the beetles range from cosmopolitan synanthropes such as *Stegobium panaceum* L. and *Lasioderma serricornis* F. to some of the rarest and most endangered species in Britain such as *Caenocara bovistae* Hoffman, *Dryophilus anobioides* Chevrolat, *Ptinus lichenum* Marsham, *Trinodes hirtus* F., *Gastrallus immarginatus* Müller, and *Globicornis nigripes* F. They also range widely in their distribution both spatially and temporally. *Lasioderma serricornis* F. and *Gibbium psylloides* Czen. were found in an alabaster vase in Tutankhamun's tomb of 1345 BC (Alfieri, 1931). *Stegobium panaceum* L. in bread from Thebes dated 1399 BC and 2049 BC (Chadwick & Leek, 1972) and *Dermestes ater* De Geer in a Han tomb at Ma-Wang-Tui, China dating to 100 BC (Chu & Wang, 1975). *Caenocara bovistae* Hoffman has been found in 42,000 year old deposits at Upton Warren (Coope et al, 1961) and 12,000 year old deposits at West Bromwich (Osborne, 1980), *Megatoma undata* L. from 9,500 year old deposits at Lea Marston (Osborne, 1984) and *Ptinus fur* L. from an 11th century house in Dublin (Coope, 1981).

Many of the species are, for various reasons, of great economic importance. Several of the anobiids, bostrichids and lyctids can cause considerable damage to structural timbers and standing trees, while the significant damage to stored products caused by infestation of dermestids and ptinids in particular, is well known. Because of this, several genera have been extensively studied in the past by organisations such as MAFF and Rentokil (e.g. Munro, 1966; Hicken, 1963, 1964).

although mainly under laboratory conditions. Buckland (1975) describes the life and times of *Xestobium rufovillosum* De Geer and includes sections on biology, geographical distribution, folklore and archaeology.

Much more information is required about many of the species before any conclusions can be drawn as to their habitat requirements. For the rare and endangered species in particular, this information will be essential. One problem facing coleopterists is that Britain's depauperate beetle fauna includes some saproxylic species which are at the limits of their geographical range. This usually results in severe habitat restrictions. These 'Urwaldrelikt' species are, as Buckland and Dinnin (1993) put it, 'hanging on by the tips of their tarsi'. Much more research is necessary if their conservation needs are to be adequately fulfilled.

Since the publication of Kloet & Hincks (1977), 123 species of beetles have been added to the British list (Owen, 1993). Nine of these belong to the Bostrichiformia, ten if one includes *Laricobius erichsoni* Rosenhauer (Hammond & Barham, 1982). It may be that *Bostrychus capucinus* L., the only native bostrichid in Britain, is alive and well, likewise *Anthrenus pimpinellae* F. and *A. scophulariae* L.; all three at present considered extinct. It would be rather nice if reports of their death are greatly exaggerated!

I would be most grateful to receive British records of species in the above mentioned families (preferably on BRC GEN 13 cards), and offprints of published records. From next summer, records will be kept on 'RECORDER'. This should provide a reasonable basis for a recording scheme, if and when one is set up. I would also like to hear from anyone who has an interest in these groups of beetles either as an amateur or a professional.

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Brian Eversham, Paul Harding and Howard Mendel for their encouragement and helpful suggestions, and David Pinnager and Richard Adams, both of the Central Science Laboratory at Slough, for providing specimens and offprints.

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#### FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE FIRST IRISH RECORD OF *AGRIOTES PALLIDULUS* (ILLIGER) (ELATERIDAE)

Howard Mendel

In an earlier issue of this journal I drew attention to a specimen of *A. pallidulus* in the E. F. Bullock Collection in the National Museum of Ireland (Mendel, 1993). No mention of the record was made in the recent review of the Irish elaterid fauna (Speight, 1989) but it had in fact previously been published in a list of beetles new to Ireland from Co. Kerry (Bullock, 1935). According to Bullock, the specimen was swept near to Ross Castle (no precise date is given).

#### Acknowledgement

I thank Prof. J.A. Owen for bringing Bullock's paper to my attention.

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## A NOT SO NEW RELAXING FLUID!

Howard Mendel

In the last issue (p. 57) I drew attention to a general purpose relaxing fluid, the formula for which was given to me by Enric Macias Güell of Olot in Spain, and asked readers for further information. The relaxing fluid is, it seems, a variation of Barber's fluid, used by dipterists and hymenopterists in Britain, but not as yet by coleopterists. Martin Speight describes it as 'the answer to a dipterist's prayer' (Speight, 1982) - perhaps some coleopterists' prayers have also been answered. My thanks to Dr Dave Sheppard (English Nature) and Dr Tony Irwin (Norwich Castle Museum) for information.

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H. Mendel, The Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH.

## SUBSCRIBER'S NOTICES

**FOR SALE** - A large number of books and papers on British and foreign Coleoptera, including such choice items as Donisthorpe's *Guests of British Ants*, Balfour-Browne's *British Water Beetles* (vol. 3) and Coombes and Woodroffe's *A revision of the British species of Cryptophagus*. Over forty items in total. S.a.e. for list to: J. Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ.

**BEETLES OF REEDBEDS** - During the summer of 1993, I operated two flight interception traps in *Phragmites* reedbeds at Billingham, Cleveland. The 143 species trapped - 83 from one site, 99 from the other - included several of interest, although no *Donacia* sp. or *Bledius* sp. I have had a little difficulty in placing the species list in context. Although a fair amount has been written about the rare species that are found in the East Anglian fens, the total insect diversity of reedbeds seems to be a neglected field. If anybody knows of faunal lists of beetles from *Phragmites* reedbeds, published or unpublished, I should be very grateful if they would contact me: Les Jessop, Sunderland Museum, Borough Road, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR1 1PP.

**YORKSHIRE CARABID RECORDS, PLEASE** - A Yorkshire Coleoptera Group (part of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, Entomological Section) has recently been formed with a view to writing a series of publications which will embrace the coleopterous fauna of the county. The first proposed publication will cover the Carabidae (Ground Beetles).

Paramount to the success of this venture is the acquisition of records (both archival and modern day). Although the records of the Union are relatively complete, it is known that there is a wealth of data on the personal files of many coleopterists. The group is interested in receiving records from all parts of Watsonian Yorkshire, although records from VC 65 (North West Yorkshire) are of particular interest (it would appear that this VC has received scant attention in the past). All carabid records (even of commoner species) will be greatly appreciated and all recorders will be duly acknowledged. Please send all records (with full reference where possible) to: Mike Denton, Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR.

## REVIEW

**Provisional atlas of the Cryptophagidae - Atomariinae (Coleoptera) of Britain and Ireland.** Colin Johnson. 91pp. Biological Records Centre, NERC, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood, Huntingdon, 1993. Available from: Publication Sales, ITE, Merlewood, Grange-over-Sands, Cumbria LA11 6JU. Price: £5.50 inc. p. & p.

This, the second B.R.C. atlas on Coleoptera, covers the Atomariinae as well as the genus *Caenoscelis*. It has taken some 25 years to produce. There are good reasons for this long gestation period. Many of the Atomariinae are difficult to identify and this means that published records, records in mss. lists and specimens standing over species labels in collections are all suspect. This has meant that the author has been able to accept very few records at face value and that the maps have had to be based almost exclusively upon specimens which he has personally identified. Recognising the wealth of already collected, albeit often misidentified, material the author has personally checked and re-determined the Atomariinae holdings of 30 British museums - a noteworthy achievement in itself! In addition, he has checked and identified thousands of Atomariinae collected by currently active coleopterists and those involved in site surveys. Recognising the need to widen the coverage of maps for a relatively unpopular group of beetles and out of genuine love and enthusiasm for his subject matter, the author has himself collected the beetles as widely and assiduously as possible over the last quarter of a century. The whole work thus bears testimony to the meticulous and painstaking approach of the author to his studies.

The atlas is in A5 format, well-printed, clearly laid-out and appears free of typographical errors. Following the preface, there is a short introduction to the Atomariinae, notes on identification, habitat preferences and collecting, a checklist and notes concerning the raw data of the 48 species mapped. The maps have records divided into pre-1960 and post-1960 date classes and details of each species' bionomics and overseas distribution are provided under each map.

The maps themselves are followed by more detailed distribution records. The vice-county distribution of each beetle is given and for those species which are either uncommon, declining, vulnerable or previously little known, the locality, 10 km National Grid reference, collector and date class of all mapped records are provided. The work concludes with appendices of vice-county symbol/numbers and collector abbreviations, extensive acknowledgements, an essential bibliography and a species index.

The author is to be congratulated upon bringing to fruition this long-term project. It is highly characteristic of him, given his own personal dedication to fieldwork and appreciation of that carried out by others, that he should dedicate his atlas to 'all collectors, living or departed, whose painstaking fieldwork has produced the specimens upon which it is based'.

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## OBITUARY

**DONALD TOZER** - Don Tozer, known to many coleopterists in the Amateur Entomologist's Society, died in October, 1993, after a short illness following a stroke.

He was born on 12th April, 1907 and went to Wyggestons School in Leicester where he met his life-long friend and collecting companion, Claude Henderson. On leaving school he joined his father as a painter and decorator, an occupation that he followed all his working life.

His interest in insects began at an early age. While he and Claude Henderson were visiting Leicester Museum they met S. O. Taylor, a local coleopterist, who inspired them to take up the pursuit of beetles. A list of rare beetles captured by Mr Donald Tozer in 1925 appeared in the Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society. He was one of the founder members of the Amateur Entomologist's Society as attested by his membership number, 36, and he served on the beetle identification panel right up until his death. Many beginners in the study of beetles have benefitted from his help and generosity with specimens.

Don was severely lame after contracting polio in childhood and he relied very much on his bicycle and motor-bike to get around. His favoured collecting areas were mainly local and included Leicestershire, Sherwood Forest and the Peterborough area. He had an uncanny knack of picking up rare species, often on roadside verges and hedges. In 1939 he discovered *Agrilus pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher) in Sherwood Forest. Between 1943 and 1947 he wrote several short notes, published in the Entomologist's Monthly Magazine. Later he made important contributions to the Monks Wood list. Apart from his Coleoptera collections he also built up an outstanding Lepidoptera collection, composed mainly of bred specimens, and several of his records appear in the Leicestershire Heteroptera list.

Don was also a prolific breeder of beetles. He once brought back several *Chrysolina menthastri* (Suffrian) from a trip to Hampshire. These he released into his garden where they became well established on his garden mint and thrived for many years. For several years after, his advice as the local beetle expert was sought by anxious neighbours in dealing with a strange new pest that was eating their mint. Don never let on how they got there.

Don was a good-natured character and visitors were always greeted with a mug of tea and pleasant conversation. In later years, he became increasingly disheartened by changes in the countryside which he held responsible for an evident decrease in insect populations. Despite that, he continued collecting and maintained an interest in beetles up until the last years of his life. He always retained a character of independence and it was fortunate that he was able to remain living in his own house until his final illness.

Don's Coleoptera collection, field notebooks and correspondence have kindly been donated to Leicestershire Museums Service by Mr John Dacey, his nephew. His Lepidoptera collections were sold at auction by Churchgate Antiques, Leicester, on November 12th 1993.

D. A. Lott

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## JOURNAL CONTENTS

M. J. Collier

### BRITISH JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGY AND NATURAL HISTORY

VOLUME 5 (1992)

#### Part 1

Experience with an emergence trap for insects breeding in dead wood.

J. A. Owen..... 17-20

#### BENHS Indoor Meetings

*Dermestes lardarius* L. - A. J. Halstead..... 25

*Bitoma crenata* (F.) - R. A. Jones..... 25

*Scymnus* sp. - R. A. Jones..... 25

*Propylea quatuordecimpunctata* - R. A. Jones..... 26

Colorado beetle - M. J. Simmons..... 27

*Agrilus pannonicus* (P. & M.) - A. J. Halstead..... 27

*Malachius marginellus* (Ol.) - R. A. Jones..... 27

*Sitophilus granarius* (L.) - I. D. Ferguson..... 28

*Cicones undatus* Guér. - Men. & *Synchita separanda* (Reitter) - R. A. Jones..... 29

#### BENHS Field Meetings [when beetles listed]

Alice Holt Forest, Hampshire - D. Lonsdale..... 31

#### Part 2

#### BENHS Field Meetings [when beetles listed]

Staffhurst Wood, Surrey - M. F. Murphy..... 40

#### The 1991 Presidential Address - Part 2 : Some horticultural insects new to

Britain in recent years. A. J. Halstead..... 41-47

1991 Annual Exhibition - Coleoptera..... 71-77

#### BENHS Indoor Meetings

Tortoise beetles - R. A. Jones..... 84

Oil beetles - N. A. Callow..... 84

*Scolytus rugulosus* (Müller, P. W. J.) - A. J. Halstead..... 88

Beetles associated with stored food products - J. Muggleton..... 88-89

#### *Trinodes hirtus* (F.) (Dermestidae) and *Tetratoma desmaresti* Lat.

(Tetratomidae) new to Gloucestershire. K. N. A. Alexander..... 89-90

[No beetle articles in Part 3]

#### Part 4

#### BENHS Indoor Meetings

*Galerucella nymphaea* (L.) & *Donacia crassipes* F. - A. J. Halstead..... 161

*Subcoccinella vigintiquattuorpunctata* - R. A. Softly..... 162

*Aphodius equestris* (Panz.) & *A. distinctus* (Müller, O.F.) - R. A. Jones..... 164

BENHS Field Meetings [when beetles listed]

The Sheepheas, West Horsley, Surrey - A. J. Halstead .....176

Nunhead Cemetary, London - R. A. Jones .....176

Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire - R. Gaunt & K. N. A. Alexander ..... 176-177

Bookham and Ashted Commons, Surrey - I. S. Menzies & J. A. Owen .... 177-178

Holme Fen Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire - P. Waring ..... 178-181

*Donacia obscura* (Chrysomelidae) in Wigtownshire. K. N. A. Alexander. ....187

*Arhopalus rusticus* (L.) (Cerambycidae) on Wimbledon Common.  
M. Henderson .....187

Further records of deadwood Coleoptera from Nettlecombe Park, Somerset,  
including *Phloiotrya vaudoueri* Mulsant new to the county.  
K. N. A. Alexander ..... 187-188

*Trachys troglodytes* Gyllenhal (Buprestidae) and other scarce insects from  
an unusual wetland area in Cumbria. K. N. A. Alexander .....188

*Mordellistena humeralis* (L.) (Mordellidae) in numbers, with records of other  
mordellid species including the third British specimen of *M. acuticollis*  
Schilsky. R. A. Jones .....189-190

*Metoecus paradoxus* (L.) (Rhipiphoridae) in Cambridgeshire. I. F. G. McLean. ....190

**ENTOMOLOGIST'S GAZETTE**  
**VOLUME 43 (1992)**

**Number 1**

Casual collecting of Coleoptera in West Sussex. Cooter, J. ....2

*Lixus scabricollis* Boheman (Curculionidae) in Dorset. Cooter, J. ....54

*Melöe* (*Eurymelöe*) *mediterraneus* Müller, 1925 (Meloidae) new to the British  
fauna. Whitehead, P.F. ....65

An unusual invertebrate habitat at Dumbleton, East Gloucestershire (SP03).  
Whitehead, P. F. ....66

A bionomic review of the British Clambidae. Johnson, C. .... 67-71

*Anthaxia quadripunctata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Buprestidae) in England: an  
enigma. Cooter, J. ....75

**Number 2**

A new site in the republic of Yakutia, Russia, for the cleonine weevil,  
*Stephanocleonus eruditus* Faust (Curculionidae). Whitehead, P. F. ....125-127

Notes on trophic specialization within the *vibex*-group of *Cassida* L.  
(Chrysomelidae). Szafranski, P. ....129-130

Further changes in the nomenclature of European *Atomaria* Stephens  
(Cryptophagidae). Johnson, C. ....145-146

Observations on the Coleoptera of Dendle's Wood, Devon.  
Whitehead, P. F. ....151-153

**Number 3**

Compost-heap Coleoptera new to Ireland. Anderson, R. ....162

Observations on the development, oviposition and fecundity of Vine Weevil  
adults, *Otiorynchus sulcatus* (Fabricius) (Curculionidae). Moorhouse, E. R.,  
Fenlon, J. S., Gillespie, A. T. & Charnley, A. K. ....207-218

Some recent records of *Atomaria* Stephens (Cryptophagidae). Whitehead, P. F. ....219

The Coleoptera of the Triglav National Park, Slovenia. Whitehead, P. F. ....227-231

**Number 4**

Fruit trees, orchards and their rare invertebrates. Whitehead, P. F. ....303-304

**ENTOMOLOGIST'S GAZETTE**  
**VOLUME 44 (1993)**

**Number 1**

A recent British record of *Rhizophagus oblongicollis* Blatch & Horner, 1892  
(Rhizophagidae). P. F. Whitehead. ....20

A recent British record of *Atomaria rubricollis* Brisout, 1863 (Cryptophagidae).  
P. F. Whitehead. ....55

**Number 2**

*Litargus connexus* (Fourcroy) (Mycetophagidae) new to Ireland. R. Anderson. ....100

Revised descriptions of the morphology of *Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus*,  
*T. angustisetulus*, *T. spinimanus* and *T. digitalis* (Curculionidae).  
L. S. Jermiin & V. Mahler ..... 139-153

[No beetle articles in Number 3]

**Number 4**

The Coleoptera of Monks Wood National Nature Reserve, Cambridgeshire  
(Vice County 31). Sixth Supplement. R. C. Welch. ....275-283

The British species of the *Thinobius longipennis* (Heer) group  
(Staphylinidae). D. A. Lott. ....285-287

A check-list of the weevils of Ireland (Curculionidae). M. G. Morris. ....289-296

*Aleochara verna* Say (Staphylinidae) in England. P. F. Whitehead. ....297

M. J. Collier

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

Alexander, K.N.A.	42	Lott, D.A.	20, 20, 88
Allen, A.A.	33, 56, 65	Mackenzie, G.A.	41
Beeson, J. & M.	28	Marsh, R.J.	42
Booth, R.G.	19, 24	Mendel, H.	18, 36, 44, 58, 85, 86
Boyce, D.C.	48	Morgan, M. Joan	56
Collier, M.J.	32, 62, 89	Morris, M.G.	25
Constantine, B.	54, 82	Nash, D.R.	87
Duff, A.G.	79, 80	Owen, J.A.	65, 67
Gillet, M.P.T.	82	Read, R.W.J.	53
Harrison, T.D.	27, 35	Sinclair, M.	37, 81
Heal, N.F.	18, 23	Telfer, M.G.	40
Hodge, P.J.	23	Twinn, D.C.	26
Kendall, P.	34	Uhhoff-Kaufmann, R.R.	46
Key, R.S.	29, 45, 49, 59	Welch, R.C.	71

### Contents

Area lists:-		Entomologist, III (1992)	62
Irish mountains	42	Glasgow Naturalist, 22 (1993)	64
Lincolnshire	49	Material wanted:-	
Scotland	37, 81	<i>Ceutorhynchus</i> sp.	59
Wampool Estuary	31	<i>Psylliodes</i> sp.	59
Welsh longhorns	46	Obituary - Donald Tozer	88
British List:-		Records wanted:-	
Published changes	1, 67	Bostrichoidea	82
Recent changes	18, 19, 20, 35, 44, 65	Norfolk carabids	30
Coleoptera:-		<i>Phragmites</i> associates	86
Flying	79	Yorkshire carabids	86
Interspecific copulation	82	Relaxing fluid	57, 86
Southern beech associated	71	Reviews:-	
Synanthropic	80	British Atomariinae	87
Crutchwell collection	28	European scarabids	60
Journal Contents:-		Irish weevils	60
Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist., 5 (1992)	89	Warwickshire chrysomelids	31
Entomologist's mon. Mag., 128 (1992)	63	Stridulation in <i>Geotrupes</i>	56
Entomologist's Gaz., 43 (1992)	90	Subscribers' notices	30, 58, 86
44 (1993)	91	Swarming staphs	56

### Species Index

<b>A</b>		<i>Amara alpina</i>	37
<i>Abax parallelepipedus</i>	71, 73	<i>plebeja</i>	43
<i>Abdera affinis</i>	39	<i>quenseli</i>	37
<i>Acanthocinus aedilis</i>	39	<i>tibialis</i>	29
<i>Aclypea opaca</i>	43, 45, 49, 81	<i>Amischa similima</i>	16
<i>Acrotichus josephi</i>	4, 67	<i>Ampedus tristis</i>	38
<i>sanctae-helenae</i>	4	<i>Anacaena limbata</i>	3
<i>Acrulia inflata</i>	73	<i>lutescens</i>	3
<i>Adalia bipunctata</i>	82	<i>Anaglyptus mysticus</i>	78
<i>decempunctata</i>	82	<i>Anaspis bohémica</i>	39
<i>Agabus bipustulatus</i>	79	<i>flava</i>	12
<i>wasastjernae</i>	2, 32, 37	<i>frontalis</i>	77
<i>Agathidium arcticum</i>	38	<i>maculata</i>	78
<i>marginatum</i>	30	<i>regimbarti</i>	78
<i>nigrinum</i>	73	<i>rufilabris</i>	78
<i>Agonum lugens</i>	2	<i>spp.</i>	78
<i>sahilbergi</i>	37	<i>Anisodactylus nemorivagus</i>	44
<i>Agrilus pannonicus</i>	64, 88, 89	<i>Anisotoma castanea</i>	38
<i>Agriotes pallidulus</i>	18, 85	<i>humeralis</i>	73
<i>Aleochara binotata</i>	7	<i>Anobium punctatum</i>	75, 83
<i>bipustulata</i>	7	<i>Anommatus diecki</i>	11
<i>diversa</i>	64	<i>Anotylus sculpturatus</i>	71, 74
<i>pauvillae</i>	7	<i>Anthaxia quadripunctata</i>	8, 90
<i>verna</i>	7, 91	<i>Anthrenus varians</i>	39
<i>Aleocharinae</i> indet.	74	<i>Anthrenus museorum</i>	83
<i>Aloconota debilis</i> <i>cornis</i>	21	<i>olgae</i>	9
<i>mihoki</i>	6	<i>pimpinellae</i>	84
<i>planifrons</i>	21	<i>scophulariae</i>	84
<i>subgrandis</i>	6	<i>verbasci</i>	83
		<i>Anthrabus nebulosus</i>	79

<i>Aphodius ater</i>	30	<i>Bostrychus capucinus</i>	83, 84
<i>consputus</i>	32	<i>Brachygluta fossulata</i>	75
<i>distinctus</i>	89	<i>Bradycellus harpalinus</i>	43
<i>equestris</i>	89	<i>Bromius obscurus</i>	13
<i>Apion carduorum</i>	53	<i>Brosicus cephalotes</i>	29
<i>ebeninum</i>	61	<i>Bruchela rufipes</i>	14, 34, 63
<i>gibbistrostre</i>	53	<i>Bruchidius olivaceus</i>	13
<i>intermedium</i>	14	<i>unicolor</i>	13
<i>lucertense</i>	53	<i>Bryoporus rugipennis</i>	38
<i>loti</i>	30	<i>Byrrhus pilula</i>	43
<i>modestum</i>	61		
<i>semivittatum</i>	63		
<i>soror</i>	14	<b>C</b>	
<i>foveatoscutellatum</i>	14	<i>Caenocara bovistae</i>	83
<i>Apteropoda splendida</i>	70	<i>Caenoscelis fliescheri</i>	11
<i>Arhopalus rusticus</i>	46, 90	<i>sibirica</i>	11
<i>Aromia moschata</i>	46	<i>Calathus cinctus</i>	2
<i>Arpedium brachypteron</i>	43	<i>erythroderus</i>	2
<i>Asaphidion curtum</i>	1, 2, 9, 29	<i>melanocephalus</i>	2, 30, 43
<i>flavipes</i>	1, 2	<i>Cantharis nigricans</i>	30
<i>pallipes</i>	30	<i>sp.</i>	75
<i>stierlini</i>	1, 2, 67	<i>Carabus clatratus</i>	37
<i>Aseum striatum</i>	46	<i>problematicus</i>	43
<i>Atheta boletophila</i>	38	<i>Carcinops pumilio</i>	80
<i>clintoni</i>	38	<i>Carpelinus rivularis</i>	5
<i>hanseni</i>	6, 38, 64	<i>lindrothi</i>	5
<i>heymesii</i>	6	<i>similis</i>	5
<i>hybrida</i>	38	<i>Catops nigriclavus</i>	38
<i>procera</i>	38	<i>Cercyon alpinus</i>	3, 37
<i>spatuloides</i>	38	<i>aquatilis</i>	16
<i>sylvicola</i>	38	<i>haemorrhoidalis</i>	16
<i>vestita</i>	30	<i>Cerylon fagi</i>	76
<i>Athous haemorrhoidalis</i>	43	<i>ferrugineum</i>	76
<i>hirtus</i>	75	<i>histeroides</i>	76
<i>vittatus</i>	75	<i>Ceutorhynchidius thalhammeri</i>	67
<i>Atomaria badia</i>	39	<i>Ceutorhynchus cakilis</i>	14, 39, 61, 67
<i>bella</i>	39	<i>contractus</i>	59
<i>ornata</i>	39	<i>insularis</i>	39
<i>procerula</i>	39	<i>pyrrhorhynchus</i>	61
<i>rubricollis</i>	91	<i>Choleva elongata</i>	4
<i>Atrechus affinis</i>	74	<i>Chrysanthia nigricornis</i>	39
<i>Attagenus peltio</i>	83	<i>Chrysolina crassicornis</i>	39
<i>smirnovi</i>	9	<i>menthastri</i>	82, 88
		<i>oricalcia</i>	63
		<i>polita</i>	82
		<i>varians</i>	40
<b>B</b>		<i>Chrysomela aenea</i>	29
<i>Baris scolopacea</i>	63	<i>Chrysomelidae</i>	31
<i>Barynotus obscurus</i>	71, 79	<i>Cicindela maritima</i>	50
<i>Barypeithes curvimanus</i>	61	<i>sylvatica</i>	50
<i>Bembidion aeneum</i>	29	<i>Cicones undatus</i>	12, 27, 89
<i>biguttatum</i>	30	<i>Cionus alauds</i>	82
<i>bipunctatum</i>	29	<i>scrophulariae</i>	64, 82
<i>femoratum</i>	29	<i>Cis bilamellatus</i>	77
<i>harpaloides</i>	73	<i>boleti</i>	77
<i>humeralis</i>	51	<i>jacquemarti</i>	39
<i>lampros</i>	30	<i>punctulatus</i>	77
<i>lunatum</i>	29	<i>setiger</i>	77
<i>minimum</i>	29	<i>vestitus</i>	77
<i>properans</i>	29	<i>Clytus arctis</i>	78
<i>punctulatum</i>	30	<i>Coccidula rufa</i>	29
<i>tetracolum</i>	30	<i>Coccinella undecimpunctata</i>	29
<i>virens</i>	37	<i>Coelambus nigrolineatus</i>	2
<i>Bibloporus bicolor</i>	75	<i>Coelodes nigratarsis</i>	32
<i>Bitoma crenata</i>	89	<i>Colydium elongatum</i>	32
<i>Bledius arcticus</i>	38	<i>Copris lunaris</i>	63
<i>atricapillus</i>	5, 29	<i>Corticaria abietorum</i>	11, 32
<i>bicornis</i>	32	<i>polypteri</i>	11
<i>germanicus</i>	30	<i>Corticaria fuscata</i>	30
<i>praetermissus</i>	5	<i>latipennis</i>	39
<i>Bolitochara bella</i>	74	<i>Cossonus linearis</i>	64
<i>obliqua</i>	74	<i>Cossonus cossoni</i>	63
<i>Bolitophagus reticulatus</i>	39		



<i>Crioceris asparagi</i>	49	<i>Epiphania cornutus</i>	33	<i>Laccobius obscuratus</i>	3	<i>Ocyusa nitidiventris</i>	6
<i>Cryptocephalus exiguus</i>	50	<i>Epuraea silacea</i>	38	<i>simulatrix</i>	3	<i>Oligella intermedia</i>	63
<i>Cryptohynus meridionalis</i>	8	<i>terminalis</i>	38	<i>Lamia textor</i>	46	<i>Olophrum consimile</i>	38
<i>Cryptophagus badius</i>	38	<i>Ernobius abietis</i>	10	<i>Lamprohiza splendidula</i>	9	<i>Omalius rivulare</i>	74
<i>confusus</i>	11	<i>nigrinus</i>	42	<i>Laricobius erichsoni</i>	9, 84	<i>rugulipenne</i>	32
<i>cuticinosus</i>	38	<i>Ernopus tilliae</i>	50, 79	<i>Lasioderma serricornne</i>	83	<i>Omophron</i>	63
<i>dentatus</i>	76	<i>Euplectus bonvouloiri</i>	7	<i>Leiodes dubia</i>	30	<i>Onthophagus fracticornis</i>	63
<i>lappunicus</i>	38	<i>piceus</i>	75	<i>silesiaca</i>	38	<i>nutans</i>	63
<i>Crypturgus suberibrosus</i>	16, 64	<i>Eusphalerum sorbicola</i>	38	<i>Lepturi sexguttata</i>	46	<i>Orchesia minor</i>	78
<i>Ctesius serra</i>	83	<i>Exochomus nigromaculatus</i>	11	<i>Leptusa fumida</i>	74	<i>Oreodytes alpinus</i>	2, 37
<i>Curimopsis nigrita</i>	8, 51			<i>ruficollis</i>	74	<i>Ostoma ferrugineum</i>	38
<i>Cylindronotus laevioctostriatus</i>	77	<b>F</b>	15	<i>Lilloceris nigripes</i>	62	<i>Othius laeviusculus</i>	30
<i>Cymindis axillaris</i>	2	<b>G</b>		<i>Limnebius crinifer</i>	4	<i>angustus</i>	74
<i>macularis</i>	2	<i>Gubrius scoticus</i>	38	<i>Litargus connexus</i>	91	<i>lapidicola</i>	5
<i>Cyphon kongsbergensis</i>	8	<i>Galeruca tanacetii</i>	82	<i>Lixus scabricollis</i>	14, 90	<i>Otiorhynchus arcticus</i>	32
<b>D</b>		<i>Galerucella nymphaea</i>	89	<i>Lochmaea suturalis</i>	29	<i>aurifer</i>	14
<i>Dadobia immersa</i>	74	<i>Gastrallus immarginatus</i>	83	<i>Lomechusa emarginata</i>	48	<i>aureopunctatus</i>	39, 62
<i>Dalopius marginatus</i>	75	<i>Gastrophysa viridula</i>	29	<i>Longitarsus nigerrimus</i>	50	<i>ligneus</i>	29
<i>Dasytes aeratus</i>	76	<i>Geotrupes spiniger</i>	56	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	32	<i>morio</i>	39
<i>caeruleus</i>	10	<i>Gibbium acquinoctiale</i>	10			<i>nodosus</i>	43
<i>cyaneus</i>	10	<i>psylloides</i>	10, 83	<b>M</b>		<i>scaber</i>	39
<i>Dendroctonus micans</i>	11, 16, 67	<i>Globicornis nigripes</i>	83	<i>Macrohynchos litoralis</i>	14	<i>singularis</i>	62
<i>Dendrophagus crenatus</i>	38	<i>Gonodera luperus</i>	77	<i>Malachius marginellus</i>	89	<i>sulcatus</i>	91
<i>Denticollis linearis</i>	75	<i>Grammotera holomelina</i>	16	<i>Megatoma undata</i>	83	<i>Oulimnius major</i>	8
<i>Dermestes ater</i>	83	<i>ruficornis</i>	17, 46, 78	<i>Melanophthalma curticollis</i>	11	<i>Oxypoda islandica</i>	38
<i>frischii</i>	83	<i>Gronops inaequalis</i>	14	<i>suturalis</i>	12	<i>praecox</i>	7
<i>lardarius</i>	83, 89	<i>Gymnetron lloydi</i>	17	<i>transversalis</i>	12, 16	<b>P</b>	
<i>Dictyoptera aurora</i>	38	<i>beccabungae</i>	64	<i>Melanotus punctolineatus</i>	66	<i>Panagaeus cruxmajor</i>	51
<i>Dienerella separanda</i>	76	<i>plantaginis</i>	17	<i>villosus</i>	75	<i>Panspocus guttatus</i>	8
<i>Dinaraea aquata</i>	74	<i>Gyrinus opacus</i>	37	<i>Melasis buprestoides</i>	75	<i>Patrobus</i>	64
<i>Donacia crassipes</i>	89	<i>Gyrophypus angustatus</i>	5	<i>Meligethes gagathinus</i>	10	<i>assimilis</i>	43
<i>obscura</i>	90	<i>scoticus</i>	5	<i>haemorrhoidalis</i>	11, 63	<i>Pediacus dermestoides</i>	76
<i>Dorcotoma ambjoeorni</i>	10	<i>Gyrophana fasciata</i>	74	<i>lugubris</i>	10	<i>Phacophallus tricolor</i>	5
<i>flavicornis</i>	83			<i>subrugosus</i>	11	<i>Phalacrus championi</i>	16
<i>serra</i>	83	<b>H</b>		<i>Meloe mediterraneus</i>	13, 90	<i>Philonthus cognatus</i>	56
<i>Dorcus parallelipedus</i>	63	<i>Hadrognathus longipalpus</i>	4	<i>Meotica anglica</i>	32	<i>varius</i>	29, 56
<i>Dorylomorpha maculata</i>	9	<i>Haliphus varius</i>	2	<i>lohsei</i>	6	<i>Philopodon plagiatus</i>	29
<i>Dromius agilis</i>	73	<i>Hedobia imperialis</i>	75	<i>Metroccus paradoxus</i>	90	<i>Phloeocharis subtilissima</i>	74
<i>meridionalis</i>	73	<i>Helochares lividus</i>	3	<i>Miarus degersi</i>	17	<i>Phloonomus punctipennis</i>	74
<i>quadrinaculatus</i>	73	<i>obscurus</i>	3	<i>distinctus</i>	17	<i>Phloiotrya vaudoueri</i>	90
<i>quadrinotatus</i>	73	<i>punctatus</i>	3	<i>graminis</i>	17	<i>Phyllobius viridianeris</i>	30
<i>quadrisingnatus</i>	73	<i>Helophorus aequalis</i>	30	<i>Micrambe bimaculatus</i>	39	<i>Phyllodecta polaris</i>	39
<i>spp.</i>	73	<i>brevipalpis</i>	29, 62	<i>Microptilium palustre</i>	4	<i>vulgatissima</i>	32
<i>Dropephylla heeri</i>	38	<i>spp.</i>	79	<i>Microsporus acaroides</i>	64	<i>Phymatodes testaceus</i>	46
<i>Dryocoetinus villosus</i>	79	<i>Hemicocelus nitidus</i>	10	<i>Miscodera arctica</i>	43	<i>Phytobius olssoni</i>	14
<i>Dryophilus anobioides</i>	83	<i>Heterocerus flexuosus</i>	29	<i>Molorchus minor</i>	46	<i>zumpti</i>	14
<i>Dryops griseus</i>	8	<i>Holotricha excisa</i>	32	<i>Mordella aculeata</i>	12	<i>Phytoecia cylindrica</i>	32, 47, 64
<i>similaris</i>	8	<i>Hoplia philanthus</i>	30	<i>holomelsena</i>	12	<i>Pissodes validirostris</i>	39
<i>Dyschirius angustatus</i>	29	<i>Hydrochus brevis</i>	3	<i>leucaspis</i>	12	<i>Pityophthorus lichtensteini</i>	40
<i>globosus</i>	30	<i>megaphallus</i>	3	<i>Mordellistena acuticollis</i>	12, 90	<i>Planeustomus palpalis</i>	64
<i>impunctipennis</i>	29	<i>Hydrosmectina delicatissima</i>	6	<i>humeralis</i>	12	<i>Plectophloeus erichsoni</i>	7
<i>nitidus</i>	29	<i>septentrionum</i>	63	<i>parvuloides</i>	90	<i>Pogonocherus hispidulus</i>	30, 47
<i>politus</i>	29	<i>subtilissima</i>	63	<i>pseudopumila</i>	13	<i>hispidus</i>	47, 78
<i>salinus</i>	29	<i>Hylecoetus dermestoides</i>	45	<i>pygmaeola</i>	13, 67	<i>Polydrusus pulchellus</i>	30
<b>E</b>		<i>Hylesinus orni</i>	15	<i>nanuloides</i>	12	<i>Prasocuris phellandrii</i>	31
<i>Elaphus riparius</i>	30	<i>Hyllis cariniceps</i>	33	<i>Mycetophagus fulvicollis</i>	39	<i>Prionus coriarius</i>	46
<i>Ellescus scanicus</i>	50	<i>Hyllis olexai</i>	33	<i>sp.</i>	77	<i>Procas armillatus</i>	63
<i>Elodes elongata</i>	7, 8	<i>Hypnoides riparius</i>	43	<b>N</b>		<i>Propylea quatuordecimpunctata</i>	89
<i>minuta</i>	7, 8	<i>Hypomedon debilicornis</i>	5	<i>Nebria brevicollis</i>	29	<i>Pseudomicrodota jelineki</i>	6
<i>pseudominuta</i>	7, 41			<i>gyllenhali</i>	43	<i>Psyllodes cuprea</i>	59
<i>tricuspis</i>	7	<i>Ischnoglossa elegantula</i>	65	<i>livida</i>	54	<i>luridipennis</i>	59
<i>Endomychus coccineus</i>	76	<i>obscura</i>	20, 65	<i>Negastrius pulchellus</i>	38	<i>Pterostichus madidus</i>	71, 73
<i>Enicmus histrio</i>	29	<i>prolixa</i>	20, 65	<i>Nipus hololeucus</i>	83	<i>melanarius</i>	43
<i>Enochrus affinis</i>	4	<i>turcica</i>	65	<i>Notiophilus aestuans</i>	43	<i>nigrita</i>	2
<i>coarctatus</i>	4	<i>Ischnomera caerulea</i>	36	<i>aquaticus</i>	43	<i>rheticus</i>	2, 63
<i>fuscipennis</i>	3, 67	<i>cinerascens</i>	13	<b>O</b>		<i>Phlinus pectinicornis</i>	76
<i>halophilus</i>	3, 67	<i>cyanea</i>	13, 36	<i>Oberea</i>	32	<i>Ptilolum caledonicum</i>	37
<i>isotae</i>	3	<i>sanguinicollis</i>	78	<i>Ochthebius difficilis</i>	4	<i>Ptilium caesum</i>	4
<i>quadripunctatus</i>	3			<i>lenensis</i>	37	<i>Pinella crabunda</i>	73
<i>Epiurus comptus</i>	4	<i>Judolia sexmaculata</i>	39				

Pinus dubius	10	Stenus argus	32
fur	83	clavicornis	30
lichenum	83	glabellus	5, 21, 67
Pyrochma coccinea	78	glacialis	64
Pyrrhidium sanguineum	46	ladyi	38
Pytho depressus	39	Strangalia quadrifasciata	46
	<b>Q</b>	Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata	89
Quedius tristis	30	Synchita separanda	89
humeralis	5, 67	Syntormon miki	9
lateralis	74		<b>T</b>
obliteratus	5, 67	Tachyerges pseudostigma	15, 70
	<b>R</b>	Tachyporus chrysolimellus	6, 30
Rabrocerus gabrieli	77	dispar	6
Reesa vespula	9	hypnorum	30
Rhagium bifasciatum	78	obtusus	30
mordax	78	Tachys parvulus	32
Rhinosisimus planirostris	77	Tetratoma desmaresti	89
ruficollis	77	Tetropium gabrieli	46
spp.	77	Tetrops	32
Rhizophagus bipustulatus	76	praecusta	47
cribratus	76	starkii	13, 64
dispar	76	Thanasimus formicarius	76
grandis	11	rufipes	38
nitidulus	76	Thinobius longipeanis	91
oblongicollis	91	major	38
parvulus	38	Thyrogene atrirostris	19
Rhopalodontus perforatus	39	florii	19
Rhynchaenus avellanae	68	nereis	19
calceatus	15	Tipnus unicolor	83
crythropus	15, 67, 68	Trachyploeus angustisetulus	35, 65, 91
fagi	71, 79	bifoveolatus	35, 36, 65, 91
populi	15	digitalis	91
pseudostigma	15, 70	spinimanus	91
Rhyzobius litura	30	Trachys troglodytes	90
Ryzophagus grandis	11	Trechus obtusus	30
	<b>S</b>	rubens	73
Salpingus ater	39	secalis	63
Saperda carcharias	47	Trichiusa immigrata	18
scularis	47	Trinodes hirtus	83, 89
Scaphidema metallicum	77	Triplix russica	45
Schistoglossa benicki	6, 38	Trisagus carinifrons	75
curtipennis	6	dermestoides	75
Scolytus intricatus	79	Troglops cephalotes	10, 26
laevis	15	Trogoderma variabile	9
ratzeburgi	40	Tropideres niveirostris	63
rugulosus	89	Tychius tibialis	62
Scymnus sp.	89	Typhaeus typhoeus	41
Selatosomus melancholicus	9		<b>U</b>
Sepedophilus littoreus	74	Uleiota planata	32
nigripennis	30		<b>V</b>
Sermylassa halensis	82	Vincenzellus ruficollis	77
Sibiria primitus	63		<b>X</b>
Simpliocaria semistriata	30	Xantholinus longiventris	30
Sirocalodes mixtus	63	ochraceus	5
Sitona brevirostris	23	Xestobium rufovillosum	84
cambricus	24	Xyleborus dispar	79
hispidulus	23	saxensis	79
lepidus	23	Xyletinus longitarsis	64, 83
puberulus	23, 24, 25, 26, 44	Xyloterus domesticum	79
Sitophilus granarius	89	signatum	79
Sphaeridium bipustulatum	3		<b>Z</b>
marginatum	3	Zeugophora turneri	39
Sphinginus lobatus	10	Zilora ferruginea	39
Stegobium paniceum	83	Zorochores flavipes	8
Stenocorus meridianus	46, 78	meridionalis	8
Stenopelmus rufinasus	79		
Stenostola	32		
dubia	47		
ferrea	47		

## 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* Bohé. (Curculionidae) in Britain. *Coleopterist*, 1(1): 2.  
 JOY, N.H., 1932. *A practical handbook of British beetles*. 2 volumes. London: H.F. & G. Witherby.