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Editor: H. MENDEL

THE
COLEOPTERIST

Editor

H. Mendel

Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 3QH.

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Dr. K.N.A. Alexander M. J. Collier J. Cooter

Dr. A. G. Duff P.J. Hodge Dr R.S. Key Prof. J.A. Owen

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AGRILUS SULCICOLLIS LACORDAIRE (BUPRESTIDAE):
A JEWEL BEETLE NEW TO BRITAIN

Trevor J. James

To find any buprestid in a Hertfordshire woodland could be considered unusual. On 21st June 1992, a stack of recently cut oak logs by a main ride in Cowheath Wood (TL 3308) attracted attention, if only to sit on. It soon became apparent that the stack was a centre of activity for a number of rare beetles, most evidently *Agrilus pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher). Several smaller buprestids made fleeting appearances on the logs and one was eventually secured. It was provisionally identified as *Agrilus angustulus* (Illiger), even though it was rather larger than is usual for the species. It readily keyed to that species in Levey (1977) on account of the emarginate 5th abdominal sternite and the shape of the prosternal process.

The beetle was exhibited at the British Entomological and Natural History Society annual exhibition in 1993. Dr Ian Menzies questioned the identification and suggested that it might be an unusually blue example of *Agrilus viridis* (L.). Reference to the literature ruled this out and the key in Freude, Harde and Lohse (Lompe, 1979) indicated that it might be *A. sulcicollis*. This identification was subsequently confirmed by Mr Peter Hammond at the Natural History Museum.

Bílý (1982) provides the most readily accessible key in English which includes *A. sulcicollis* and other British species with which it might be confused. He distinguishes *sulcicollis* from *angustulus* as follows:

- Vertex [of head] narrow, about 1/3 the width of the anterior pronotal margin; eyes weakly convex; prehumeral pronotal carinae short and arched; elytra more robust; a large, green, golden-green, bronze, blue or violet species *sulcicollis*
- Vertex wider, about 1/2 the width of the anterior pronotal margin; eyes strongly convex; prehumeral carina sharp, long and straight, reaching almost to middle of pronotum; elytra more slender; a smaller, green or blue-green species (rarely blue or bronze) *angustulus*

The Hertfordshire specimen (fig. 1), a female, is just under 8mm in length, well within the normal range for the species of 6-8.5 mm (cf. *angustulus* at 4-6.5 mm). Separation from *A. viridis*, which falls within the same size range, should not present a problem. In that species, the elytra are a different shape (fig. 2), the structure of the antennae is distinct (fig. 3) and the fifth abdominal sternite is rounded rather than emarginate. The aedeagus of *A. sulcicollis* is figured by Lompe (1979).

Development takes place within or under the bark of oak or beech and larvae may damage living trees. The adult beetle is usually found between May and July. Its habit of settling on freshly cut timber is well known and characteristic (Schaefer, 1949). *A. sulcicollis* is found throughout most of Europe, as far north as Sweden and Finland. Bílý (1982) comments that although the species was, at that time, very rare in Denmark, it was not recorded breeding until about 1960 and was apparently spreading. Its distribution extends east to the Caucasus and Siberia (Schaefer, 1949).

The appearance of *A. sulcicollis* in Britain is not that surprising. Its distribution in France includes the north coast and the species was, therefore, an obvious candidate for natural colonisation. However, it is perhaps noteworthy that it has been found towards the end of a long series of hot, dry summers and mild winters, which may have allowed it to establish itself in our otherwise less than hospitable climate. It remains to be seen if the species is established elsewhere in Britain. Evidently, several examples were present at the Hertfordshire site and presumably the species was breeding there.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Dr Ian Menzies for noticing my original misidentification and to Mr Peter Hammond (Natural History Museum) for his help in establishing the true identity of the insect.

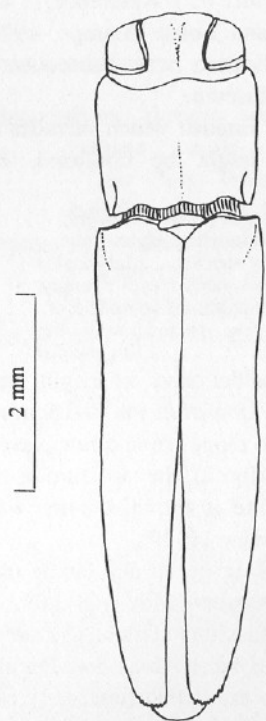


Fig. 1. *Agrilus sulcicollis*

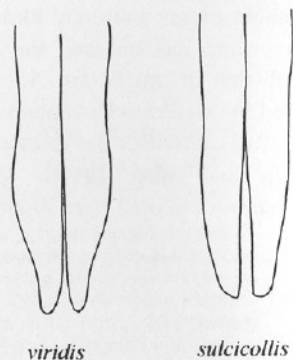


Fig. 2.

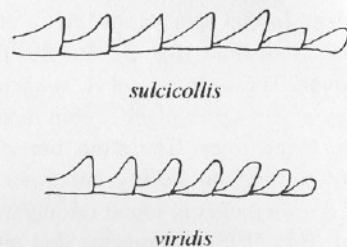


Fig. 3.

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 T. J. James
 56 Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Hertfordshire SG7 5PE.

AMARA FUSCA DEJEAN ESTABLISHED IN BRITAIN

Mark G. Telfer and Brian C. Eversham

On 6th September 1993, while searching for beetles on a sandy roadside in Suffolk Breckland (TL78), one of us (MGT) found a medium-sized unmetallic brown *Amara* which was identified under a hand lens as *A. apricaria* (Paykull). Having already collected a series of the species, the beetle was passed to BCE who later identified it as *A. fusca*: the second British specimen this century!

A. fusca subsequently proved to be common at this locality, with over 50 individuals recorded on a single visit. The species has now also been discovered at two further sites in West Suffolk Breckland. A single specimen was taken at Maidscross Hill, Lakenheath (TL7282) and the species was found to be common at the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's 'Brandon *Artemisia* Reserve' (TL778857). *A. fusca* is known to be associated with *Artemisia campestris* L. (Lindroth, 1986) but this association has not been reported before in Britain, where both species are considered to be endangered (Red Data Book, category 1) (Hyman, 1992; Perring and Farrell, 1983).

There are isolated historical reports of *Amara fusca*, mostly summarized by Fowler (1887), as follows:-

'Very rare; a considerable number of specimens were taken at Swansea by Mr. H. Adams many years ago. Doncaster (Dr. J. W. Ellis, who informs me that there is no doubt as to the locality of the specimen); Plumstead (W. West); Newcastle (Wales); Scotland, one specimen recorded by Dawson, with no locality data, as *A. ingenua*.'

Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913) add 'Preston (Wilding)' and Lindroth (1974) has a record for 'Sussex'. Until 1993, only a single British specimen had definitely been taken this century - at Swanley, West Kent in 1942 by F. Robert Browning (1943). A report from the coast of County Durham in 1985 (Hyman, 1992) is now thought possibly to refer to *A. nitida* Sturm (Luff, in press).

The H. Adams Collection is at Ipswich Museum and contains a single *A. fusca*, without data but assumed to be one of the Swansea specimens referred to by Fowler (1887). I have examined it and can confirm its identity. Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of F. Robert Browning's collection please contact one of the authors?

Acknowledgements

Our thanks to Dr Martin Luff for confirming the identification of specimens of *A. fusca* by comparison with material from the Natural History Museum and to Eric Philp for providing information on the two Kent records. The Suffolk Wildlife Trust (through Nick Gibbons at King's House, Thetford, IP24 2AP) granted permission to collect invertebrates on their 'Artemisia' reserve. Thanks also to Howard Mendel (Ipswich Museum) for loan of the specimen of *A. fusca* from the H. Adams Collection.

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M. G. Telfer

School of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

B. C. Eversham

Biological Records Centre, ITE Monks Wood, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon PE17 2LS.

BEMBIDION OCTOMACULATUM (GOEZE) (CARABIDAE) - AN OVERLOOKED RECORD?

J. A. Owen

In writing about the recent appearance of *B. octomaculatum* at two sites in Britain (Jones, 1992; Telfer & Eversham, 1994), the authors make no reference to the recorded capture of an example of the species at Wicken Fen in 1926 (Omer Cooper, Perkins & Tottenham, 1928). If it is accepted, this record considerably reduces the period in which the species was unknown in Britain and suggests, perhaps, that it may have persisted here all along at a very low level. Certainly, the authors of the report were eminent entomologists of their day and it seems unlikely that they would have published the record without satisfying themselves of its authenticity. Perhaps some reader can provide further information on the matter.

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- J. A. Owen, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

ATHOUS SUBFUSCUS (MÜLLER, O. F.) (ELATERIDAE), A FIRST RECORD FOR DERBYSHIRE

G. J. Maynard

I am pleased to report the discovery of *Athous subfuscus* on a nature reserve managed by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. On 8th May 1994 I attended a field meeting at Ogston Woodlands near Clay Cross and collected some click beetles by sweeping herbage on a damp river bank in a shaded area of old oak woodland.

Unable to establish the identity of the beetles with certainty, I sent representative specimens to Howard Mendel for identification. I was pleased to learn that one of the species was *A. subfuscus*, which has previously been recorded only from the Orkney and Shetland Isles, Surrey and a single site in Ireland.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to Howard Mendel for his assistance and to Mrs Pat Brassley (Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) for allowing me to publish the information.

G. J. Maynard

7 Holbrook Close, Walton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S40 3JP.

RHYNCHAENUS CALCEATUS (GERMAR) (CURCULIONIDAE)
- NEW TO IRELAND

H. Mendel

I visited All Saints Bog, Co. Offaly (N0210), on 23rd May 1994 to search for *Athous subfuscus* (Müller, O. F.), recorded there, new to Ireland, on 12th May 1988 (Speight, 1989). The site at that time was described by Speight as 'one of the remaining examples of a more or less intact raised bog. Its particular interest resides in the large birch wood which covers much of its central area'. By the time of my visit All Saints Bog was showing considerable evidence of commercial degradation. However, in an area at the edge of the bog where *Betula* sp. (birch) woodland and scrub were encroaching, *A. subfuscus* was quite plentiful. In the course of beating the birch in this area, I collected five specimens of a *Rhynchaenus* sp., that I did not recognise. On close inspection they were clearly *R. calceatus* and this identification has since been confirmed by Prof. M. G. Morris.

R. calceatus was formally recognised as a distinct British species by Allen (1988). Up to that time the taxon, in Britain at least, was regarded as a mere colour form ('var. *semirufus*') of *R. testaceus* (Müller, O.F.). Morris (1993a) questioned its status as a distinct species, in the light of a detailed study by Anderson (1989), but concluded that the problem was unresolved and so retained the taxon as distinct in his review of the British Rhynchaeninae. It would seem wise to follow this treatment. In the British Isles at least, *R. testaceus* and *R. calceatus* are easily separated by their colour, which is constantly associated with structural differences. The two species have distinct foodplants, *Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertner (alder) for *testaceus* and *Betula* spp. (birch) for *calceatus*. *R. calceatus* is a genuinely rare beetle. The few previous records from the British Isles are listed by Fowler (1891) and Fowler & Donisthorpe (1913).

Morris (1993b) does not include *R. calceatus* in his critical review of the weevils of Ireland. In the same work, *R. testaceus* is said to be 'Rare' and recorded from 'Carlanstown (Meath) (Nicholson 1917); near Belfast (Down) (Haliday 1885); Cullybacky (Antrim) (Johnson and Halbert 1902); Culmore (Derry) (Buckle 1900). 22, 38, 39, 40. (N)' [N = 'known to be Irish in the National Collection']. It is worth repeating the entry because, according to Morris (1993a), 'it is possible that some of these records are inaccurate because of confusion of names'. *R. calceatus*, once regarded as a mere colour form of '*scutellaris*' (*R. testaceus*), may well have been lumped with it in a literature citation. Anderson, Nash and O'Connor (1994), presumably following Morris (1993a, b), accept *R. testaceus* but not *R. calceatus* on to the Irish list. Clearly, as our knowledge stands at present, *R. calceatus* should be added to the Irish list.

According to Allen (1988), '*R. calceatus*, typically all dark, has a constant variety, form, or race with dark body, more or less dark legs, and testaceous to rufous elytra -

our "var." *semirufus*'. Morris (1993a) reported that '*R. calceatus calceatus* inhabited eastern and northern Europe and *R. c. semirufus* (Gyllenhal) is restricted to western Europe (which of course includes the British Isles)'. The specimens and records available to both Allen (1988) and Morris (1993a) indicated that the two 'subspecies' were allopatric. Only *R. c. semirufus* was known from the British Isles.

The colour of the five All Saints Bog specimens is of particular interest and casts doubt on this clear-cut separation into subspecies with mutually exclusive distributions. Five specimens, all that were seen on the beating tray, were collected. Three of them (2 males, 1 female) may be described as 'normal' *semirufus* - the elytra in life are very similar in colour to those of *Coeliodes rubicundus* (Herbst) - except that one of the males has distinctly red legs. A further male has very dark red elytra and a further female has black elytra, with only the faintest reddish tinge at the extreme apex. It is clearly of the nominate form and it seems likely that the two 'subspecies' will prove to be no more than mere colour varieties.

Acknowledgement

I thank Professor M. G. Morris for confirming the identity of the all-black example of *Rhynchaenus calceatus* and for his valuable comments.

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H. Mendel

The Museum, High Street, Ipswich IPI 3QH.

THE STATUS OF *POLYDRUSUS MARGINATUS* STEPHENS (CURCULIONIDAE) IN BRITAIN

Peter M. Hammond

Always regarded as at least a local or very local species in Britain (Fowler, 1891; Joy, 1932; etc.), the national rarity of the weevil *Polydrusus marginatus* has been variably assessed in recent works detailing the conservation status of British Coleoptera. No mention was made of *P. marginatus* in the British Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987) which listed the most threatened and rarest British species of Coleoptera. It was, however, included in the NCC review of the status of British Coleoptera species (Hyman, 1986), as a 'Nationally Notable' (Na) species, that is to say, very local but without any immediate threat to its survival in the British Isles, and accorded 'Vulnerable' status in Hyman (1992). This most recent categorisation (see Hyman, *l. c.* for definitions of categories) prompts the present note concerning recent British records for *P. marginatus* and the species' usual food and habitat requirements.

Hyman (1992) lists previous British records for *P. marginatus* for just 12 vice-counties, all of them in the southern half of England, and with post-1970 records restricted to just one of these: West Kent. To the vice-counties for which there are older records may be added Dorset (recorded as common at Glanvilles Wootton by Fowler, 1891: 198), and to the post-1970 list Buckinghamshire (see below). The collections of The Natural History Museum contain specimens from eight of the vice-counties listed by Hyman (1992). The most recently collected of these are from Chalfont St Giles, Bucks., May 1943 (C. E. Tottenham), and from Seal Chart, Kent, May 1968 (R. O. S. Clarke).

Recent entomological field-work at Burnham Beeches NNR, Buckinghamshire, has revealed that *P. marginatus* is rather widely distributed there (Hammond, 1992). The 47 individuals collected in the period 1989-1992 derive from 19 separate samples taken from 7 different sites within the Reserve. Records extend from early May through to mid-July, with a distinct peak in the first two weeks of June, and cover each of the 4 years of survey work. All but one were collected in pitfall traps (26 individuals) or in flight interception traps (19 individuals). Although Allen (1940, 1962) had taken the species previously on young oak at Burnham Beeches, only one of the recently collected individuals was taken by beating shrubs and none was obtained from trees, either by beating or fogging with insecticide.

Although the larvae of this species apparently remain unknown (Balachowsky, 1963), they may be expected to be root-feeders, like those of other *Polydrusus* species and most broad-nosed weevils. The patchy distribution of many such broad-nosed weevil species may often be due to the fastidiousness of the larvae which, although very often polyphagous to a degree, may nevertheless be demanding in terms of preferred soil type as well as of larval host (Hammond, 1992; Phillips,

1992). The distribution of *Polydrusus undatus* (F.) in the London area, where its abundance in some woods and absence from others (Hammond, *l. c.*) seems to be unrelated to the availability of suitable food for the polyphagous phyllophage adults, is a case in point. Adults of *P. marginatus* have been reported from a range of shrubs and trees, including *Quercus*, *Ulmus*, *Fagus*, *Fraxinus*, *Malus*, *Cerasus*, *Prunus*, *Crataegus*, *Sorbus*, *Amelanchier* and also *Pinus* (Balachowsky, 1963; Hoffmann, 1950; Allen, 1962). The records for pines may not be for feeding individuals, while juniper and broom, for which there are old records (e.g. Fowler, 1891) may also be atypical (see Allen, 1962; Buck, 1960). Like adults of other *Polydrusus* and *Phyllobius* species, those of *P. marginatus* appear to favour young leaves of trees and shrubs and may be expected to move between tree species as suitable leaves become available. However, the pattern of records from Burnham Beeches suggests that the adults of this species which, unlike those of any other British species of *Polydrusus*, are flightless, spend much of their time at ground level. The occurrence of a number of individuals of *P. marginatus* in flight interception traps at Burnham Beeches is not so surprising as it might seem, as flightless broad-nosed weevils of various species that regularly move between the woodland floor and the shrub or tree layer above, are in fact rather frequently to be collected in this way (Hammond, 1992). However, the flightless species found most regularly in interception traps, such as *Otiorhynchus singularis* (L.), *Strophosoma capitatum* (Degeer) and *S. melanogrammum* (Forster), are also commonly taken by beating, insecticide fogging and in litter or other samples.

A final point of interest in terms of the Burnham Beeches captures is that all but one of the 7 sites where *P. marginatus* has so far been collected lie within that part of the SSSI that supports dense populations of *Formica rufa* L. (wood ant). No other beetle species found frequently at Burnham Beeches, apart from those that are known wood ant associates, exhibits this pattern of occurrence. Does *P. marginatus* favour wood ant dominated areas, and if so does it receive some form of direct benefit from the ants?

At least in Britain *P. marginatus* appears to be a relatively fastidious species. On the other hand, as adults apparently remain at ground level for much of the time, and the species is not readily obtained by the methods most commonly adopted for collecting weevils (e.g. beating), it may often be overlooked. In comparison with other (flying) *Polydrusus* species *P. marginatus* is likely to be a poor disperser. While the establishment of populations of many other flightless broad-nosed weevils at new sites is aided by facultative parthenogenesis, there is no evidence to suggest that any populations of *P. marginatus* benefit from this arrangement. Colonisation or recolonisation of suitable (woodland) habitat patches may thus present a problem. However, at least some populations (as at Burnham Beeches) of *P. marginatus* appear to persist well. Investigation of similar wooded areas elsewhere in the

Chilterns may be expected to reveal that *P. marginatus* is also well established at other sites there. In the meantime, it would seem reasonable to categorise the species as 'Rare' rather than 'Vulnerable' in Britain.

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P. M. Hammond

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

XYLOSTIBA MONILICORNIS (GYLLENHAL) (STAPHYLINIDAE): FIRST RECORD IN KENT

N. F. Heal

A single example of this rare omaliid was beaten from decaying branches in the mixed woodland perimeter of a conifer plantation on Lord Northbourne's estate at Tilmanstone near Dover (TR3051) on 25th October 1991. It is an unusual specimen in its remarkably small size (2.6mm in length) and provisional identification by Mr S. A. Williams was later confirmed by Mr A. A. Allen.

This is characteristically a species of the Scottish Highlands, certainly not previously recorded from Kent. The woodland was substantially replanted after the 1987 hurricane and it is possible that the beetle may have originated by accidental introduction on young tree whips from a Scottish nursery. If so, it would presumably have had to breed to survive two, possibly three years.

N. F. Heal, 44, Blenheim Avenue, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NW.

FURTHER SOUTHERN RECORDS OF *ERNOBIUS NIGRINUS* (STURM) (ANOBIIDAE)

J. A. Owen

I can add a few more southern records for *E. nigrinus* to those listed by Marsh (1993), viz.

Hankley Common, Surrey, v.1976, 1 ex. from pine.

Wisley Common, Surrey, vi.1977, 2 exx. under pine bark.

Santon Warren, Norfolk, vii.1983, 3 exx. in Malaise trap set near pines.

In March 1976, I found two examples of *Phloeostiba lapponica* (Zetterstedt) under pine bark also at Wisley Common. Like *E. nigrinus*, this species used to be confined in Britain to Scottish Highlands (Tottenham, 1954). The two species join a growing number of beetles, such as *Abdera triguttata* (Gyllenhal), *Asemum striatum* (L.) and *Arhopalus rusticus* (L.), which have colonised southern pine plantations during the past hundred years. Whether they have moved southwards by some means from Scotland or have arrived from the Continent remains to be determined.

Acknowledgement

I must thank Dr J. Field for the material from Malaise trapping.

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- J. A. Owen, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

**STRANGALIA AURULENTA (F.) (CERAMBYCIDAE)
IN THE NEW FOREST**

K. Halstead

On 18th July 1993 a pair of *Strangalia* beetles which had been found by a visitor from York was brought to me for identification by two of the New Forest keepers. They had been found *in cop.* on a fallen beech tree in Denny Wood. Using Joy (1932) they were identified as *S. aurulenta* (confirmed by Tim Winter, the Advisory Entomologist to the Forestry Commission at the Alice Holt Forest). The two sexes differ in the colour of the legs, which are black in the male and reddish-yellow in the female. One could easily be fooled into confusing the male with *S. quadrifasciata* (L.), if using the RES Handbook (Duffy, 1952), which, unlike Joy, does not identify the difference in colour of the legs between the sexes.

I was most interested to read a paper on the deadwood fauna of Cornwall (Alexander, 1993), inferring that *S. aurulenta* is particularly associated with sites which have a long unbroken history of old trees and also at sites with a moist climate, which is true of the Denny Wood site with regard to the history of old trees but is questionable as to the moist climate.

I have sent the record to the Biological Records Centre, who inform me that the only previous record for the New Forest is a vague one from the 1930s. Peter Hodge informed me he has recorded the species in woods in Sussex and it would appear that *S. aurulenta* is found locally in the southern counties from Cornwall to Sussex.

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 K. Halstead
 'Mistletoe Cottage', Maseys Lane, East Boldre, Brockenhurst, Hants. SO42 7WE.

Mr D. A. Appleton, who has extensive knowledge of the Coleoptera of the New Forest, informs me (in lit), that he has a recollection of finding the remains of S. aurulenta in oak in Mallard Wood, near Lyndhurst, in the 1960s. On 6th July 1974 he found 'a nearly drowned ♀ in a water tank at Lodgehill Inclosure, Lyndhurst' and on 9th August 1979 'there was an enormous ♀ at rest on birch leaves at Church Place Inclosure, Ashurst ... it was spotted by George Else'. Thanks to Mr Appleton for allowing me to include these unpublished records. Ed.

**PHORACANTHA RECURVA NEWMAN (CERAMBYCIDAE)
AS A LIVE IMPORT TO THE BRITISH ISLES**

E. Geoffrey Hancock

A live specimen of *Phoracantha*, a genus of Australian origin, was brought to Glasgow Museums for identification on 26th October 1993. The insect had been found in association with finished hardwood doors, imported from Spain, in a local DIY store. It was assumed to have originated in Spain where *Eucalyptus* is extensively planted as a forestry crop.

From the black-and-white drawings available to me at the time (Duffy, 1963; Booth, *et al.*, 1990) it was initially presumed that the beetle was *P. semipunctata* (F.). However, preserved but rather ancient material of Australian origin, in both Glasgow Museum and the Hunterian Museum collections of Glasgow University, showed that there were several other species in the genus. The opportunity to examine the collections of the Natural History Museum (London) arose a few weeks later. The type material in the national collections had recently been consulted and re-arranged by Dr Q. Wang of La Trobe University, Victoria. It became clear that the Glasgow specimen was *P. recurva*.

P. semipunctata, which develops within damaged or felled wood of *Eucalyptus* spp., is now an established pest in all zoogeographic regions (Duffy, 1963). The extent of its range in Europe is summarized by Martinez (1983). As yet, records for the British Isles are restricted to a few imported individuals. Aitken (1975) gives an instance of *P. semipunctata* in a cargo of Australian flour. The main series in the NHM collections did not contain any specimens of *semipunctata* from the British Isles nor any *recurva* from outside Australia. However, a drawer of alien beetles laid out for demonstration purposes contained three *Phoracantha* species. The two above species are represented by examples found on the same occasion in damaged *Eucalyptus maculata* W. J. Hooker (spotted gum) in the stores department of the General Post Office, Bedford Street, London, in 1910. The reason that the wood was imported is not recorded but it may have been to investigate its suitability for telegraph poles or for similar purposes. The third species in this drawer was *tricuspis* Newman, represented by the remains of an adult which had been found in wood of *E. marginata* Sm. (jarrah), but with no further details. *P. tricuspis* is a larger, darker beetle and not likely to be confused with others in the genus.

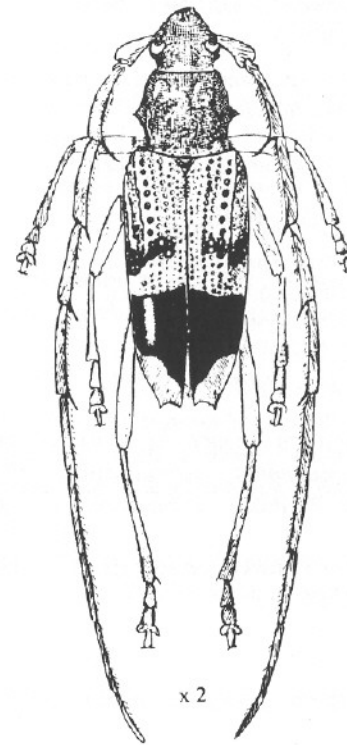
There being so little material in the national collections, it is probable that the importation of these beetles to Britain is unusual. It would be normal to preserve examples until such time as it became a demonstrably mundane occurrence. A request was made to a number of other British museums for any records. There are two *P. recurva* specimens in Manchester Museum, both found in the Liverpool area in 1951; one imported to a glass dealer in the city and the other found in Bootle.

A specimen of *semipunctata* found in a box of groceries in Bolton, Lancashire in 1953, is also preserved in Manchester.

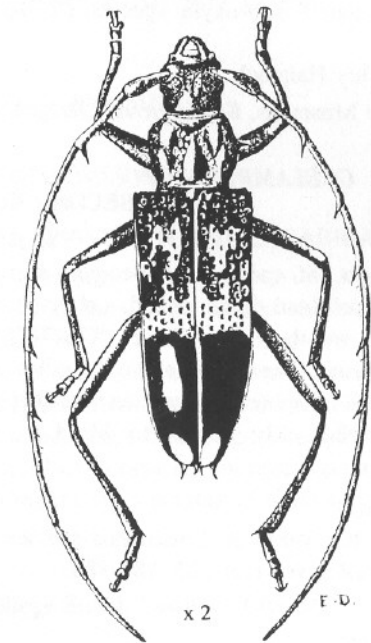
These two beetles can usually be distinguished as adults by the degree of coloration at the base of the elytra (see figures). *P. recurva* is not as heavily pigmented brownish on the shoulders. This explains a common name which has been given to it, the Yellow Longhorn (*in lit.* R. G. Adams, 10th January 1994), although the actual shade of yellow does not differ markedly within the genus. The yellow lunules at the apex of the elytra, beyond the unstriated, polished area are larger than in *semipunctata*. There appears to be little difference in the apical spines of the elytra of the two species, but the spine on the basal antennal segment can be seen to be distinctly recurved in the former species, presumably accounting for its specific name. Dr Wang (*in lit.*, 16th February 1994) states that during a cladistic analysis of this genus, as yet unpublished, *recurva* and *semipunctata* were identified as sister species, principally distinguished by the former bearing long hairs beneath each antennal segment and a patch of spines on the antero-dorsal, distal part of the hind femora. Variations in the markings are considerable, especially the degree of brown in the basal half of the elytra. To some extent this can be seen in some of the figures previously published for *semipunctata* (Duffy, 1963; Martinez, 1985; Booth, *et al.*, 1990). The larvae have been described by Duffy (1963).

Although the route taken by the live *recurva* preceding its arrival in Glasgow is not known with certainty, there are a limited number of possibilities. It could have originated in *Eucalyptus* plantations in Spain, where it might even coexist with *semipunctata*. Outside Australia, *recurva* is reported for South Africa (Duffy, 1963) and from South America, northern Africa, and the Middle East at least (Wang, *in lit.*). It is perhaps sufficiently similar to *semipunctata* for it to have gone unnoticed in other countries bordering the Mediterranean. At least two museum collections, that I have seen, contained a mixed series of *semipunctata* and *recurva*. The beetle might have originated in other cargo within containers or the ship's hold before arriving in Scotland. Lastly, the doors might have been manufactured in Spain of wood imported from Australia but I have no information on the use of *Eucalyptus* for this purpose.

The commercial implications for British forestry operations are limited. The possibility of live imports becoming established as pests in the British Isles would seem to be limited by the colder climate and the scattered planting of *Eucalyptus* as ornamental trees. The beetles are powerfully attracted to wounded gum trees so it may be worth monitoring those areas which might be susceptible to colonisation, such as the extensive plantings of *Eucalyptus globulus* Labillardière (Tasmanian blue gum) in southern Ireland, with its mild Atlantic climate. A general ecological study of native insects which have become associated with eucalypts may be of some interest and comparable to the recent work on *Nothofagus* (Welch, 1994).



Phoracantha recurva
(adapted from Froggatt, 1923)



Phoracantha semipunctata
(adapted from Duffy, 1963
- reproduced with the kind
permission of the Trustees of
the Natural History Museum)

Acknowledgements

Sharon Shute of NHM was particularly helpful on a brief visit to look for specimens of this genus. Correspondents in various other museums, Dr Qiao Wang and Dr Tim Winter of the Forestry Authority provided information.

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E. Geoffrey Hancock

Glasgow Museums, Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG.

**COELAMBUS NIGROLINEATUS (VON STEVEN) (DYTISCIDAE),
A SECOND KENT RECORD**

N. F. Heal

Amongst 186 species of Coleoptera extracted, over a period of several weeks, from thinly distributed flood strand, collected on 28th November 1990 on pasture land adjacent to the East Stour (TR0737), were three specimens of *Coelambus nigrolineatus*. The site is about 10 miles upstream of the Conningbrook Gravel Pits near Ashford, where the species was first recorded as new to the British list in 1983 (Carr, 1984). My thanks to Mr Carr for confirming my identification of the specimens.

Reference

- CARR, R., 1984. A *Coelambus* species new to Britain (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae). *Entomologist's Gaz.*, **35**: 181-184.

N. F. Heal

44, Blenheim Avenue, Faversham, Kent ME13 8NW.

**A RECORD OF PANSPOEUS GUTTATUS SHARP (ELATERIDAE)
FROM NORTH HAMPSHIRE**

Peter J. Hodge

While recording insects at Castle Bottom on Eversley Common near Yateley (SU 7959) on 19 June 1994, Mike Edwards showed me several specimens of a tiny click beetle he had swept off bracken with which he was unfamiliar. These were easily determined in the field as *Panspoeus guttatus*. About two hours later at approximately 1.00pm we returned to the site and swept the bracken again. This time it took about twenty minutes to find just one specimen in exactly the same place where they had been so numerous earlier on the same day. This illustrates just how easily some species can be overlooked.

The site was formerly a pine plantation but this was clear-felled over two years ago and now consists of a large area of bracken with virtually no other vegetation for over 50m. The surrounding woodland is dominated by birch.

This represents a new vice-county record for *P. guttatus* and a small westerly extension of its known range in Britain.

Reference

- MENDEL, H., 1988. *Provisional atlas of the click beetles (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) of the British Isles*. Grange-over-Sands: Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

P. J. Hodge

8, Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5HJ.

PTEROSTICHUS CUPREUS (L.) VAR. AFFINIS (STURM) (CARABIDAE)

Trevor G. Forsythe

In the course of working on the Don Tozer Collection for Leicestershire Museums Service, I came across a dull black specimen of *P. cupreus* standing over the name *Calathus fuscipes* (Goeze). It resembled this species in colour, having a dull black body and red femora, and looked very different from the normal metallic green or coppery specimens of *P. cupreus* which normally have black legs. The specimen was found at Monks Wood in the 1930s. I would like to hear of any other records of this interesting variety which could easily be mistaken for a number of other species.

T. G. Forsythe

Leicestershire Museums, The Rowens, College Street, Leicester LE1 0JJ.

**RHYNCHITES PAUXILLUS GERMAR (ATTELABIDAE)
IN WEST CUMBRIA**

R. W. J. Read

Recently, while checking through some *Rhynchites* weevils in my collection, I discovered a specimen of *R. pauxillus* which I had previously determined as *R. germanicus* Herbst. Identification was confirmed using the key to British *Rhynchites* in Morris (1990). I collected the beetle on 14th May 1978 by beating secondary growth foliage of a large, fallen *Betula pendula* L. (silver birch) on the edge of Foxfield Wood (NY1103), near the village of Strands in Netherwasdale, West Cumbria.

According to Morris (1990) *R. pauxillus* is a local and uncommon weevil in Britain, though widely distributed and reaching as far north as Durham in the East. This would appear to be a new record for Cumbria (V.C. 70: Cumberland) and, as far as I am aware, brings the number of *Rhynchites* recorded from Cumbria to six. The other species are as follows:-

R. aeneovirens (Marshall) - NY10, NY45.

R. cupreus (L.) - NY10, NY11, NY44, NY54, NY55, SD38, SD48.

R. germanicus Herbst - NX91, NY00, NY13, NY35, NY45, SD09, SD18, SD19.

R. longiceps Thomson, C. G. - NX91, NY00, NY01, NY25, NY35, NY53, NY55, SD18, SD48.

R. nanus (Paykull) - NY02, NY35, NY55, SD18, SD48.

The 10km records listed above are from my own collecting and from locality data on specimens in the F. H. Day, J. Murray and G. B. Routledge collections in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr Stephen Hewitt (Keeper of Natural Sciences, Tullie House Museum, Carlisle) for kindly allowing me access to the Coleoptera collections in his care and for information regarding the distributional data.

Reference

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R. W. J. Read

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

BRITISH CECIDOGENIC COLEOPTERA

J. P. Bowdrey

A gall is defined by Redfern and Askew (1992) as an abnormal growth produced by a plant under the influence of an organism (virus, bacterium, fungus, plant or animal). It involves the enlargement and proliferation of plant cells which provide shelter and food for the gall-inducer. The gall associated with a particular gall-inducer is constant and specific in form denoting that, although it is composed entirely of plant tissue, its growth is regulated by the gall-inducer.

Galls and leaf mines are sometimes confused. The latter are feeding channels within the parenchyma or epidermis tissues of plants, where the epidermis, or at least its outer wall, remains undamaged, thus closing the mine cavity to the outside. For a structure to fall within the definition of a gall, there must be a clear reaction by the plant to the presence of the intruder which, in turn, is dependent on the plant tissue produced in the reaction (Hering, 1951). Although the eaten-out buds or capped blossoms of the host plants of *Anthonomus* spp. are often classified as galls, they represent a grey area where it could well be argued that the larvae are not dependent on any abnormal growth.

Gall induction in the Coleoptera is thought to have first arisen during the Cretaceous period, after the radiation of the Angiosperms (Roskam, 1992). Unfortunately, no fossil galls induced by Coleoptera have yet been recognised (Larew, 1992). Although *Braconyx pineti* (Paykull) is recorded as galling Gymnosperms (Swanton, 1912), among the higher plants all of the other known cecidogenic Coleoptera occurring in Europe gall Dicotyledons (Meyer, 1987). Host plant spectra are narrow because radiation occurred only in relation to particular plant genera/families (Roskam, 1992).

Galls induced by Coleoptera are simple in structure, masses of growing cells (Roskam, 1992), undifferentiated and forming what is often described as callus tissue. Specialized nutritive tissue as found, for example, in the galls of Cynipidae (Hymenoptera) is not apparent. Beetle larvae have strong mandibles and are able to consume all cells around them (Rohfritsch, 1992) so that tissue is probably consumed before any differentiation can occur. Galls usually take the form of a cavity or gallery, with a degree of swelling of the surrounding tissue (Meyer, 1987). They may be induced in any part of the host plant: buds and flowers, fruits, leaves and petioles, stems and roots. Rounded or fusiform swellings in stems and roots are the more usual form; other galls are rarer (Meyer, 1987).

Gall tissue is stimulated to grow in a number of different ways and it may be stimulated purely by physical wounding. To facilitate egg-laying, the female beetle often damages the plant tissue with her mouthparts to prepare a hole into which the egg is laid; callus tissue later encloses the egg to form a closed gall (Rohfritsch, 1992; Meyer, 1987). An example of this process is shown by *Saperda populnea* (L.),

where the adult female bites a horseshoe-shaped incision into the bark, with a minute puncture in the centre into which the single egg is laid (Duffy, 1953). The resultant scar is conspicuous on the galled twigs. In some Curculionidae ovipositional fluid is introduced with the eggs, following wounding, and may in part be responsible for gall induction. Experiments with *Ceutorhynchus pleurostigma* (Marsham) showed that gall initiation started as soon as the ova hatched; no galls were formed if the egg failed to hatch or was removed from the host plant before hatching (Patel, 1958).

Gall tissue can also form as a result of physical damage caused by larval feeding, as in the case of *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Frölich) where the larvae feed within the flower heads of *Carduus nutans* L. (musk thistle), inducing prolific callus development (Rohfritsch, 1992). The larvae feed on the callus, tunnelling back and forth (Zwölfer and Harris, 1984).

In other instances cecidogenic substances may be produced by the larva itself when it begins to feed (Meyer, 1987). An account of the cecidogenic activity of the Buprestid *Agilus pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher) is given by Meyer (1987). The larva bores an ascending, sinuous gallery in the phloem of oak (*Quercus* spp.). Cambium growth is stimulated and later becomes necrotic, being replaced by newly formed cambium in the phloem parenchyma. Growth substances isolated from larval frass produced similar effects when experimentally injected into oak twigs. However, in Britain there are many reports of larval development taking place within dead bark. *Tychius crassirostris* Kirsch has a highly specialised mode of gall formation in that the egg is introduced into the groove of the midrib of a young, still folded leaflet of *Melilotus albus* Medikus (white melilot), by piercing through from the outside. The two halves of the leaflet blade coalesce below the larva to form a closed gall (Meyer, 1987). In *Curculio nucum* L. hypertrophy of the pericarp occurs within the fruit of *Corylus avellana* L. (hazel) giving rise to a hidden gall which has been termed a cryptocecidium (Meyer, 1987).

The life cycle of most of the gall-inducing Coleoptera is completed within one year. After feeding ceases, pupation occurs either within the gall chamber or outside in the soil, depending on the species (Meyer, 1987). Galls may persist long after the escape of the adult beetle and may provide shelter for a variety of Arthropoda ('*successori*') and a substrate for fungi (Mani, 1964). Mention should also be made here of Coleoptera which, although not inducing galls themselves, live within galls induced by other insects, probably as inquilines. The larvae of *Curculio villosus* F., for example, develop in 'oak apple' galls induced by *Biorhiza pallida* (Olivier) (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae) on *Quercus* spp. (oak) and those of *Melanapion minimum* (Herbst) in galls induced by *Pontania* spp. (Hymenoptera, Tenthredinidae) on *Salix* spp. (sallow) (Morris, 1991).

Galls are an expression of the close interrelationship between phytophagous Coleoptera and their foodplants. The manipulation of the growth of plant tissues

shown by cecidogenic Coleoptera is only now beginning to be understood. Many beetles gall one host species only or are restricted to a particular genus, tribe or family. Such host specificity is important in establishing relationships between taxa and in identification to species. The presence of galls is often indicative of stable habitats (Eversham, 1989) and familiarity with galls can be valuable in recording, especially where the adult insect has a very short life span, is secretive in its habits or is otherwise difficult to locate. Many gall-inducing Coleoptera are nationally scarce or endangered (Hyman, 1992). Some cecidogenic Coleoptera are of economic importance, either as pests or in biological control of weeds (Zwölfer and Harris, 1984).

In Britain, the study of plant galls (cecidology) has always been somewhat peripheral to mainstream natural history activity and very few workers have counted cecidology as their main interest. E. W. Swanton, who was primarily a mycologist, published a major work on British galls (Swanton, 1912), expanding on earlier work by E. T. Connold (1901, 1909), but over fifty years elapsed before another significant work was published (Darlington, 1968). On the Continent cecidology has enjoyed greater prominence, resulting in such monumental works as Houard (1908-9) and, more recently, Bühr (1964-5) and Docters van Leeuwen (1982).

During the 1980s a revival of interest in cecidology amongst British naturalists resulted in the formation, in 1985, of the British Plant Gall Society (BPGS). One of its aims is to produce a full synonymic checklist of British gall-inducing organisms and their host plants. This project has led to a critical examination of the literature of cecidology and related disciplines.

The section of the checklist dealing with the Coleoptera is comparatively short in terms of the number of species, all of which are confined to the families Buprestidae, Cerambycidae, Chrysomelidae, Apionidae, Curculionidae and Scolytidae. Even so, it is encountering problems due primarily to inaccuracies and contradictions in the literature, made more confusing by nomenclatural changes. Until recently, the majority of works on British Coleoptera have dealt mainly with adult insects and, beyond noting host plant associations and in some cases larval structure, little if any reference is made to the biology of the immature stages. British cecidological literature, whilst covering the galls in detail, is largely out of date and contains many factual errors.

Connold (1909) pronounced that 'the number of gall producing species of beetle [in Britain] is less than 20'. By 1912 Swanton had revised this figure to 'more than 40'. By comparison, Bühr (1964-5) catalogued 135 species of gall-inducing Coleoptera which occurred in central and southern Europe. Research for the BPGS checklist has now identified about 90 species of Coleoptera recorded as gall-inducers in the British Isles. The BPGS checklist will be a complete list of gall-inducers, cross-indexed to their host plants.

Cecidology is a rewarding area of study and much work remains to be done in elucidating life cycles and the ecology of even the commoner gall-inducing species. Please send me records and observations of gall-inducing Coleoptera. For a summary of the information that I have gathered and collated to date send a s.a.e.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Dr Margaret Redfern for comments on beetles associated with thistles and Dr Brian Spooner for commenting critically on the manuscript and for supplying data from the BPGS check list data bank.

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J. P. Bowdrey

Colchester Museums, 14 Ryegate Road, Colchester CO1 1YG.

THE CANTHAROIDEA AND BUPRESTOIDEA RECORDING SCHEME - AN UPDATE AND A CALL FOR RECORDS FOR THE PROVISIONAL ATLAS

K. N. A. Alexander

Progress with this national recording scheme was reviewed in an earlier edition of this journal (Alexander, 1992). The scheme is now ready to go into its 'Provisional Atlas phase' and, accordingly, all outstanding records are now being 'called in'. The Biological Records Centre should already have begun to enter the data on computer. It will of course be some time before the Atlas appears - BRC suggest late in 1995 or early 1996 - and the purpose of this article is not only to draw in new data but also to report on some of the more interesting records received since the last report.

Malthodes crassicornis (Mäklin) in northern England

The most outstanding recent discovery is undoubtedly the *Malthodes crassicornis* found in red-rotten heartwood of an oak in Duncombe Park, N. Yorkshire, by R. J. Marsh. This species has been found right across southern England, from Staverton Park in Suffolk and both Epping and Hatfield Forests in Essex, westwards through Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, Blenheim Park in Oxfordshire, to the Vale of Gloucester and Moccas Park in Herefordshire. It has never before been reported from northern England but the Duncombe Park discovery does possibly shed some light on an old record for '*Malthodes brevicollis* (Paykull)' from Bolton Abbey Park in Yorkshire (referred to in Garland, 1983). Although no voucher specimen for this old record has yet been traced, other material in British collections under this name have all proved to be *M. crassicornis* (Alexander, 1992) and the Bolton Abbey area still includes concentrations of large old parkland oaks with well-developed red-rotten heartwood. New recording at this potentially very interesting locality would be very welcome.

Other interesting recent records

The recent publication of *Beetles of Somerset* (Duff, 1993) has shown that *Cantharis fusca* L. is actually widespread in that county and not largely confined to the Somerset Levels as had previously been thought. This strongly suggests that it may be similarly widespread in neighbouring counties, such as the notably poorly-recorded areas of west Dorset and south-east Devon, and perhaps even into south Gloucestershire.

A specimen of *Rhagonycha translucida* (Krynicky) was found by A. P. Foster in relict oak woodland within the Coed y Brenin Forestry Commission plantations in Merioneth in 1993. This appears to be the only modern record for North Wales.

Another northern surprise has been A. P. Fowles' discovery of a *Malthinus balteatus* Suffrian at Humphrey Head in Cumbria during the Coleopterists' Meeting in June 1993. Although widespread in southern Britain, this distinctive *Malthinus* has not been found further north than the Peterborough area before.

Malthinus frontalis (Marsham) has also been found at a number of new localities in the Welsh Border counties: at Erddig Park by myself and at the Pot Hole Valley by Mrs M. J. Morgan in 1993 - both in the old Denbighshire - and at Powis Castle Park in Montgomeryshire by A. P. Fowles in 1994. This species appears to have become increasingly scarce over much of southern and central England in recent years and so the discovery of new sites in eastern Wales is very welcome news.

Recording in the Yorkshire Dales during spring 1993 has revealed that this is a northern stronghold for *Malthodes fibulatus* Kiesenwetter, a species which appears to have a strong association with broad-leaved woodlands on calcareous soils. It proved to be relatively easy to find new sites by sweeping in a variety of woods across the area - secondary as well as relict ancient woodland. Although widely recorded on the Cotswolds in Gloucestershire, it is much more difficult to find new sites there.

Caernarvonshire has been found to be a national stronghold for *Malthodes guttifer* Kiesenwetter, with a good cluster of new sites discovered in 1993, particularly in the very poorly-studied woodlands on the Llyn peninsula in the west. It has, this year, been added to the Ceredigion list.

Moving on to the Buprestidae, the big news is the discovery of a species new to Britain: *Agrilus sulcicollis* Lacordaire found in a Hertfordshire wood (T. James, see p. 33). The onward march of *A. pannonicus* (Piller & Mitterpacher) appears to continue, with detailed surveying in Middlesex by D. Hackett, revealing just how widespread it is there. It has even been found travelling on London buses (Smith, 1994)!

The known distribution of *Trachys troglodytes* Gyllenhal continues to expand, with additional county records from Caernarvonshire and Pembrokeshire, and its discovery on the Gower in West Glamorgan. It does seem to become more elusive and demanding in its habitat requirements the further north in Britain one travels. Indeed, records are confined to the coastal plain in both N. Wales and Cumbria - a pattern followed by many other species with a southern distribution in Britain.

Acknowledgements

I would like to record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the recording scheme.

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- K. N. A. Alexander, 14 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Glos G17 1BQ.

REVIEW

Beetles of Somerset - their status and distribution. Andrew Duff. [vi] + 269pp., 2 maps, 17 figs. Taunton: Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1993. Paperbound, 17.4 x 24.9 cm. ISBN 0 902152 18 1. Price £10.00 (+ £2.25 p & p.) from: Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, Taunton Castle, Taunton TA1 4AD.

This volume updates and largely replaces W. A. Wilson's 'Coleoptera of Somerset' (1958, *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*, 101-102 (supplement): 1-174). A brief introduction outlining the scope of the work is followed by 'A History of Somerset Coleopterology' and 'Somerset's Beetle Fauna and its Conservation'. As might be expected, the 'Systematic List' dominates the book, followed by a useful gazetteer, the obligatory bibliography and a comprehensive index. For each species, a few lines summarise its status and habits followed by the records which are listed by 10km square. The species accounts are remarkably free from codes and abbreviations which makes them very easy to follow. Reference to the sub-fossil record is a valuable innovation for a book of this kind. So much data are presented (in all 2298 species are listed, including 479 additions since 1958), that it would be easy to 'nit-pick' minor errors and inconsistencies but these in no way detract from the value of the book. Overall the quality of information is very good. Few people realise just how much work goes into a volume of this kind.

County faunas are once again becoming fashionable but, so far as insects are concerned, it is usually only the more popular groups, butterflies, moths and dragonflies in particular, that attract the public support necessary to secure financial backing. The *Beetles of Somerset* is a credit to both the author and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society as publisher. The volume is comprehensive, well-written and, at £10.00, very good value for money. It will undoubtedly serve as a model for other counties and, most impressive of all, it took less than a life-time to produce!

Howard Mendel, The Museum, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH.

JESSOP, L. and HAMMOND, P. M., 1993. Quantitative sampling of Coleoptera in north-east woodlands using flight interception traps. *Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumbria*, 56(1): 41-60.

This paper presents detailed results from the operation of a flight interception trap at Gosforth Park Woods and Lockhaugh Bank Wood during the summer months of 1989 and 1990 respectively. The local and national status of selected rare and notable species are discussed and indices of rarity and ancient woodland indicator values are explained and calculated. Five rare species are additions to the list for Vice-County 66 (Durham). The results are compared with another study of flying Coleoptera in north-east England, where window traps were used at two sites in the northern Pennines.

For those coleopterists already experienced in the use of the interception trap and for those perhaps considering the technique, this article provides considerable detail in both methodology and the analysis of results. As a tool for quantitatively comparing the beetle fauna of either habitats or sites, the flight interception trap has many advantages. However, those of us tempted by the lack of effort involved in *catching* the beetles should be aware of the very large numbers of specimens which subsequently need sorting and identifying, most of which can be examples of a relatively small number of common species.

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

SUBSCRIBER'S NOTICES

FOR SALE - *Insects of the cow dung community*. Skidmore, £2-50. Collection of 61 papers on Quaternary and archaeological beetles, £20. *Key to larvae of Dytiscidae: Colymbetinae*. Galewski, 143pp + 650 figs, £3. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, Vols 88-91, 101, 103-106, 109, 111, 113-117, 119-122. Cumulative index vol 98-117 - bound but slightly trimmed (not affecting Coleoptera). Total of 21 volumes: wrappers & indices where issued, £120. All prices exclude p&p. J. Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ. Tel: 0432 358932.

RECORDS WANTED - **Post 1965 records of *Lucanus cervus* (L.)**. The distribution of the Stag Beetle was reviewed by J. T. Clarke in 1966 (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 102: 199-204) but its current distribution and status are not well known and there is a dearth of recent records from outside Southern England (Dorset to E. Suffolk). *Lucanus cervus* is one of only two species of beetle listed on Annex II of the E.C. Habitats and Species Directive and, therefore, the British population is important in a European context. I would be grateful to receive any post 1965 records of the stag beetle with information on numbers seen or estimates of changes in frequency over time for local populations you may know well. If sufficient records are forthcoming an article on the current distribution will be published and recorders will be acknowledged. Please send all records to: Brian Levey, Species Conservation Branch, JNCC, Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY.

JOURNAL CONTENTS

M. J. Collier

One of the main aims of *The Coleopterist* is to provide a means of rapid communication without the often lengthy delays between submission and publication associated with many of the more general entomological journals. In line with this policy, it was always intended that the 'Journal Contents' section would keep readers as up-to-date as possible with papers and notes appearing in the British entomological literature. I am, therefore, pleased to report that with this issue we improve the service, by completing the coverage of 1993 and including the contents of all issues of the major journals so far published in 1994. Every effort will be made to maintain this contemporaneous state in the future.

Five journals have been routinely and comprehensively extracted - *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, *Entomologist's Record and Journal of Variation*, *Entomologist's Gazette*, *Entomologist* and *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*. A few papers from other sources have also been noticed or reviewed but there must be many more articles of interest in both the foreign literature and more local publications, such as those produced by county natural history societies and wildlife trusts. Subscribers are encouraged to send me a copy of material which comes to their attention from such sources.

Initially articles were abstracted only if they specifically referred to Coleoptera but the range of material has gradually been extended to include items thought to be of more general interest to coleopterists, as with the papers listed from 'Supplement 1' of *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*, volume 7 (1994). Feedback and comments on which subjects readers would like to see covered in the future would be welcome.

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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, news items and letters 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. Authors will be provided with 20 reprints of papers of two or more pages in length.

There will be three issues of *The Coleopterist* each year, in April/May (copy date 1st March), August/September (copy date 1st July) and November/December (copy date 1st October). 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. Except for L. (Linnaeus) and F. (Fabricius), species' authorities should be written in full where a species is first referred to.

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.