

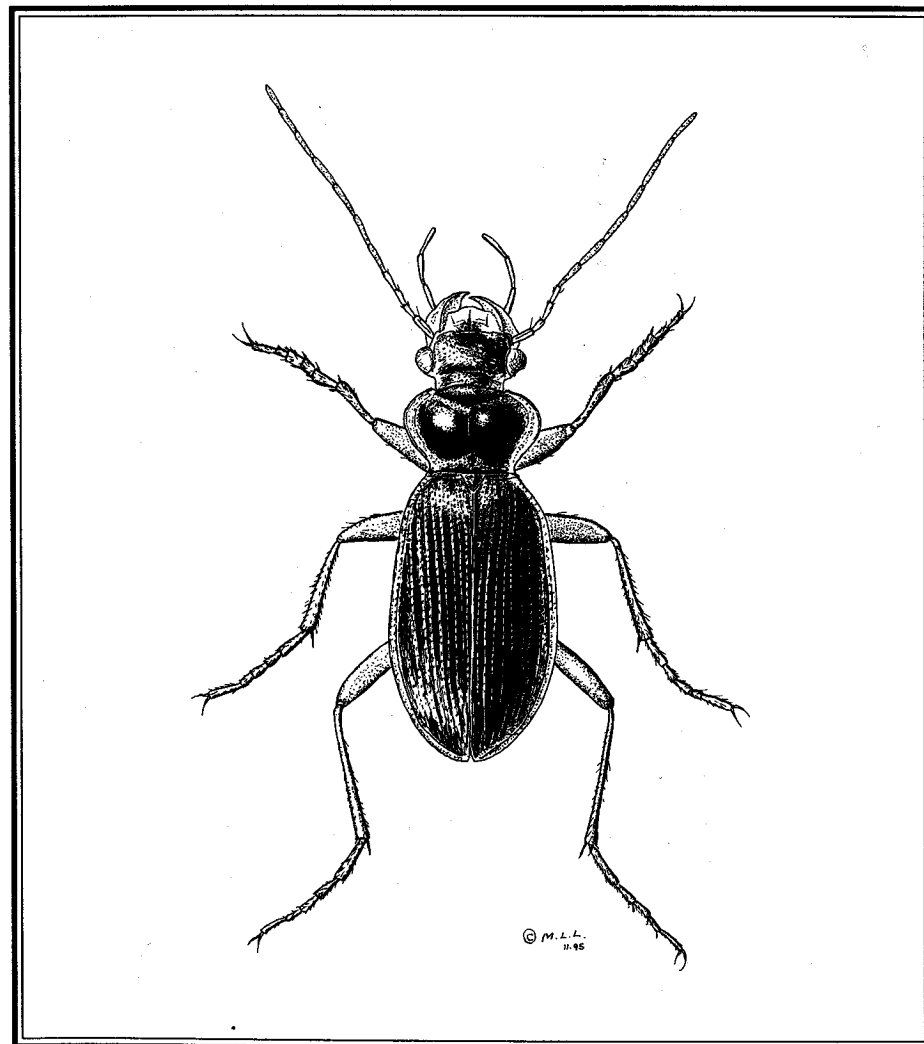
The Coleopterist

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The Coleopterist

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Individuals (within EC) £ 7.00

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ISSN 0965-5794

The Coleopterist

Volume 4 Part 3 ♦ January 1996

Eulagius filicornis (Reitter) (Mycetophagidae) apparently established in Britain

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On 18th June 1993 I discovered numerous specimens of a beetle I did not recognise while examining some logs in a log pile. The logs consisted of cut sections of a deciduous tree (probably hornbeam *Carpinus*) and were situated within an ornamental deciduous wood on the Reading University campus (SU 742716), an extensive area of parkland. The beetles were active and ran about on being disturbed; they appeared to be associated with the small resupinate fruit-bodies of the fungus *Stereum hirsutum* (Willd.) S.F. Gray, which were growing in profusion over the surface of the logs. The summer of 1993 was particularly warm and wet in the Reading area and hence the fruit-bodies of several species of fungi were already well developed in June.

I collected six specimens of the beetle and on examination at home I was able to key them out only as far as the family Mycetophagidae; none of the species listed in Joy (1932) or described by Vogt (1967) fitted my specimens. In the field it resembles *Mycetophagus atomarius* Fabricius in general appearance but the antennae are clearly filiform and neither clubbed nor thickened. Further, the pubescence is longer and more conspicuous than in that species and the elytral pattern is quite distinctive (Fig. 1). My specimens range in size from 3.3 to 3.8 mm.

I sent two specimens to Dr Michael Cox, who kindly examined them and tentatively identified them as belonging to *Eulagius filicornis* (Reitter). He also provided the following information:

The specimens belong to the tribe Mycetophagini and to a species unrepresented in both the amalgamated British collection and the general world collection at the Natural History Museum, London (NHM). The specimens have filiform antennae, without an apical thickening or club, which is unusual for the Mycetophagidae which usually have a 2- to 4-segmented antennal club or at least have the apex slightly thickened. The genus *Eulagius* Motschulsky has representatives with filiform antennae and species are described from Europe, north and east Africa, and Japan. My specimens fit the description of *Eulagius filicornis* (Reitter) as given in the original description (Reitter, 1887). The genus *Atritonus* Reitter, to which *filicornis* was originally assigned, was synonymised with *Eulagius* Motschulsky by Nikitsky (1993). This species is known from Europe (presumably southern) and north Africa. Like my specimens, this species has a dark vitta

on each elytron; these vittae commence before midway and unite before the apex. Clearly, to confirm the identity of my specimens, the type material would need to be examined.

Frequent visits to the same site during 1994 failed to produce further specimens. This led me to suppose that this species had been accidentally introduced and had now disappeared, perhaps having not survived the winter. However, I came across the species again in 1995: on 10th August one specimen was beaten from the dead branches of an oak *Quercus* tree which was growing at the edge of a strip of deciduous woodland within a park (a school campus at SU 732712) about 1 km due west of the University site where I had first come across this species. On 20th August I had another opportunity to look for this species and was successful in beating three more specimens from the dead branches of a hornbeam that was growing close to the oak that provided the previous specimen. On 21st August I was working a hedgerow in a rural area outside Reading (at SU 743683), about 3 km due south of the University campus when I obtained a further specimen by beating the branches of a dead alder *Alnus*. It would seem then that this species has managed to establish itself in the Reading area and the possibility exists that it may spread beyond.

Six specimens have been lodged in the NHM British collection.

Acknowledgement

I am very grateful to Dr Michael Cox for taking the trouble to identify the specimens and for providing me with much useful information.

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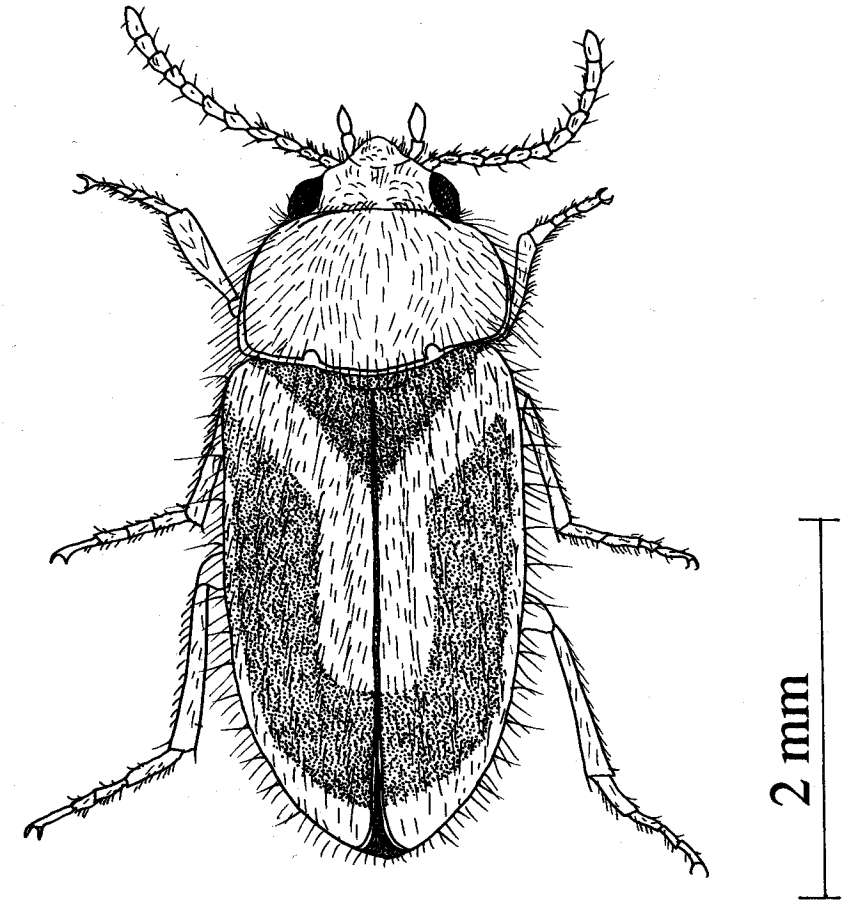


Fig. 1: *Eulagius filicornis* (Reitter) (Mycetophagidae) T. D. Harrison

Notes on the Coleoptera of running-water habitats in Surrey and North Hampshire, including several new county records

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Introduction

Streams and rivers are home to a number of beetles which can easily be overlooked and therefore go under-recorded. Many of the smaller species including Elmidae and Hydraenidae are not easily found by netting and kick-sampling. Even larger species such as *Deronectes latus* (Stephens) (Dytiscidae) have gained reputations as secretive net-dodgers (Balfour-Browne, 1940). It is difficult to know how often such species are overlooked, but my findings from a limited random sample of streams indicate a paucity of records of running-water species in Surrey and North Hampshire.

DYTISCIDAE

Deronectes latus (Stephens)

R. Rother, near Liss, North Hampshire (SU 778290): one female on 30.i.93, in swift-flowing deep water under an overhanging clay bank. Three further specimens were found in vi.94, also netted from beneath a protruding ledge of clay and tree roots. These are the first records for North Hampshire (VC 12).

Agabus melanarius (Aubé)

Devil's Punchbowl, Hindhead, Surrey (SU 895361): found on 21.iii.92 in spring-fed seepage areas, a difficult habitat to work with the net. This species is rarely recorded in Surrey.

HYDROPHILIDAE

Helophorus arvernicus (Mulsant)

R. Wey, Eashing, Surrey (SU 946443): found on 12.vii.94, abundant in riverside silt. This species is very local in south-east England, with only one previous record from Surrey (Foster, 1987).

HYDRAENIDAE

Hydraena nigrita (Germar)

Empshott, near Selborne, North Hampshire (SU 743310): found on 17.viii.94, abundant under stones in intermittent chalk stream in dense shade, the first record for North Hampshire (VC 12).
Odiham Common, North Hampshire (SU 970350): found on 29.iii.95 in a shallow gravel stream in partial shade. Hazelbridge, Surrey (SU 970350): found on 18.iv.95, abundant on stony areas of a shady stream, the second record for Surrey (Foster, 1990).

Hydraena rufipes (Curtis)

Hazelbridge, Surrey (SU 970350): a male was found in a shaded intermittent stream on 18.iv.95. This is apparently the first record for Surrey and only the second for south-east England (Foster, 1990); the previous was a pre-1950 record from East Sussex. The substrate of the stream was a mix of clay and gravel and it also supported *Hydraena gracilis* (Germar), *H. nigrita* (Germar) (abundant), *H. riparia* (Kugelann) (few), *H. testacea* (Curtis) (scarce) and *Ochthebius bicolor* (Germar) (abundant).

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Dr Garth Foster for confirming the identification of *Hydraena rufipes*.

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An evaluation of live-trapping for water beetles in heathland ponds

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Introduction

Continental workers regularly employ live-trapping as a method of studying aquatic Coleoptera (G.N. Foster, *pers. comm.*). However, no mention is made of underwater trapping in *A Coleopterist's Handbook* (Cooter *et al.*, 1991). Whilst employing the funnel-trapping method for catching newts described by Griffiths (1985), I noticed that aquatic invertebrates were also regularly captured. In 1993 I conducted a comparative experiment to determine which species of aquatic beetle could be caught and also to assess the effectiveness of live-trapping as a survey method.

Methods

Ponds on two heathland sites in North Hampshire, at Woolmer Forest (SU 7932) and Shortheath Common (SU 7736) were sampled for water beetles using live-trapping and netting. Five water bodies were trapped continuously from 18th February 1993 until each trap site dried out during the summer.

Pairs of 1 litre plastic bottles adapted into funnel traps (Fig. 1) were placed at the pond edge with the trap opening facing towards the open water. During each visit the traps were emptied and the air reservoir replenished. The water within 2 m of the trap site was netted once a month for 5 minutes. All the beetles caught were identified to species - except for *Helophorus* and *Anacaena* spp. (Hydrophilidae) and the species pair *Hydroporus tristis/umbrosus* (Dytiscidae) - and then released.

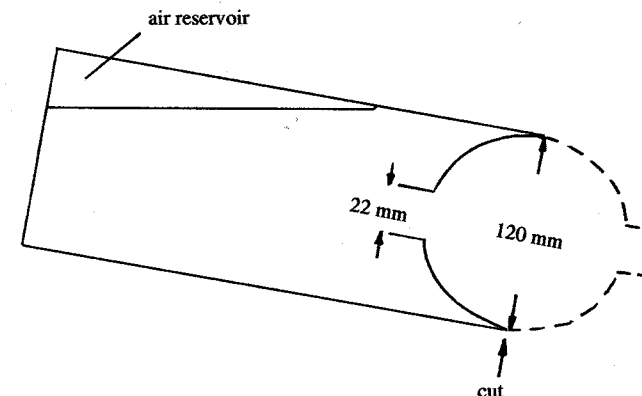


Fig. 1: Plastic bottle modified into simple funnel trap.

The traps were visited regularly, at least every four days and more regularly in hot weather. Some species, notably *Hydaticus seminiger* Degeer, did not survive well in the traps and may be vulnerable to high temperatures. Covering the traps with damp vegetation reduced the problem of overheating and disguised them from vandals.

The plant structure and species composition was recorded at each site, along with water depth, pH and % open water (area of pond not occupied by weed).

Description of trap sites

Pond U: A small (20 x 10 m) sandy-bottomed ephemeral pond, pH c.7.0, with a central stand of reed-mace *Typha*. Submerged vegetation was mostly Bulbous Rush *Juncus bulbosus* and Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*.

Shortheath Bog: A permanent acidic (pH c.5.0) pond, approx. 25 x 15 m. The trap site was at the edge of a floating *Sphagnum* / bilberry *Vaccinium* bog interface with deep (< 1 m) open peat-stained water.

Woolmer Pond: A large ephemeral lake with a sandy substrate and a gradation of pH and vegetation types. The trapped area was dominated by flooded *Sphagnum* with *J. bulbosus* (30%) / Marsh St John's Wort *Hypericum elodes* (10%). Maximum of 50% open water, mean depth 45 cm, water clear, pH 4.6.

Long Bog: An ephemeral acidic pond with a peaty substrate, approx. 50 x 30 m, with a floating mat of *J. bulbosus* adjacent to moor-grass *Molinia* / rush *Juncus* tussocks. Maximum depth 60 cm, pH 4.2.

Cranmer Pond: A large, permanent, highly acidic lake. The trap site was typical of much of the shoreline with *Sphagnum* carpets at the base of *Molinia* / *Juncus* tussocks. The only floating vegetation was *J. bulbosus* mixed with *Sphagnum* debris. Water pH c.3.8.

Results

Table 1 provides details of the beetles netted and trapped in the present study. All of the 38 species found in the main study ponds were trapped at least once. Indeed five species - *Coelambus impressopunctatus* (Schaller), *Agabus didymus* (Olivier), *Ilybius fenestratus* (Fabricius), *I. guttiger* (Gyllenhal) and *Dytiscus circumflexus* Fabricius - were only found by trapping. The most common beetle in the trapped ponds was *Colymbetes fuscus* Linnaeus.

A comparison of the pooled samples shows that 17 species were more abundant in traps than in net samples. All but two of these species are larger (> 7 mm) Dytiscidae, indicating that unbaited traps are somehow positively attractive to large beetles and/or that these individuals are better able to avoid the net. Some species were not easily trapped, e.g. *Ilybius aenescens* Thomson which was only taken twice in traps placed in floating moss despite being present in net samples taken less than 50 cm from the trap openings.

Beetles entered the traps throughout the study period but with a peak in numbers during April-May. Beetle abundance varied between ponds, with the Pond U traps being the most productive despite it being the first pond to dry out. There was a positive correlation between the numbers of beetles trapped and pond water pH ($r = 0.834$, d.f. = 7, $p < 0.01$).

Observations indicated that some adult beetles were attracted to traps already containing individuals of the same species, for example four pairs of *C. fuscus* were found in copula in one trap.

The sampled sites were not rich in Haliplidae or Hydrophilidae and these families were in turn not well represented in the samples. However, in a separate experiment, traps that were allowed to develop an internal coating of algae proved to be very attractive to several Hydrophilidae, including *Hydrochus angustatus* Germar and *Enochrus affinis* Thunberg.

Beetles were more than four times as abundant as water bugs (Hemiptera) in the traps. Bottle traps were also regularly entered by *Colymbetes* and *Dytiscus* larvae, water spiders *Argyroneta aquatica* Clerck (Arachnida), Odonata nymphs, and newts.

Discussion

Traps are clearly a useful and non-destructive monitoring method, especially for larger Dytiscidae, and could be used to good effect at sites where habitat damage through netting is unacceptable. Larger ponds on heathland, such as old peat cuttings or deep bog pools, are often difficult or even dangerous to work and larger agile species may avoid the net.

Smaller beetles (< 5 mm) may well have been able to swim back out of the traps employed. Traps with smaller entrance apertures may prevent this but would obviously exclude larger species. Clearly the position of the trap site introduced bias into the samples, with a larger proportion of active swimming species being caught. Species that dwell in flooded moss, such as *I. aenescens* and *Hydroporus obscurus* Sturm, should be targeted with specially placed traps.

Trapping ponds with large newt populations should be done with care, especially those with the legally protected Warty Newt *Triturus cristatus* Laurenti. In such situations, traps must be checked daily as newts are easily drowned.

Baiting traps with worms, meat, etc., undoubtedly attracts more beetles but also leads to more casualties through overcrowding. Clearly, different trap designs could overcome such problems, but plastic bottle traps are cheap and easy to make.

Intriguingly, traps containing *Dytiscus* species were invariably occupied by at least one other medium-sized species. Could this indicate that some species follow their larger cousins, perhaps to scavenge their kills?

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the Ministry of Defence for allowing me access to Woolmer Forest. This work was partly funded by the English Nature (EN) species recovery scheme for *Graphoderus zonatus* Hoppe, which was caught under licence from EN.

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Table 1: Beetles netted/trapped in heathland ponds, February-August 1993.

Species	Pond	U	Shortheath	Woolmer	Long	Cranmer	Total
<i>Hygrobia hermanni</i> (Fabricius)	1/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	1/1	
<i>Laccophilus minutus</i> (Linnaeus)	18/10	0/0	6/2	0/2	0/0	24/14	
<i>Hyphydrus ovatus</i> (Linnaeus)	0/1	0/0	3/2	0/0	1/2	4/5	
<i>Guignotus pusillus</i> (Fabricius)	3/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/1	
<i>Hygrotus decoratus</i> (Gyllenhal)	0/0	0/0	2/0	0/1	0/0	2/1	
<i>Hygrotus inaequalis</i> (Fabricius)	8/5	0/0	12/6	0/0	0/1	20/12	
<i>Coelambus impressopunctatus</i> (Schaller)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/1	
<i>Hydroporus erythrocephalus</i> (Linnaeus)	4/1	0/0	5/1	0/0	0/0	9/2	
<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalii</i> Schiödte	0/0	8/4	0/0	11/5	7/3	26/12	
<i>Hydroporus palustris</i> (Linnaeus)	9/2	4/2	2/0	0/0	0/0	15/4	
<i>Hydroporus planus</i> (Fabricius)	7/3	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	7/3	
<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i> (Gyllenhal)	3/1	5/1	0/0	2/3	0/0	10/5	
<i>Hydroporus tristis/umbrosus</i> agg.	3/0	9/1	5/1	5/0	10/1	32/3	
<i>Copelatus haemorrhoidalis</i> (Fabricius)	1/3	2/0	3/0	1/2	0/0	7/5	
<i>Agabus bipustulatus</i> (Linnaeus)	4/6	3/6	6/3	5/11	4/7	22/33	
<i>Agabus didymus</i> (Olivier)	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	
<i>Agabus labiatus</i> (Brahm)	13/7	0/0	10/4	0/0	0/0	23/11	
<i>Agabus montanus</i> (Stephens)	2/6	0/0	1/2	1/2	0/0	4/10	
<i>Agabus sturmi</i> (Gyllenhal)	6/3	0/1	4/2	0/0	2/2	12/8	
<i>Ilybius aenescens</i> Thomson	0/0	5/0	0/0	2/0	7/2	14/2	
<i>Ilybius ater</i> (Degeer)	1/0	2/8	0/0	0/0	0/0	3/8	
<i>Ilybius fenestratus</i> (Fabricius)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/3	0/3	
<i>Ilybius fuliginosus</i> (Fabricius)	2/0	2/2	1/0	0/0	2/1	7/3	
<i>Ilybius guttiger</i> (Gyllenhal)	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	
<i>Rhantus exsoletus</i> (Forster)	4/5	0/1	3/6	9/11	3/8	19/31	
<i>Rhantus suturellus</i> (Harris)	3/2	0/1	5/6	9/16	9/14	26/39	
<i>Colymbetes fuscus</i> (Linnaeus)	5/8	2/10	4/7	8/19	6/27	25/71	
<i>Hydaticus seminiger</i> (Degeer)	0/0	3/11	1/0	0/1	0/1	4/13	
<i>Graphoderus zonatus</i> (Hoppe)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/2	1/5	1/7	
<i>Acilius sulcatus</i> (Linnaeus)	2/2	6/15	1/2	3/5	0/0	12/24	
<i>Dytiscus circumflexus</i> Fabricius	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/6	0/7	
<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i> Linnaeus	2/3	1/11	1/2	2/13	2/9	8/38	
<i>Dytiscus semisulcatus</i> Müller	2/3	1/3	2/4	2/10	3/10	10/30	
<i>Helophorus</i> spp.	12/2	2/2	7/1	0/0	3/0	24/4	
<i>Hydrobius fuscipes</i> (Linnaeus)	2/0	0/0	3/1	0/0	0/0	5/1	
<i>Anacaena</i> spp.	6/0	19/3	13/1	7/0	5/0	50/4	
<i>Helochares punctatus</i> Sharp	9/6	13/7	8/4	3/0	14/9	47/26	
<i>Berosus signaticollis</i> (Charpentier)	28/7	2/0	17/5	3/5	0/0	50/17	
Total individuals netted/trapped	160/87	89/90	125/63	73/109	79/113		
Total species	27/22	18/19	25/21	16/17	16/20		
Species found only by trapping	1	4	1	5	6		
Last trapping date	1.vi	4.viii	3.vi	11.viii	8.viii		

Beetles from pitfall traps in Leicestershire grasslands

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Introduction

Pitfall trapping has been used extensively to sample Carabidae and, to a lesser extent, Staphylinidae. Luff & Eyre (1988) used pitfall traps to study weevils but in general there is little published on other beetle groups. Consequently, pitfall trapping is not widely recognised as a suitable collecting technique for many beetle families. This article evaluates the use of pitfall traps at seven grassland Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in Leicestershire, in 1992.

Methods

Two lines (A and B) of eight polypropylene beakers (mouth diameter = 8.5 cm), each placed 2 m apart, were laid at each site. Each trap was primed with commercial antifreeze as a preservative. The traps were operated between May and November and were serviced on average once a month. Adult beetles from each trap line were identified to species.

Site descriptions

Bardon Hill and *High Sharpley* (both SK 41) are old heathland / acid grassland sites. Both are now well on the way to reverting to scrub through invasion of bracken *Pteridium*, birch *Betula* and oak *Quercus*. Line B at High Sharpley was set in a damp area with moor-grass *Molinia*. The only appreciable amount of heather *Calluna* present at either site was around line A at High Sharpley.

Harby Hills (SK 72) and *Lount Meadow* (SK 31) are both neutral grassland. In 1992 Harby Hills was grazed by cattle while Lount Meadow was patchily grazed by rabbits which produced a particularly close-cropped sward around line A. Line B at both sites was set in a damp area.

The Drift and *King Luds Entrenchments* (both SK 82) are limestone grassland sites. The Drift is a prehistoric trackway and the trap lines were set along the grass verges. Line A at King Luds Entrenchments was set in an area where vegetational succession had been retarded by the presence of concrete slabs originating from a Second World War installation. Line B was set in rank grass in the process of being invaded by woodland.

North Luffenham Quarry (SK 90) is a disused limestone quarry which is naturally regenerating but still largely open grassland.

Species recorded

Of 481 species identified, 42 are listed in the Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987) or are designated as nationally scarce (Hyman, 1992, 1994). A further 21 species have only been recorded from single sites in Leicestershire since 1980 and so can be considered to be locally scarce. Nationally and locally scarce species are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Scarce species recorded from pitfall traps in seven Leicestershire grassland SSSIs.

Species	Status	Sites (no. specimens)
<i>Trechus discus</i> (Fabricius)	N	Drift A (1)
<i>Amara consularis</i> (Duftschmid)	N	Drift A (1)
<i>Harpalus latus</i> (Linnaeus)	L	King Luds A (33)
<i>Cercyon ustulatus</i> (Preyssler)	N	Harby B (9); Lount B (1)
<i>Saprinus semistriatus</i> (Scriba)	L	King Luds A (2)
<i>Ochthebius bicolon</i> Germar	N	Lount B (1)
<i>Hydnobius punctatus</i> (Sturm)	N	N. Luffenham B (4)
<i>Leiodes ferruginea</i> (Fabricius)	L	Drift A (1)
<i>Leiodes macropus</i> (Rye)	R	N. Luffenham B (2)
<i>Leiodes obesa</i> (Schmidt)	L	High Sharpley A (14) B (1)
<i>Leiodes rugosa</i> Stephens	N	N. Luffenham A (1)
<i>Liocytusa vittata</i> (Curtis)	L	Drift A (1) B (1)
<i>Agathidium atrum</i> (Paykull)	L	High Sharpley B (1)
<i>Acidota cruentata</i> Mannerheim	N	Drift A (2); High Sharpley B (1)
<i>Platystethus nodifrons</i> Mannerheim	N	Harby B (1)
<i>Lathrobium dilutum</i> Erichson	R	Drift A (1)
<i>Ochtheophilum fracticorne</i> (Paykull)	L	High Sharpley B (1)
<i>Sunius melanocephalus</i> (Fabricius)	N	Lount A (1)
<i>Xantholinus gallicus</i> Coiffait	L	High Sharpley A (6)
<i>Platydracus latebricola</i> (Gravenhorst)	N	King Luds A (5)
<i>Quedius invreae</i> Gridelli	N	High Sharpley A (1)
<i>Mycetoporus clavicornis</i> (Stephens)	L	High Sharpley A (1)
<i>Mycetoporus nigricollis</i> Stephens	L	Drift A (7)
<i>Lamprinodes saginatus</i> (Gravenhorst)	N	High Sharpley A (1)
<i>Falagria sulcatula</i> (Gravenhorst)	N	Lount B (19)
<i>Alaobia scapularis</i> (Sahlberg)	N	King Luds B (2)
<i>Liogluta pagana</i> (Erichson)	N	Lount B (4)
<i>Atheta fungicola</i> (Thomson)	L	Drift B (1)
<i>Ilyobates propinquus</i> (Aubé)	N	Drift A (1)
<i>Ilyobates subopacus</i> Palm	N	Lount B (1)
<i>Aleochara ruficornis</i> Gravenhorst	N	Drift A (4); High Sharpley A (1); King Luds A (6); Lount A (2); N. Luffenham B (1)
<i>Aphodius luridus</i> (Fabricius)	L	Drift A (1) B (1)
<i>Curimopsis maritimus</i> (Marsham)	L	N. Luffenham B (3)
<i>Trachys scrobiculatus</i> Kiesenwetter	N	Drift A (3) B (7); King Luds A (3) B (7)
<i>Trixagus carinifrons</i> (de Bonvouloir)	L	Bardon B (1)
<i>Brachypterolus linariae</i> (Stephens)	L	Drift B (1)
<i>Meligethes ovatus</i> Sturm	L	Drift B (1)
<i>Aspidiphorus orbiculatus</i> (Gyllenhal)	L	High Sharpley A (1)
<i>Atomaria nigriventris</i> Stephens	N	Drift A (2)
<i>Ootyplus globosus</i> (Paykull)	N	Harby B (1)
<i>Scymnus femoralis</i> (Gyllenhal)	N	Drift A (2)
<i>Coccinella hieroglyphica</i> Linnaeus	L	High Sharpley A (3)
<i>Scaphidema metallicum</i> (Fabricius)	N	King Luds A (1)
<i>Mordellistena parvula</i> (Gyllenhal)	R	King Luds A (1)
<i>Mordellistena pumila</i> (Gyllenhal)	L	Drift A (1)

<i>Chrysolina violacea</i> (Müller)	N	Drift B (2)
<i>Longitarsus dorsalis</i> (Fabricius)	N	N. Luffenham A (7) B (6)
<i>Mantura chrysanthemii</i> (Koch)	N	Lount B (1)
<i>Cassida prasina</i> Illiger	N	King Luds A (2)
<i>Cassida vibex</i> Linnaeus	L	Drift B (1)
<i>Apion cineraceum</i> Wencker	N	N. Luffenham B (1)
<i>Caenopsis fissirostris</i> (Walton)	N	High Sharpley A (3) B (6); Bardon A (1)
<i>Trachyphloeus aristatus</i> (Gyllenhal)	N	Drift A (1) B (1); King Luds A (4) B (6)
<i>Trachyphloeus asperatus</i> Boheman	N	N. Luffenham A (1) B (2)
<i>Omiamima mollinus</i> (Boheman)	N	Harby A (12) B (2)
<i>Brachysomus echinatus</i> (Bonsdorff)	N	Drift A (1) B (6); King Luds A (3) B (7)
<i>Strophosomus sus</i> Stephens	L	High Sharpley A (3)
<i>Grypus equiseti</i> (Fabricius)	N	Lount B (2)
<i>Orthochaetes setiger</i> (Beck)	N	King Luds A (1); N. Luffenham B (2)
<i>Trichosirocalus barnevillei</i> (Brisout)	N	King Luds A (1)
<i>Tychius lineatulus</i> Stephens	N	King Luds A (4)
<i>Gymnetron labile</i> (Herbst)	L	Drift B (1)
<i>Rhynchaenus pratensis</i> (Germar)	N	N. Luffenham A (4)

Key: R = Red Data Book status (Hyman, 1992, 1994); N = nationally scarce; L = unrecorded elsewhere in Leicestershire since 1980.

Lathrobium dilutum is a rare species which previously had only been recorded in Britain from riverside shingle in Scotland and Wales. Its presence in a pitfall trap on the limestone grass verge of a track in Leicestershire is so extraordinary that one has to question whether the Leicestershire specimen is conspecific with those from riverside shingle. Benick (1942) described a similar species, *L. microps*, from a single female collected from an underground nest of the vole *Microtus arvalis* in a dune dominated by Creeping Willow *Salix repens* on an island off the German North Sea coast. *L. microps* is separated by its shorter and thicker antennae, smaller eyes, rounder head and thicker punctuation. In all these respects the Leicestershire specimen conforms to the characters exhibited by *L. dilutum*. Unfortunately, the single Leicestershire specimen is a female so the aedeagus cannot be used to confirm the identification.

Table 2 shows the number of species recorded from the main beetle groups. As would be expected, ground-living groups such as Carabidae, Leiodidae and Staphylinidae are well represented. Of particular note is the relatively high number of scarce Leiodidae. More unexpected is the large number of species in families such as the Coccinellidae and Chrysomelidae which are known to climb plants and which are not normally considered to be associated with the ground layer. Furthermore, many of these species were caught in large numbers. For example, 470 *Longitarsus jacobaeae* (Waterhouse), 454 *L. succineus* (Foudras) and 445 *L. suturellus* (Duftschmid) were recorded at Lount Meadow A. Also unexpected was the high number of rare phytophagous species recorded. 20 specimens of the rarely recorded buprestid *Trachys scrobiculatus*, whose larvae are leaf miners, were caught in four trap lines and a relatively high proportion of the weevils recorded were of scarce species.

Table 2: Number of species recorded by group.

Family	Total	Nationally scarce	Locally scarce	% scarce/total
Carabidae	70	2	1	4
Hydrophilidae	17	1	0	6
Leiodidae	24	3	4	29
Staphylinidae	168	13	5	11
Elateroidea	13	0	1	8
Cryptophagidae	12	2	0	17
Coccinellidae	10	1	1	20
Chrysomelidae	41	4	1	12
Curculionoidea	68	11	2	19

The number of species recorded from each trap line varied from 49 at Harby Hills A to 152 at both lines on the Drift. Low numbers at Harby Hills and North Luffenham Quarry were undoubtedly connected with interference with the traps. It is not known whether this interference was of human or animal origin, but at Harby Hills B, where the traps were set in damp soil, many of the traps were destroyed as a result of trampling by cattle.

The number of scarce species recorded varied from 1 at Harby Hills A and both Bardon Hill sites to 16 at Drift A. Limestone grassland sites had the highest proportion of scarce species. Although the two heathland sites shared many species, the proportion of scarce species was quite different, being high at High Sharpley but very low at Bardon Hill. With the exception of the damp areas the neutral grassland sites had a low proportion of scarce species.

Discussion

This survey shows that pitfall traps in grassland can be effective not only for families well known as ground-level insects, but also for families more usually associated with the field level. Many families for which the use of pitfall traps has previously been neglected were caught in large numbers. Similarly impressive results have been achieved in pitfall trap surveys of urban demolition sites (Lott & Daws, 1995) and in hedgerows. Leicestershire is an area which is not considered to be particularly rich in grassland rarities. Yet a good proportion of species recorded were scarce, especially in the Leiodidae, Staphylinidae and Curculionidae.

Pitfall traps have several advantages over hand-collecting. They tend to catch more species, especially in dry habitats. They operate over a period of time and so are less weather-dependent than hand-collecting. Finally, it is a more standardised technique whose results from different sites are easier to compare. Species that are more subterranean in their habits, like the Leiodinae, and the carabids *Trechus discus* and *Pterostichus macer* (Marshall), which were also recorded in the survey, are more frequently caught in pitfall traps than by normal hand-collecting techniques. However, in some circumstances pitfall trapping is not a feasible method. Trapping over a whole season

requires a considerable expenditure of time and resources. Each trap line being only 10 m long means that a very limited area is covered. When collecting by hand it is possible to cover a wider area and a wider range of habitats. A major disadvantage of pitfall trapping is that it is all but impossible in sites which are subject to a high degree of human or animal disturbance. This makes it very difficult to use pitfall traps in many recreational sites and wet places which are heavily trampled by cattle.

Acknowledgements

We are very grateful to Steve Lane for identifying most of the flea beetles, including over 2000 *Longitarsus* specimens, and to Jonathan Cooter for checking *Leiodes* species. The survey was carried out as a joint project with English Nature.

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Bibloporus minutus Raffray (Pselaphidae) confirmed as a Gloucestershire species

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Pearce (1957) first drew attention to the presence in Britain of two species of *Bibloporus* C.G. Thomson. One Gloucestershire record pre-dates this, leaving its identity uncertain: Forest of Dean, 1885, W.G. Blatch (Atty, 1983). Until recently only the true *B. bicolor* (Denny) had subsequently been found in the county: Welshbury Wood (SO 61), on the east side of the Forest of Dean, 18.ix.1979, R.C. Welch (in Atty, 1983), and Ashen Plains Wood, Dursley (ST 758968), 27.iii.1984, K.N.A.A. (unpublished).

A single *Bibloporus minutus* was found beneath loose bark on a dead oak *Quercus* branch near Cannop Ponds in the Forest of Dean (SO 608111), 16.vii.1989, but remained in my collection unrecognised. This now confirms the presence of both species in the county.

All of the localities mentioned lie in West Gloucestershire (VC 34).

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Extensions to the northern ranges of *Leistus rufomarginatus* (Duftschmid) and *Trechus rivularis* (Gyllenhal) (Carabidae)

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The northward spread of *Leistus rufomarginatus* (Duftschmid) has been well documented as far north as Yorkshire (e.g. Ely, 1980; Bird, 1982; Jobe, 1990) and Co. Durham (Luff, 1987). During pitfall surveys of the ground beetles in woodland sites in north-east England (Eyre & Luff, 1994), *L. rufomarginatus* was found in five sites in south Northumberland (VC 67), as follows:

Short Wood, Bywell (NZ 0562), 1990, mature coniferous woodland, 1 example, mixed woodland, 2 examples; Close House, Heddon on the Wall (NZ 1265), 1990, coniferous woodland, 9 examples; Blagdon Hall (NZ 2177 and NZ 2078), 1991, mixed woodland, 4 and 1 examples respectively.

In the above survey, *L. rufomarginatus* was not found in any of the deciduous woods sampled, despite most previous records in England having occurred in this habitat. In a survey of farm woodlands near York in 1990 (Usher, Field & Bedford, 1993) it was widespread in woodland of all types, with no apparent preference for woodland type (Dr J. Field, *pers. comm.*).

More remarkably, a specimen of *L. rufomarginatus* was recently sent to the author for confirmation by Mr R. Saville, of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. It was collected on 21st October 1994 from Yellow Craigs (NT 5186), E. Lothian (VC 82), adjacent to a strip of conifer woodland. Thus the species has spread some way into Scotland, and may be expected to colonise woodlands in the central lowlands of that country.

Trechus rivularis (Gyllenhal) has been recorded widely but rarely from upland mires and mosses in Wales (Holmes, Boyce & Reed, 1990, 1991), northern Ireland (Anderson & Meharg, 1989) and from two blanket mires in Kielder Forest, Northumberland (Luff & Wardle, 1991). In 1990, pitfall trapping by the author has since revealed its occurrence in two further Kielder mires, namely Hurtle Winter (NY 6678) and Wedges Rigg (NY 7174). The latter locality was also sampled in 1989, without finding *T. rivularis*, so it may be expanding its range in the area.

During an ongoing survey of moorland sites in the Tarras Valley, near Newcastleton, Roxburghshire (VC 80), single individuals (one callow) of *T. rivularis* were found in pitfall traps in wet moorland at two sites (both NT 4287) in July and August 1994. It seemed therefore as if *T. rivularis* might also be spreading north and just have reached Scotland.

However, it now seems that it was already at the other extreme of this country, as Coulson *et al.* (1995) include the species in a list of invertebrates collected in the northern Scottish Flows. The author has confirmed the identity of the specimen, which was collected on deep peat at Halsary (ND 1949), Caithness (VC 109), in September 1990. This strengthens the conclusion that *T. rivularis* is an indigenous, widespread species of cool, wet peaty bogs and mires, probably previously under-recorded due to the isolation of its habitats and the difficulty of finding the species other than by pitfall-trapping.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Mr R. Saville (Scottish Wildlife Trust) for permission to publish details of the Scottish record of *L. rufomarginatus*, and to Dr J.C. Coulson and Dr J. Butterfield (University of Durham) for information and permission to publish the Caithness record of *T. rivularis*.

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Malthodes fibulatus Kiesenwetter (Cantharidae) new to Dorset

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As a characteristic species of broadleaved woodland on calcareous soils, the absence of this species from the Dorset list (Pearce, 1926-35) is surprising. I can now confirm its presence in the county, having swept a single example in Cerne Park (ST 650013) on 21.v.1995. The beetle was taken in an area of old ash *Fraxinus*, Field Maple *Acer campestre* and hazel *Corylus* coppiced woodland on the chalk downs.

The distinctive borings of *Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) (Buprestidae) were also noted in a dead hawthorn *Crataegus* on the edge of the wood - this is a poorly-recorded species and is undoubtedly fairly widespread in the county.

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***Harpalus obscurus* (Fabricius) (Carabidae) in Rutland**Ian T. Phillips¹ & Ian M. Evans²¹ c/o Dept of Zoology, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH² Callitunn, Nedd, Drumberg (By Lairg), Sutherland IV27 4NN

Geeston Quarry, Rutland (vice-county Leicestershire) (SK 9803) is situated on oolitic limestone but no major stone extraction has occurred there for at least 40 years. The quarry does experience some disturbance in limited areas, however, from light use as a storage area for coal and wood. The vegetation at the site is ruderal on the most recently disturbed areas, the perimeters and older parts being dominated by hawthorn *Crataegus* scrub.

On 27th September 1988, one of us (I.M.E.) hand-collected two carabids (both female) at Geeston Quarry and tentatively identified them as *H. ardosiacus* Lutschnik. On later viewing these specimens, Derek Lott (Leicestershire Museums Service) suspected that they might be *H. obscurus*; this identification was confirmed by Dr Martin Luff of Newcastle University in 1992.

In a research project at Geeston Quarry, focusing on carabid beetles, one of us (I.T.P.) recorded a further female *H. obscurus* from a pitfall trap on 26th June 1995. This identification was confirmed by Derek Lott. The trap was sited immediately behind a wood pile, where the vegetation was dominated by Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*, Sheep's-fescue *Festuca ovina* and bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg., although most of the ground in the immediate vicinity of the trap was either bare or covered by bark fragments.

Subsequent to the earlier find, a further four specimens were located by Derek Lott in the Leicestershire Museums collections. All were taken by S.O. Taylor in the 1940s. Three are from Rutland: two from Ketton Quarry (June 1944 and May 1945) and one from Barrowden (August 1945). The fourth specimen is from Althorp Quarry, Northamptonshire (May 1946). Another specimen in the collection, collector unknown, is labelled 'New Market Heath', Cambridgeshire (June 1894).

Harpalus obscurus is listed in Hyman's (1992) review as RDB1 (Endangered). The species was assigned to this threat category because apparently there had been only two captures in Britain in the previous 75 years: in Dorset in 1926 and in Cambridgeshire in 1951 (Twin, 1952). Research at Geeston Quarry ceased in June 1995 so the exact status of *H. obscurus* there is difficult to assess. So far as is known, the species has not occurred anywhere else in Britain since 1951.

It seems likely that *H. obscurus* has been overlooked, possibly being attributed to *H. ardosiacus* which is the only confusion species if the key of Lindroth (1974) is used. Experience suggests that a reliable character for separating the two species is size, *H. obscurus* being the larger (over 13 mm). In addition the elytral pubescence is blackish in *H. obscurus* but appears more brown in *H. ardosiacus*.

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***Conopalpus testaceus* (Olivier) (Melandryidae) new to Somerset**A. P. Foster¹ & A. J. Parsons²¹ National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QW² Barnfield, Tower Hill Road, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 8BJ

On 27th June 1994, while investigating the saproxylic fauna of a dead section of a White Willow *Salix alba* near Norton-sub-Hamdon, South Somerset (VC 5), A.J.P. noticed an unusual beetle on the wood. The specimen was netted and on later examination was identified as *Conopalpus testaceus*, an identification confirmed by Dr A.G. Duff in whose collection the specimen was placed. The capture site is on the bank of the River Parrett (ST 458159), actually within the parish of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, this section of the river bank providing numerous, similar dead trunks and branches. This is a new county record for Somerset (Duff, 1993).

On 3rd July 1995, A.P.F. obtained a single example of *C. testaceus* by beating a decaying oak *Quercus* bough at Rainbow Wood Farm near Bath (ST 776636), N. Somerset (VC 6). Other species during this visit included: *Ochina pinioides* (Marshall) (Anobiidae), 1 beaten from edge of Klondyke Copse (ST 772631); *Mordellistena abdominalis* (Fabricius) (Mordellidae), 1 captured in flight (ST 769636); *M. humeralis* (Linnaeus) (Mordellidae), 1 swept from Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* flowers and identified from Allen (1995) (ST 774637); and *Leioptus nebulosus* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae), 2 by beating oak boughs (ST 776636).

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***Melanophthalma distinguenda* (Comolli) (Lathridiidae) in Somerset**

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On 14th August 1995, during a period of hot weather and following a prolonged drought, I found two specimens of an unfamiliar lathridiid while examining loose gravel on the path of the East Landing at Steep Holm island in the Bristol Channel (ST 26), in North Somerset (VC 6). The specimens, both of which are female, later keyed out fairly readily to *Melanophthalma distinguenda*. This species is hitherto known in Britain only from Lundy Island in North Devon and according to Hyman (1994) is unrecorded even from there since 1970; accordingly the species is currently given a national status grading of Red Data Book (Indeterminate). This is also therefore a new record for Somerset (Duff, 1993).

The identification was later confirmed by Colin Johnson, who however noted (*in litt.*) that a male specimen is required for certain identification as there are several related European species. It is hoped to make further searches for this species, and especially for males, on Steep Holm during 1996. The specimens have been deposited in the collection of Dr A.G. Duff.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Colin Johnson (Manchester Museum) for confirming the identification.

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Some records of notable weevils (Curculionoidea) from the vicinity of Woolmer Forest, North Hampshire

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Introduction

Woolmer Forest is one of the largest remaining areas of lowland heath in southern England. However, the site has remained rather poorly recorded, largely because of limited access due to military training. The Forest supports a wide range of habitats, including wet and dry heath, bog and pine *Pinus* woodland. Several unusual habitats occur on the western half of the site (SU 7932) which largely owe their existence to military activity. These include areas which have a 'Breckland' character, with extensive open areas rich in scarce annual plants. The site is also dotted with ephemeral oligotrophic ponds and man-made scrapes. These semi-natural areas are undoubtedly of great value to many scarce and threatened Coleoptera, including several weevils.

APIONIDAE

Apion fuscirostre (Fabricius)

This handsome weevil is local in the area and of very restricted occurrence in the Forest. It was found in v.94 on two small broom *Cytisus* bushes, isolated from any others by at least 0.5 km.

Apion rubiginosum Grill

One male was found on 24.ix.94, with *A. marchicum* Herbst on Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. This nationally rare (RDB3) species has also been found nearby at Chapel Common in West Sussex (SU 8228).

Nanophyes gracilis Redtenbacher

This RDB3 species was first recorded in vi.93 and can be abundant on Water Purslane *Lythrum portula* growing in ephemeral ponds on heathland. It occurs with *Phytobius olssoni* Israelson (see below) but never as abundantly. It also occurs in ponds on Churt Flashes, Surrey (SU 8639). According to Hyman (1992) this species has recently been recorded from only two vice-counties.

CURCULIONIDAE

Ceutorhynchus pumilio (Gyllenhal)

This tiny weevil was abundant on Shepherd's Cress *Teesdalia nudicaulis* in v.-vi. 1994-95. All of the specimens seen (> 40) were reddish in colour and no black individuals were found. This may be the first record of this Notable A species in North Hampshire.

Gronops lunatus (Fabricius)

One female was taken on cindery, sun-baked ground on 26.v.94. This is one of two Notable B weevils found which feed on Corn Spurrey *Spergula arvensis*.

Gymnetron beccabungae (Linnaeus)

A very localised population of this local (Notable A) and distinctive weevil was first found on 27.vii.93. Adults were present along a small stretch of pondside vegetation, for at least three consecutive years. Individuals were swept from Amphibious Bistort *Polygonum amphibium* which is the dominant plant around the pond, but the likely host is Marsh Speedwell *Veronica scutellata* which grows amongst the bistort.

Sibinia potentillae Germar

A single specimen was taken on open sandy ground on 7.vi.94. This weevil, which is associated with Corn Spurrey, is listed as Notable B.

Sibinia primitus (Herbst)

This attractive little weevil, rated Notable B, was locally abundant in 1994-95 on open sandy ground, especially near old fire sites with chickweed *Stellaria*. Could this species be a bug

mimic? - the distinctive pattern has certainly led me to pass over the weevil as a bug nymph in the past, and pretending to possess a stink gland may be a good defensive strategy against sight predators.

Phytobius olssoni Israelson

In v.-vi. 1992-95 *Phytobius* abounded on Water Purslane in ephemeral ponds at the site. They fed on plants exposed by water draw-down and in many cases completely stripped the leaves. All the dissected males (> 10) proved to be *P. olssoni* and constitute the first records of the species from North Hampshire. This species also occurs in scrapes made for amphibians on Churt Flashes, Surrey (SU 8639), where it was first found on 4.vi.93. This species is very local in Surrey.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Peter Hodge for confirming the identification of some of the weevils, and the Ministry of Defence for allowing me to collect at Woolmer Forest.

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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: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Globicornis nigripes (Fabricius) (Dermestidae) in Worcestershire

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Globicornis nigripes (Fabricius) is a rare species in Britain whose larvae develop under bark of old trees - it has been given Red Data Book 1-Endangered status (RDB1) in both Shirt (1987) and Hyman (1992). Previous records have centred on the Windsor Forest area of Berkshire, with occurrences also from Slough, Buckinghamshire, and a single old record from near Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire (Peacock, 1993). Atty (1983) reporting on this old 'Tewkesbury' record states that a single example was swept by a wood in c.1885 by W.G. Blatch.

It is pleasing, therefore, to report the modern occurrence of this rarity not far from Tewkesbury, in the neighbouring county of Worcestershire: a single female, swept from a roadside with a plentiful supply of flowering Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* on 12th June 1995. The locality concerned was adjacent to a mature poplar *Populus* plantation, though much older over-mature oaks *Quercus* were also present in the vicinity. Although this represents the first published record for Worcestershire, P. Whitehead (*in litt.*) has a number of recent records of *G. nigripes* from the same general area.

Acknowledgement

I thank Paul Whitehead for allowing me to mention his unspecified records and for comments on an earlier draft of this note.

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Orthochaetes insignis (Aubé) (Curculionidae) in West Cumbria

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Among some beetles recently determined for me by Prof. John Owen was a short series of *Orthochaetes insignis* (Aubé). The weevils were found on 15th February 1993 while splitting some primula plants here in my back garden at Hensingham, West Cumbria (NX 986168). Altogether over a dozen individuals were found at the roots of the plants and in a small quantity of soil collected from the primula bed and later sieved and examined indoors. It is possible that *O. insignis* was accidentally introduced into the garden along with the primula plants when they were first planted over 40 years ago. However, it is unlikely that the weevil has been overlooked in the past as I have been monitoring the primulas for weevils for over 20 years, ever since I discovered *Otiorynchus porcatus* (Herbst) on them in 1969 (Read, 1970).

This would appear to be the first record of the weevil from West Cumbria and it establishes a new record for vice-county 70 (Cumberland). Day (1923) did not record the species from the county and there are no local specimens in the Coleoptera collections of F.H. Day, James Murray and G.B. Routledge in the Tullie House Museum at Carlisle. *O. insignis* is a Notable B graded species and according to Hyman (1992) it is local and widely distributed in southern England and parts of Wales.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Prof. John Owen for very kindly identifying the weevil for me and Stephen Hewitt, Keeper of Natural Sciences at Carlisle Museum, for allowing me access to the museum's collections of Coleoptera.

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Phaedon tumidulus (Germar) (Chrysomelidae) reared from Giant Hogweed

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Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* (Sommier & Levier), a perennial umbelliferous plant (Umbelliferae) which can grow up to 5 m tall with leaves up to 1 m across, was introduced to Britain as an ornamental plant in the late 19th Century (Tiley *et al.*, in press). It is now widespread throughout the British Isles, especially along river banks but also on wasteland and roadsides.

Recently, a heavily skeletonised leaf of Giant Hogweed with live chrysomelid larvae, taken from a roadside stand of the plant at Horsham, West Sussex (TQ 185368), was sent to Loughborough for identification. Adults of *Phaedon tumidulus* were reared from these larvae, the identification being verified by D.A. Lott.

Giant Hogweed as a hostplant of *P. tumidulus* has apparently only been previously noted in an unpublished thesis (Sampson, 1990), but the author of that work notes that a range of other Umbelliferae have been reported as food plants of this beetle.

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Two click beetles (Elateroidea) new to Norfolk, from a site with an outstanding saproxylic fauna

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On 22nd April 1994 I disturbed a single example of *Ampedus quercicola* (du Buysson) (= *pomonae* auct. Brit.) (Elateridae) from under the loose bark of a large, well-rotted stump - possibly of poplar *Populus* - in wet woodland at Stanford, West Norfolk (TL 8595). Mendel (1990) shows post-1950 records from seven vice-counties, including the adjacent vice-county of Cambridgeshire.

On 2nd May 1995, in a small wood in a different area (TL 9094) of the same site, I found a male specimen of *Aulonothroscus* (= *Triaxagus*) *brevicollis* (Bonvouloir) (Throscidae) under the bark of a sawn stump of fallen oak *Quercus*. This species has been recorded from a total of six vice-counties, but from only four since 1970, including East and West Suffolk (Hyman, 1992).

Stanford Principal Training Area, known locally as the 'Battle Area', is a heavily used army training area covering some 17,000 acres in the heart of the Norfolk Breck. The site contains much mature and over-mature deciduous timber (mostly oak and beech *Fagus*) and fortunately dead and dying trees are left largely undisturbed by the army. The saproxylic beetle fauna of Stanford shows all the characteristics of a classic pasture-woodland site (Harding & Rose, 1986) and the high quality of this fauna clearly indicates that it is of national importance (Collier, in prep.). Calculating an Index of Ecological Continuity (IEC) score (Harding & Alexander, 1994) for the dead-wood habitat gives a value of 51: this places Stanford 14th in a table of the 45 most important national sites for the saproxylic Coleoptera of ancient woodlands.

Acknowledgements

I thank Howard Mendel for confirming my identification of *A. brevicollis* and Keith Alexander for additional information on the IEC gradings for saproxylic Coleoptera. I am also grateful to the Ministry of Defence and English Nature for granting me permission to record Coleoptera on the Battle Area.

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Gastrallus immarginatus (Müller, P.W.J.) (Anobiidae); a second British locality

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On a visit to Bredon Hill, Worcestershire (SO 93), in May 1991 to search for *Limonicus violaceus* (Elateridae) (Mendel, 1992), I noticed that the bark of a number ancient Field Maples *Acer campestre* was peppered with anobiid-like emergence holes. My curiosity was aroused because they looked identical to holes in Field Maple bark that I had first seen on a visit to Windsor Great Park with Professor J.A. Owen. At the time, we decided that they must have been made by *Gastrallus immarginatus*, a supposition later confirmed by Professor Owen.

On 11th July 1995 I again had the opportunity to visit Bredon Hill and made a point of examining some of the suspected '*Gastrallus*' trees. On one of them I was fortunate to find five specimens of *G. immarginatus*, including a pair *in copula*. The beetles were either stationary or crawling slowly over the surface of the bark at a height of between 1 m and 2 m from the ground, in hot sunshine. The tree on which they were found was within the National Nature Reserve on an old field boundary (rather than in woodland).

G. immarginatus - as *laevigatus* (Olivier) - was added to the British list by Donisthorpe (1936). The true identity of the British species was established by Allen (1954) who was also first to associate it with Field Maple (Allen, 1956). The following combination of characters easily separates *G. immarginatus* from other British anobiids - elytra without evident striae; elytral pubescence on basal third of each elytron in a swirl, giving a variegated appearance; antennae with ten segments. Blair (1940: plate VI, fig. 7) provides a good likeness but the figure in Harde (1984: p. 213, fig. 2) is quite unlike *G. immarginatus* and the associated text probably refers to *G. laevigatus* (Olivier). The key by Lohse (1969) separates *G. immarginatus* from the true *G. laevigatus*.

In Britain *G. immarginatus* is a rare forest relict and a 'Red Data Book: Category 1 - Endangered' species (Welch in Shirt, 1987) assigned to 'Saproxyllic fauna group 1' by Harding and Rose (1986). It is now known from two sites but quite likely awaits discovery in other areas with ancient Field Maples.

Acknowledgements

I thank English Nature for permission to record and collect on Bredon Hill National Nature Reserve and Mr M.H. Whitmore (Reserve Warden) for making the necessary arrangements. I thank Professor J.A. Owen for allowing me to refer to his unpublished record of *G. immarginatus* at Windsor.

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Late summer emergence of *Agonum lugens* (Duftschmid) (Carabidae) in the Burren, Ireland

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Within the British Isles *Agonum lugens* (Duftschmid) has been recorded only from rich lake and river margins in south and east Co. Clare. The known sites are either connected to, or close to, the River Fergus system which rises in the south-eastern part of the Burren around Lough Bunny and flows into the Shannon Estuary south of Ennis. The beetle was first reported from an expanded lake-like extension of the Fergus at Dromore Forest, Ruan (R 3586) and from limestone pavement at Lough Bunny (R 3897) (Anderson, 1985). Lott & Bilton (1993) have since reported it from Lough Gash (R 3967) in south Clare, close to the estuary of the Fergus at Newmarket-on-Fergus. It doubtless occurs at intermediate localities. However, it has not been found, despite several thorough searches, in the apparently suitable karstic limestone terrain on the northern side of the Burren watershed, in south-east Galway.

On a recent visit to the Burren, eight specimens were taken under interesting circumstances and at a so far unreported locality, Knockaunroe Turlough (R 3194). Knockaunroe is well known for its aquatic fauna and lies about four miles west of Lough Bunny, on the edge of tessellated limestone escarpment at Mullaghmore Mountain. On 20th August 1994, specimens of *A. lugens* were seen to emerge one after another from under a 2 m limestone boulder on a shoreline still marshy from flooding. All were more or less teneral and half were sufficiently soft to be damaged on handling.

This late emergence agrees with the observations of Lindroth (1992) on the behaviour of *A. lugens* in Fennoscandia, where it mostly overwinters as the adult. Spring emergence is known to occur occasionally, but this has so far not been observed in Clare. In karstic areas the species may be better able to avoid high mortality in winter floods as the imago rather than the larva. The water levels of turloughs in the vicinity of Knockaunroe vary annually by up to 5 m. At the time of the visit a layer of flood debris was present on limestone pavement 3-4 m above the level where *A. lugens* was found, suggesting high flood levels the previous winter.

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Phosphaenus hemipterus (Goeze) (Lampyridae) rediscovered in England, in Surrey

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According to Hyman (1992), this unusual beetle has not been found in Britain since 1961. It has seemingly always been very local, with records from only two vice-counties: South Hampshire and East Sussex; West Sussex is reported in error in Hyman (1992).

I found a single male of the species (Fig. 1) in Oaken Wood, Surrey (SU 9833) on 16th June 1995. The beetle was crawling over grass in full sunshine at approximately 13.00 GMT. Conditions on the day were hot and sunny, in complete contrast to the cool and cloudy conditions that had persisted for most of the previous five or six days.

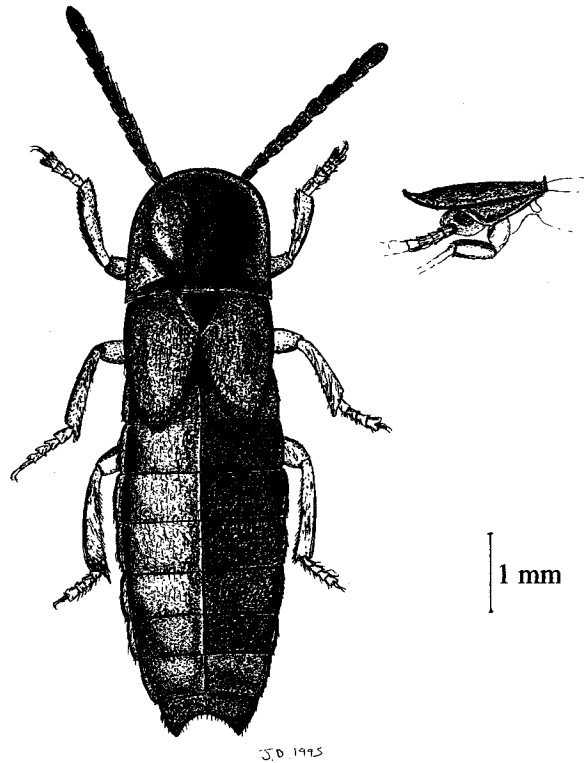


Fig. 1: *Phosphaenus hemipterus* (Goeze) (Lampyridae) J. S. Denton

The capture site was adjacent to a forest track, surfaced with imported limestone, through a plantation of conifers. The verge was approximately 2 m wide and similar in character to most of the rides in the area. However, this section of track had been built up with imported material from a demolition site. This was made up of bricks, blocks of concrete, tiles, etc., and had cavities which were occupied with many invertebrates including a few small snails. This debris had been brought from an unknown donor site and deposited in Kingspark Wood (SU 9931), from where much of the debris was moved to Oaken Wood in 1994.

I revisited Oaken Wood on three more occasions in July but found no further evidence of the beetle.

Request for information

The beetle was recently added to the Pre-recovery scheme of the English Nature Species Recovery Programme. Any further records or historical information about the species would be gratefully received by the author or Dr Alan Stewart, School of Biological Sciences, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex BN1 9QG.

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: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Recent records of scarce Coleoptera from the Dorset coast

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I have recently recorded some scarce beetles from the Dorset coast, including two species that may well have arrived on driftwood:

ELATERIDAE

Agriotes sordidus (Illiger)

A single specimen of this RDB3 species was found under a stone on the beach near Seaton (SY 4391) on 23.vii.1994. This is possibly only the second modern record from Dorset, but the species was found near this locality before 1970 (Mendel, 1988).

EROTYLIDAE

Triplax lacordairii Crotch

According to Hyman (1992) this species was recorded from Dorset before 1970 but not since. I swept an immature (recently emerged) specimen from *Spartina* on upper saltmarsh at Vitower (SY 9886) on 24.ix.1994. The nearest trees were over 300 m away and the peninsula is dominated by degraded heathland and pasture fields. The origins of the beetle (normally associated with ancient woodland) remain unclear, but it is possible that it may have emerged from strandline driftwood. However the only timber found was old gorse *Ulex* stems from the adjacent heathland.

CURCULIONIDAE

Mesites tardii (Curtis)

A group of six (two male, four female) specimens was found together under the bark of a large piece of driftwood near Golden Cap (SY 4092) on 23.vii.1994. The timber was heavily worn hardwood amongst a large pile of assorted flotsam along the high water mark. It has been suggested that this weevil may disperse on driftwood, as appears likely in this case.

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Peter Hodge for his help with identifying these beetles.

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The dead-wood beetles of Stourhead, including *Thymalus limbatus* (Fabricius) (Peltidae) new to Wiltshire

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The National Trust's Stourhead Estate lies on the southern edge of the medieval Forest of Selwood and incorporates a medieval deer park. While much of the wooded country in the area is now dominated by conifer plantations, the Stourhead Estate continues to include areas of parkland trees and some broadleaved woodland. It would therefore be expected that some of the older trees could support an interesting beetle fauna.

I first visited the estate in 1984, when the uncommon dead-wood beetles *Quedius xanthopus* Erichson (Staphylinidae), *Orchesia undulata* Kraatz (Melandryidae), *Paromalus flavicornis* (Herbst) (Histeridae) and *Cerylon ferrugineum* Stephens (Cerylonidae) were found in Tucking Mill Hanging (ST 765343), a stand of mature oak *Quercus* woodland on the south side of the medieval park site, on 11th February 1984. While not outstanding, this fauna does suggest some habitat quality. The parkland areas were not however investigated for beetles until summer 1995.

The present Stourhead Park lies immediately to the east of the area of the former medieval park (ST 7734). It includes many mature and overmature oaks but none that are ancient. Scattered through are about nine ancient sweet-chestnut *Castanea* and there are also a few mature ash *Fraxinus* and a line of old hornbeam *Carpinus* pollards. While not therefore of especial note for its parkland trees, the site's long history of pasture-woodland has meant that some dead-wood beetles of note have persisted.

The park was surveyed on 4th July 1995 and the most interesting find was *Thymalus limbatus*: three adult beetles found beneath loose bark on a standing dead oak, the tree apparently a victim of oak dieback. *Thymalus* is very much a species of the moister woodlands of the north and west of Britain and this appears to be the first report from Wiltshire. The only other nationally scarce species (Hyman, 1992) found was *Conopalpus testaceus* (Olivier) (Melandryidae): one beaten from oak foliage. Andy Foster also noted the latter species on oaks in Six Wells Bottom (ST 770345) on the same date; this is an area of permanent pasture with old oaks within the bounds of the former medieval park.

Thymalus and *Conopalpus* are included in the list of characteristic dead-wood beetles of ancient pasture-woodlands in lowland Britain (Harding & Rose, 1986). Other species on this list that are present at Stourhead are *Quedius xanthopus*, *Xestobium rufovillosum* (Degeer) (Anobiidae), *Bitoma crenata* (Fabricius) (Colydiidae), *Pediacus dermestoides* (Fabricius) (Cucujidae), *Orchesia undulata* and *Sinodendron cylindricum* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae). This fauna produces an Index of Ecological Continuity (Alexander, 1988; Harding & Alexander, 1994) score of 8, a value surpassed in Wiltshire only by Savernake Forest and Groveley Wood.

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Pseudocistela ceramboides (Linnaeus) (Tenebrionidae) and other scarce saproxylic Coleoptera in Gloucestershire

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Whilst conducting survey work for the National Trust at Snowhill Manor on 29th June 1995, a pair of *Pseudocistela ceramboides* were beaten from maple *Acer* overhanging a huge old ash *Fraxinus* stump alongside the edge of Piper's Grove wood (SP 093343) in East Gloucestershire (VC 33). This would appear to be the first recorded occurrence for this scarce species in the county - it is not listed by Atty (1983) and my colleague K.N.A. Alexander (*pers. comm.*) knows of no subsequent records.

Piper's Grove wood is an ancient hazel *Corylus* coppice (currently derelict) with standard ash, wych elm *Ulmus* and maple, and has some huge old ash stumps along the perimeter from which the *P. ceramboides* may have originated.

Other noteworthy saproxylic beetles recorded nearby on the same day included: *Tillus elongatus* (Linnaeus) (Cleridae), a single male beaten from an elder *Sambucus* growing out of a dead standing ash tree within intensively sheep-grazed farmland, the main trunk of the ash was riddled with the borings of *Ptilinus pectinicornis* (Linnaeus) (Anobiidae); *Lissodema quadripustulata* (Marshall) (Salpingidae), a single adult under bark of an old fallen fruit tree (? pear *Pyrus*) (at SP 094344). A number of very old fruit trees were present here and this may be the remnant of an old orchard which is now located within sheep-grazed pasture. Atty (1983) lists previous records for both these species in the county, all of which are before 1950.

Other more common species present included *Sinodendron cylindricum* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae), *Grynobius planus* (Fabricius) (Anobiidae), *Mycetophagus quadripustulatus* (Linnaeus) (Mycetophagidae) and *Rhyncolus lignarius* (Marshall) (Curculionidae).

The Snowhill manor area clearly supports a saproxylic beetle fauna of some significance: *T. elongatus*, *P. ceramboides* and *L. quadripustulata* are listed by Hyman (1992) as Nationally Scarce; *T. elongatus* and *P. ceramboides* are also included in Harding & Rose (1986) as species indicative of a continuity of dead-wood habitats.

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Field Meeting

Lincolnshire: "Fowler's Country" - Fri. 7th to Sun. 9th June 1996. Leader: Dr Roger Key - Tel.: (01733) 318345 (during office hours) or (01733) 210541 (home).

A Coleopterists' Weekend based at Horncastle College, Lincolnshire. Horncastle is well situated, not only to visit the Lincolnshire lime woods, but also has good access to the dunes and saltmarshes of the Lincolnshire coast, the heathlands of the Lincolnshire Coversands and Spilsby Sandstone, the few remnants of calcareous grasslands of the Lincolnshire Wolds and Edge and even the desolate landscapes of the fens. Participants will have access to some excellent areas of all these habitats on reserves of the Lincolnshire Trust, few of which have been investigated for beetles.

For further details and to book your space please refer to the booking form inserted with this issue.

***Chlorophorus varius* (Müller) (Cerambycidae) in Scotland**

G. N. Foster

The Scottish Agricultural College, Auchincruive, Ayr KA6 5HW

Hardwick (1995) noted the discovery of this distinctive longhorn beetle in a house in South Lancashire in 1993. The excellent habitus figure provided by R.W.J. Read reminded me that a specimen of this species had been submitted at the College for identification. This specimen, now in my personal collection, was found in the conservatory of a house at Fenwick, Ayrshire (NS 4643) on 5th August 1993. Its origin within the house is unknown but Hardwick's comments on host range and life-cycle suggest that it could have been imported either in timber or on some large house plant such as a fig *Ficus*.

Reference

HARDWICK, L.W. 1995. *Chlorophorus varius* (Müller) (Cerambycidae) imported to Britain. *Coleopterist* 4(2): 39.

Subscribers' Notices

This section is for subscribers to advertise requests for information, specimens wanted for loan, or entomological items wanted or for sale. **Notices of specimens for sale or exchange will not be accepted.** Notices will be repeated with each issue while space is available (or until withdrawn), newer ones appearing first, and may be edited for brevity.

Records of *Arhopalus rusticus* wanted: For a future publication, I am compiling records held by museums or county recorders of *Arhopalus rusticus* (Linnaeus) (= *Criocephalus* in Fowler) (Cerambycidae) from the British Isles, that have not been published in any journal. Postage will be refunded. *Keith C. Lewis* 108 Park View Road, Welling, Kent DA16 1SJ.

Lower Derwent Valley records wanted: Work is underway to produce a complete list of the beetles of the Lower Derwent Valley, Yorkshire, to be produced in booklet form. The area is important for its beetle fauna and to date over 700 species have been recorded. The database of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union is a valuable source of data but it is known that there is a wealth of data on the personal files of many coleopterists. All records (even of commoner species) will be greatly appreciated and all recorders will be duly acknowledged. Please send your records to: *Mike Denton* Yorkshire Museum, Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR or *Bob Marsh* 11 Crusader Drive, Sprotborough, Doncaster, Yorkshire DN5 7RX.

Entomologist's Monthly Magazine wanted: I wish to purchase the following volumes/parts: 10(113) Oct 1873; 13(156-157) May-Jun 1877; 17(200-204) Jan-May 1881; 18(205-211) Jun-Dec 1881; 27(320, 329-330) Jan, Oct-Nov 1891; 29(334-351,354) Jan-Aug, Nov 1893; 33(392,395) Jan Apr 1897. Or any of the above as complete volumes. Plus complete volumes: 35, 36, 40, 42-44, 48, 51-53, 55-70. *J. Cooter* 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ.

Leicestershire Red Data Books: Beetles by Derek Lott. Leicester: Leicestershire County Museum Arts & Records Service and Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust. 1995. 120 pp., A4 comb-bound. Price £5.

With the UK's signing of the Rio Convention on Biodiversity, there is going to be increasing pressure for local authorities to develop their own strategies for wildlife conservation. While everyone may not be in agreement with the concept of Red Data Books (RDBs) covering areas as small as a county, I think that they are here to stay and will help underpin and formulate local strategies. There is a growing number of county RDBs, but few give adequate coverage to the invertebrates other than butterflies so it is refreshing to see a volume dedicated entirely to the beetles.

This RDB includes a brief introduction, a description of and justification for the methodology used to ascribe species to particular categories and gives accounts of 342 individual species. These include paragraphs on: habitat, ecology & status, threat and conservation, mirroring the sections used in the national RDB and reviews (Shirt, 1987; Hyman, 1992, 1994). A separate section looks at habitats and sites of importance for Leicestershire beetles and the whole is indexed to species, although not to sites or habitats. Beetles are ascribed to the categories: rare ("R" three 1 km squares in the county), species associated with endangered habitats ("E") and seriously declining species ("D") - (conveniently spelling RED!). These categories are sensibly not mutually exclusive, so a species can be classed as seriously declining and associated with an endangered habitat. The work also includes all species included in the national Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987) and the review of nationally scarce and threatened beetles (Hyman, 1992, 1994) in the county, irrespective of whether there is considered to be a threat to that species there.

Leicestershire's beetle fauna is unusually well studied, both historically and currently. Half the British species of beetle have been found in the county and the RDB is backed up by a database of a massive 52,000 beetle records, giving the document real authority. Of course a local RDB is likely to include species surprising to coleopterists from other parts of the country, especially species whose habitats are scarce or almost non-existent in the county, or species that are at the very edge of their range in Britain. An example in Leicestershire would be the staphylinid *Dianous coeruleus* (Gyllenhal) which seems only to occur on man-made weirs in Leicestershire, and whose natural habitat is really on mossy waterfalls, usually in the north and west where it is a very common species. There is currently some debate about whether or not conservation resources ought to be committed to such species that may be very common elsewhere. However, it is appropriate that such species be included in a county RDB, although it would have been useful for such species to be specifically identified as such. Other surprises to me were among the species found to be rare in the county, for example the carabids *Dyschirius globosus* (Herbst), *Harpalus tardus* (Panzer), *H. latus* (Linnaeus) and *Pterostichus rhaeticus* (Heer). Recorders in neighbouring counties might look to see if a trend in Leicestershire extends into their area.

The book is also a very useful source of information on the habitat requirements of many species where little or nothing has previously been published, in particular the riparian and other wetland staphylinids which Derek has studied in depth in Leicestershire. Particularly useful is Section 2, on habitats of importance for beetles with lists of species associated with different habitats or microhabitats, lists of sites and conservation strategies aimed at the particular habitats. I know how difficult the latter can be to formulate and these are done well. In particular, habitats that are of importance for beetles (and other invertebrates) but which are often considerably undervalued by non-entomologist conservation workers are given thorough

treatment and I will be frequently quoting from the section on "Disturbed sites in an early stage of vegetational succession".

This RDB highlights which habitats are most under threat in Leicestershire, notably heathland, and the ones for which the county is well endowed, for example gravel pits and quarries. Specific threats to assemblages of beetles are also highlighted, for example that posed by the avermectin helminthocides, in particular Ivermectin, used against parasites in cattle, sheep and horses, which have been shown to make dung very toxic to dung beetles.

In such a thorough review, one is reduced mainly to nit-picks to find criticism. The definition of carr as habitat with fluctuating water levels is somewhat amiss; there are many other habitats that fit this description, while many examples of carr have a permanently high (or nowadays low!) water level. Date classes are not given for species occurrence and it is not clear what the historical distribution may have been as a basis for describing species as declining. It is a shame that the status categories are coded rather than given in full on the species accounts. Inclusion of them in full would save a bit of to-ing and fro-ing to the glossary of terms before getting used to them.

This is an excellent work. As the beetle recorder for Lincolnshire, where our County Trust is just considering updating its existing Red Data Book to include beetles for the first time, I am most envious of the level of data, both historic and recent, available to construct this work. It is a very good model for other county-based RDBs to adopt.

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Roger Key

Review

Adults and larvae of hide, larder and carpet beetles and their relatives (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) and of derodontid beetles (Coleoptera: Derodontidae) by Enid R. Peacock. *Handbk Ident. Br. Insects* 5 (3). London: Royal Entomological Society. 1993. 144 pp., 300 figs. Paper. Price £20.

This is the first major work on the dermestids since the chapter in Hinton's (1945) monumental work 50 years ago. Much research on dermestids has been carried out in the intervening years, and is now partly incorporated in the present Handbook, representing a significant advance in the quality of the R.E.S. series.

A wealth of factual information and important detail is packed into its 144 pages. After the customary introduction and acknowledgements, a complete checklist of all species is included, followed by a key to distinguish the two families. Information is then provided on the general biology and control of Dermestidae with a short section on their medical importance - entirely detrimental. Other sections cover the morphology of adults and larvae, an extremely useful review of the most important works in dermestid literature and details of dissection techniques. The adult and larval keys come next with a short key to dermestids found in the wild.

Over 20 pages are then devoted to the geographical distribution and biology of individual species. The information given, and references quoted, are quite detailed for many of the species, especially for those of economic importance. This is a particularly important section for someone who wants more than the usual two or three italicised lines of information after the identifying half of each couplet, which is the case with most Handbooks in the series. The only criticism I have come across concerning this Handbook relates to this section. Several people have mentioned to me that it is irrelevant in what is supposed to be an identification handbook, turning it into a monograph with a consequently higher price tag. That may be so, but a lot of research material on the Dermestidae, perhaps more than on any other beetle family, has been published in professional journals such as the bulletins of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food (MAFF). These are beyond the pockets of most amateur coleopterists and this Handbook therefore fills an important gap in the market. It would be good if all the Handbooks were like this, provided the price could be kept down.

The Derodontidae are dealt with in just over a page as only one member of the family, *Laricobius erichsonii* Rosenhauer, is so far known from Britain.

A fairly comprehensive glossary is included along with an extensive bibliography running to more than 10 pages. As well as references from most of the usual amateur and professional entomological journals, papers are cited from such diverse publications as *Clinical and Experimental Dermatology* and *New York State Journal of Medicine*.

The remainder of the book is taken up with illustrations of all the species mentioned, some of them taken from Hinton's monograph, others drawn by the author or Mr M. Kerley. Of the 300 figures in this section, almost 70 are photomicrographs taken by the Electron Microscope Unit of the Natural History Museum. These show close-up details of various external characters (abdominal sternites, scales of *Anthrenus* spp., etc.) as an aid to identification. These are excellent and such is their clarity, it is likely that one could identify most species of *Anthrenus* from their scales alone. Groups of drawings, such as figs. 29-37 showing the ventral surface of every *Dermestes* species or figs. 43-46 showing elytral apices of four *Dermestes* species, enable one to distinguish rapidly certain similar species, even without the couplets.

I don't know how other coleopterists fare with keys but, generally speaking, if I am identifying a large number of specimens from the same family I normally encounter problems sooner or later. A couplet may be reached where neither alternative applies to the specimen or, occasionally, both seem to fit. I have identified more dermestids using these keys than any other family, and not once have I failed to make a confident identification. The adult keys are the clearest and least ambiguous I have ever used. I have tested the adult keys on more than 75% of the species and the larval keys on just a few species and all worked without difficulties. Adult and larval keys having been tested, pre-publication, by Dr R. Madge and Dr Mike Cox, respectively, this is hardly surprising.

No mistakes in the text or keys have been noted although minor misprints have been picked up by other reviewers.

Although the amount and type of information in this Handbook probably precludes it from superseding Hinton (1945) as the manual for MAFF entomologists and pest control officers, it is an excellent book for the less-specialised coleopterist. I would urge anyone who hasn't already done so, to purchase a copy.

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Barry Constantine

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