

The Coleopterist

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Bruchidius varius (Olivier) (Chrysomelidae) new to the British Isles

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On 9th October 1994 a solitary female of an unfamiliar species of *Bruchidius* Schilsky was swept off mixed herbage near the top of Ditchling Beacon, East Sussex (TQ 331 131). The site is part of a Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve and, at approx. 800 ft a.s.l., is one of the highest points in the county. The site was revisited the following day and although a large area of grassland was sampled by sweeping low herbage, no further specimens of the bruchid could be found. The weather on both days was very warm for mid-October, with little wind. Ditchling Beacon has been searched on several subsequent occasions during 1995-1996, but no more specimens have been found there.

During an entomological survey of roadside verges recently designated as wildlife refuges by East Sussex County Council, I visited Novington Lane near Plumpton, East Sussex (TQ 372 133) on 11th July 1996. Here I took five females of the same *Bruchidius* species by sweeping Red Clover *Trifolium pratense* growing on the extreme edge of the road verge. This site was revisited with Prof. J.A. Owen and Mr A.J.W. Allen on 9th August 1996 but, with intermittent rain falling, no *Bruchidius* were found. Subsequently, on 3rd September 1996, David Porter visited Novington Lane and discovered two males of the *Bruchidius* by tapping Red Clover into the net. I revisited the site on 18th September 1996 in dry but rather windy weather and succeeded in sweeping two males and one female *Bruchidius*.

Identification

Using Klausnitzer (1992), the original female keyed out to either *Bruchidius bimaculatus* (Olivier) or *B. varius* (Olivier). The specimen was then passed to Dr Roger Booth for a second opinion and he agreed that it was indeed one of these two species, but suggested that a British male ought to be found before a positive determination was made. This was because, according to figures in Borowiec (1988), the antennal differences between *B. bimaculatus* and *B. varius*, described by Klausnitzer (1992), are only distinct in the males. Now that males have been found in East Sussex the true identity of the species has been settled. Using figures of the male genitalia in Borowiec (1988), identification as *B. varius* was straightforward. The species superficially resembles a rather small, narrow

Bruchus atomarius (Linnaeus) or *Bruchus rufipes* Herbst in that it has variegated elytral markings, but both the pronotum and elytra are much more distinctly patterned than in either of these two species, being covered with relatively large patches of whitish and brownish scales (Fig. 1). However, because all *Bruchidius* species lack the distinct tooth on the pronotal side margin, there is no possibility of confusing *Bruchidius varius* with any species of *Bruchus*. Furthermore, no *Bruchidius* species that has previously been recorded from the British Isles has a distinct pattern of light and dark scales.

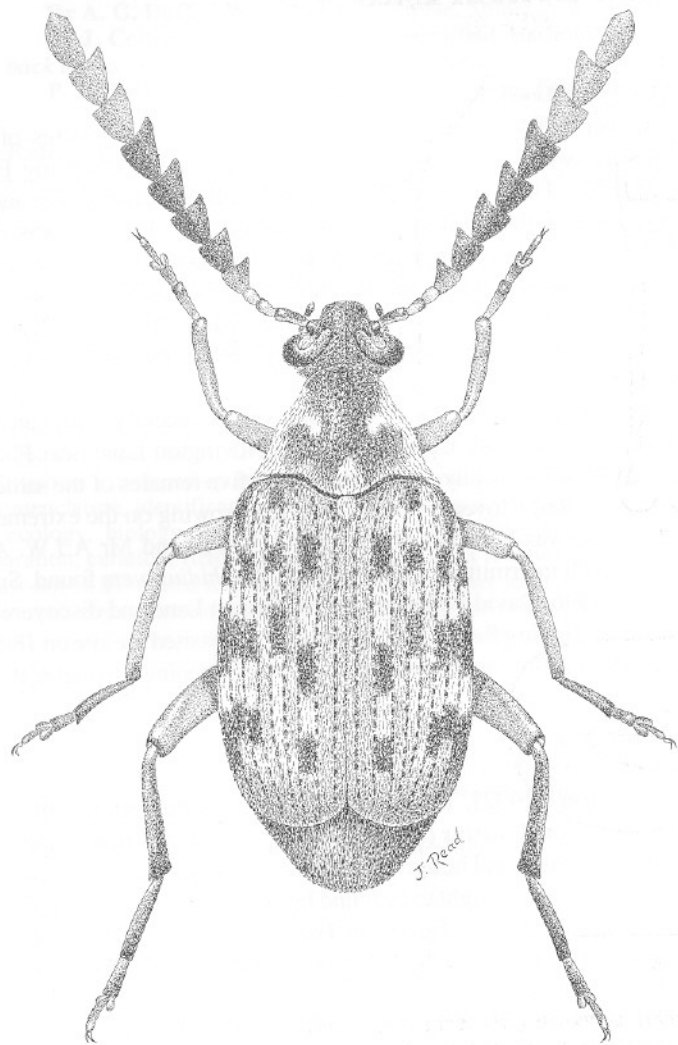


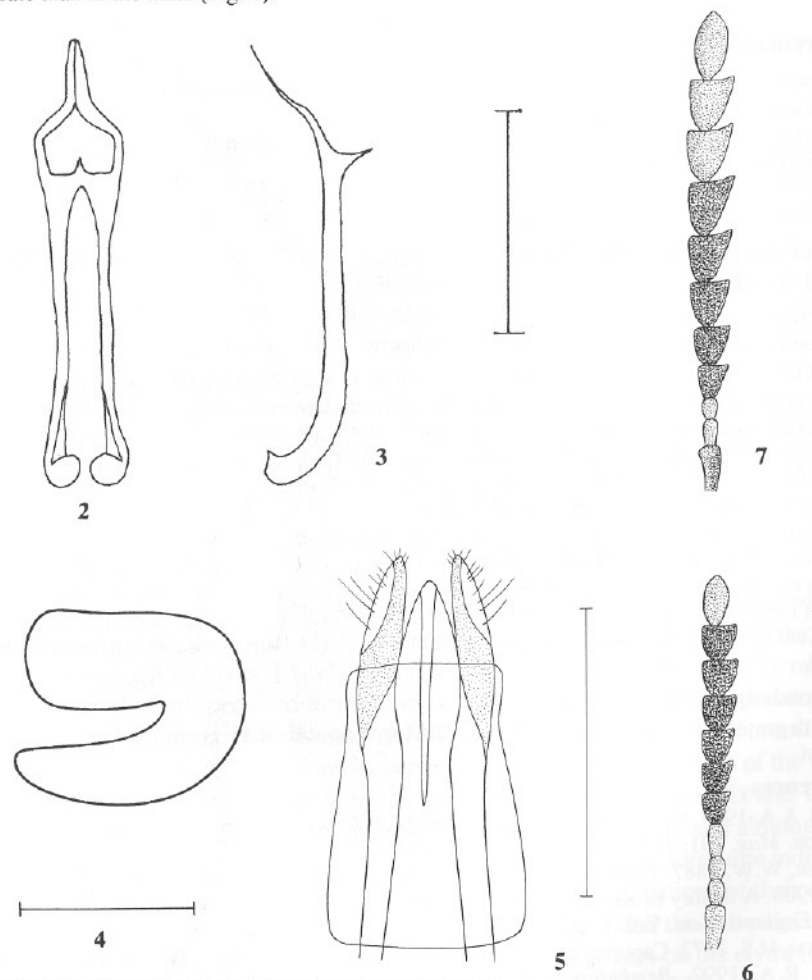
Fig. 1: *Bruchidius varius* (Olivier) (Chrysomelidae), male habitus. R.W.J. Read.

A brief description of *Bruchidius varius*, taken from the limited number of British specimens examined to date, is given below.

Body black, length 2.5-3.0 mm measured to the tips of the elytra, pronotum and elytra with a distinct pattern of whitish and brownish scales. Legs extensively reddish. (Fig. 1).

Male: parameres characteristic (Figs. 2-3); antennae long, two-thirds entire body length, reddish with segments 5-8 black and 4-10 strongly serrate (Fig. 7).

Female: spermatheca and ovipositor as in Figs. 4-5; antennae much shorter, slightly less than half entire body length, black with segments 1-4 and usually 11 reddish, 5-10 much less strongly serrate than in the male (Fig. 6).



Figs. 2-7: *Bruchidius varius* (Olivier) (Chrysomelidae)

2-3: male parameres (scale = 0.5 mm) P.J. Hodge

4: spermatheca (scale = 0.1 mm). 5: ovipositor (scale = 0.5 mm).

6: female left antenna (scale = 1 mm). 7: male left antenna (scale = 1 mm). R.W.J. Read

Host Plant Association

Klausnitzer (1992) gives the host plants of *B. varius* as *Trifolium* species. Although the host plant in East Sussex has not been proved by captive breeding, it is very likely that it is associated with either Red Clover or Zigzag Clover *Trifolium medium*.

Acknowledgements

I thank Dr R.G. Booth for his help with identification and literature references, and Mr R.W.J. Read for providing illustrations from my specimens.

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A recent record of *Bembidion octomaculatum* (Goeze) (Carabidae) from West Kent

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On 30th May 1996, whilst recording insects near Rosemary Farm on the northern bank of Bewl Water near Lamberhurst, West Kent (TQ 696320), I discovered a single specimen of *Bembidion octomaculatum*. The habitat is quite different in character to the muddy banks of Powdermill Reservoir, East Sussex (TQ 793200) (Jones, 1992) and consists of a gently shelving south-facing sandstone 'beach' covered with a thin layer of green algae, under which many species of wetland Coleoptera were found.

There are published Kent records of *B. octomaculatum* in the Victoria County History list (Fowler, 1908): the entry reads 'Very rare, Bearsted nr Maidstone (Gorham), Hythe, Dover'. This is essentially a repetition of the entry by Fowler (1887) under the name *B. sturmi* (Panzer). Allen (1965) also mentions the Bearsted record (Gorham, 1872). All previous records are for East Kent (VC 15); Bewl Water is in West Kent (VC 16) and therefore this is a new vice-county record.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Eric Philp for kindly checking the published records for *B. octomaculatum* in Kent.

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Variability in the Eleven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella undecimpunctata* Linnaeus (Coccinellidae) in the northern highlands of Scotland compared with other parts of the British Isles

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Our attention was first drawn to the apparently unusual degree of elytral spot fusion in the Eleven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella undecimpunctata* Linnaeus, from various collections made in the eastern part of Highland (formerly Highland Region), Scotland, notably during the Highland Biological Recording Group ladybird recording project (Moran, 1993), from the Shandwick beetle 'wreck' (Elliott, 1993) and a substantial collection made at Spinningdale, south-east Sutherland. Since then, further material accumulated from this area confirms the earlier view that very few individuals fit the description of the normal or type form of this ladybird as it is found, for instance, in England.

We have therefore, on the basis of the Highland specimens available to us, from specimens seen in the Hope Collections, Oxford and in the Natural History Museum, Inverness Museum & Art Gallery and considering the entomological literature, conducted a preliminary investigation to try to cast light on this situation.

Coccinella undecimpunctata Linnaeus var. *boreolittoralis* Donisthorpe

In 1918 Donisthorpe described a subspecies of the Eleven-spot Ladybird which he named *boreolittoralis* because it appeared to be restricted largely to the north of the British Isles and because it had been found only on or near the coast. Later (1930) he relegated it from the status of subspecies to variety, this being the term we use here. However, Mader (1926-37) and Iablokoff-Knזורian (1982) continue to recognise *boreolittoralis* Donisthorpe as a subspecies of *C. undecimpunctata*. The historical aspects of the varietal nomenclature, as it affects the present study, are discussed in the Appendix and Table 3.

In the type form (Fig. 1a) the elytral spots tend to be quite small, and although there is some variation in their size they are very seldom united, except in some rare individuals from populations of the type form that do not form separate populations of their own. In *boreolittoralis*, however, the spots are very appreciably larger and the two pairs of spots (2 + 3 and 4 + 5) are united to form two short thick transverse bars on the elytra (Fig. 1b; Fowler & Donisthorpe, 1913; Donisthorpe, 1918; Mader, 1926-1937). In addition the background red colour of the elytra is brighter than in the type.

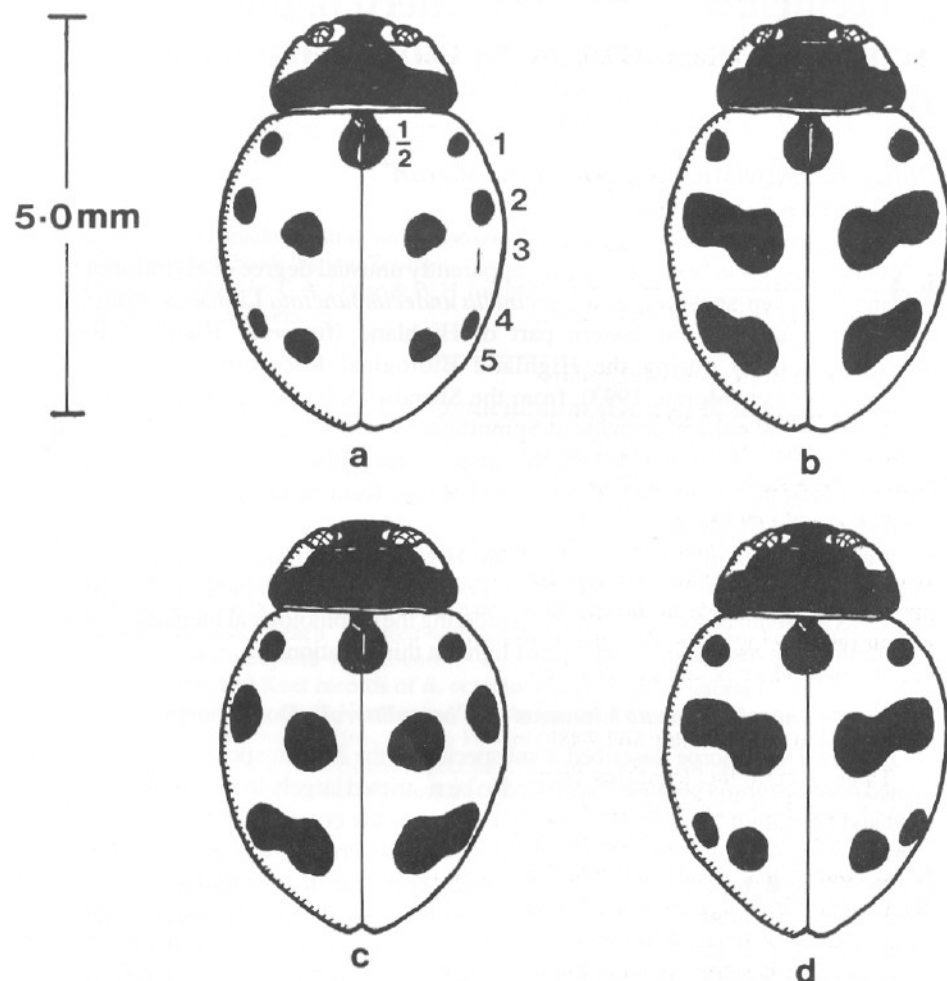


Fig. 1: Eleven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella undecimpunctata* Linnaeus (Coccinellidae) variation. **a**: the type form, spots numbered according to Donisthorpe (1918). **b**: var. *boreolittoralis* Donisthorpe. **c**: a form especially frequent in eastern Highland. **d**: one of the least frequent forms of spot fusion in Scotland.

We have inspected museum specimens of var. *boreolittoralis* from Aberlady (1865, 1866, 1904), Berwick (1898), Campbelltown (1896), Dumfries (1869), Findhorn (1883), Forres (1892, 1910, 1930, 1932, 1935), Inverness (1985), Mellon Udrigle (1986), Monach Is., Inverness-shire (1969), Nairn (1904, 1935), Outer Hebrides (1942), Rannoch (1865), Tiree (1913) and also from the west coast of Ireland in Counties Clare (1959), Galway (1899) and Kerry (1902), plus Co. Down (1964) in the east. In assessing the general distribution of the Eleven-spot Ladybird in the British Isles, Benham and Muggleton (1970), who also considered some specimens we have not yet viewed, stated "Var. *boreolittoralis* Donis. is limited in its distribution. It is recorded from the northern and western coastal localities of Scotland and also from the Irish localities. Donisthorpe (1930) considered this to be the northern subspecies being unaccompanied by typical or other forms in the localities where it occurred." However, this variety has also been found in Iceland (Mason, 1890) and in the Natural History Museum, London, are two specimens from the sandy banks of the R. Tana, near Levajok, Finland.

The position in the east of Highland

The range of spot fusion pattern in specimens recently (post 1991) collected in the east of Highland is more varied than this. It does include var. *boreolittoralis*, but also two other forms with a lesser degree of spot fusion (Figs. 1c and 1d). However, if we look at the totality of the material seen by us in museum collections and more recent acquisitions from Highland, we can see that the Eleven-spot Ladybird in Scotland clearly differs overall from the more southern type form by having larger spots, very usually some broad spot fusion (about 90% of the specimens seen) and probably with a brighter background colour on the wing cases, though it is difficult to be sure of this from museum specimens which tend to lose colour (Tables 1 and 2).

The relationship between the western and eastern populations

Table 1 lists the localities from which, in eastern Highland, specimens of the Eleven-spot Ladybird have recently been obtained and shows the range of variation encountered. It can be seen that more than half the specimens do not conform precisely to *boreolittoralis*. Hence in Table 2 we have compared this population with a western Scottish and Irish agglomerate, the material here being entirely from museums (and all seen by us). However, because the early (1892-1935) Forres and Nairn records obviously fall within the eastern Highland Region, we have added them to that part of Table 2.

Having done this, we can see that the contrast is quite striking. In the eastern population the dominant form has only the hinder spots (4 + 5) united (Fig. 1c) whilst the majority of specimens from the western population conform strictly to var. *boreolittoralis*. If we compare these two populations on the basis of the proportion of individuals with both spot pairs fused with those with only one pair or none fused, the result shows the difference to be highly significant ($\chi^2 = 29.31$, d.f. = 1, $p < 0.001$).

Table 1: Variation in spot fusion in *Coccinella undecimpunctata* in the east of Highland (numbers of individuals).

Locality	Date	Source	Spot fusion category				Totals
			Nil	4+5	2+3	2+3 & 4+5*	
S.E. Sutherland	ix.94-iv.96	PFE	5	30	1	15	51
East Ross	vi.92-vi.96	ME,PFE	2	25	0	9	36
Inverness	vi.85-vi.96	SM,M	3	9	0	3	15
Nairn & Moray	x.95-vii.96	SM,PFE,M	5	14	1	9	29
Totals			15	78	2	36	131

* This is var. *boreolittoralis* Donisthorpe.

Key: PFE - P.F. Entwistle; ME - M.S.C. Elliott; SM - S.A. Moran; M - Museums

Table 2: Spot fusion in two populations of *Coccinella undecimpunctata* in the north of the British Isles: the east Highland area of Scotland and the west coasts of Scotland and Ireland (numbers of individuals).

Area	Spot fusion category				Totals
	Nil	4+5	2+3	2+3 & 4+5*	
E. Highland	15	78	2	36	131
W. coast Scotland & Ireland	0	4	2	26	32
Totals	15	82	4	62	163

* This is var. *boreolittoralis* Donisthorpe.

Discussion

On the basis of the above account we would appear to have two distinctly different populations of the Eleven-spot Ladybird in Scotland. Each shows some variability, but this appears to be much greater in the eastern than in the western group. We considered whether the older museum specimens, which are mostly from the west, had been collected and preserved because they differed from the type form and that type form specimens might not have been retained by collectors because of their commonness. It is well known that earlier collectors often deliberately sought out and prized rare or infrequent insect aberrations. However, consulting the published literature referring to many of the museum specimens we have seen has convinced us that this is not so and that most, if not all, of the material is truly representative of the field situation encountered in the past. For instance, Chitty (1893) wrote of his experiences at Culbin Sands, Morayshire that "The type form did not turn up at all" and Walker (1896) found that at Campbeltown "nearly all the specimens observed have very large confluent black spots, giving them a very different aspect from the southern examples of this abundant species." Donisthorpe himself (1902) quotes a letter from Canon Crutwell who wrote of the situation at Renvyle, Co. Galway: "I searched carefully on two occasions expressly to satisfy myself that the common type was really absent from the locality." Further evidence of similar import is given by Donisthorpe (1918).

The conclusion that we are dealing with two genuinely separate non-intergrading and distinct populations in the north and west of the British Isles should, however, be avoided at present. If we look at the geographical scatter of Scottish Eleven-spot Ladybird localities we see that there are lengthy stretches of coast and many islands yet to be inspected. It would be very strange if some at least did not yield more material, and until we have been able to study material from more localities we will be unable to see our existing data in a convincing perspective.

A working hypothesis at present may be that whilst we are dealing with a population quite distinct from the type, it is itself variable throughout its range with respect to the pattern of spot fusion. (If this hypothesis is eventually validated it will question the existence of *boreolittoralis* as a discrete variety). Such variability may well be in the form of a climatically-based cline of characteristics, such as is well known for many species of animals and plants. It has been suggested that the occurrence of the Eleven-spot Ladybird in the British Isles is associated with areas of low humidity, expressed in terms of the ratio of precipitation, *P*, to the saturation deficit, *SD* (see Perring & Walters (1962) for a map), thus explaining the predominantly coastal distribution in England and also its incursion inland in S.E. England (Benham and Muggleton, 1970). If we pursue this idea we see that whilst the occurrence of the type form is restricted to areas where the *P/SD* ratio is approximately 200 or less, the northern and western populations occur where this ratio is between 300 and 500, that is, in more humid areas. Majerus (1994) (quoting Dobzhansky and Sivertzev-Dobzhansky (1927) and Dobzhansky (1933)) remarked that the Seven-spot Ladybird *C. septempunctata* Linnaeus responds to increasing humidity by larger black

spot size and the Five-spot *C. quinquepunctata* Linnaeus and Adonis' *Adonia variegata* (Goeze) Ladybirds by an increase in numbers of black spots.

Our analysis here indicates that the Eleven-spot Ladybird is darker (more spot fusion) in the west than in the east in Scotland: this may reflect the greater humidity in the west compared with lower levels in the east. Solar radiation is filtered out by water vapour but this can be compensated for by an increase in the black, absorptive, area in ladybirds and so permitting them to warm up and become active despite lower levels of incident radiation. Increased cloud levels in the west may also be a factor. As Majerus (1994) remarked, this type of variation is likely to be under polygenic control.

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Appendix

Many aberrations of *C. undecimpunctata* have been described (see especially Donisthorpe (1918)) and it is worth summarising the nomenclatural history of those relevant to the present study. In Table 3 we consider those found in populations of the type form and apparently fundamentally similar variants in the northern populations. An essential difference is that whereas in type populations variants are generally very infrequent (though Leman (1919) found ab. *confluens* Haworth "present in considerable numbers" in the Putney district of London), in northern populations, as shown above, they are almost the rule. The exception to this is fusion solely of spots 2 and 3, which is rare in both type and northern populations. It is possible that for both populations the name ab. *confluens* Haworth, 1812, may be applicable, but judgement should be suspended until more is known about the nature of genetic control.

Table 3: The historical nomenclature of the spot-fusion categories in *Coccinella undecimpunctata* referred to in this study.

Category	Type populations	Northern populations
2+3	ab. <i>confluens</i> Haworth, 1812 v. <i>longula</i> Weise, 1879	Not named but Donisthorpe (1918) recognised it, among Chitty's Morayshire series, as similar to <i>confluens</i> Haw.
4+5	ab. <i>tamaricis</i> Weise, 1879	Possibly but not certainly included by Donisthorpe in his var. <i>boreolittoralis</i> ¹
2+3 & 4+5	type 'G' of Mulsant, 1846 v. <i>brevifasciata</i> Weise, 1879 ab. <i>brevifasciata</i> Weise, 1885 ²	var. <i>confluens</i> Donisthorpe, 1902 (sunk by Donisthorpe in 1918 as preoccupied by <i>confluens</i> Haw.) ssp. <i>boreolittoralis</i> Donisthorpe, 1918 var. <i>boreolittoralis</i> Donisthorpe, 1930 ssp. <i>boreolittoralis</i> Donisthorpe (in Mader, 1926-1937 [1931] and Iablokoff-Knzorian, 1982)

¹ Apparently unknown to Donisthorpe, W.E. Sharp had collected a specimen of this variant at Rannoch in 1865 and Col. Yerbury took one at Nairn in 1904 (both are now in the Natural History Museum, London).

² Ab. *brevifasciata* Weise, 1885 appears to incorporate *tamaricis* Weise, 1879 and *longula* Weise, 1879, a fact noted by Fowler & Donisthorpe (1913) who observed that it "appears to include three different forms" including the original *confluens* of Donisthorpe, 1902. Donisthorpe (1918) considered *brevifasciata* Weise to be an aberration of the type form. Mader (1926-1937) resurrects Weise's three 1879 names for aberrations of the type populations.

A second Irish locality for *Agonum livens* (Gyllenhal) (Carabidae)

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Garryland Wood north of Gort, south-east Galway, was the first known Irish locality for *Agonum livens* (Gyllenhal) (Speight, 1976). It occurs sporadically in muddy pasture on the periphery of swallow-holes and temporary lake waters. The area is a maze of inlets from Coole Lough into rugged limestone pavement capped by mature broad-leaved woods, and it has been seen there on several occasions since 1976.

On 5th May 1996, investigation of a small turlough on limestone pavement south of Mullaghmore Mountain, Co. Clare, revealed a large colony of this species. The site has no name but lies in the townland of Coolreash and will be referred to as Coolreash Turlough (R 314944). Examination of this site on 13th August 1995 produced specimens of an equally rare Irish carabid, *Acupalpus consputus* (Duftschmid) with which *A. livens* is found at Garryland Wood, but there was no sign of *A. livens* itself. This may have been due to the lateness of the date. On the present occasion *A. livens* was abundant at Coolreash, either running in warm sun among sparse vegetation or under limestones on silty mud at the margin of a shrinking swallow-hole. The turlough, though small, appears to suffer little if any grazing pressure, which may contribute to the richness of the fauna.

Agabus labiatus (Brahm) (Dytiscidae) is common both here and at the nearby, better-known Knockaunroe Turlough.

Reference

SPEIGHT, M.C.D. 1976. *Agonum livens*, *Asemum striatum* and *Xylota coeruleiventris*: insects new to Ireland. *Ir. Nat. J.* 18: 274-275.

Ptinus sexpunctatus Panzer (Ptinidae) new to North Wales

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In June 1996 several small ptinid beetles were brought to me for identification and the conspicuous white patches on the black elytra left no doubt that these were *Ptinus sexpunctatus*. They were appearing in a house at Bodorgan, Anglesey (SH 424715), 20 or more being found daily during the first two weeks of June, with numbers decreasing in the third week. The occupier, Mrs. M. Breese, said that she had found them "on the floor, on walls and windowsills, even in the bread bin". She had been unable to trace the source, but mentioned that it was an old house with a bricked-up doorway at one end of the building, behind which bees were nesting.

Hyman (1992) gives nests of bees, as well as a possible association with old wood, as the likely habitat. He lists the species as Notable B and records it as widespread but local in England and also recorded from S.E. Scotland, but not as occurring in Wales. I am unaware of any records of the species in North Wales.

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.

Rearing the Glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* Linnaeus (Lampyridae)

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Introduction

In contrast to the adult female Glow-worm the larval stage has been poorly studied, despite the fact that it constitutes some 90% of the lifespan. To date there has been just one recorded instance of larvae being reared from egg to adult (Wootton, 1976), so in 1994 I attempted to follow the development of captive larvae, primarily to determine the number of instars.

Method

Several mating pairs were collected and kept in sealed square plastic sandwich boxes, 15 cm square and 4 cm deep and lined with moist blotting paper, until they had finished laying eggs. The adults were then removed and the eggs left to hatch (this normally takes a month or so).

Fifty newly hatched larvae were transferred to individual petri dishes, 90 mm in diameter and 15 mm deep, and stocked with snails. I have found petri dishes to be preferable to completely sealed containers for this purpose as the gradual drying out of the blotting paper seems to reduce the risk of mould, although it does mean that care has to be taken not to allow the paper to dry out altogether. The dishes were kept in an unheated room away from direct sunlight. In previous attempts to rear larvae I had tried to make their conditions as natural as possible, either by feeding the snails on cut plant material or by keeping them in sleeves on growing plants. Neither approach had been very successful: the plant material usually developed mould, while in the sleeves it was difficult to keep track of either the snails or the larvae. So this time I used a more artificial but much simpler arrangement, replacing the plants with moist blotting paper, on which the snails fed quite readily.

Although Glow-worm larvae seem prepared to eat whatever snails are offered to them (Tyler, 1994), some species are more convenient than others to keep. *Cepaea hortensis* (Müller) for example is often able to escape the larvae by retreating to the roof of the dish, or by sealing the mouth of its shell with dried mucus. It also has a habit of eating shed Glow-worm skins, a fact which thwarted a previous attempt to determine the number of instars, as several moults went unnoticed. The most obliging snails I have found so far have been *Oxychilus* species: they are an ideal size for most larvae, they rarely eat shed skins or seal themselves away, and their translucent shells make it easy to tell when one has been eaten, or to spot a larva hiding inside. They are also reasonably abundant on many sites, an important consideration given that a typical larva can kill over seventy

snails during its lifetime. The larvae were not at all put off by the strong garlic smell of *O. alliarius* (Miller). I avoided using slugs, even though larvae will feed on them as readily as snails, because without a shell to contain them they offer a very messy meal and make it difficult to keep the dish clean.

The petri dishes were cleaned every week or so (less often during the winter), fresh blotting paper put in and any dead snails replaced with fresh ones. In order to tell whether a larva had moulted since the previous inspection (even if the skin had been eaten by snails) I marked the pronotum of each one. I had already tried a variety of markers: enamel paint takes too long to dry and can easily become smeared over the larva's head, whereas nail varnish, acrylic paint and correcting fluid do not adhere well to the cuticle and soon rub off. I finally settled on 'Superglue' adhesive, which dries rapidly, bonds well and does not appear to harm the larva or interfere with its moulting (though the larvae did seem to be able to detect the vapours given off by the glue, often withdrawing their heads into the pronotum as soon as it came within about a centimetre of them). As an indication of size I also measured the width of each larva's pronotum, to the nearest 0.1 mm, with vernier callipers (this gives a far more consistent measure than body length, which can vary enormously as the larva moves).

Results and discussion

The development of the larvae is summarised in Fig. 1, which shows the number of larvae in each instar at each inspection. From the 50 larvae which hatched in the autumn of 1994, 13 (26%) survived to become adults during the summer of 1996. Of these nine were female and four were male.

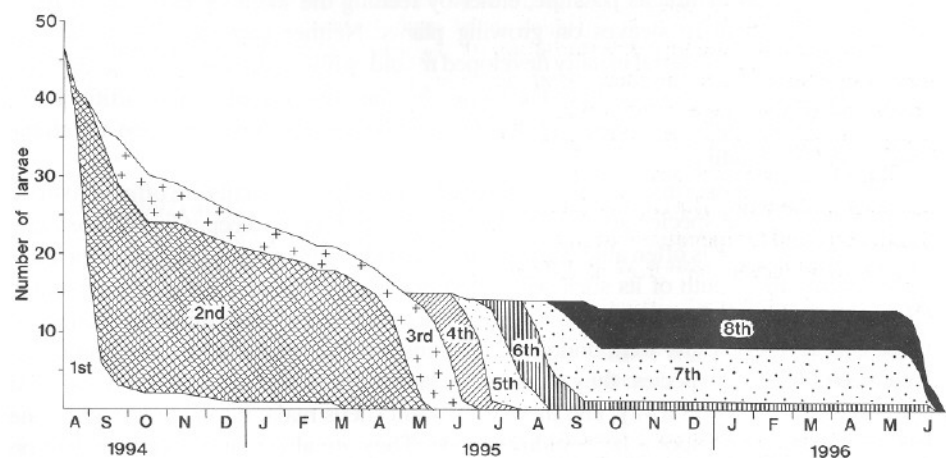


Fig. 1: Number of larvae in each instar, from hatching to pupation

It is clear from the total number of larvae (the upper line on the graph) that the majority of deaths occurred in the early stages, prior to about May of the second year. Of the 31 larvae for which the instar at death is known (the remainder either survived right through to pupation or were lost during handling), 27 (87%) died within their first two instars. Thus it seems that, at least in captivity, if a larva can survive these first two instars it has an extremely good chance of making it all the way to adulthood. The reason for this high initial mortality is unknown: several of the dead larvae were covered with fungal hyphae, but this infection may have come after death rather than causing it.

The bulk of the larval growth, as indicated by the number of moulting larvae, was condensed into a relatively short period during the second summer, after which most of the larvae did not need to moult again before pupating about nine months later. Both winters were spent in a completely dormant state, in which the larvae neither fed nor moulted, and rarely moved. There was no further mortality during pupation.

The results of the study were somewhat ambiguous when it came to determining the number of instars. Of the four males which survived to become adults, three appear to have gone through seven instars and one through six, whereas of the nine females six apparently had eight instars and three had seven. It is possible that mistakes were made, for example if a larva went through two moults between inspections but only one was counted, but it seems more likely that this variability in the number of instars is indeed genuine. What does seem to be true is that the female Glow-worm undergoes more moults than the male, which is perhaps not surprising in view of the difference in their adult size.

For any one larva, the pronotal width remained remarkably constant during each instar, and given more data it could serve as a useful way of determining the instar of larvae in the field, at least during the early stages. As a rough approximation it seems that a larva with a pronotal width of less than 1.1 mm is likely to be in its first instar, whereas a value of 1.1 to 1.4 mm indicates a second instar larva and 1.5 to 1.9 mm a third instar. Beyond this the increasing size difference between males and females results in a growing overlap between instars, making determination more and more difficult. However, from measurements of large numbers of larvae collected from the wild it appears that, at the upper end of the range, a larva with a pronotal width in excess of 3.5 mm will almost invariably prove to be a final instar female.

It is of course necessary to exercise caution in extrapolating from these results to what happens in the wild. The captive larvae were largely protected from predators, parasites, desiccation and temperature extremes, and were never more than a few centimetres from a meal. Wild larvae may grow at different rates and moult at different times, with some perhaps extending their lifespan into an extra year. More studies are now needed of the non-luminous parts of the Glow-worm's life, both in captivity and in the wild.

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Trichius zonatus Germar (Scarabaeidae) in south-east London

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On 15th July 1996, whilst watching bumblebees visit the bramble *Rubus fruticosus* aggl. blossom in Dacres Wood, a small local nature reserve in Lewisham, south-east London, I saw one smaller and browner than the others with a more active bobbing flight. In the net it proved to be a *Trichius* Fabricius, later determined as a male *T. zonatus*. Despite several return visits to the wood over the ensuing weeks, no further specimens were seen.

Dacres Wood is the remains of a large Victorian garden abutting a railway line, and many of the older trees are Turkey Oaks *Quercus cerris*, but there are several large fallen logs, including a giant mouldering beech *Fagus* trunk lying just where the *Trichius* was flying. The small wood is surrounded by houses and flats, and the beetle could quite easily have been accidentally brought to the area by human agency; however the presence of so much rotten wood and mould suggests more than a possibility that it was breeding there. Many other saprophagous beetles occur in the Wood, including *Lucanus cervus* (Linnaeus), *Dorcus parallelipipedus* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae), *Diplocoelus fagi* Guérin-Méneville, *Biphylus lunatus* (Fabricius) (Biphylidae), *Synchita separanda* (Reitter), *Cicones undatus* Guérin-Méneville (Colydiidae), *Anommatus duodecimstriatus* (Müller, P.W.J.) (Cerylonidae), *Enicmus brevicornis* (Mannerheim) (Lathridiidae) and *Rhyncholus lignarius* (Marsham) (Curculionidae).

The last recorded captures of this beetle are from Tilbury, Essex in 1938; Sheppey, Kent in 1946 (Edelsten, 1946); and from Buckinghamshire in 1947 (Talbot, 1947) and 1959 (Streeter, 1959, 1961). On each occasion, the brief report of the beetle's discovery was tempered with a certain amount of doubt as to where it had come from — save perhaps the last Buckinghamshire record which was from a perfectly natural and eminently suitable locality. Tilbury and Sheppey are both sea ports, but they are less than 20 miles apart and since Edelsten (1946) found three specimens in the Essex locality, he suggested that there may have been a breeding colony somewhere in the area. Talbot (1947), in reporting a specimen from a Buckinghamshire garden, commented on the fact that the finder had returned from a holiday in France two weeks before, throwing some doubt on the origin of the specimen. However Buckinghamshire was also the site for the next specimen to be found some 12 years later (Streeter, 1959, 1961).

Allen (1967) considered the sporadic appearance of *T. zonatus* and concluded that although some individuals may have been introductions, there was sufficient evidence to suggest it was worthy of a place on the British List. He was unsure of its exact status and the beetle remains an enigma: it is not included in the *British Red Data Book* (Shirt, 1987) or the recent Coleoptera review (Hyman, 1992), however it was included by Hyman (1986) in his 'List 2' of "non-established immigrant species and species of doubtful occurrence or status".

Unfortunately, the discovery of only a single specimen in suburban Lewisham makes the picture no clearer, except to indicate that the beetle continues to turn up at irregular and long intervals and that, for the time being, its status must remain doubtful.

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Harpalus obscurus (Fabricius) (Carabidae) - more Northamptonshire records

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Harpalus obscurus would appear to have an affinity for worked-out oolitic limestone quarries. At least that is my experience and it appears to be borne out by the recent note in this journal (Phillips & Evans, 1996) which recorded the species from Geeston Quarry, Rutland, in September 1988 and June 1995.

I have five specimens of *H. obscurus* in my collection: two were found by myself and three by the late J.W. Turner, with whom I collected regularly for about 40 years. Turner's earliest record of *H. obscurus* is of a specimen taken on 3rd June 1956 in an old limestone quarry alongside Bedford Purlieu Wood, near Wansford, Northamptonshire (TL 0499). On 9th September 1956 we visited another disused limestone quarry nearer to Wansford but still in Northamptonshire (TL 062992), where Turner collected two *H. obscurus* and I took one. At the same time we found *Licinus punctatulus* (Fabricius) in considerable numbers, a single *Harpalus punctatulus* (Duftschmid) and several *H. azureus* (Fabricius) (all Carabidae). This second site has since been filled in and is now used for sheep and cattle grazing.

I did not encounter the species again until 29th April 1984, when I found a single female under a stone in a disused limestone quarry near Old Sulehay Forest, Northamptonshire (TL 0598). This would seem to indicate that the species had maintained a low population level for almost 30 years and may well still be present, albeit in small numbers, in those disused quarries that still remain. These quarry sites in northern Northamptonshire are some 30 miles from Althorp Quarry, where *H. obscurus* was taken by S.O. Taylor in May 1946 (Phillips & Evans, 1996).

Twinn (1952) records that on 5th June 1951 he took a specimen of *H. obscurus* on the Roman Road, Gog Magog Hills, Cambridgeshire and he also mentions another post-1930 Cambridgeshire record but no further details are given. The Gog Magog Hills are some 40 miles from the Wansford Quarries and are separated from them by open and intensively farmed arable fenland.

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Elodes tricuspis Nyholm (Scirtidae) in West Sussex

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This beetle (formerly *Elodes elongata* Tournier) is by far the rarest of the four closely similar species belonging to the '*Elodes minuta* group' that occur in the British Isles (Hodge & Jones, 1995; Klausnitzer, 1992). According to Hyman (1992) it is currently known from only two specimens, one from Windsor before 1970 and one found beside a pond in Brampton Bryan Park, Herefordshire, on 19th June 1981 (Drane, 1990).

On 6th June 1996 a clump of Hemlock Water Dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*, growing in a shaded stream flowing from an ornamental lake in Parham Park, West Sussex (TQ 0514), was shaken over the net and a single specimen of an *Elodes* Latreille was tubed and taken for critical examination. Once dissected the specimen was easily determined as a male *E. tricuspis*. On 27th June 1996 the site was revisited with John and Doreen Owen. Several *Elodes* were beaten from the foliage of trees and bushes overhanging the stream and although all my males proved to be *E. minuta* (Linnaeus), Prof. Owen found four males of *E. tricuspis* amongst his sample.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Mr Richard Edwards who kindly allowed me to study insects in Parham Park and to Prof. John Owen for allowing me to publish his record and for providing transport to Parham Park on 27th June.

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Chrysolina marginata (Linnaeus) (Chrysomelidae) new for Hampshire

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Comparison of the number of pre- and post-1970 vice-county records would appear to indicate that this elusive species may have undergone a genuine decline. Hyman (1992) lists the species as Notable A, with only six, albeit widespread, post-1970 vice-county records.

I found a single dead specimen on sandy ground amongst Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* in Oakhanger village, North Hampshire (SU 7536) on 7th June 1996. The specimen was intact and presumably recently dead. This is not only the first record for Hampshire but the first post-1970 record for England south of Suffolk.

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Dr Mike Cox for confirming the identification of this specimen, and providing information on county records.

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Initiative for Scottish Insects - Coleoptera: corrigenda

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A few years ago I published (Sinclair, 1993) a tentative list of Scottish beetle species not known to breed in England or Wales. As a result of that publication, some readers have sent information that enables me now to make some comments on, and deletions from, that list.

Mr L. Jessop pointed out that *Oxypoda islandica* Kraatz and *Bryoporus rugipennis* Pandellé (Staphylinidae) have been recorded from the North Pennines in Westmorland, VC 69 (Bauer, 1989), and must therefore be deleted from the list. *Cryptophagus badius* Sturm (Cryptophagidae) was reported from Spurn, Yorkshire (Hincks, 1952), but the specimen was in fact *C. postpositus* Sahlberg (Denton, 1995). Mr L. Jessop (*in litt.*) has asked me to put on record that the *C. badius* reported from VC 66, Co. Durham (Jessop & Hammond, 1993) was *C. pilosus* Gyllenhal. *C. badius* must therefore remain on the list.

Dr K.N.A. Alexander wrote to draw my attention to English records of *Salpingus ater* (Paykull) (Salpingidae), a species which - with its congener *S. reyi* (Abeille) - is associated with burnt wood. Until Blair (1947) clarified the matter there was much confusion between the two species and unsupported records previous to this date cannot be accepted. Aubrook (1967) reported *S. reyi* from Askham Bog, Yorkshire, but there is some confusion about this record as it appears in the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union database as *S. ater* and this may have been published elsewhere; Mr Denton (*in litt.*) has examined this specimen and determined it as *S. reyi*. Another specimen of *S. ater* from the Spurn peninsula, Yorkshire (Hincks & Shaw, 1954) has also been shown to be *S. reyi* (Denton, 1995). However, there are authentic records of *S. ater* from England and Wales. Mr Denton (*in litt.*) has a recent specimen from Deganwy, N. Wales, and Allen (1989) reported a P. Harwood specimen of 1926 from S. Wales. Parsons (1987) included a record of *S. ater* by Mr T. Eccles from Stockton's Wood, Speke Hall, S. Lancashire (VC 59); Mr Eccles (*pers. comm.*) found four of the beetles in ash *Fraxinus* trees that were fermenting after having been burnt.

Prof. J.A. Owen has brought to my attention a record from Scotland of *Othius lapidicola* Kiesenwetter (Staphylinidae) (Skidmore, 1988); this species ought to have been included in the original list. He also pointed out a lapse on my part in attributing *Oreodytes alpinus* to (Fabricius) and not to (Paykull), as is correct.

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful for the trouble taken on my behalf by the people mentioned above in bringing the records to my attention, supplying photocopies and allowing me to use unpublished records. Please note that the contact for the Coleoptera section of the Initiative for Scottish Insects is now Mrs Shona Blake (1 Pirnie Cottages, Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 8NS).

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Simplocaria maculosa Erichson (Byrrhidae) in S. Scotland and Herefordshire

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When identifying beetles caught in pitfall traps by the River Tweed, as part of the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)-funded survey of Scottish rivers (see *Coleopterist* 5(2): 61), five specimens of *Simplocaria* Stephens were found that differed in several respects from typical *S. semistriata* (Fabricius). Reference to Hodge & Jones (1995) led to the note by Johnson (1966) in which *S. maculosa* is distinguished from *S. semistriata* by features of the pronotal microsculpture, antennae, surface pubescence and aedeagus. It was evident from the aedeagus that the Tweed specimens were *S. maculosa*, despite some variation in the first two of the above characters. This identification was kindly confirmed by Colin Johnson at Manchester Museum. In particular, the surface pubescence is shorter and less out-standing than in *S. semistriata*, and the elytra have a more spotted or mottled appearance.

The two SNH survey sites at which *S. maculosa* occurred were: firstly, just upstream from the confluence of the R. Tweed and Ettrick Water (NT 4932), one example; secondly, near Mertoun (NT 6231), five examples. In both cases the river forms the boundary between VC 80 and the neighbouring VCs 79 and 81 respectively, but the specimens were found on the VC 80 (Roxburgh) side. All were collected on 5th August 1996, but could have been trapped any time during the previous three weeks. The habitat in both localities was well-vegetated sand and/or silt, above any shingle zone.

In a second, privately-commissioned survey of the island of Kelso Anna (VC 80; NT 7233/7234) in the R. Tweed at Kelso, a further five examples of *S. maculosa* occurred: single individuals in pitfall traps on 17th June and 12th August 1996, and three in a yellow pan trap on the latter date. Again, all the micro-sites were well vegetated, with a fine, damp substrate, sometimes winter-flooded.

Prior to these specimens, there have been only two published records of *S. maculosa* in Britain (Johnson, 1978), from the R. Ouse, Yorkshire, in 1956, and Bewdley, Worcestershire, in the last century. Colin Johnson has kindly allowed us to give details of a further, previously unpublished finding of a single example from Wye Flood, Ross (presumably Herefordshire), 23rd April 1946, coll. R.W. Lloyd, det. C. Johnson. The fact that *S. maculosa* has been found in three widely separated localities on the Tweed suggests that it may be more widespread, at least in the north, and should be looked for in sandy and silty shaded riverside habitats. Its occurrence in pan traps designed to catch flying insects also indicates that it may disperse readily.

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Olisthopus rotundatus (Paykull) (Carabidae) with abnormal elytra

Dr J. S. Denton

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I found 12 specimens of this common carabid under stones beside a shallow pond in Wrecclesham Sand Pit, Surrey (SU 8144) on 12.viii.1996. Four of the beetles had obvious elytral deformities. The most severely malformed specimen (Fig. 1) had no wings and very stunted elytra. The others had full-length elytra but with various large crease-like depressions. On one specimen, two depressions ran across the suture to give the elytra a corrugated appearance. The others had large depressions on only one elytron.

The causes of such deformities remain unknown, but may relate to problems during pupation and/or metamorphosis. I have occasionally encountered teneral Dytiscidae which have not metamorphosed properly, and these are often unable to dive and rarely survive.

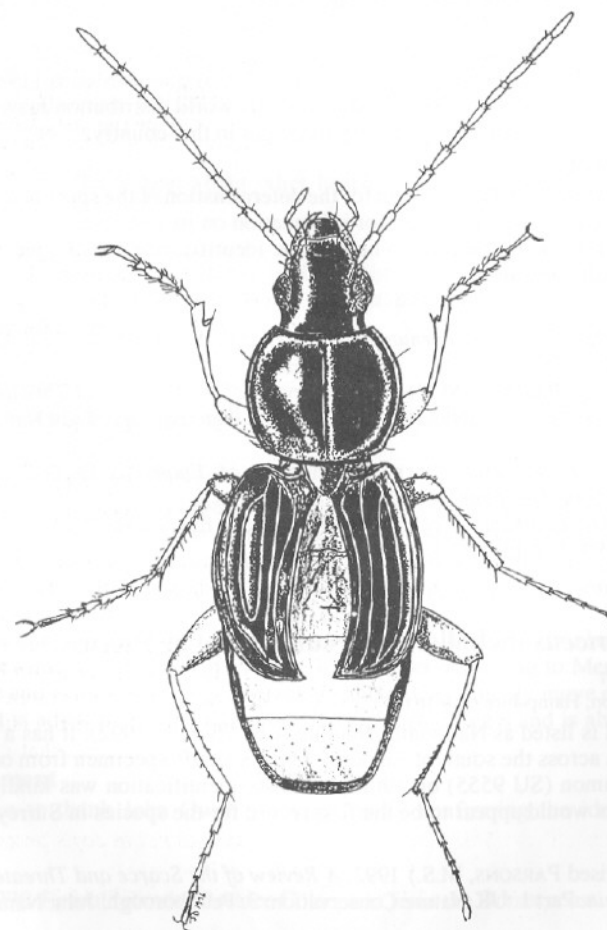


Fig. 1: *Olisthopus rotundatus* Paykull (Carabidae) showing elytral abnormalities. J. S. Denton

Epiphanis cornutus Eschscholtz (Eucnemidae) discovered in Scotland

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On 12th August 1996, I was searching the dead wood in the Upper Nethan Valley (NS 804446), Lanark (VC 77), part of the Clyde Valley ancient woodlands in Clydesdale, Scotland. Peeling away some bark on a standing oak *Quercus* tree, I found what appeared to be a click beetle (Elaterridae) that I did not recognise. Realising at home that I had not previously encountered the species, I sent it to Magnus Sinclair who had it determined by Prof. J.A. Owen as *Epiphanis cornutus*. Mr Howard Mendel confirmed that this is the first record for Scotland.

In the past it has been recorded from the following vice-counties: Surrey (17), Berks. (22), Oxford. (23), Bucks. (24), W. Norfolk (28), E. Glos. (33), W. Glos. (34) and Worcs. (37) (Hyman, 1992). This record therefore extends the distribution of this species dramatically.

There are several possible reasons for the occurrence of this species in the Clyde Valley. The species may have spread from England, and this record could indicate that the insect is successfully establishing itself. Alternatively, the specimen could be the result of a recent introduction from North America. However, Allen (1993) quotes Muona (1983) as believing that *E. cornutus* may be native to Britain and while its world distribution may make this seem unlikely, further records may help to clarify its origin in this country.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Prof. J.A. Owen for the determination of the specimen and Mr Howard Mendel, national click beetle recorder, for information on its distribution. A special thanks to Magnus Sinclair for taking the time to help in the identification of the specimen and for his help in proof-reading this note.

References

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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.
- MUONA, J. 1983. *Ceratotaxia* Sharp, a synonym of *Epiphanis* Eschscholtz (Coleoptera, Eucnemidae). *Ann. Ent. Fenn.* 49: 61-62.
- SKIDMORE, P. 1966. *Epiphanis cornutus* Eschsch. (Col.: Eucnemidae) new to the British List. *Entomologist* 99: 137-139.

Polydrusus sericeus (Schaller) (Curculionidae) in Surrey

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This local weevil is listed as Nationally Notable A by Hyman (1992). It has a widespread but local distribution across the south of England. I beat a single specimen from oaks *Quercus* on Brookwood Common (SU 9555) on 19th June 1996; identification was kindly confirmed by Peter Hodge. This would appear to be the first record for the species in Surrey.

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.

Cryptocephalus fulvus Goeze (Chrysomelidae) associated with Sheep's Sorrel

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This common beetle is not listed as being associated with any particular plant species by Bullock (1992). However, my observations on heathland indicate a clear association with Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*. Indeed, the beetle's coloration blends well with the reddish stems and seed-heads of this plant. My records of this species are largely confined to this habitat despite extensive searches of many other ecotypes in southern England:

Malling Down, E. Sussex (TQ 4311)	swept off chalk grassland	17.vii.1994
Vitover, Dorset (SZ 9886)	swept off <i>Rumex acetosella</i>	22.vi.1995
Chobham Common, Surrey (SU 9764)	- " -	30.vi.1995
Albury Heath, Surrey (TQ 0646)	- " -	12.vi.1996
Blackheath, Surrey (TQ 0446)	- " -	12.vi.1996
Shortheath, Hampshire (SU 7736)	- " -	15.vi - 26.vii.1996
The Slab, Oakhanger, Hampshire (SU 7823)	- " -	24.vii.1996
Woolmer Forest, Hampshire (SU 7932)	- " -	1994 - 1996

I would be interested to hear about other host-plant associations, for instance are other small *Rumex* species utilised?

Reference

- BULLOCK, J.A. 1992. Host plants of British beetles: a list of recorded associations. Supplement to J. Cooter (ed.) 1991. *The Coleopterist's Handbook* (3rd edition). Feltham: Amateur Entomologist's Society.

Records of two click beetles (Elaterridae) from Dorset

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Further to the note by Denton (1996) reporting *Agriotes sordidus* (Illiger) from the Dorset coast, I would like to record that on 14.vi.1992 I swept a specimen of this beetle from mixed herbage by the track on the Old Charmouth Road, The Spittles, Lyme Regis, just inside Dorset (SY 39). Denton records it from Seaton, Dorset, but judging by the map reference he gives this should be Seaton, Dorset.

Another elaterrid I have swept from the same place that is worth recording is *Athous campyloides* Newman taken on 29.iii.1987, new to Dorset according to Mendel (1990). This area is unstable and is now beginning to crack up and will eventually move down towards the sea, I expect. It is adjacent to the eastern outskirts of Lyme Regis and is about 150 m above sea level.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank John Owen for very kindly confirming the identity of the two specimens.

Reference

- DENTON, J.S. 1996. Recent records of scarce Coleoptera from the Dorset coast. *Coleopterist* 4(3): 89.
- MENDEL, H. 1990. *Provisional Atlas of the Click Beetles (Coleoptera: Elaterridae) of the British Isles*. Huntingdon: Institute of Terrestrial Ecology.

Langelandia anophthalma Aubé (Colydiidae) in Middlesex

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I found a single specimen of this blind subterranean species (Fig. 1) at Bittacy Hill Gas Works (TQ 239914) on 23.ix.1996. The beetle was partly encrusted with dirt, especially on the elytra. It was found beneath moss *Hypnum cupressiforme* Hedw. covering a low bank of rubble and soil (created c. 1980) and planted with various 'amenity' trees. The site was fairly typical of waste ground in Greater London.

The few previous records indicate a widespread southern distribution, and its occurrence at such an unexceptional site suggests that its apparent rarity may be largely due to under-recording.

This is the first record for VC 21 and only the fifth modern vice-county record for this Red Data Book category 3 ('Rare') species and the first from north of the R. Thames. Unfortunately the site is shortly to be developed. Other species found in the moss included *Metopsia retusa* (Stephens) (Staphylinidae) and *Trixagus obtusus* (Curtis) (Throscidae). *Adonia variegata* (Goeze) (Coccinellidae) (Notable B) was also abundant on the site.

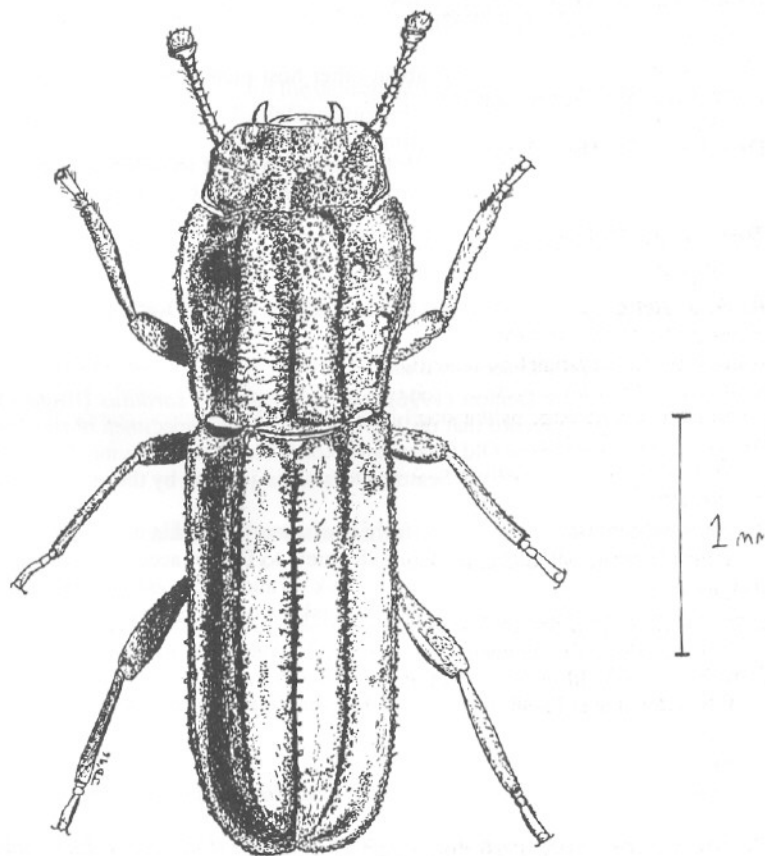


Fig. 1: *Langelandia anophthalma* Aubé (Colydiidae). J. S. Denton

Aphthona euphorbiae (Schrank) (Chrysomelidae) in Cumbria

R. W. J. Read

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On 6th August 1994, while searching for Coleoptera on South Head, Saint Bees, in West Cumbria (NX 953118), I found one specimen of *Aphthona euphorbiae* (Schrank). The beetle was taken by grubbing at the base of low-growing herbage on a steep, south-facing cliff bank just below the public footpath.

This would appear to be a new record of this chrysomelid from Cumbria and the first for vice-county 70. *A. euphorbiae* was not recorded from the county by Day (1923) 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.

Altogether four species of *Aphthona* Dejean have now been recorded from Cumbria, the others being *A. nonstriata* (Goeze), *A. atrocaerulea* (Stephens) and *A. melancholica* Weise. The last two species were recently recorded from the county by Atty (1996).

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mike Cox for kindly identifying my specimen of *A. euphorbiae*, and Stephen Hewitt, Keeper of Natural Sciences, Carlisle Museum, for allowing me access to the Museum's collections of Coleoptera.

References

- ATTY, D.B. 1996. Some notable beetles (Coleoptera) in Cumbria. *Entomologist's Rec. & J. Var.* 108: 27-36.
DAY, F.H. 1923. The Coleoptera of Cumberland. Part 3. *Trans. Carlisle Nat. Hist. Soc.* 3: 70-106.

Record of *Oulema rufocyanea* (Suffrian) (Chrysomelidae) from the Isle of Wight

R. W. J. Read

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Among some chrysomelids recently determined for me by Dr M.L. Cox was one female specimen of *Oulema rufocyanea* (Suffrian). The beetle was found on 24th July 1976 and was swept from low herbage by the side of a cliff-top footpath at Binnel Point, near St. Lawrence, Isle of Wight (SZ 5276).

O. rufocyanea was separated from *O. melanopus* (Linnaeus) by Berti (1989), and recently by Cox (1995).

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Mike Cox for kindly identifying my specimen of *O. rufocyanea*.

References

- BERTI, N. 1989. Contribution à la Faune de France. L'identité d'*Oulema* (*O.*) *melanopus* (L.) (Col. Chrysomelidae Criocerinae). *Bull. Soc. Ent. Fr.* 94: 45-57.
COX, M.L. 1995. Identification of the *Oulema* 'melanopus' species group (Chrysomelidae). *Coleopterist* 4(2):33-36.

Correction

The cover of the August 1996 Vol. 5, part 2, issue should have been credited to D. Copestake. My sincere apologies (Ed.).

Oedemera virescens (Linnaeus) (Oedemeridae) in Scotland and North-east Yorkshire

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On 4th July 1995 Roy Crossley and I noted an *Oedemera* Olivier species which was present in some numbers visiting dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg. on a roadside verge at Glenbuck Loch, Ayrshire (NS 7528). The beetles were a little larger than *O. lurida* (Marsham) and sage green; the males had distinctly enlarged hind femora, but were clearly not *O. nobilis* (Scopoli) because the enlargement of the hind femora was far less pronounced and the lustre of the insect was dull rather than shiny. They were therefore tentatively recorded as *O. virescens* (Linnaeus) and two males and a female were retained for further examination. Later that same day I took a further two males and a female of this species from Whiteside on the River Netham (NS 798369). The two sites were remarkably unspectacular, the former being a roadside verge adjacent to a small loch surrounded by mature trees and scrub, the latter was a wooded river valley. Both sites were at an altitude of 600-1000 feet. The specimens were subsequently shown to Dr Roger Key who passed them to Dr Peter Skidmore who confirmed them as *O. virescens*.

The recorded distribution of *O. virescens* is restricted to Gloucestershire, Norfolk and East Yorkshire (Hyman, 1992) and thus a considerable northerly extension to the range of this species is indicated by these records. It would seem unlikely that this represents a recent expansion of range as a specimen of this species was taken in a neglected pasture by a river in the Forest of Ae, Dumfriesshire, in 1992/93 (R. Crossley, pers. comm.). Currently *O. virescens* is listed as Vulnerable (RDB2) by Hyman (loc. cit.), but clearly further survey in south-west Scotland may reveal additional localities and greater confidence in the future survival of the species.

Until now, the known stronghold for *O. virescens* was North-east Yorkshire, in the vicinity of Duncombe Park. It is therefore less surprising to report a further record of this species from Farndale (SE 6795) on 18th July 1996, where I took a single male at Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* in a wet meadow adjacent to a stream fringed by Alders *Alnus*; again the altitude was below 1000 feet.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Drs Roger Key and Peter Skidmore for examining and confirming the identification of this beetle. I would also like to thank Roy Crossley for his report of finding this species previously in Scotland.

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.

'Biographical Dictionary' Notice

Many subscribers to *The Coleopterist* have been receiving pages from Michael Darby's *A Biographical Dictionary of British Coleopterists*.

We are planning to increase our print run from 75 to 100 and are therefore inviting those who currently don't subscribe, but would like to receive future instalments starting from page 332, to apply for placement on the mailing list. An invoice will be sent with each batch of pages, which are sent at irregular intervals. The price may vary but is approximately equal to production costs plus postage and packing (typically 5-6p per A4 page).

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write as soon as possible to the Hon. Treasurer P.J. Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex BN8 5HJ.

Lamprinodes saginatus (Gravenhorst) (Staphylinidae) in South Yorkshire

John D. Coldwell

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Whilst sieving moss (*Pseudoscleropodium purum* (Hedw.) Fleisch.) from a small south-facing clearing near Blacker Dam, Silkstone, South Yorkshire (SE 287046) in early March 1996, in search of *Tachyporus* Gravenhorst species (Staphylinidae), I was pleased to discover a single example of the scarce (Whitehead, 1991) myrmecophilous staphylinid *Lamprinodes saginatus*. Subsequent visits to this site - which apart from invading scrub consists mainly of bare clay patches and the aforementioned moss - showed *L. saginatus* to be well established. The superficially similar *Tachyporus chrysomelinus* (Linnaeus) was also present but the two could be readily distinguished in the field after a little practice. The ant with which *L. saginatus* is presumed to associate at this site is *Myrmica ruginodis* Nylander, which can be disconcertingly abundant from a moss-siever's point of view! A few weeks later a single specimen (a more usual circumstance) of *L. saginatus* was sieved from a grass tussock at Gypsy Marsh, a wetland reserve with relict lowland heath, a few miles east of Barnsley (SE 418024). The two sites appear to have little in common apart from a markedly clayey soil.

There are only four previous records of *L. saginatus* in Yorkshire and only two in the last 45 years.

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Bob Marsh for confirming the identification and for information on the status of *L. saginatus* in Yorkshire.

Reference

WHITEHEAD, P.F. 1991. Recent records of *Lamprinodes saginatus* (Gravenhorst) (Col., Staphylinidae) in Britain. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 127: 164.

Strangalia revestita (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) in Warwickshire

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'Leafy Warwickshire' is reputed to have lost over one million elm *Ulmus* trees during the Dutch Elm Disease epidemic. This seems somewhat of an exaggeration, but Warwickshire is now very different from the county I grew up in. However, despite the devastation, the dead trees and stumps have provided habitats for some of our rarer dead-wood species.

One such species is *Strangalia revestita*, which still has at least one stronghold in the county. According to Bily & Mehl (1989) the beetle's preferred habitat is *Ulmus*, especially trees in rather isolated positions such as parks, avenues and along roads. The larvae inhabit dead trunks, stumps and branches with decaying outer sapwood. A live specimen came into my possession in June 1996: it was found on the ground near to some isolated dead trees, probably elms, with little undergrowth. The area could be described as parkland of the sort found on large country estates. Allen (1972) gives a synopsis of *S. revestita* in Britain which refers to very few captures and only one for Warwickshire without reference to any location.

Acknowledgements

I thank Raymond R. Uhthoff-Kaufmann and Steve Lane for help and advice on publication.

References

ALLEN, A.A. 1972. *Strangalia revestita* L. (Col., Cerambycidae) in Surrey; with a synopsis of its British history. *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 108: 22.
BILY, S. & MEHL, O. 1989. *Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) of Fennoscandia and Denmark*. Leiden: E.J. Brill.

Leiodes flavescens (Schmidt) (Leiodidae) in Norfolk - a seventh British specimen and the first record for over 60 years?

Martin Collier

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It would appear that only six examples of *Leiodes flavescens* have been found in Great Britain, with the last specimen being recorded in 1928 (Hyman, 1994). In a review of some of the British species of *Leiodes* Latreille, Allen (1965) refers to seven specimens originating from four localities, but it is now accepted that Bartindale's specimen from Cheshire was misidentified (Allen & Cooter, *in litt.*). Allen also suggests that the Breck may be the headquarters for this species, with three of the specimens having been found at Mildenhall, Suffolk.

On 10.ix.1989 I collected a female example of *L. flavescens* at Thompson Common (TL 9396), a Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserve in northern Breckland. The specimen joined my backlog of material awaiting identification and it has only recently been examined properly, with its identity finally being established by Jonathan Cooter. I suspect the specimen was collected by general sweeping but unfortunately I failed to record, and cannot now recall, the habitat or precise locality within the reserve.

Thompson Common is a very rich and comparatively well-recorded site, both entomologically and botanically, and is probably best known for the water beetles and dragonflies (Odonata) associated with the numerous periglacial ponds, or pingos, which are scattered throughout the reserve. Scrub and deciduous woodland cover much of the rest of the site but there are also small areas of grassland on dry, sandy soil, which would seem to provide the most promising habitat for further investigations.

The paucity of records indicates that *L. flavescens* is genuinely a rare insect in Britain, or perhaps that its habits are in some way different and even more cryptic than other members of this interesting genus - thereby making it less susceptible to capture by contemporary collecting techniques: other nationally scarce species of *Leiodes*, such as *L. rugosa* Stephens and *L. triepkii* (Schmidt), can usually be found by evening sweeping or pitfall trapping in suitable habitats at several Breckland localities in Norfolk.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Jonathan Cooter for identifying the specimen and for information on the records, and to Anthony A. Allen for providing me with details on the history of this species. Permission to record beetles at Thompson Common was kindly granted by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

References

- ALLEN, A.A. 1965. Annotated corrections to the list of British species of *Leiodes* Latr. (Col., Leiodidae). *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* **101**: 178-184.
HYMAN, P.S. (revised PARSONS, M.S.) 1994. *A Review of the Scarce and Threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*. Part 2. UK Nature Conservation: 12. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Indoor Meetings

The Ecology and Conservation of Ground Beetles. By Brian Eversham (Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood). A talk for the British Entomological & Natural History Society, to be held at the Royal Entomological Society meeting rooms, 41 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HR. **15th January 1997 at 18.00.**

Click Beetle Identification and Recording. By Howard Mendel. An identification workshop of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, to be held at Dinton Pastures Country Park, Berkshire. **15th February 1997 at 10.30.**

..STOP PRESS..

The aim of this occasional section is to communicate briefly finds of major importance before they are written up fully. Authors may use this forum in order to request additional or confirmatory material, or simply in order to avoid simultaneous discovery and publication. It is not intended as a substitute for more adequately documented notes and papers.

Galeruca interrupta sensu auct. Brit. (Chrysomelidae) rediscovered in Britain

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During September-October 1996 the beetle known to British coleopterists as *Galeruca interrupta* has been seen in good numbers in a small part of a fenland site in the Norfolk Broads. This species is given Red Data Book category 1 status but was thought possibly to be extinct, having last been recorded in 1919 from Dorset. Examples sent to the Natural History Museum were identical to other British specimens but Roger Booth observed that all of the British material is in fact clearly different from the genuine *G. interrupta* Illiger in the world collection. The true identity of the British species has still to be established but Michael Cox considers that the most likely candidate is *G. laticollis* (Sahlberg), one of the other European species in this genus.

Microlestes minutulus (Goeze) (Carabidae) new to Britain

B. Eversham¹ & M. Collier²

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

Some 25 years ago, in a list of species which could possibly be discovered in the British Isles, Lindroth (1971) encouraged British coleopterists to scrutinise their collections of *Microlestes maurus* (Sturm) for overlooked specimens of *M. minutulus*. Perhaps the only surprising aspect of adding *M. minutulus* to the British List, therefore, is that it has not happened sooner.

In 1995, during an invertebrate survey of farmland which was about to be set back to saltmarsh as part of the coastal realignment, BE found a single female *M. minutulus* in a pitfall trap in a recently set-aside wheat field, on clay soil, on the Essex coast at Tollesbury (TL 9611); the traps had run from 1st-3rd August 1995. In the summer of 1996, unaware of this discovery, MC re-examined a large specimen of 'maurus' in his collection and found it to be a typical example of *minutulus*. The specimen had been collected by David Nash at Holbrook Bay, E. Suffolk, on 13.iv.1976 and was kindly given to MC as a duplicate in the early 1980s.

A preliminary examination of museum and private collections seems to indicate that *minutulus* has a distinctly east coast distribution but so far no examples have been found which pre-date Nash's 1976 specimen. Readers are encouraged to examine their series of *maurus* and *Metabletus truncatellus* (Linnaeus) (with which confusion can also occur - see below) and to send any records of *minutulus* to either author for inclusion in a paper to be published later.

The external differences between *maurus* and *minutulus* given by Lindroth (1986) regarding size and microsculpture seem to be reliable, although examination of the aedeagus may be necessary in some cases. Confusion with *Metabletus* Schmidt-Goebl species, especially the all-black *truncatellus*, is also possible if the shapes of the pronotal base and elytral apex are not assessed by comparison with reference material. An additional and apparently more clear-cut character for separating *Microlestes* from *Metabletus* given by Lindroth (1974, 1986) is incorrect: the absence of pubescence on the third antennal segment is not a generic character of *Metabletus* (it is pubescent in *M. truncatellus* also).

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to Dr M.L. Luff for confirming the identification of both specimens and to H. Mendel for information relating to specimens in his collection.

References

- LINDROTH, C.H. 1971. Taxonomic notes on certain British ground beetles (Col., Carabidae). *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* 107: 209-223.
 — 1974. Coleoptera: Carabidae. *Handbk Ident. Br. Insects* 4(2).
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Review

The Beetles of Spurn Peninsula by M.L. Denton. York: Yorkshire Museum. 1996. 96 pp. Paperback: ISBN 0-905807-18-9. Price £6.25 including postage from Yorkshire Museum (Museum Gardens, York YO1 2DR).

Between 1947 and 1953, members of the Entomological Section of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, under the leadership of W.D. Hincks, surveyed the major insect orders occurring on Spurn Peninsula. Their results were published as a series of papers in *The Naturalist* between 1951 and 1954, and reprints were bound together in one cover entitled "The Entomology of Spurn Peninsula (S.E. Yorkshire)". After a period of 40 years Michael Denton has, wherever possible, checked the identification of Coleoptera in the early lists prepared by W.D. Hincks, S. Shaw, W.O. Steel, P.M. Butler and J. Popham. In the light of recent changes in nomenclature, status, etc., he has reduced the original list by 16 species, but has added records of a further 123 species collected over the last 15 years by himself and other coleopterists.

Most coleopterists picking up this book will doubtless turn to the species list to check up on their own particular interest group but anyone who has never visited Spurn Head, or has not been there for many years, is advised to read the excellent account by John Cudworth on "The changing face of Spurn". I would have preferred his two maps of the peninsula, together with notes on place names, to follow this introduction rather than be sandwiched between the references and the index at the end of the book. Although "The Warren" is a frequently mentioned locality for many species, there appears to be nothing on these maps to indicate its location or extent (past or present).

There is a more serious omission which could detract from the value of this account. In July 1963 I was invited by the late Bill Steel to join a group of predominantly Yorkshire (or northern) entomologists for a week re-surveying Spurn Head, ten years after the original study. As I recall this coincided with the first access to the fenced-off military zone on the point. The main purpose of my visit was to collect as many species of *Aleochara* as possible for breeding as part of my Ph.D. studies. This resulted in the first British record of *A. verna* Say (later corrected to *A. binotata* Kraatz). The author contacted me during his search for Spurn records but, assuming all mine to be of common species, I am ashamed to admit that I do not think I sent him any. After all I was a novice then in the company of experienced coleopterists. Only on perusal of the published species accounts does it become obvious that the only records from that re-survey are a number by Colin Johnson. What happened to the records of the YNU coleopterists present? T.B. Kitchen's material is in Leeds City Museum, but there are only three of his records listed from this source and they date from 1949 and 1952. There are no records by W.O. Steel whose collection went to the Natural History Museum, London; and the only record attributed to J.H. Flint is from 1967. What makes me now feel that I have let Mike Denton down is that I have, somewhat belatedly, pored over my notebooks and collection and find that I have records of at least four species 'new' to the Spurn List: *Saprinus cuspidatus* Ihssen (Histeridae); *Sciodrepoides watsoni* (Spence) (Leiodidae); *Nicrophorus vespillo*

(Linnaeus) (Silphidae); and *Stenus nanus* Stephens (Staphylinidae). There is a certain inevitability that the publication of a species list will always generate additional records. As I have several other significant records from 1963, I can only apologise to Mike and offer my records for inclusion in the supplement he is already planning.

There will always be problems in equating names from old lists with modern nomenclature. The author has appended some 28 "erroneously recorded species" with his reasons for their deletion from the Spurn List. In attempting to use a recent revision of the littoral *Aleochara* (Lohse, 1989, *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*, 12, 1st Supplement) he correctly uses *Emplenota obscura* (Gravenhorst) for the familiar *A. algarum* Fauvel, but then uses *A. obscura* Gravenhorst instead of *Polystomota punctatella* (Motschulsky). His adoption of modern nomenclature appears less assiduous among the weevils where he has overlooked M.G. Morris' recent review of the Ceutorhynchinae (1991, *Entomologist's Gaz.*, 42) and the change in the Nitidulidae from *Meligethes erythropus* to *M. carinulatus* Förster (Bacchus & Spriggs, 1991, *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.*, 127).

Despite these minor criticisms, some of which were outside the control of the author, this is a well-produced book which deserves a place on every British coleopterist's bookshelf. The species accounts, spanning nearly 50 years, are of interest not only to those of us fortunate to have visited this unique site but to anyone studying the distribution of British Coleoptera.

R. Colin Welch

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.

For sale: *The Biology of the Coleoptera* by R.A. Crowson - £75; *Les Coccinelles Coléoptères-Coccinellidae* by S.M. Iablokoff-Khnzorian - £75; *The Beetles of North Eastern North America*, 2 vols, by N.M. Downie & R.H. Arnett - £120; *Pandeleteius of Venezuela and Colombia (Curculionidae: Brachyderinae: Tanymecini)* by A.T. Howden - £25; *Annotated checklist of the weevils (Curculionidae sensu lato) of North America, Central America, and the West Indies (Coleoptera: Curculionoidea)* by C.W. O'Brien & G.J. Wibmer - £25. R.W.J. Read 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 8RF

Study help wanted: I am engaged in a study of the chrysomelid *Gastrophysa viridula* and would be interested to hear from anybody willing to collaborate. Bill Fakes 203 Hugh Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 8PQ Tel.: (0191) 272 0155.

Change of address: The national recorder for Dermestoidea and Bostrichoidea has moved. Please amend your records accordingly. Barry Constantine The School House, Scremerston, Berwick upon Tweed, Northumbria TG15 2RB Tel.: (01289) 304845.

Warwickshire ground beetle records wanted: For inclusion in the 'Ground Beetle Atlas' as part of the 'Benchmark' series. Trevor G. Forsythe 5 Knob Hill, Stretton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire CV23 9NN Fax.: (01203) 542688.

Mini-interception nets: See letter describing this new collecting device in the April 1996 issue. Now available for £4.40 incl. VAT, postage and packing extra. Bob George Marris House Nets, 54 Richmond Park Avenue, Bournemouth BH8 9DR.

For sale: *Entomologist's Record & J. Var.* Vol. 5 [1894] lacks May issue only, in wrappers with index and title page; Vol. 96 [1984] Parts 3-12 plus indices, wrappers; Vol. 97 [1985] complete, wrappers; Vol. 98 [1986] complete but lacks indices, wrappers. Each = £5 or £15 the lot, plus postage. J. Cooter 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ.

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