

The Coleopterist

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Philonthus spinipes Sharp (Staphylinidae) in Dorset - new to Britain

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On 5th March 1997, we each took an example of an unusual looking staphylinid by sieving material from a manure heap at West Parley, Dorset (SZ 08). The beetles were provisionally identified as *Philonthus spinipes* Sharp, using the key provided by Lohse (1989). This identification was confirmed by comparing one of the beetles with named specimens, which included some of Sharp's syntypes, in The Natural History Museum, London. We revisited the site on 14th March and found further specimens. On the second visit, in warmer, sunny weather, the beetles were very active and burrowed quickly out of sight when uncovered. The heap had been established for many years and consisted of a mixture of horse dung and straw. Parts were appreciably warm to touch, due, no doubt, to heat arising from decomposition of the dung and straw.

P. spinipes is a large *Philonthus* Stephens (13-17 mm) and unlikely to be confused with any of the recognised British species (Fig. 1). The head and pronotum are shining black with numerous long hairs, the elytra orange-red with long orange pubescence, the scutellum dark and pubescent and the hind body iridescent black. The hind angles of the head are coarsely punctured and furnished with long yellow hairs. The number and arrangement of punctures on the disc of the pronotum is variable. Usually, there are two or three on each side of the disc but exceptional examples with four or five punctures on each side have been noted (Schülke & Uhlig, 1989). The palpi are black as are the antennae except for the basal third of the 2nd segment which is yellow. The femora are fuscous but the tarsi and tibiae are pale yellow. The tibiae have a number of long black spines. In males, the front tarsi are more dilated than in females and the 7th sternite has a shallow emargination at its apex. The characteristic aedeagus is figured by Lohse (1989). *P. spinipes* resembles the smaller *P. nitidus* (Fabricius), a species widely distributed on the Continent and in Scandinavia but not recorded, so far, from Britain. The coloured illustration provided by Pedersen (1993) shows the close, superficial similarity. The latter species is smaller than *spinipes* and has dark tibiae. In addition it has rows of four punctures on the disc of the pronotum whereas *spinipes* usually has rows of two or three.

P. spinipes appears originally to have been an Oriental species and was described from a specimen collected by Lewis in Japan (Sharp, 1874). In the East, it is known from China,

North and South Korea and what was formerly the USSR (Schülke & Uhlig, 1989). It appears to have reached Europe in about 1980 and by 1989 had been recorded from most countries in eastern and central Europe (Schülke & Uhlig, 1989). It was first found in Sweden in 1985 (Dufberg, 1989) and appeared in Denmark in 1991 (Pedersen, 1993). Interestingly, three of the other species found in the dung heap are also considered to have originated in the East. These are *Philonthus parvus* Sharp and *P. rectangulus* Sharp, which were in the collection of Japanese material which contained the original specimen of *P. spinipes*, and *Anthicus tobias* (Marseul) (Anthicidae). *P. rectangulus* was first recorded in Britain in 1921, *P. parvus* in 1961 and *A. tobias* in 1935 (Hammond, 1974).

If, as seems probable, these eastern species have been native to the Orient for a long time (perhaps hundreds of years), the question arises as to why they have taken so long to appear in Europe. The simultaneous (in terms of geological time) arrival of several Oriental species in Europe would seem to rule out mutation of individual species as an explanation of spread westwards. The arrival of several species apparently only in the last 100 years might indicate that human activities played a part in their spread, for this was a period in which world-wide travel and trade expanded enormously. A coincidental climatic change may also have been a factor. Warmer weather could have increased the tendency of species to fly, increasing, in turn, the chance of their being temporarily trapped in goods or vehicles in transit. The unusually warm recent summers in Britain and on the neighbouring parts of the Continent could no doubt have helped the arrival of *P. spinipes* in Britain, aided or unaided.

Acknowledgements

We thank Dr R.G. Booth for help in comparing one of our specimens with named material in The Natural History Museum, London and for locating a critical reference. We thank also Mrs Jacqueline Ruffle, Librarian, Royal Entomological Society for help in accessing other references.

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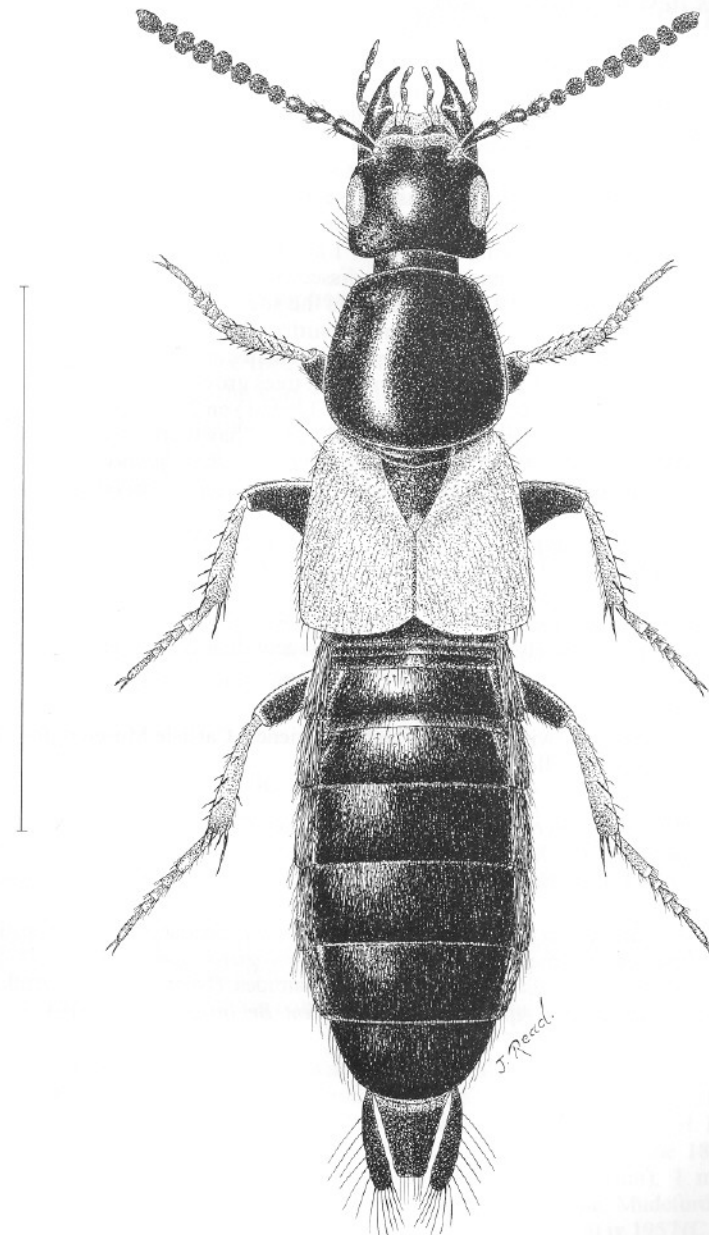


Fig. 1: *Philonthus spinipes* Sharp (Staphylinidae), male habitus. R. W. J. Read

Three beetles new to Cumberland

R. W. J. Read

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The following three beetles were found in West Cumbria during 1997, while recording invertebrates for the Biological Records Centre at the Tullie House Museum in Carlisle. They would appear to be new to Cumbria and vice-county 70 (Cumberland) as they are not listed 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.

Phratora laticollis (Suffrian) (Chrysomelidae). One male specimen was found on a young Aspen *Populus tremula* tree growing by the R. Liza near Char Dub, Ennerdale Water (NY 129143) on 29th June. The specimen was later dissected and identification confirmed from the key and illustration in Morris (1970). I returned to the site on 14th September and found a female specimen on the Aspens.

Rhynchites aequatus (Linnaeus) (Atelabidae). Four females and four males of this distinct weevil were beaten from flowering hawthorn *Crataegus* trees growing in a small area of scrub bordering a field near Grune House, Skinburness (NY 129561) on 23rd May. A small number were observed in copula around the flower-heads and buds of hawthorn trees and presumably oviposition was taking place. According to Morris (1990), *R. aequatus* is common and generally distributed throughout most of England. It has also been recorded from Wales and Scotland.

Gronops lunatus (Fabricius) (Curculionidae). I came across one specimen of this weevil resting on a stone at the foot of a low, crumbling cliff on the upper shore-line just south of Ravenglass (SD 087958), on 2nd May. Despite a further search of the immediate area I was unable to find any more specimens, nor on a return visit to the site on 1st June. *G. lunatus* is graded a Notable B species by Hyman (1992) and is widely distributed but local in England and Wales.

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Stephen Hewitt, Keeper of Natural Science, Carlisle Museum, for allowing me access to the Coleoptera collections.

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Chaetocnema picipes Stephens (Chrysomelidae: Alticinae) in Britain

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Introduction

A species of *Chaetocnema* Stephens, currently known as *C. laevicollis* (Thomson, A.C.G., 1866), is widely distributed throughout the Palaearctic Region, and so its presence in Britain is not unexpected. However, until relatively recently, it was poorly known and confused with the very common and widespread *C. concinna* (Marsham).

Lubischev (1963) recognized three species standing over the name *C. concinna*, of which *C. concinna* and one of two newly described species, *C. heikertingeri* Lubischev, were found to be widespread in Europe. Characters of the male genitalia provided the best means for species separation. Strand (1967) reported *C. heikertingeri* from Sweden and gave illustrations of the male genitalia and apical antennal segment as differentiating characters. Döberl (1995) synonymized *C. heikertingeri* with *C. laevicollis* following an examination of C.G. Thomson's original type material. Recent examination of material from British collections has shown that an earlier name, *Chaetocnema picipes* Stephens, 1831, is a senior synonym of *C. laevicollis* (Thomson).

Distribution

In recent European works, the species, as either *C. laevicollis* or *C. heikertingeri*, has been recorded from France (Doguet, 1994), Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, The Low Countries (Lucht, 1987), Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania (Silfverberg, 1992), Denmark (Hansen, 1996), Bulgaria (Gruev, 1992) and Italy (Biondi, 1990).

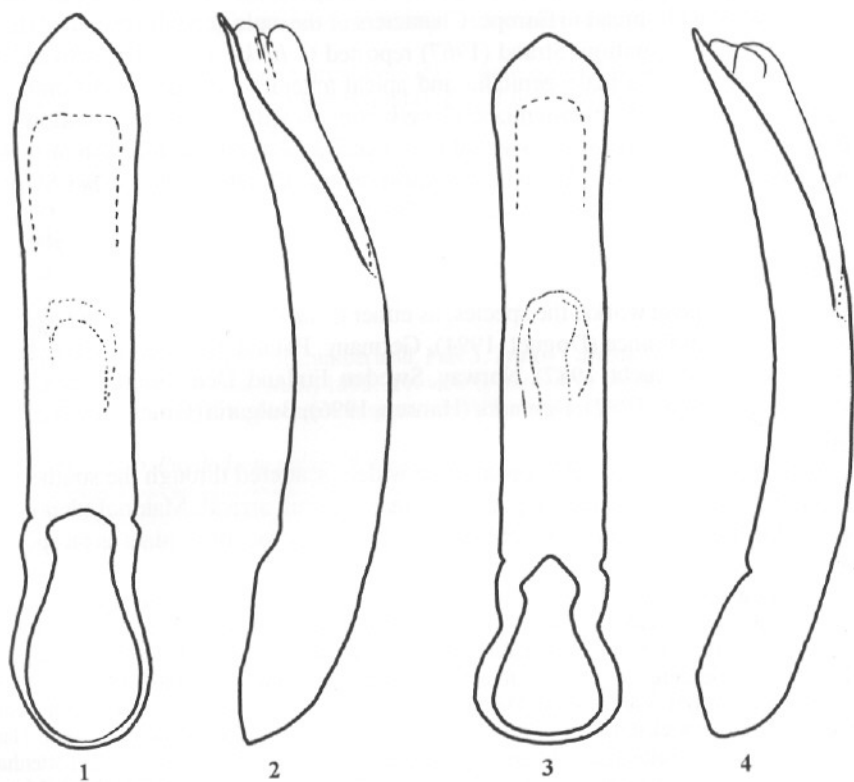
Chaetocnema picipes would appear to be widely scattered through the southern half of England and a long-standing native rather than a recent arrival. Material identified so far (see below for characters) has come from the following localities (data as on specimen labels):

specimens without data (J.F. Stephens and W. Kirby collections); 1 male, Tilgate, Sussex, 1877 (G.C. Champion); 1 male, Salterns, Lymington, Hants., 18.ix.1868 (D. Sharp); 1 male, Milford, Hants., 8.vi.1915 (D. Sharp); 1 female, Purley Downs, Surrey, 6.viii.1893 (H. Donisthorpe); 1 male, Worcestershire (A. Fry); 1 female, Lowestoft, Suffolk, May/June 1895 (A. Fry); 3 females, Bickleigh Vale, South Devon, 8.iv.1916 (C.E. Tottenham); 1 male, 1 female, Sambourne, Warwickshire, 23.viii.1933 (C.E. Tottenham); 1 male, Mudeford, South Hants., 10.viii.1948 (C.E. Tottenham); 1 female, Wherwel, North Hants., 20.iv.1957 (C.E. Tottenham); 1 female, Hildersham, Cambs., 1.vi.1957 (C.E. Tottenham) [all in The Natural History Museum (BMNH)]; 1 male, Honiton, Devon SY 1399, 13.ix.1977, by general sweeping (R.G. Booth); 1 male, 1 female, Plumpton, East Sussex TQ 3713, 11.x.1996, by sweeping roadside vegetation

(J.A. Owen); 1 male, Plumpton, East Sussex TQ 3713, 29.iii.1997, by sweeping roadside vegetation (R.G. Booth).

Identification

The separation of males of *C. concinna* and *C. picipes* is straightforward if the genitalia are examined. The two sexes can be separated externally by examining the protarsi: males have the basal protarsal segment expanded, about as broad as the third segment, while in females, the basal protarsal segment is as narrow as the second segment. In *C. concinna*, the median lobe of the aedeagus is proportionally thicker in side view (Fig. 2) than that of *C. picipes* (Fig. 4). In *C. concinna*, the apex in ventral view (Fig. 1) is more acuminate and the base more evenly rounded than in *C. picipes* (Fig. 3), and the relative size of the ventral opening also appears to be characteristic. The drawings were prepared from freshly dissected specimens and the median lobes temporarily slide-mounted in glycerine. The soft subapical region on the dorsal surface usually contracts on drying.



Figs. 1-2: *Chaetocnema concinna* (Marsham), 3-4: *Chaetocnema picipes* Stephens (Chrysomelidae); median lobe of aedeagus, ventral and lateral views. R.G. Booth.

Good external characters are more difficult. Strand (1967) and Döberl (1995) illustrated the apical segments of the antennae of the two species, showing the apical segment in *C. concinna* to be more broadly rounded and slightly asymmetrical, whereas in *C. picipes*, the apical segment was more pointed and more or less symmetrical. This character seems to work well on British specimens of both sexes but needs to be used with caution. In *C. concinna*, the apical segment is asymmetrically flattened on one side, as shown by Döberl (1995), but, if it is viewed from the wrong angle, especially if it is obscured by too much glue on the mounting card, then it can look more pointed and spindle-shaped as in *C. picipes*. For this reason, we have deliberately not illustrated the character, but prefer to describe it and allow readers to form their own visual impression.

Other external differences are much more comparative, or are too variable to give a positive separation on their own. However, when assessed in combination, especially when named material is available for comparison, the following characters may be of help:

1. Lubischev (1963) showed that, in males, the basal protarsal segment was on average broader in *C. picipes* (as *C. heikertingeri*), especially when compared with the second segment, than in *C. concinna*, but the data he provided showed that there was too much overlap to make this a reliable means of distinguishing between the species, although the extremes were separable.

2. Lubischev (1963) also noted that the antennae of *C. picipes* were generally darker basally than in *C. concinna*, although again he noted a broad overlap. In general, *C. concinna* has the basal segment slightly infuscated on the dorsal surface, especially basally, the second and third are generally the lightest, with a gradual darkening towards the black apical segment. In *C. picipes*, the dorsal surface of the basal segment is also infuscated, the second and third segments may be pale or weakly infuscated, but the subsequent segments, on average, generally darken more rapidly than in *C. concinna*. The antennal segments in *C. picipes* are also slightly more slender than those of *C. concinna*.

3. There is also a subtle difference in head shape. In general, the area of the head between the eyes from the top of the antennal insertions to the vertex between the top of the eyes is proportionally narrower and less transverse in *C. picipes* than in *C. concinna*. However, again this character is comparative and some overlap occurs.

4. The elytra in *C. picipes* narrow more abruptly, on average, in their apical quarter than in *C. concinna* which generally tapers more evenly behind the middle and so appears more acuminate in outline.

The slight apparent differences in the female spermatheca described by Doguet (1994) have not been fully assessed for British specimens and his illustrations were not found to be very helpful. However, there may be a constant difference in the shape of the pygidium in females, although it has so far only been examined in very few specimens. In *C. picipes* females, the pygidium has a distinct transverse apical groove, which is scarcely present in the few *C. concinna* females dissected.

Type material

There appear to be no extant Marsham specimens of *C. concinna* in the Stephens collection, but one of Stephens' specimens bears a Neotype label, presumably awaiting formal publication by its labeller. Stephens (1831) described *Chaetocnema picipes*, using a Kirby manuscript name, from 'near London in June, and in Suffolk. "Bottisham" - *Rev. L. Jenyns*'. His original description referred to the antennae being piceous at the base, in contrast to *C. concinna* in which the antennae were described as ferruginous at the base. The single specimen standing over the name *picipes* in the Kirby collection (BMNH) is hereby selected as the **lectotype** of *Chaetocnema picipes* Stephens. It is a female labelled "Kirby [printed on pink paper]/ 10. picipes/ 10 [manuscript number, Kirby's handwriting]" and its antennae and general body form confirm that it is the same species as *C. laevicollis* and *C. heikertingeri*. It was originally pinned directly, but has now been card-pointed with the original pin retained. In the Stephens collection over the name *picipes* are five pins now bearing four specimens, which may or may not include original syntypes as none are individually labelled. One is a male *C. picipes*, one is a male *C. concinna*, and two are probably *C. picipes* but cannot be determined beyond doubt without dissection because both have their antennae missing.

Although *C. heikertingeri* has been used for just over 30 years as the valid name for the current species, at least in Europe, the stability of this name has recently been upset by the use of *C. laevicollis*. With the adoption of *C. picipes*, we expect this to be the earliest available name for the species, so do not expect any further changes. The only earlier synonym of *C. concinna* is *C. dentipes* (Koch, 1803). However, the description and widespread distribution of the latter suggest that *C. concinna* was the species involved, at least in the greater part, although the varieties *a* 'Supra aeneo nigra' and *b* 'Supra nigra', may have included some *C. picipes*. The whereabouts of J.D.W. Koch's original material is not known.

In summary, *Chaetocnema picipes* can now be added to the British List with the following synonymy:

- Chaetocnema picipes* Stephens, 1831
 = *C. concinna* sensu auctt. partim not (Marsham, 1802)
 = *C. heikertingeri* Lubischev, 1963 **syn. nov.**
 = *C. laevicollis* (Thomson, C.G., 1866) **syn. nov.**

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Total immersion: an anomalous occasional resting habit of certain Elateridae

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I have come across two instances of an extraordinary choice of resting-place by different species of click-beetle. There may be, in fact there would seem to be, no connection between them; but whatever their significance, they appear worth noting.

My first encounter with *Hypnoidus riparius* (Fabricius) was, quite literally, in a stream near Chilcompton, North Somerset, on 3rd April 1932. I was lifting and examining submerged stones in its bed and, greatly to my surprise, single specimens of the *Hypnoidus* - five in all - were found at rest on the undersides of stones lying in the fairly swift current.

The second case is still more bizarre, concerning as it does a genus and species with no known aquatic tendencies: namely the common wireworm beetle *Agriotes lineatus* (Linnaeus). In the autumn of 1958 I had dug out and filled a small pond on a lawn in my former garden at Blackheath near here, and in the following spring kept a piece of wooden board floating on it much of the time, as a trap for water beetles. On 14th March two *A. lineatus* were found resting under the board and thus fully submerged; and a further one on the 17th. A few more examples occurred in the same way in the spring of 1960.

I am at a loss to account for such behaviour, which one might think would interfere with normal respiration, and wonder whether others have met with anything similar among beetles of this family.

Furcippus rectirostris (Linnaeus) (Curculionidae) in southern Scotland

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On 14.v.1997 I beat a number of *Furcippus rectirostris* from a small group of blossoming Bird Cherry trees *Prunus padus* in Denholm Dene, Roxburghshire (VC 80, NT 568179). The Dene is a small, steep-sided valley with a good deal of mixed woodland as well as some areas of planted conifers.

Since Read (1981) added this species to the British List with Cumbrian specimens, it has been found widely in N. England, Wales and N.W. Scotland (Hyman, 1992). Copestake (1992) found it in N.E. Scotland in Abernethy Forest. The present record adds S. Scotland to the species' range.

As I have beaten these trees, and other Bird Cherries in the vicinity, from time to time without finding *Furcippus*, it appears likely that it has only recently arrived here. The considerable British range of this distinctive beetle makes it increasingly difficult to accept that it is an overlooked native species. It seems more likely to be an expanding species that may well be, therefore, a fairly recent arrival.

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Anthrenus fuscus Olivier (Dermestidae) in Perthshire

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In the last week of July 1996, I was leading a group of students on a short introductory course on terrestrial beetles at Kindrogan Field Centre, Perthshire (NO 0562). A single specimen of the dermestid *Anthrenus fuscus* Olivier was taken by general sweeping among umbellifers, close to derelict glasshouses in an abandoned walled garden in the Centre grounds.

This species is described by Peacock (1993) as principally rural, the larvae subsisting on dead insects in outbuildings and the adults being found on flowers. While it is one of the commonest species of dermestid in England, the northern limit of its range is given by Peacock (1993) as Lancashire and Yorkshire. Mr Magnus Sinclair kindly consulted on my behalf the Scottish Insects Records Index held by the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, and confirmed that there appears to be no previous Scottish record of this species. It has recently also been recorded for the first time in Ireland (Ashe & O'Connor, 1996).

The specimen will be deposited in the Coleoptera collection of the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh.

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Notes on the nomenclature of some British weevils (Curculionoidea)

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Introduction

In the course of searching literature on the British weevil fauna several cases have come to light of amendments which need to be made to the nomenclature of our species. Some of these are the results of important biological research. Others are instances of naming which many may regard as, at best unimportant and at worst unnecessary and pointless. Our own opinion is that these matters are in some cases of very little importance but that, as an International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN, 1985) does exist, we ought to conform and make our nomenclature as correct as possible.

In the past decade a large number of national and supranational catalogues have appeared, covering either all the Coleoptera (e.g. Silfverberg, 1992) or the Curculionoidea only (e.g. Abbazzi & Osella, 1992). In nearly every one there are points of interest which bear on the British fauna. It is the purpose of the current paper to draw attention to these and to attempt to resolve difficulties which may arise. In some instances a definite decision cannot be arrived at yet; it is hoped that by drawing attention to such matters, the requisite studies can be made to resolve them before the appearance of a checklist to replace Pope (1977), now considerably out of date.

Omphalapion hookeri (Kirby, 1808)

Wanat (1995), in his detailed revision of the Ceratapionini, draws attention to the original dedication of this species by Kirby (1808) to the brothers W.J. and J. Hooker. This means that, under Article 32(c) of the Code (ICZN, 1985), *hookeri* is an incorrect original spelling and should be amended to the genitive plural form, *hookerorum*. Whether this is immediately acceptable to those British entomologists with only a passing interest in the finer points of nomenclature is perhaps doubtful.

Omphalapion beuthini (Anton Hoffmann, 1874)

The taxonomy of the *dispar*-group of *Omphalapion* Schilsky is difficult, but Wanat (1995) has established that the species recorded in Britain as *O. dispar* (Germar, 1817) (Dolling, 1975; Morris, 1990), is actually this species. It appears to have a narrow distribution, having been recorded only from France and Spain besides England.

Otiorhynchus coecus Germar, 1824

This name replaces *O. niger* (Fabricius, 1775), for an introduced British species (Thompson & Styles, 1958). *O. coecus* Germar, 1824, = *O. niger* (Fabricius, 1775) non (Drury, [1773]).

***Trachyphloeus rectus* Thomson, 1865**

The correct identity of the British species known hitherto as *T. laticollis* Boheman, 1843, was established by Borovec (1991).

***Phyllobius glaucus* (Scopoli, 1763)**

This name has priority over *P. calcaratus* (Fabricius, 1792).

***Polydrusus tereticollis* (De Geer, 1775)**

This name, for *P. undatus* (Fabricius, 1781), will be familiar to an older generation of coleopterists. Contrary to the synonymy given in Pope (1977), *tereticollis* sensu (Bonsdorff, 1785) is identical with *tereticollis* (De Geer, 1775). Dr M.A. Alonso Zarazaga (*in litt.*) draws attention to a largely forgotten paper by Grill (1893) in which the matter is clarified.

***Polydrusus splendidus* (Herbst, 1784)**

This name replaces *P. sericeus* (Schaller, 1783) non (Goeze, 1777). However, Herbst's name may not be the first available one (M.A. Alonso Zarazaga, *in litt.*).

***Strophosoma* Billberg, 1820.**

The priority of Billberg's 1820 name (neuter) over *Strophosomus* Schönherr, 1823 (masculine), necessitates changes to the neuter of terminations of those trivial names which are adjectival. The following specific epithets are affected: *capitatum* (De Geer), *fulvicorne* (Walton), *melanogrammum* (Forster) and *nebulosum* (Stephens), as well as several names which are in synonymy. The names *faber* (Herbst) and *sus* (Stephens), being substantives, are unaffected.

***Strophosoma fulvicorne* (Walton, 1846)**

Dieckmann (1980) examined the type material of *S. fulvicorne* and established that it was conspecific with the species previously known as *S. curvipes* Thomson, over which it has priority. It is therefore not a synonym of *S. capitatum* (De Geer) (cf. Pope, 1977).

***Philopeton plagiatum* (Schaller, 1783)**

This name appears in all British literature as *Philopeton plagiatus* and Dieckmann (1980) argued cogently that *Philopeton* Stephens, 1831, was masculine. Although it is now known that Stephens's genus-group name must be replaced by *Philopeton* Schönherr, 1826, this does not affect the gender of the name. Article 30(a) of the Code (ICZN, 1985) states that "A genus-group name that is *or ends* in a Greek or Latin word takes the gender given for that word..." (our emphasis). As *-pedon* is neuter, the species' trivial name should be *plagiatum*, as used by Tempère & Péricart (1989), among others.

***Cleonis pigra* (Scopoli, 1763)**

The priority of *Cleonis* Dejean, 1821, over *Cleonus* Schönherr, 1826, is now well established and the name accepted in the British literature. However, *Cleonis* is definitely feminine, as demonstrated in Dejean's catalogue (1821) (Silfverberg, 1984) and, as *piger* is a second declension Latin adjective, the specific epithet is *pigra*, as correctly used by Abbazzi & Osella (1992), for example.

***Hypera pollux* (Fabricius, 1801)**

In Pope (1977) the name *adpersa* (Fabricius, 1775) was used for this species, but incorrectly. It should have been *adpersa* (Fabricius, 1792), a primary junior homonym of *adpersa* (Fabricius, 1775), the latter being a quite different species described from Australia. In the index (Fabricius, 1796: 54, 58) to *Entomologia Systematica* (Fabricius, 1792) the alternative name *pollux* is used, with an indication back to the original description, for the junior homonym. The same replacement name was also used by Fabricius (1801), but this time under the generic name *Rhynchaenus* Clairville, rather than *Curculio* Linnaeus.

***Hylobius abietis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

According to Abbazzi & Osella (1992) the correct generic placement of this well-known forestry pest is in *Hylobitelus* Reitter, 1923. *Hylobius* Germar (= *Hypomolix* LeConte) includes only *piceus* (De Geer), a non-British species. The question appears to be a taxonomic rather than nomenclatural one and requires further investigation.

LEIOSOMATINI and PLINTHINI

These tribes should be added to the recent conspectus of the British weevil fauna (Morris, 1995: 27) and inserted between MOLYTINI and PISSODINI.

***Leiosoma troglodytes* Rye, 1873**

The unsatisfactory attribution of this taxon to a 'subspecies' of *L. pyrenaicum* Brisout (Kloet & Hincks, 1945; Pope, 1977) was resolved by Tempère (1979). He showed that *L. troglodytes* is a good species, occurring sparingly in England and northern France (though he had not seen specimens from the latter region). *L. troglodytes* is distinct from *L. pyrenaicum*, which occurs only in the Pyrenees.

***Leiosoma deflexum* (Panzer) f. *collare* Rye, 1873**

Rye (1873) described this taxon as a form of *Liosomus ovatulus* (Schellenberg) under the name *collaris* but did not indicate its derivation. However, it is almost certainly adjectival, 'collared', probably referring to the red pronotal colour. If so, the name should be changed to *collare* under the Code (ICZN, 1985), as was done by Hoffmann (1954) for example. Although as an infrasubspecific name it does not appear in Pope (1977) it is included here because the form is not uncommon and is referred to in Morris (*in prep.*).

***Mitoplinthus caliginosus* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Kloet & Hincks (1945) assigned this species to *Epipolaeus* Weise, 1907, but Pope (1977) placed it in the much more speciose *Plinthus* Germar, 1817, presumably on the grounds that *Epipolaeus* was not generically distinct from *Plinthus*. Most recent authorities (e.g. Kippenberg, 1983; Tempère & Péricart, 1989; Abbazzi & Osella, 1992; Strejcek, 1993) take an opposite view but place the species in *Mitoplinthus* Reitter, 1897, which has priority over the Weise name.

***Rhyncolus ater* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Thompson & Alonso Zarazaga (1988) established that *Curculio ater* Linnaeus is the type species of *Rhyncolus* Germar, 1817. *Rhyncolus ater* (Linnaeus) was placed on the Official List of specific names in zoology (ICZN, 1991). *Eremotes* Wollaston, 1861, was

synonymised with *Rhyncolus* by Voss (1955). This change is one of several in Cossoninae-Rhyncolini which have been recently accepted in the British literature (e.g. Hyman, 1992).

***Phloeophagus lignarius* (Marshall, 1802) (And *P. gracilis* Rosenhauer, 1856, if it is an extant British species)**

Likewise the use of *Phloeophagus* Schönherr, 1838, is established in the British literature (see also Folwaczny, 1960, 1973).

***Stereocorynes truncorum* (Germar, 1824)**

Stereocorynes Wollaston, 1873, is currently regarded as a full genus, not a subgenus (Folwaczny, 1969, 1973; cf. Pope, 1977).

***Bagous tubulus* Caldara & O'Brien, 1994**

This is a replacement name for *B. (Cyprus) cylindrus* (Paykull, 1800), not *cylindrus* (Fabricius, 1781) (currently placed in *Lixus*) (Silfverberg, 1977; Caldara & O'Brien, 1994). Silfverberg's replacement name *angustus* (Silfverberg, 1977) cannot stand as it is a homonym of *Bagous angustus* Tanner, 1954, a North American species (Caldara & O'Brien, 1994). Caldara & O'Brien (1994) also show that the species-group name *attenuatus* Ahrens, 1812, is unavailable (cf. Pope, 1977).

***Bagous robustus* Brisout, 1863**

Allen (1992) suggested that *Bagous (Abagous) rudis* Sharp was this species. The unique type specimen he refers to (from the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge) has recently been determined as *B. robustus* by Dr R. Caldara, a well-known specialist on the group. In 1986 the late Dr L. Dieckmann identified a female specimen of *B. (A.) rudis* in the National Collection as *B. robustus* also, and so labelled it. This insect was collected by Dr David Sharp and from his notes it appears that it was taken on Hammersmith Marshes on 22nd October 1863. *B. robustus* is currently regarded as a good species, although it was given the status of a subspecies of *B. lutulentus* (Gyllenhal) in the last comprehensive review of the European *Bagous* Germar (*s.lat.*) (Dieckmann, 1964). *Abagous* Sharp, 1917, is currently regarded as a subgenus (Dieckmann, 1964; Pope, 1977). The relevant synonymy is:

Bagous robustus Brisout, 1863
= *Bagous lutulentus* (Gyllenhal, 1813) partim
= *Abagous rudis* Sharp, 1917

'STYPHLINAE'

Further work and advice has established that this suggested subfamily (Morris, 1995) cannot be sustained as including all the genera formerly subsumed in the polyphyletic Erirhinae of Pope (1977) and not now placed in Erirhinae, Bagoinae or Smicronychinae. Pachytychiinae (for *Pachytychius* Jekel) and Dorytominae (for *Dorytomus* Germar) should be added to the conspectus (Morris, 1995: 28), leaving only *Pseudostyphlus* Tournier and *Orthochaetes* Germar in Styphlinae. The genera referred to in 'Styphlinae' are disparate at the subfamily level and 'lumping' them together is misleading.

***Orthochaetes* Germar, 1824**

Silfverberg (1992) replaces this familiar genus-group name with *Comasinus* Dejean, 1821, which in our opinion is a *nomen nudum*. In Dejean's catalogue the genus contains no properly described species but includes the manuscript name *setiger* Ziegler. There is no evidence that this is the same as *setiger* (Beck) and Beck (1817) does not refer to either Ziegler or his manuscript name.

***Dorytomus ictor* (Herbst, 1795)**

The priority of Herbst's name over *validirostris* (Gyllenhal, 1836) was established by Dieckmann (1979). The name is already in use in recent British literature (e.g. Anon., 1980; Hyman, 1992). Dieckmann (1979, 1986) explains that *D. ictor* was previously thought to be a junior synonym of *D. flavipes* (Panzer) (not a British species) but examination of the type and original description showed that *ictor* and *validirostris* are conspecific.

***Dorytomus affinis* (Paykull, 1800)**

This name is a homonym of *affinis* Schrank, 1781, but is used in preference to *edoughensis* Desbrochers by Tempère & Péricart (1989) pending a decision by the ICZN on its use. Abbazzi & Osella (1992) and Silfverberg (1992) use *edoughensis*.

***Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (Paykull, 1792) (= *pleurostigma* (Marshall))**

This change of name is one of those unfortunate instances of long-standing incorrect usage and necessary transfer of a name from one well-known species to another. Colonnelli (1993) has shown, from a detailed examination of Paykull's types, that *assimilis* is actually the species known up to now as *pleurostigma* (Marshall). A shortened form of the synonymy established by Colonnelli is:

Ceutorhynchus assimilis (Paykull, 1792)
= *Curculio assimilis* Paykull, 1792
= *Curculio pleurostigma* Marshall, 1802

The name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (Paykull, 1792) was conserved by the ICZN and the species designated as the type species of *Ceutorhynchus* Germar (ICZN, 1989; Opinion 1529). It is fortunate, as Colonnelli (1993) observes, that the species previously known as *C. assimilis* and *C. pleurostigma* are currently regarded as congeneric. He further draws attention to the importance of checking the identity of species by reference to original type material before application to the Commission is made.

***Ceutorhynchus obstrictus* (Marshall, 1802)**

The transfer of the name *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* to the species formerly known as *C. pleurostigma* does, of course, necessitate a change of name for *C. assimilis* *sensu auctt.*, non Paykull (1792). Colonnelli (1993) has established that the oldest available name is *obstrictus* (Marshall, 1802); this was included in Pope (1977) as a synonym. An abbreviated synonymy is:

Ceutorhynchus obstrictus (Marshall, 1802)
= *Curculio obstrictus* Marshall, 1802
= *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* auctt., non (Paykull, 1792)

For both *C. obstrictus* and *C. assimilis* the necessary changes should be made in Morris (1991), the most recent checklist of British Ceutorhynchinae.

***Limnobaris dolorosa* (Goeze, 1777)**

Dieckmann (1991) established, from examination of Stephens's two syntypes (in the Natural History Museum, London), that *pilistriata* Stephens (1831) is a synonym of Goeze's name (1777) and he designated a lectotype. Dieckmann also clarified the status of *L. t-album* (Linnaeus). Two forms, or subspecies, exist in Europe. The nominate subspecies occurs only in Scandinavia and the north of European Russia. *L. t-album* ssp. *atriplicis* (Fabricius) is more widely distributed and is the taxon found in the British Isles.

***Tychius squamulatus* Gyllenhal, 1836**

Allen (1984) drew attention to the establishing by Caldara (1983) that *T. flavicollis* Stephens is synonymous with *T. junceus* (Reich). Consequently, Gyllenhal's name must be used for *T. flavicollis* auctt., non Stephens, thus reverting to the earlier usage of Fowler (1891).

***Sibinia primita* (Herbst)**

'Primitus' is a Latin adverb, 'for the first time' or 'firstly', and is invariable. Under the Code (ICZN, 1985) a species-group name should be treated as a noun or an adjective (Article 11(h)), so the original spelling (Herbst, 1795) in the combination *Curculio primitus*, was correct. However, Schönherr (1826), when including the species in Germar's *Sibinia* (1817), treated 'primitus' as an adjective and wrote *primita*. Even though the adjective 'primitus' does not exist in Latin and despite the use of *primitus* by Pope (1977) (and others), there does seem to be some merit in following Schönherr, Caldara (1985) who revised the Palaearctic fauna, and most other recent checklists and catalogues. Accordingly, we recommend using the feminine form, *primita*, although the point is a fine one and can be persuasively argued either way.

***Sibinia pyrrhodactyla* (Marsham, 1802)**

Caldara (1985), in his authoritative revision of the Palaearctic *Sibinia* Germar, considered this name to be a *nomen oblitum* and used the name *potentillae* Germar for the species which occurs in Britain and feeds on Corn Spurrey *Spergula arvensis*. However, reconsideration of the problem in the light of the third edition of the Code (ICZN, 1985) forced a revision of this view (Caldara, 1990). The following synonymy was established:

- Sibinia pyrrhodactyla* (Marsham, 1802)
- = *Curculio pyrrhodactylus* Marsham, 1802
- = *Sibinia potentillae* Germar, 1824

***Rhynchaenus signifer* (Creutzer, 1799)**

The continued use of the name *avellanae* Donovan for this species (Morris, 1993) cannot be sustained as Donovan's name (1797) is a homonym of *avellanae* Paykull, 1792.

***Rhynchaenus calceatus* (Germar, 1821)**

Although not constituting a nomenclatural point the opportunity is taken to comment on the status of this species, which has recently been found in Ireland (Mendel, 1994; Morris & Owen, 1997). Morris (1993), following Anderson (1989), was doubtful about the specific distinctness of *R. calceatus*. Mendel's notes (1994) and a preliminary

examination of a series of the taxon from his locality (All Saints' Bog, Offaly), and two other nearby sites, make it clear that, in the British Isles at least, *R. calceatus* has the status of a good species.

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Pocadius adustus Reitter (Nitidulidae) confirmed as a Gloucestershire species

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Atty (1983) comments that, although *Pocadius* Erichson spp. recorded in Gloucestershire since 1973 have been *P. ferrugineus* (Fabricius), some older records from the county might have included *P. lanuginosus* Franz. Voucher material for those older records has not proved available. He regarded *P. ferrugineus* as widespread in the county, especially in the Cotswolds and the Forest of Dean areas where soils have generally been much less disturbed by ploughing, etc., and where puffballs *Lycoperdon* spp. remain reasonably common.

Although I have never encountered *P. ferrugineus* in the county, I can now report a genuine *P. adustus* Reitter - as *P. lanuginosus* should now be known (Hodge & Jones, 1995) - from the RSPB reserve at Nagshead in the Forest of Dean, where one was swept from alders *Alnus* along the Cannop Brook (SO 609093), 14.ix.1991.

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A few recent Scottish records

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In checking over the records listed below, much use was made of the invaluable Scottish Insect Records Index (SIRI) that is maintained in the Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. The scarcity rankings are from Hyman (1992, 1994).

Colon latum Kraatz (Leiodidae). Northhouse Burn, Roxburghshire (VC 80, NT 442069), 5.vii.1994, 1 female in a pitfall trap in vegetated shingle. Crowson (1971b) lists records from west-central Scotland (VCs 75, 76, 77, 86 and 99) and SIRI lists others from VCs 76 and 77. Notable.

Lathrobium zetterstedti Rye (Staphylinidae). Aberlady Bay NR, East Lothian (VC 82, NT 467813), 11.ix.1996, fairly plentiful in damp moss at the edge of a small, peaty pond. A good many records are noted in SIRI but only one, from VC 76, is post-1950. Notable B.

Philonthus concinnus (Gravenhorst) (Staphylinidae). Hedderwick, East Lothian (VC 82, NT 642793), 24.iv.1995. No post-1950 records are cited in SIRI, but the few earlier records are from scattered localities.

Philonthus corvinus Erichson (Staphylinidae). Aberlady Bay NR, East Lothian (VC 82, NT 466818), 5.viii.1981, 1 male in the pond-net while working shallow, mossy pond margins. This species may well be declining in numbers in Scotland, as SIRI lists only one post-1950 record (for VC 102), but a fairly large number of older findings. Early this century, Aberlady was a known site for this beetle (Beare, 1921, 1928; Evans, 1922). During the past two years, several searches, by myself and others, have failed to repeat the record. Notable.

Myllaena infuscata Kraatz (Staphylinidae). Aberlady Bay NR, East Lothian (VC 82, NT 467813), 11.ix.1996, 1 female sifted from damp moss. Only two records are listed in SIRI, both from Aberlady (Beare, 1921, 1928).

Halobrecta flavipes Thomson (Staphylinidae). Tynemouth, East Lothian (VC 82, NT 634798), 12.iv.1995, 1 male sifted from the high-tide strand. This species does not appear to have been previously reported from this vice-county. All the post-1950 records in SIRI are from the Hebrides.

Aleochara moerens Gyllenhal (Staphylinidae). Near Nethy Bridge, Moray (Elgin) (VC 95, NJ 001203), 24.viii.1994, 3 males in dog dung. No post-1950 records are given in SIRI. Notable.

Donacia impressa Paykull (Chrysomelidae). By Woodhall Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire (VC 73, NX 678665), 27.vi.1996, a pair swept on damp ground shaded by trees. A small number of records from scattered localities are listed in SIRI, the most recent dating from 1968. The only recent record known to me is Dr G.N. Foster's from Fergus Loch, Ayrshire (VC 75, NS 31), 30.v.1985 (G.N. Foster, *pers. comm.*). Notable A.

Donacia thalassina Germar (Chrysomelidae). Dow Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire (VC 73, NX 375718), 26.vi.1996, two swept from Bottle Sedge *Carex rostrata*. This record is included because of the surprising paucity of records in SIRI, with none from this vice-county. Notable B.

Thryogenes nereis (Paykull) (Curculionidae). Dow Loch, Kirkcudbrightshire (VC 73, NX 375718), 22.vi.1996, swept sparingly from sedges, mainly Bottle Sedge, fringing the loch. There are only four records in SIRI, all from VCs 72 and 73. The only recent record is by Crowson (1971a).

Ceutorhynchus atomus Boheman (Curculionidae). Galashiels, Roxburghshire (VC 80, NT 512358), 2.v.1995, 1 found by Mr A. Buckham in his garden. SIRI has only two entries (as *C. setosus* Boheman), both from VC 73. The more recent record is from 1914. Notable A.

Acknowledgements

I thank Dr G.N. Foster and Mr A. Buckham for allowing me to quote their records. I am grateful to East Lothian Council for permission to study at Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve.

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Carcinops pumilio (Erichson) (Histeridae) in West Lothian

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On 28th June 1995, I was helping my friend Bob Saville, co-ordinator of the Lothian Wildlife Information Centre (LWIC), to collect beetles from a garden in West Lothian (VC 84, NT 081741). This was being done as part of the LWIC's 'Secret Garden Survey' in the region, as the LWIC is the biological recording centre for the Lothians. While there I extracted a few specimens from a compost heap at the back of what was a very untidy garden. Sorting through the specimens I came across a single *Carcinops pumilio*, which I sent to Magnus Sinclair to be verified and this he duly did.

The Scottish Insect Records Index at the National Museums of Scotland (Chambers Street, Edinburgh) refers to Owen's (1994) record from N.E. Scotland in July 1983, in which specimens were found in several Osprey nests from three sites. Hinton (1945) mentions a specimen found between 1942 and 1944 "in crushed bones on the Dundee Docks".

Acknowledgement

I thank Magnus Sinclair for taking the time to verify the specimen.

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***Batrisodes adnexus* (Hampe) (Pselaphidae) in Leicestershire**

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Batrisodes adnexus was first discovered in Britain at Windsor (Donisthorpe, 1924) and for many years was considered to be one of our rarest beetles. Only five British specimens had been collected, all of them as single examples from the original locality, until 1987, when nine specimens emerged from the sievings of rotten heartwood taken from an oak *Quercus* in Epping Forest (Mendel, 1991). On 22nd February 1997, I removed a sample of damp rotten heartwood from the base of a veteran hedgerow ash *Fraxinus* tree at Ashby Folville in Leicestershire (SK 713114). Access to the heartwood was made possible by a large opening at one side of the base of the tree following extensive tunnelling by the Lesser Stag Beetle, *Dorcus parallelipipedus* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae). Fruiting bodies of the Dryad's Saddle fungus *Polyporus squamosus* were present on the tree later in the season. Two specimens of *B. adnexus* were extracted from the sample using a Tullgren funnel. A further specimen was extracted from a similar sample taken from the same tree on 31st March. Mendel (1991) noted that no males had been found in Britain and suggested that the British population may be parthenogenetic. All three Leicestershire specimens are female.

Apart from an unattributed record of *B. adnexus* being reared from a fungus (Hyman, 1994), all previous occurrences of this species in Britain have been in association with ants in rotten oak wood. The ant *Lasius brunneus* (Latreille) was the recorded host in all but one case, when *Lasius niger* (Linnaeus) was given as the host (Allen, 1946). The present record comes from ash and there was no evidence of any association with ants. The Leicestershire record is also remarkable in that it comes from an agricultural landscape with no known history of woodland cover. The nearest area of ancient woodland is the Leighfield Forest complex c. 8 km to the south-east, but these woods have been managed predominantly as coppice and, to date, they have not been found to support a saproxylic beetle fauna of more than local significance. By contrast, Epping and Windsor Forests, the previous localities for *B. adnexus*, support internationally important saproxylic insect communities with strong ancient woodland associations.

The Ashby Folville population may be descended from recent immigrants to the area, but then they should all be full-winged, if they are genetically identical. The wings of one specimen were examined and they were folded but rather short compared with species that habitually disperse by flight. The alternative possibility is that *B. adnexus* may have been present in hedgerow trees in the area for some time. A rich saproxylic assemblage was found in the same tree and it seems likely that this assemblage has developed over some time. The following species were found in the numbers shown in the sample of rotten wood taken on 31st March:

<i>Plegaderus dissectus</i> Erichson (Histeridae)	3
<i>Abraeus globosus</i> (Hoffmann) (Histeridae)	12
<i>Aeletes atomarius</i> (Aubé) (Histeridae)	2
<i>Paromalus flavicornis</i> (Herbst) (Histeridae)	7
<i>Anthobium unicolor</i> (Marshall) (Staphylinidae)	1
<i>Quedius scitulus</i> (Gravenhorst) (Staphylinidae)	1
<i>Euplectus kirbyi</i> Denny (Pselaphidae)	5
<i>Batrisodes adnexus</i> (Hampe) (Pselaphidae)	1
<i>Melanotus villosus</i> (Fourcroy) (Elateridae)	1(larva)
<i>Cerylon histeroides</i> (Fabricius) (Cerylonidae)	5
<i>Entimus transversus</i> (Olivier) (Lathridiidae)	1

If *Anthobium unicolor* is excluded as a vagrant, no less than four out of ten species recorded are listed by Harding and Rose (1986) as indicators of long-term continuity of management

sympathetic to saproxylic invertebrates. These include two grade one indicators and one grade two species. Such an assemblage is an illustration of the potential conservation value of veteran hedgerow trees in the wider countryside.

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***Oligella intermedia* Besuchet (Ptiliidae) in Leicestershire**

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Oligella intermedia was described from specimens collected in humus at the foot of old trees in Switzerland and was introduced to the British list on the basis of a 19th-century specimen from Knowle, Warwickshire, in the Blatch collection (Johnson, 1976). It has since been found again in Warwickshire at mercury vapour light (McClenaghan, 1991), in Buckinghamshire (Hyman, 1994) and in Yorkshire in a grass trap placed at the base of a beech *Fagus* tree (Marsh, 1987).

Using a Tullgren funnel, a single specimen was extracted from a sample of soft, rotten heartwood collected on 4th July 1996 from the base of a pollarded willow *Salix* at Fosse Meadows Local Nature Reserve in Leicestershire (SP 488915). The conditions in which this specimen was found appear to be similar to those where the species was originally discovered in Switzerland.

Other species collected from the same sample were: *Abraeus globosus* (Hoffmann) (Histeridae), 1 specimen; *Scaphisoma agaricinum* (Linnaeus) (Scaphidiidae), 1; *S. boleti* (Panzer) (Scaphidiidae), 5; and *Melanotus villosus* (Fourcroy) (Elateridae), several larvae.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Blaby District Council for commissioning the survey of Fosse Meadows Nature Reserve and to Mr. Colin Johnson for confirming the identification of the Leicestershire specimen.

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Some additions and corrections to the list of Orkney beetles

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The New Naturalist volume on Orkney (VC 111; Berry, 1985) contains in an appendix a list of beetle species, which serves as a useful basis on which a checklist may eventually be built. I have already (1988) published a small number of additions to that list, and I can now add a few more:

Bembidion aeneum Germar (Carabidae). Yesnaby, Sandwick (HY 222162), plentiful under stones on damp clay, 26.v.1993. Listed for Orkney in Poppius (1904-5).

Pterostichus rhaeticus Heer (Carabidae). Pullan, Stenness (HY 305105), 29.v.1991. Backatown, Firth (HY 377188), 24.v.1993. By Loch of Hundland, Birsay (HY 293253), 27.v.1993. Small numbers in damp situations. Luff (1990) reported this as a British species hitherto confused with *P. nigrita* (Paykull). I have not found the latter species in Orkney.

Cercyon depressus Stephens (Hydrophilidae). Glims Holm (ND 478993), 1 under a stone near high-tide level, 19.v.1993.

Philonthus splendens (Fabricius) (Staphylinidae). Waulkmill Bay, Orphir (HY 379067), 1 under a dead Razorbill *Alca torda*, 20.v.1991.

Mycetoporus angularis Mulsant & Rey (Staphylinidae), one, data as for previous species.

Amischa cavifrons (Sharp) (Staphylinidae). Yesnaby, Sandwick (HY 221158), plentiful under stones near high-tide level, 18.v.1993.

Atheta cadaverina (Brisout) (Staphylinidae), one, data as for *Philonthus splendens* above.

Aleochara obscurella Gravenhorst (Staphylinidae). Glims Holm (ND 477992), one in gravel at the top of a sandy shore, 25.v.1991.

Cyphon padi (Linnaeus) (Scirtidae). Moss of Cruland, Sandwick (HY 237150), swept plentifully from Marsh Marigold *Caltha palustris*, 18.v.1993.

Cantharis rufa Linnaeus (Cantharidae). Waulkmill Bay, Orphir (HY 376064), one under a stone, 31.v.1991.

Corticaria impressa (Olivier) (Lathridiidae). Glims Holm (ND 478993), one under a stone just above high-tide level, 19.v.1993.

Aquatic beetles

The list of aquatic Coleoptera in Berry (1985) appears to be closely based on that in Balfour-Browne (1948). In 1982 I wrote a short account of collecting water-beetles in Orkney for the local Field Club newsletter. In this I pointed out some errors in the Balfour-Browne paper, and I also added a few species to his list. As the newsletter is not, strictly speaking, a publication, I take this opportunity of putting that information on record here:

Agabus chalconatus (Panzer) (Dytiscidae). The Orkney species is *A. melanocornis* Zimmermann which Balfour-Browne (1950) treated as a variety of *chalconatus*.

Agabus melanarius Aubé (Dytiscidae). This is included neither in Balfour-Browne (1948) nor Berry (1985) but there is an Orcadian specimen in the Power collection (Balfour-Browne, 1950).

Gyrinus natator (Linnaeus) (Gyrinidae). This is a very rare beetle that was thought to be a synonym of *G. substriatus* Stephens; the latter is the Orkney species.

Helophorus griseus Herbst (Hydrophilidae). This is almost certainly an error caused by past taxonomic confusion within parts of this genus. Angus (1978) recognised only one authentic Scottish record.

Limnebius papposus Mulsant (Hydraenidae). This was included in Balfour-Browne (1948). Although he stated his rejection of the record it appears in Berry (1985). As it is a distinctly southern species it must be deleted from the Orkney list until verified.

The species I added (Sinclair, 1982) were: *Brychius elevatus* (Panzer) (Halipidae); *Hydroporus melanarius* Sturm, *H. umbrosus* (Gyllenhal) and *Agabus paludosus* (Fabricius)

(Dytiscidae); and *Laccobius bipunctatus* (Fabricius) (Hydrophilidae). None of these is included in the list in Berry (1985).

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A pupation site for *Mycetophagus atomarius* (Fabricius) (Mycetophagidae)

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On 6th October 1996, I collected three pupae from under the attached bark of a large fallen ash *Fraxinus* tree on the edge of Rough Park, an area of replanted, mixed woodland in Leicestershire (SK 390180). The pupae were reared to adulthood within a few weeks and identified as *Mycetophagus atomarius*.

Koch (1989) gives the main habitat of this species as bracket fungi and other fungal fruiting bodies on dead wood. Presumably, at Rough Park, the larvae had moved under the bark of the main trunk from the fungal fruiting body, where they developed, in order to pupate and then overwinter as adults. Some fruiting bodies of the fungus, *Daldinia concentrica*, still remained on the tree.

Two other species associated with fruiting bodies of *Daldinia concentrica* were also found under the bark near the pupae. These were *Biphylus lunatus* (Fabricius) (Biphylidae), which was present in large numbers, and *Litargus connexus* (Fourcroy) (Mycetophagidae).

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Agrilus sinuatus (Olivier) (Buprestidae) new to Somerset

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On 15th August 1997, I discovered an old hawthorn *Crataegus*, bearing the characteristic D-shaped exit-holes of this species, just inside the northeast entrance to Orchardleigh Park, near Frome, Somerset (VC 6: North Somerset, ST 786518).

This is apparently the first Somerset record, although the species is already known from neighbouring parts of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Dorset (Keith Alexander, *in litt.*).

Acknowledgement

I thank Dr K.N.A. Alexander for confirming my identification.

***Chlaenius tristis* (Schaller) (Carabidae): a thriving colony in North Wales**

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Breeding colonies of this spectacular ground-beetle, formerly known as *C. holosericeus* (Fabricius), have probably always been very localised in the British Isles, but it has now declined to the point where it has apparently disappeared from all its former English localities.

Historically the species is reasonably well documented. Stephens (1827) quotes: "A local insect, found in marshy places; it was formerly in three or four collections only; but in August, 1826, several specimens were taken by Mr. Weaver, on the borders of Whittlesea Mere; and Mr. S. Hanson found one at Fen Ditton, Berks". In the supplementary notes to *Geodephaga Britannica* (Dawson, 1856: 74) there are references to two discoveries by Dr Power: "On the 21st of May, 1833, two examples were found by Dr. Power in Reche Fen, Cambridgeshire, by the side of the main road, soon after leaving the village of Reche. Also two or three others were found by him in a swampy place in the village of Isleham, between Fordham and Mildenhall, near Newmarket. Part of the village is situate in an old gravel pit, near which is the swamp". Fowler (1887) adds more information, including an Irish record: "Very rare. Fen Ditton, Berks, and Whittlesea Mere (Stephens); Hornsea, Yorkshire, and Norfolk (Skrimshire); Mr. W. Garneys has recorded a specimen (doubtfully) from Repton; it is very probable that some of these specimens were dark varieties of the preceding [*C. nigricornis* (Fabricius)]. Dr. Power some years ago took twelve specimens at Burwell Fen, and Mr. S. Stevens captured seven specimens on the banks of Lough Derg, near Killaloe, Ireland, in May, 1870 or 1871".

C. tristis probably still occurred in parts of eastern England during the second half of the 19th Century since Power's records for Burwell Fen are thought to be for the 1860s. There is a 20th-century record for the species from Charmouth, Dorset, where it was evidently found in 1926. This data was supplied for the Ground Beetle (Carabidae) Recording Scheme by the Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation, but further research is needed in order to determine the validity of the record (M.L. Luff, *pers. comm.*).

The species appears to have fared better in Ireland during the 20th Century and Speight (1977) gives four records, the most recent being from Co. West Meath (VC H23) in 1976. He also suggests that "the lack of Irish records during the last 40 years is perhaps more due to the rarity of coleopterists than of the beetle!" and he believes that it is quite possibly even widely distributed in the country. Speight also states that "this insect is particularly difficult to find, occurring as it does along thickly vegetated, swampy lake and river margins". Because the British conservation bodies are not concerned with the Irish fauna, neither Shirt (1987) nor Hyman (1992) discuss the species' status there.

Shirt (1987) states that *C. tristis* was believed to be extinct in Britain until a single specimen was recorded from Cors Geirch on the Llyn Peninsula, Gwynedd (VC 49: Caernarvonshire) in the 1970s. This record is repeated by Hyman (1992). The discovery was made by Dr Tony Warne whilst undertaking a survey of wetland invertebrates at Cors Geirch National Nature Reserve (NNR) for the Nature Conservancy Council between 5th and 9th July 1976, and the single specimen was found in the south-east part of the site in *Sphagnum* moss growing amongst Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale*.

In late May 1997 my wife and I spent a weekend with David Hance and his partner at Nefyn in North Wales. Not having any entomological knowledge of the Llyn Peninsula I wrote to Adrian Fowles, Invertebrate Ecologist for the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) for advice and he suggested that we might like to search for *C. tristis* at Cors Geirch as no further specimens had been found since Tony Warne's discovery in 1976. We agreed that David and myself should spend the morning of 27th May 1997 searching Cors Geirch (SH 3235) with the guidance of the reserve warden, Les Colley. The weather was warm and sunny with little wind and this gave us the perfect opportunity to search for the *Chlaenius*. For a couple of hours we

trudged through swampy ground, not finding very much beetle life. It was then decided to search some recently created muddy scrapes and there we immediately found abundant terrestrial insect life, including several *Blethisa multipunctata* (Linnaeus) (Carabidae), running actively on the wet mud. With only half an hour of our allotted time left we decided to examine another recently disturbed wet area on a nearby seepage, just outside the reserve. Almost immediately I discovered two large black *Chlaenius* running actively between tussocks on damp muddy ground and a quick examination through a hand-lens confirmed that they were indeed *C. tristis*. A rapid search of the area revealed at least four more specimens, all very active, and making no attempt to hide in the undergrowth. Determined to prove that the species also occurred on the NNR, David returned to the scrapes where *Blethisa* occurred and after several minutes' diligent search he succeeded in finding one specimen of *C. tristis* there.

It might easily be assumed that the *C. tristis* colony at Cors Geirch was confined to a very small portion of the site, but this is thought to be highly unlikely. It is far more probable that the recent creation of bare muddy ground has provided an ideal habitat for predatory ground-beetles and this has either caused a temporary increase in the population of *C. tristis* or perhaps merely made it easier to find. Prior to the creation of the new scrapes, areas containing temporary pools with bare ground were probably very limited in extent and would have been made mainly by grazing animals.

Please note that access to Cors Geirch NNR is by permit only. Permits can be obtained by contacting the warden at CCW, Bryn Menai, Ffordd Caergybi, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2EF. Tel.: 01248 373100.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mike Howe and Adrian Fowles of CCW for their help in organising access to Cors Geirch NNR; Les Colley, the warden, for his guidance around the site; Martin Luff for supplying information and references on past records for *C. tristis*; Richard Jones for further help with references; Tony Warne for allowing me to publish details of his discovery; and Joy and David for their hospitality during my stay at Nefyn.

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Rosalia alpina (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) in Hampshire

K. Halstead

Mistletoe Cottage, Maseys Lane, East Boldre, Brookenhurst, Hampshire SO42 7WE

On 31st January 1997, a live specimen of this beetle was found by Mrs M. Smith of Lymington, Hampshire. It was taken to the local Environmental Health Officer who subsequently brought it to me for identification. Although first identified as this species by a pest control firm, I was able to confirm its identity. The species is well illustrated in several popular works on European beetles, the best being Bohac & Winkler (1964). Unfortunately the specimen was killed before it was brought to the notice of the local district council and it became somewhat damaged, but it was still readily identifiable and judging by the length of the antennae was obviously a female.

I later visited the house and found that the beetle had emerged from a beech *Fagus* rocking-chair where, besides an exit-hole in the chair leg, there was evidence of an infilling repair which probably coincided with either the working of the larva or the emergence of another beetle. It appears that the wood probably originated from Romania. I subsequently showed the specimen to Howard Mendel, who recognised it at once saying that he had seen a similar specimen near the Black Sea. This seems to corroborate the probable source of this specimen as being from Romania. Bily (1990) notes that the species was formerly found throughout central, southern and eastern Europe and in the Caucasus but is increasingly scarce in Europe and is protected by law in Germany. Females lay their eggs on dying beeches and development takes several years. The decline of this species is thought to be due to the destruction of dead standing beech timber and because eggs are laid on freshly felled trunks where the larvae have no chance of completing their development before the wood is processed. Adults are also attracted to scolytid pheromone traps, where they die in large numbers.

Acknowledgement

I thank Peter Hodge for providing me with additional literature.

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Diaperis boleti (Linnaeus) (Tenebrionidae) in Norfolk

Dr Jonty Denton

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On 5.v.1997, I tapped a single male of this RDB2 species from a polypore on a dead standing birch *Betula* on Thompson Common, Norfolk (TL 9396). This appears to be the first record for Norfolk and VC 28. The discovery of this rarity at such a well-worked site raises the old question: Is this species reaching detectable levels from tiny relict populations or spreading in response to climatic amelioration? Its occurrence in secondary habitats in East Suffolk (Alexander & Edwards, 1997) suggest the latter might be the case. It is to be hoped that these are among the first of a glut of new records of this handsome beetle. Other species found in the abundant dead and dying hardwood on the site included the Notable B species, *Melandrya caraboides* (Linnaeus) (Melandryidae).

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Norfolk Wildlife Trust for permission to sample the site as part of a survey for English Nature.

Reference

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Letters**Foodplants of *Cryptocephalus fulvus* Goeze (Chrysomelidae)**

A. A. Allen

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Dr J.S. Denton (1997) very convincingly shows that Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella* is a major host of this beetle and invites records of other possible associations. Like many of us probably, I have often met with it casually in a variety of ecotypes; but on one occasion, when grubbing at the base of a rather large and spreading plant of the above species near here I found *C. fulvus* to be present in considerable numbers, so as to leave no doubt of the association.

But clearly this cannot be the whole story; for instance, *C. fulvus* is quite often swept on chalk downland, where *R. acetosella* - a distinctly calcifuge plant - could not well be the host. The late G.H. Ashe was much inclined to connect the beetle with the common Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus*, and indeed I have come to regard this as another (perhaps the other) foodplant here, having several times swept the insect off clumps of the *Lotus* in this district (Woolwich Common) with no *Rumex* close at hand.

Reference

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An English beetle swarm

L. Auckland

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Further to M. Sinclair's observations of flying swarms of beetles (Sinclair, 1997), the following may be of interest.

My brother, on returning from a lunch-time stroll, said he had just walked through a swarm of beetles, which in his words were "behaving like midges", i.e. hovering or ascending and descending in loose vertical columns but generally remaining in the same area and occupying the full width of the road. Whilst relating this to me a single specimen of *Aphodius fimetarius* (Linnaeus) (Scarabaeidae) crawled out of his hair; a vigorous amount of grubbing and beating did not produce further specimens. It is likely to have been a one-species swarm, as he thought that the captured specimen was the same as those which had landed on him as he walked.

Weather: warm and sunny, almost calm air. Location: Staxton (VC 62; TA 07), a little-used tarmac road bordered by a mixed variety of uncut tall grasses, thistles, docks, etc., with no obvious animal dung on the road or verge. Date: 12.9.96. A similar occurrence was observed by him in 1995 at the same place, but the date and species were not recorded.

Reference

- SINCLAIR, M. 1997. Some minor Scottish beetle swarms. *Coleopterist* 6: 75.

Review

Klucze do oznaczania owadów Polski [Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects] *Coleoptera, part 42. Ptinidae* by Jerzy Borowski. 1997. 45 pp., 125 figs. Published by and available from the Polish Entomological Society, ul. Sienkiewicza 21, 50-335 Wrocław, Poland.

The "Keys for the Identification of Polish Insects" series has been in production for about the same period as our own Royal Entomological Society Handbooks, but with 52 parts now published, including all the non-aleocharine Staphylinidae and the Chrysomelidae, coverage of the Polish fauna is more complete than the British. The individual parts parallel the original ethos behind our own *Handbook* series - cheap concise texts that facilitate the correct identification of a group of insects. A major difference is that whilst the Polish keys remain cheap and concise, the British ones have become less concise and more expensive over the years. Whatever, the fact remains that we all ought to be grateful that someone has prepared a *Handbook* even if its content does approach that of a monograph.

The Ptinidae is the latest part to be issued in the Polish series. As with all other parts, it is profusely illustrated, a feature which makes this series useful to anyone unable to read the Polish text. The drawings of the aedeagi and body outlines of the twenty Polish species of *Ptinus*, for example, are reason enough to purchase the book.

J. Cooter

Book Notices

A Provisional Atlas of the Longhorn Beetles of Warwickshire (Insecta: Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) by Steve Lane. Warwick: Warwickshire Biological Records Centre. 1996. 5 pp., 30 maps. A4 paper bound; *A Provisional Atlas of the Jewel Beetles, Soldier Beetles, Glow-worms & Net-winged Beetles of Warwickshire (Insecta: Coleoptera: Buprestidae: Cantharidae: Lampyridae: Lycidae)* by Steve Lane. Warwick: Warwickshire Biological Records Centre. 1996. 5 pp., 36 maps. A4 paper bound. Both available from Warwickshire Biological Records Centre, Warwickshire Museum, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4SA.

Provisional Atlas of the Click Beetles (Coleoptera: Elateroidea) of Britain and Ireland by H. Mendel & R.E. Clarke. 1996. ix+73 pp., 74 maps. A4 in clear plastic covers. Ipswich: Ipswich Borough Council Museums. Available from Ipswich Borough Council Museums & Galleries, High Street, Ipswich IP1 3QH. Price £5.00 + £1.00 P&P.

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For sale: *I Buprestidi d'Italia (Catalogo Tassonomico, Sinonimico, Biologico, Geomenico)*. By Gianfranco Curletti. 318 pp., 1994. New, £25 incl. post. J. Cooter 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford HR1 1NQ.

For sale: *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.*, Vols. 116-123 inclusive (1980-1987), unbound with wrappers and indices to Vols. 118-122. £4.00 per volume or £30 the lot. Roger Key 67 Peterborough Road, Crowland, Lincs. PE6 0BB Tel.: (01733) 210541.

Change of address: Please note that Derek Lott, formerly Keeper of Biology, has moved and is now: Keeper of Natural Sciences, Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RA Tel.: (0116) 265 6790. Fax.: (0116) 265 6788.

Putting the Ciidae on the map: As part of my PhD project on the British Ciidae I am examining their morphology, ecology and distribution, and plan to present this work as a compilation of descriptions, illustrations and maps, accompanied by an identification key. I shall be most grateful to receive your Ciidae records, with any habitat notes and observations (e.g. tree/fungal hosts, presence of teneral) a valuable bonus. Please send voucher specimens where identification is in doubt; these will be returned. Your help will be greatly appreciated and all contributors will be duly acknowledged. Glenda Orledge School of Biology and Biochemistry, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

Wanted: Whole years with indices and title pages, bound in wrappers - *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.*, Vols. 1-8, 10, 12-15, 17-21, 23-33, 35, 59-61, 63-68, 70, 99. *Entomologist's Rec.*, Vols. 1-16, 27-63, 89-93, 97-98, 103-107. Tony Drane 'Rocklands', 19 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1LT.

Wanted: The Coleoptera plates with text of Hefte 110 of Panzer's *Fauna Insectorum Germanicae* - *Aphodius affinis, contaminatus, oblitteratus; Melolontha ruficornis; Byrrhus luniger, signatus, lineatus, nitens; Hydrophilus piceus; Dytiscus punctulatus* (male), ditto (female). I would also be interested in some specific 1st edition plates and text, particularly from Hefte 8. Tony Drane 'Rocklands', 19 Station Road, Cogenhoe, Northampton NN7 1LT.

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.

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