The Coleopterist

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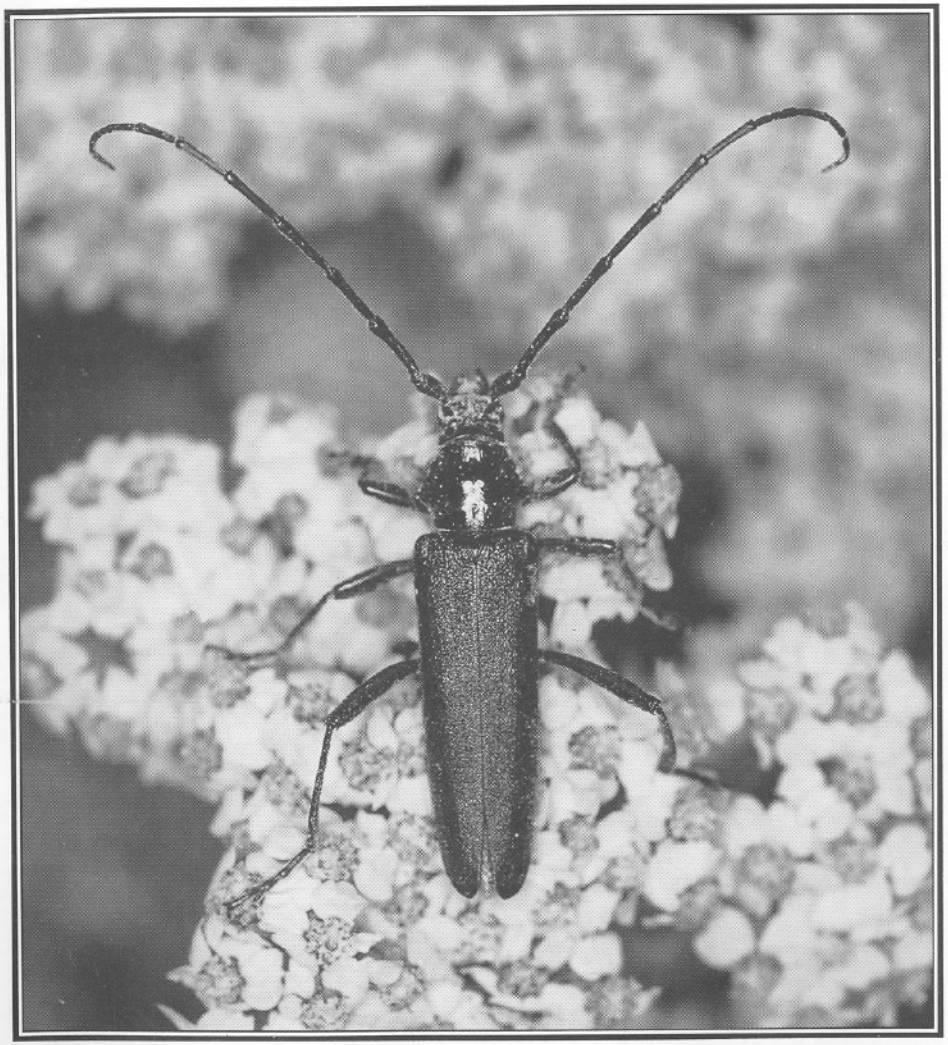

Phloeosinus aubei **breeding in Surrey**
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History of *Cryptocephalus exiguus* in Britain
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Notes • Field Meeting Report • Review

The Coleopterist

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Phloeosinus aubei (Perris) (Scolytidae) in Surrey, the first record of this bark beetle breeding in Britain

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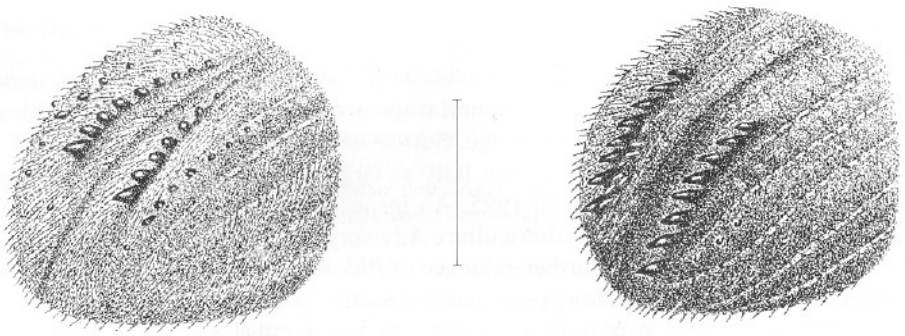
Breeding galleries containing live adults, larvae and pupae of *Phloeosinus aubei* (Perris) (= *bicolor* Brullé), a southern European bark beetle, were found in a dead *Thuja plicata* at Brooklands, Weybridge, Surrey on 10th October 1996. The tree is one of several that were imported from Italy as large ball-rooted planting stock and planted either in spring or autumn 1995. An inspection of the planting site later in October 1996 by Mr D. Patch (Arboriculture Advisory and Information Service of the Tree Advice Trust) found no further evidence of *Phloeosinus* Chapuis activity on any of the remaining live trees. However, since the beetles had been present for at least a year before discovery, it is quite probable that a generation has been reared and dispersed locally. Any future finds of *Phloeosinus* in Surrey should be examined with care since confusion with *P. thujae* (Perris) is possible. The latter species was first found on *Thuja orientalis* at Kew Gardens in July 1922 (Dallimore & Munro, 1922). It is now established and breeding on various Cupressaceae in southern England and has also been found at Monks Wood, Huntingdonshire (R.C. Welch, *pers. comm.*).

Grüne (1979) and Balachowsky (1949) give keys and figures to separate the two species but if these references are not available the following differences will enable *P. aubei* and *P. thujae* to be separated. There is a size difference which is useful, *P. aubei* (2-2.5 mm) being larger than *P. thujae* (1.5-2.4 mm). There is some dimorphism but both sexes can be separated by the arrangement of the tubercles on the declivity (Figs. 1-2), although these are more prominent on males than on females. *P. aubei* has prominent tubercles on both the 1st and 3rd interstriae, whereas *P. thujae* has a single row of larger tubercles on each raised 3rd interstria. On *P. aubei* the rows of tubercles on the 1st interstriae are straight, or slightly bowed, and converge with those on the 3rd interstriae; on *P. thujae* the rows are straight and diverge slightly. In both sexes of *P. thujae* the 2nd interstriae are narrowed on the declivity, giving a pinched appearance when viewed from behind. Also the elytral setae are more stubby and erect, giving *P. thujae* a rougher appearance than *P. aubei* which has the setae longer, finer and more recumbent. The latter species also has setae present on the declivity between the tubercles, whereas *P. thujae* has this part of the declivity almost glabrous. The frons of male *P. thujae* is excavated and

crossed by a vertical carina. There is no excavation present on the frons of female *P. thujae*, or on either sex of *P. aubei*, although there is a carina present on all except some *P. aubei* females. Balachowsky (1949) illustrates the eye of *P. thujae* with a notch four or five ocelli deep on the anterior edge but shows the eye of *P. aubei* as hardly notched. However, this character was not consistent on the *P. aubei* from Brooklands or *P. thujae* from several locations in Surrey.



Figs. 1-2: *Phloeosinus* spp. elytral declivities (scale = 1.0 mm). **1** *P. aubei*; **2** *P. thujae*. *R.W.J. Read*

P. aubei has a similar distribution and host plant range in Europe to *P. thujae* (Balachowsky, 1949). It has been recorded in Britain once before: at Southampton Docks on imported pallet wood from southern France (Winter, 1991).

Any records of *Phloeosinus* species, or any other scolytids, sent to the Bark Beetle Recording Scheme at the above address, will be most welcome.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to John Read for his drawings of the declivities.

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Changes to the British List published in 1996 and 1997

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Introduction

This review gives brief details of additions to and deletions from the British beetle list arising from publications in 1996 and 1997.

Added or reinstated species

All papers referred to below give information on identification of the new species, except for Owen (1997). The following status codes are used:

A - species that appear to have *arrived* in (or been introduced to) the British Isles within the last 25 years or so.

C - species that have been *confused* in the past with other species.

N - species apparently *native* or long *naturalised* in the British Isles that have previously escaped detection.

CARABIDAE

Harpalus griseus Panzer 1797 **A**

A single specimen was taken in a light trap operated in a garden at Wimbledon in late July, 1995 (Owen, 1996).

STAPHYLINIDAE

Oxytelus migrator Fauvel 1904 **A**

This species was included in a list of beetles recorded from Headley Warren in Surrey (Owen, 1997). Two previous British records from 1988 were also quoted. *O. migrator* has spread into Europe following its discovery in Finland in 1977. A brief description of the species in German appears in Lohse & Lucht (1989).

Philonthus spinipes Sharp 1874 **A**

Several specimens were collected from a manure heap in Dorset (Allen & Owen, 1997). This species is thought to be a native of the far East, but has appeared in several European countries since 1980.

CLAMBIDAE

Clambus simsoni Blackburn 1902 **A**

This Australian species was recorded in 1996 from two sites in South Wales (Johnson, 1997).

LATHRIDIIDAE

Stephostethus alternans (Mannerheim, 1844) **A/N?**

In 1996, a single specimen was taken in a Malaise trap at Dinefwr deer park in Carmarthenshire (Levey, 1997).

MYCETOPHAGIDAE

Eulagius filicornis (Reitter 1887) **A**

Harrison (1996) reports finding this species in Reading over two years. The urban nature of the site and the European distribution of this species suggest that it was accidentally introduced into this country.

BRUCHIDAE

Bruchidius varius (Olivier 1795) **A**

In 1994 and 1996, this species was recorded at two sites in Sussex (Hodge, 1997). It now appears to be spreading and there is little doubt that it is a recent arrival (R.G. Booth *pers. comm.*).

CHRYSOMELIDAE

Chrysolina americana (Linnaeus 1758) **A**

The species was found in a house at Disley, Cheshire in 1963 (Johnson, 1963). In 1994, three specimens were found outdoors at the Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Wisley (Halstead, 1996). This species was undoubtedly accidently introduced into the gardens and it remains to be seen whether the species will become established outdoors.

Chaetocnema picipes Stephens 1831 **C**

Formerly confused with *C. concinna* (Marsham), *C. picipes* was introduced by Booth & Owen (1997) both as a species widespread in the southern half of England and as the correct name for *C. laevicollis* (Thomson), the name currently used for the species in Europe.

Deleted species

LEIODIDAE

Leiodes pallens (Sturm 1807)

On examination of the relevant vouchers, all published records of this species were found to originate from misidentified specimens of *L. triepkei* (Schmidt) (Cooter, 1996).

Further discussions

STAPHYLINIDAE

Oxypoda tarda Sharp 1871

This taxon was listed as a synonym of *O. brachyptera* (Stephens) by Pope (1977). However, Lucht (1987) and Silfverberg (1992) both retain its specific identity. Whitehead (1996) discusses the distinctness of *O. tarda*, but recommends that further work is needed in order to clarify its status.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Roger Booth for finding several dates of original descriptions and providing additional comments. I am also grateful to Andrew Duff for bringing my attention to the record of *Oxytelus migrator*.

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Unusual abundance of *Lagria hirta* (Linnaeus) (Tenebrionidae) in north-east Essex

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Lagria hirta occurs quite frequently in north-east Essex and is seen most years in varying numbers. However, on 2nd July 1997, whilst recording insects on the cliff slopes at Clacton-on-Sea (VC 19), I noticed the presence of exceptionally large numbers of *L. hirta*, both alive and dead. The beetles were crawling on the vegetation, paths and walls, and many were crushed on the pavement and promenade. Drains were full of remains and I counted 125 individuals in one small shelter at the base of the cliff.

The beetles were frequent along nearly 2 km of shore (including parts of TM 1814, TM 1815 and TM 1915) and must have numbered in their thousands, at the very least. It was not possible to examine the strandline for any *L. hirta*, due to the high tide. The cliff slopes at Clacton are grassy but have been planted extensively with *Tamarix* sp. and other exotic shrubs to stabilise them. Weather conditions were at first sunny with a stiff onshore breeze, and later rain.

The exceptional frequency of *L. hirta* in 1996 was noted by Allen (1997) and it seems that this abundance has been maintained during 1997, at least in Essex. As a postscript I might add that a single *L. hirta* was attracted to a lighted window at my house in Thorpe-le-Söken (TM 1722) on the evening of 7th October 1997, a late date for the species but within the date range given by Duff (1993).

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A further Essex record of *Troglops cephalotes* (Olivier) (Melyridae)

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The species was first taken in Essex at Leaden Roding in 1990, at a petrol filling station (Twinn, 1993), and is now recorded from Bardfield Saling (TL 686265), 17 km distant. On the afternoon of 12th August 1996, I found one on the inside of a downstairs window, apparently having flown in from outside, for the weather was warm and the doors were open. Subsequent daily searches of windows and garden produced no further specimens until 20th August, when another was taken inside an outbuilding, again on a window. As before, the doors were open for it was exceptionally warm with a shade temperature at this time (08.00 GMT) of 25°C.

In common with the recorded site in Suffolk (Collier, 1992), Bardfield Saling is purely rural and is situated in mainly arable farmland. Here, too, the possibility of a long-distance importation seems unlikely, particularly with two specimens taken. However, some weeks beforehand we had delivered a load of cut firewood logs now known to have originated from an oakwood no more than 4 km from the site at Leaden Roding. Although the stack was inspected regularly in the search for further specimens, and there appears to be no association between *T. cephalotes* and cut timber, transport with the logs remains a possibility.

The species is now certainly resident in Essex but whether at both Bardfield Saling and in the Leaden Roding area remains to be seen. During 1997, no further specimens were found.

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Atheta hybrida (Sharp) (Staphylinidae) in Hampshire

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On 23.iii.1997, I came across a rabbit *Oryctolagus* nest which had been dug out by a badger *Meles*, exposing a ball of hair and dried grass. This contained large numbers of fleas (Siphonaptera) and several beetles, amongst the latter being a single female *Atheta hybrida* (Sharp). The nest was situated in the collapsed face of a chalk pit, surrounded by mixed woodland at Rotherfield Park, North Hampshire (SU 6931).

According to Hyman (1994) this beetle has only been found in Midlothian (in the 19th Century) and N.E. Yorkshire (VC 62) where it was last found in 1936. Joy (1932) also lists Cumberland and there is an unpublished record from Ashtead Common, Surrey, where F.J. Coulson took it in May 1942 (John Owen, *pers. comm.*). The records to date suggest that this beetle can be active in the winter months, which may in part explain the paucity of records, especially if subterranean mammal nests are an important habitat.

Other species present included several *Aleochara lanuginosa* Gravenhorst and a single female *Quedius invreae* Gridelli (Staphylinidae).

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Mr A.A. Allen, and Peter Hodge for confirming my identification of *A. hybrida*.

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History of *Cryptocephalus exiguus* Schneider (Chrysomelidae) in Britain

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C. exiguus is one of our rarest beetles (currently known from a single site) and well deserves its RDB1 (Endangered) status. In size and colour it resembles the much commoner *C. labiatus* (Linnaeus) and is similar enough (Fig. 1) to be passed over for that species, especially in the field. Compared with *C. labiatus*, the pronotum is less transverse, its surface finely, longitudinally strigose rather than smooth and very shiny. In the male, the frons is largely yellow, with a central black stripe widening in front to the bases of the antennae or with separate black marks at the antennal bases. In male *C. labiatus* the frons is black, sometimes yellow along the inner margins of the eyes.

C. exiguus (as *wasastjernae* Gyllenhal) was added to the British list by Crotch (1863) in a single sentence: "I have long thought that our *Cryptocephalus labiatus* must include some other of the many little black species recorded by Suffrian, and I was pleased to find the other day among my specimens of that insect four or five of the *C. Wasastjernæ*, Gyll., easily recognised by the roughly punctured thorax and different colouring of the head." This cursory notice, with a poor description, made no mention of locality, habitat or date but the note itself is dated 25th November 1862 and Crotch gives his address as Uphill House, Weston-super-Mare.

The record was included in a summary of Coleoptera then recently added to the British list (Rye, 1864) with the comment "taken, I presume, at Weston-super-Mare". G.R. Crotch (1842-1874) was born in Somerset, moving to Cambridge as a young man (Darby, 1981 *et seqq.*), and "is recorded as noting several unusual beetles from Weston-super-Mare (date unknown but probably early 1860s)" (Duff, 1993). The Crotch Collection, which is incorporated into the general collection of British Coleoptera at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, contains a single undoubted example of *C. exiguus* labelled 'Weston S. M.' (probably an original label) and 'Ex. coll. G.R. Crotch', confirming that the species used to be found in the Weston-super-Mare area of Somerset (ST 36; VC 6).

All later records of *C. exiguus* are from eastern England and fall into three general areas:-

Lincolnshire - Thornley (1899) "took eight examples of this rare and interesting species in a little marsh in North Lincolnshire on June 21st and July 13th last year [1898]". Over the years that followed, Thornley's locality, Freshney Bog (TA 2409; VC 54) near Grimsby, was the source of many specimens of *C. exiguus* in museum collections. Specimens labelled 'Lincoln' or 'Little Coates' most probably originated from this site. For example, in the Natural History Museum, London are eleven specimens from Lincolnshire: five from the G.C. Champion Collection labelled 'Freshney Bog, Linc.',

five from the H.StJ. Donisthorpe Collection labelled 'Freshney Bog, July 2 1908' and a further specimen in the same collection labelled 'Lt Coates nr. Lincoln vi.1908 Donis.' The species survived at Freshney Bog until at least 1954 - "there is a specimen from Freshney in the Yorkshire Museum at York dated 2nd June 1954" but the site is "a shadow of its former self and it is unlikely that the beetle will be rediscovered there" (Key, 1993).

Norfolk and Suffolk Broads - *C. exiguus* was discovered in the Norfolk Broads by Power: "Among Dr. Power's notable things *Cryptocephalus Wasastjernii* taken during the past summer [1870] at Woodbastwick, Horning [TG 3316; VC 27]" (Rye, 1871). The Natural History Museum, London has vouchers which support this record. Edwards (1893) records *C. exiguus* from "Eaton Common, August, 1888 [TG 2005; VC 27]" and "Horning (Thouless) [TG 3316: VC 27]" in addition to "Woodbastwick (Power)". A specimen in the E.G. Elliman Collection (National Museum of Wales, Cardiff) was swept from marshes at Wroxham, Norfolk (TG 3016; VC 27) on 30th August 1906. In East Suffolk but still within the general area of the Broads, Bedwell (1899) took a single female example (voucher in Castle Museum, Norwich) "Whilst sweeping in some marshes near Oulton Broad [TM 5092; VC 25] in June last [1898]". According to Morley (1899), Bedwell actually took a pair *in cop.*, but this is possibly a result of confusion. Records suggest that *C. exiguus* used to be fairly widely distributed in Broadland but I have been unable to trace more recent records.

West Suffolk Breck Fens - A pair of *C. exiguus* taken *in cop.* by Claude Morley at Barton Mills (TL 7273; VC 26), on 14th June 1899, are in his collection at Ipswich Museum. Morley's diaries reveal that they were swept from "long grass" and an annotation in his personal copy of *The Coleoptera of Suffolk* (Morley, 1899) adds that they were "swept on the banks of the Lark". The species was not seen again in West Suffolk until a single male was swept from fen meadow in an area of damp hollows at Pashford Poors Fen (a Suffolk Wildlife Trust Nature Reserve) (TL 7383; VC 26) on 15th June 1980 (Mendel, 1987). Dr P.S. Hyman, on his third visit to look for the species at the site, succeeded in sweeping a single female from a wet area not far from the original location, on 22nd June 1986. In spite of the fact that the site is drying out and has deteriorated, the species survives and a male and female were swept on 19th July 1997.

Very little is known about the biology or habitat requirements of *C. exiguus* in Britain. It has been found from the beginning of June until the end of August and records clearly indicate that it is a wetland species associated with mixed fen or fen meadow habitat.

Comments in the British literature are an amalgam of snippets of information from Britain and abroad, repeated over more than a century and thereby given undue authority. "Mr. Crotch has noted Mannerheim's statement that *C. Wasastjernii* lives on *Carduus heterophyllus* in shady places" (Rye, 1871). In Britain, Melancholy Thistle *Cirsium heterophyllum* (Linnaeus) Hill is a northern and western species not found in East Anglia. Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre* (Linnaeus) Scopoli might be an alternative but, in total, there is very little evidence that the beetle is associated with *Cirsium* spp. Fowler (1890) repeated the statement adding that the species is found "On willows, and on flowers in damp meadows near woods". More recent continental literature (e.g. Mohr, 1966)

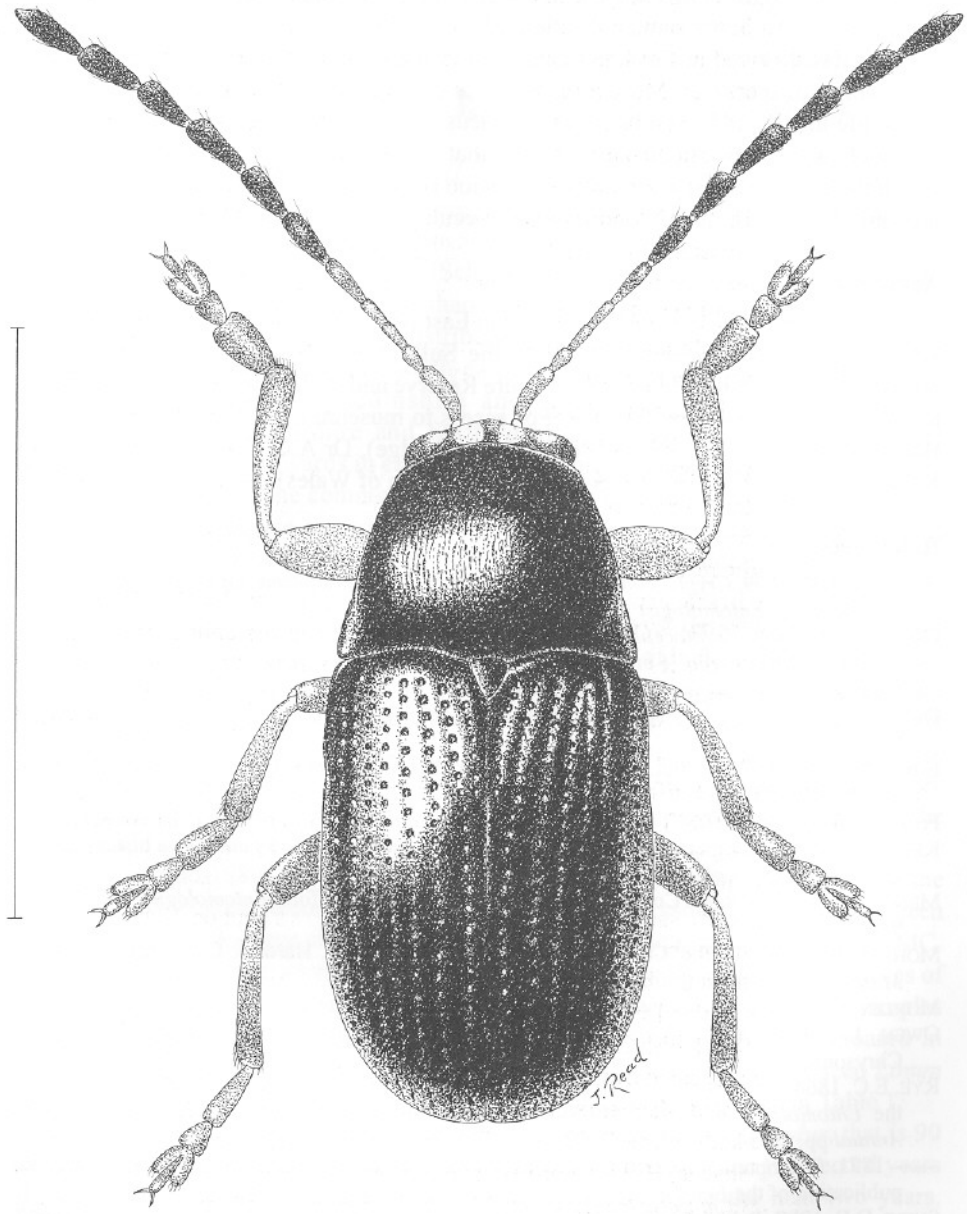

Fig. 1: *Cryptocephalus exiguus* Schneider (Chrysomelidae) male habitus (scale = 2.0 mm) *R. W. J. Read*

associates *C. exiguus* with birch *Betula* or Common Sallow *Salix cinerea* Linnaeus. However, in the Schleswig-Holstein region of northern Germany it is thought to be associated with dock *Rumex* (A. Herrmann, *in litt.*) and it may be significant that in Britain the majority of specimens have been swept rather than beaten. In any case, a recent study of the life history of *C. sexpunctatus* Linnaeus (Owen, 1997) indicates that it would be extremely unwise to assume automatically that the larvae feed on the same foodplant on which the adult beetle is found. The suggestion (M.L. Cox in Shirt, 1987) that the larvae probably live in ants' nests, appears to be speculative.

Acknowledgements

Confirmation that *C. exiguus* survives in East Anglia was a direct result of a contract awarded by English Nature. Thanks to the Suffolk Wildlife Trust for permission to record/collect at Pashford Poors Fen Nature Reserve and Dr P.S. Hyman for allowing me to include his record from that site. For access to museum collections I thank Ms Y.P. Barnett (University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge), Dr A.G. Irwin (Castle Museum, Norwich) and A.H. Kirk-Spriggs (National Museum of Wales).

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Increased abundance and spread of *Aphthona euphorbiae* (Schrank) and *Longitarsus parvulus* (Paykull) (Chrysomelidae) in Oxfordshire

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Nationally, *Aphthona euphorbiae* (Schrank) and *Longitarsus parvulus* (Paykull) are now much more widespread than formerly, with records from numerous 10 km squares. Perhaps the increase in distribution is more apparent in *L. parvulus* which was largely restricted to south and south-east England but has now extended its range northwards into North Lincolnshire and westwards into North Wiltshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire. *A. euphorbiae* has not greatly increased its range northwards in eastern England, but it is now found in Cumberland in the north-west. It is the commoner of the two species and is much more abundant and widespread on a vice-county scale. It is now more common in Lincolnshire and there are numerous recent records for the West Midlands, including Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.

In modern Oxfordshire, comprising VC 23 and north-west Berkshire (VC 22), there has been an expansion in range and an increase in numbers of both species. Historically, *A. euphorbiae* was recorded from only three localities in VC 23 before 1938 (Salzman, 1938, and Hope Collections). In the Oxfordshire part of VC 22 it was recorded at Wytham Wood in 1948 and 1963 (Wytham Survey). There have been no further records until 1990. *L. parvulus*, similarly, was recorded at Wytham Wood in 1948 by the Wytham Survey but there were no further records until 1990 when it was recorded both in VC 23 for the first time and again in VC 22.

Since the mid-1980s, as part of studies of the Oxfordshire flora and fauna by the Oxfordshire Biological Records Centre (Campbell, 1994), chrysomelid beetles have been collected from a wide range of sites and habitats throughout modern Oxfordshire by JMC. These samples have been identified by MLC. There have been some 120-170 samples of chrysomelids per year. *A. euphorbiae* and *L. parvulus* were first found in samples collected in 1990. The number of samples containing these two species increased in subsequent years and the results are shown in Table 1. The hectarage of Linseed *Linum usitatissimum* Miller, both for the U.K. and for Oxfordshire, is also given in Table 1.

The largest number of samples containing *A. euphorbiae* and *L. parvulus*, that is 90 and 18 respectively, occurred in 1994. Interestingly, this was after the two record years of 1992-93 for hectares of Linseed grown in Oxfordshire. Over the next two years, 1995-96, there was a decline in hectarages and a concomitant decline in the number of samples containing these flea-beetles. It is notable that, during the last two years, the proportion of autumn-sown Linseed has increased and this is probably less suitable for

larval development of both species. It is interesting that in both 1992 and 1994, the two top years for *A. euphorbiae*, the weather was hot and dry during most of May and June (Table 2). This probably resulted in a lower mortality of the soil-dwelling larvae and pupae.

Table 1: Hectarage of Linseed and captures of flea-beetles, 1989-96.

Year	Hectarage of Linseed		No. of samples containing	
	U.K. (x1000 ha)	Oxfordshire (ha)	*A. euphorbiae*	*L. parvulus*
1989	17.4	407	0	0
1990	33.7	813	6	1
1991	91.9	3,885	9	1
1992	144.5	5,350	36	7
1993	149.6	5,827	27	3
1994	*57.9	1,798	90	18
1995	*53.6	2,042	28	7
1996	*48.8	1,810	34	15

Key: * = excludes crops grown on Set-aside Scheme land.

Table 2: Weather summary for Oxfordshire, 1989-96.

Year	Weather
1989	Generally hot and sunny, the hottest May in 156 years
1990	May warm and sunny, June cool and dull
1991	May dry, June cool and damp
1992	May onwards hot and dry
1993	May mild and wet, June warm and dry
1994	May starting cool and wet, then hot and dry into June
1995	May dry and sunny, rain at end of month leading into a warm and sunny June
1996	May hot and dry, June cooler and wet

In six of the eight years in this period, May was hot and dry. This relates well to the life-cycle of both species. Adults emerge from hibernation in May and June. The larvae feed upon the germinating Linseed and then on the roots of the surviving plants. The damage to germinating Linseed crops can be so serious that fields have to be resown and the two species of flax beetle can, at times, be considered serious pests. The larvae pupate in earthen cells during June and July, with the new generation of adults emerging in August, September and into October. Linseed has been mostly spring sown, but during the last two years an increasing amount of autumn-sown Linseed has been grown. Larvae will therefore have to feed on more mature and robust plants.

The number of samples of both species caught each month are shown in Tables 3 and 4. The peak numbers coincide well with the emergence of hibernating adults in May-June and the new generation in August-September. The tables reflect this increase, but the collections of samples are not strictly comparable from year to year, coming as they do from a range of sites. Little sampling has been done during the winter months apart from some tussock sampling when *A. euphorbiae* has been found. *A. euphorbiae* has most frequently been taken by beating and sweeping, but it has also been found in Malaise trap samples, amongst leaf litter and in Mercury Vapour moth-traps. This beetle has been found in a wide variety of habitats, and is now widespread and numerous in Oxfordshire as shown by Map 1.

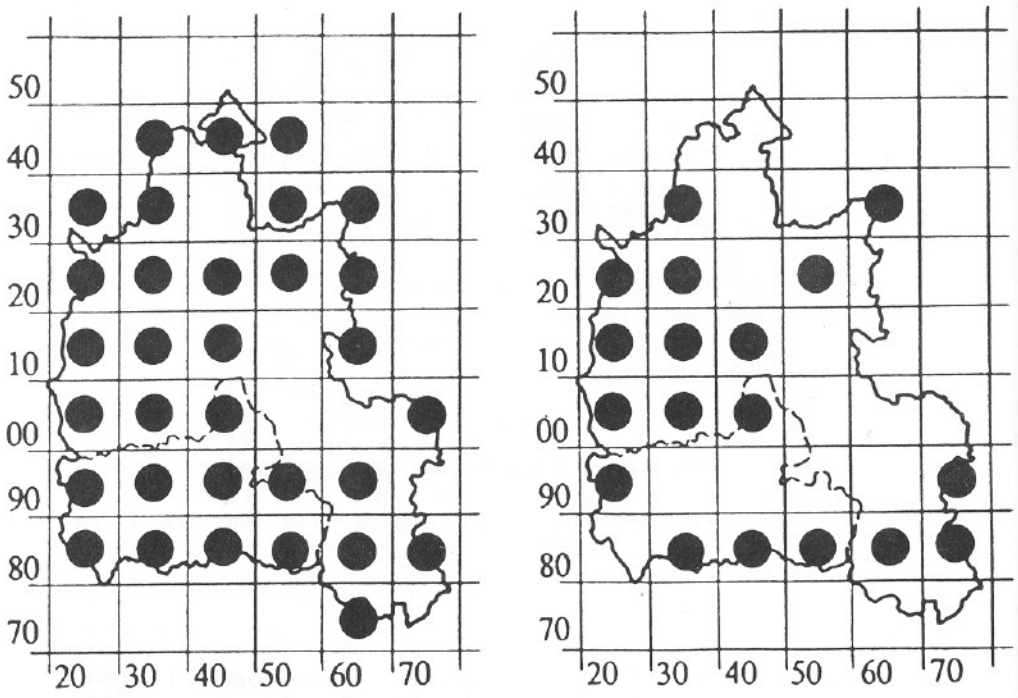
L. parvulus has been taken by beating, sweeping and in Malaise traps. The majority of records are from rough grassland and tall herbage. To date it is not as numerous or widespread as *A. euphorbiae*. Map 2 shows the distribution of *L. parvulus*. Full details of all records are held in the Oxfordshire Biological Records Centre.

Table 3: Number of samples containing *A. euphorbiae*.

Year	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	**TOTAL**
1990								2	3	1			6
1991									6	3			9
1992				1		11	6	10	6	2			36
1993		2			3	2	2	13	2	2	1		27
1994			2	2	5	17	11	18	23	8	3	1	90
1995				1	5	2	2	10	8	4			32
1996					5	3	7	9	6	4			34
TOTAL	0	2	2	4	18	35	28	62	54	24	4	1	234

Table 4: Number of samples containing *L. parvulus*.

Year	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	**TOTAL**
1990									1				1
1991									1				1
1992								5	2				7
1993					1				1	1			3
1994			1	1		1		7	8				18
1995					1			3	3				7
1996					2	1	1	4	7				15
TOTAL	0	0	1	1	4	2	1	19	23	1	0	0	52



Maps 1-2: Oxfordshire distribution of: **1** *A. euphorbiae;* **2** *L. parvulus*

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to Kevin Thompson of the Statistics Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food for the data on the hectarage of Linseed, the curators and staff of the Hope Collections, University Museum, Oxford, for access to the collections of Coleoptera, and to the late Charles Elton for access to the Wytham Survey files.

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Aromia moschata (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) in Nottinghamshire

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An anecdotal conversation with a work colleague, who in his youth some twenty-five years previously claimed to have seen a "large green beetle" on willow *Salix*, led to my discovery of *Aromia moschata* (Linnaeus) at two localities along the River Trent in Nottinghamshire (VC 56). The area indicated by my colleague, Attenborough Gravel Pits (SK 524350), is an area of extensive gravel extraction followed by willow succession. An initial visit was made on 2.viii.1997. On this date one male was found on coppiced Osier *Salix viminalis* and another feeding on Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*. A visit on 3.viii.1997 proved unsuccessful, but visits on 4.viii.1997 and 5.viii.1997 resulted in the discovery of another male and one female respectively. Encouraged by these finds I decided to search similar habitats along the River Trent. This led to the discovery, on 9.viii.1997, of one female on Osier several miles downstream from the Attenborough site at Holme Pierrepont (SK 620393). This location, like the previous site, is an area of gravel extraction followed by willow growth.

To my knowledge these localities, together with a single record for Dunham on Trent in 1996 (S. Wright, *pers. comm.*), represent the first documented findings of this Notable B longhorn (Hyman, 1992) in Nottinghamshire for over 60 years (Carr, 1935). In my opinion it seems highly probable that this species will be found to be more widespread at other sites along the River Trent and its tributaries, and based on the available evidence has remained under-recorded in Nottinghamshire for several decades.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Dr Sheila Wright (Keeper of Biological Records, Wollaton Hall Natural History Museum, Nottingham) for information regarding the status of *A. moschata* in Nottinghamshire.

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Deleaster dichrous (Gravenhorst) (Staphylinidae) new to Arran

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During an evening class on 3rd September 1996, a single specimen of *Deleaster dichrous* flew into a classroom at Lochranza Field Centre, Lochranza, Isle of Arran (VC 100, NR 9350), having been attracted by the fluorescent lights in the room. This is a new vice-county record for this Nationally Scarce (Notable B) species, which occurs as far north as southern Scotland (Hyman, 1994).

A further specimen was found dead in a house at Lochranza (NR 9350) on 29th August 1997.

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HYMAN, P.S. (revised PARSONS, M.S.) 1994. *A review of the scarce and threatened Coleoptera of Great Britain*. Part 2. U.K. Nature Conservation: 12. Peterborough: Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

A specimen of *Ergates faber* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae: Prioninae) in Kent

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On 28th April 1997, while passing the timber yard of E. Jones & Sons in Welling, Kent (TQ 4775), I was called over by a machinist who informed me that two days previously, whilst sawing a length of pine timber, a large larva had been exposed near the centre of the timber, which had come from Austria. Unfortunately the larva, which was *c.* 12 mm in width, was placed in a plastic coffee cup and forgotten. I found the cup on the workshop floor but could find no trace of the larva. The section of damaged wood had been placed in a skip and the good timber sold.

Although I made a note in my diary, this incident was forgotten until 6th July 1997. I was then watching a cricket match from my first-floor flat, only 50 m from the timber yard, when I saw a woman stoop to pick up something from the gutter, look at it, and then throw it down on the pavement. I went to have a look, thinking it would be a Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus* (Linnaeus) (Lucanidae) which is fairly common in this area, but I was surprised to find a badly damaged male specimen of *Ergates faber* (Linnaeus), measuring 55 mm in length (Fig. 1).

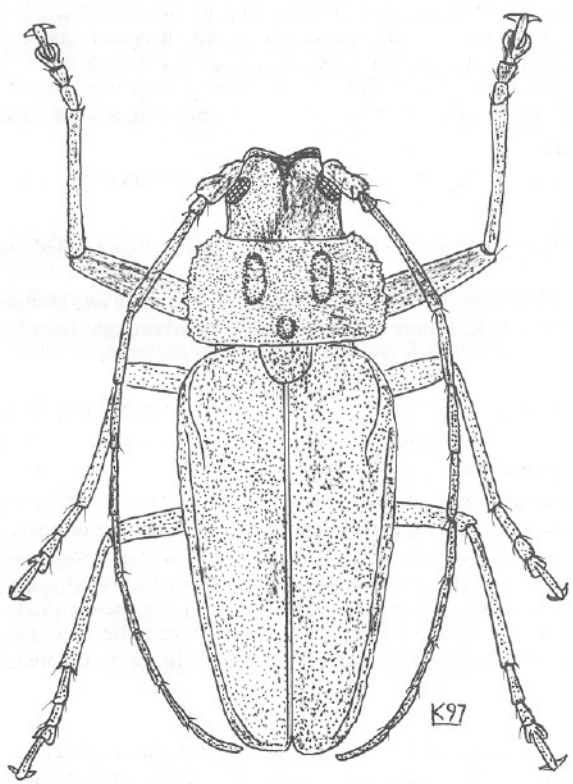

Fig. 1: *Ergates faber* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) male habitus *K. C. Lewis*

This species is an importation to our fauna and the specimen presumably originated from the timber yard. It is possible, although not certain, that it resulted from the lost larva, or it may have emerged from other timbers in the yard. Bense (1995) informs us that the beetle is nocturnal and attracted to light, and the street lights are very bright along this road.

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Rugilus geniculatus (Erichson) and *Stenus subdepressus* Mulsant & Rey (Staphylinidae) in Surrey

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According to Hyman (1994) there are no post-1970 records for either of these species, which are listed as RDBI (Indeterminate). *Rugilus geniculatus* (Erichson) was formerly recorded from eight southern English vice-counties including Surrey. Fowler (1888) lists "London District, Kent & Surrey etc. very generally distributed". A.M. Massee took a specimen at West Parley, Dorset, in 1938, but I am not aware of a more recent record. I swept a single male from Purple Moor Grass *Molinia caerulea* growing in Folly Bog at the north end of Westend Common, Surrey (SU 9261) on 25.v.1997. The surrounding habitat is dominated by extensive open tussocky bog with Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale*. At the same site on 8.viii.1997 I swept a single male *Stenus subdepressus* Mulsant & Rey from a sparsely-vegetated area of wet sand and peat. This species was last recorded in Britain from Esher Common, also in Surrey, in 1961.

Acknowledgement

I wish to thank Derek Lott for confirming the identification of these beetles.

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Lebia cyanocephala (Linnaeus) (Carabidae) rediscovered, in Surrey

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I found a single male of this species at rest upon a Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* frond on Thursley National Nature Reserve, Surrey, on 28.ix.1997. The capture site was at the edge of scrubby heathland and woodland. One previously recorded host species, *Chrysolina hyperici* (Forster) (Chrysomelidae), was abundant nearby on St John's wort *Hypericum* in July and August. This appears to be the first record of this RDB1 species since 1951, when it was found at Chipstead, also in Surrey (Hyman, 1992). Previous records indicate an association with chalk grassland (Lindroth, 1974), but my record suggests that this is by no means essential for this beetle.

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Athous campyloides Newman (Elateridae) in Wales, and other species of interest

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On an evening visit to Waterhall Park, Cardiff (ST 1278; VC 41), on 25th July 1995, I swept a number of specimens of an *Athous* Eschscholtz species from woodland edge, which at first glance appeared to be *A. campyloides*. This was later confirmed using Joy (1932). Previous to the record of Whitehead (1995) from Little Comberton, Worcestershire (SO 94), *A. campyloides* was thought to be restricted to south-east England, although the map given by Mendel & Clarke (1996: 20) gives two 1950-1996 10 km plots in Cornwall (VC 1), and single 10 km plots for both Dorset (VC 9) and Devon (VC 3). It would thus appear that this capture constitutes the first record for Wales (confirmed by H. Mendel and A.P. Fowles, 1996 *pers. comm.*), as shown on the map in Mendel & Clarke (*loc. cit.*).

Waterhall Park is listed in the City of Cardiff's *Nature Conservation Strategy* document (Anon., 1995) as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). The site contains an area of secondary beech *Fagus*, oak *Quercus* / alder *Alnus* woodland and a larch *Larix* plantation. The south-eastern corner consists of a small area of rough grassland and a larger field of rough grassland with some scrub adjacent to the main wood and a small patch of marshy ground. The smaller of the two fields is the only site known within the Cardiff City boundary to contain mounds of the ant *Lasius flavus* (Fabricius) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). The larger field is bordered on the north side by a drainage ditch, which feeds a small marshy area, which, although floristically rich, had little of entomological interest. The site was at the time under threat of development, but with local residential pressure and the interesting insects recorded, the site received a reprieve. Other species of Coleoptera of interest recorded at the site included *Chrysolina fastuosa* (Scopoli), *Phyllobrotica quadrimaculata* (Linnaeus) (Chrysomelidae), both swept from the edge of the marsh, and *Platynaspis luteorubra* (Goeze) (Coccinellidae) which was swept from long grass around the ant mounds. This latter record constitutes one of the only recent records of this species in Wales (A. Fowles, *pers. comm.*).

Since the original capture of this species I have recorded *A. campyloides* from a further two sites within the Cardiff area. The first of these was Plymouth Great Wood (ST 1377), during a moth trapping evening on 12.vi.1996, where I collected four specimens by sweeping along the main woodland ride. Plymouth Great Wood is also listed as a SNCI and is probably one of the more important woodlands in the Cardiff area, predominantly consisting of Beech *Fagus sylvaticus* and Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* with a good stock of dead wood, both standing and fallen. However, intensive sampling has yet to be conducted apart from *ad hoc* searching on dead beech trunks during the moth trapping evening. This site may turn out to be a productive dead-wood fauna site since it produced a few species worthy of note, at least in a Welsh context, including *Ctesias serra* (Fabricius) (Dermestidae), *Biphyllus lunatus* (Fabricius) (Biphyllidae), *Mycetophagus atomarius* (Fabricius) (Mycetophagidae), *Orchesia micans* (Panzer) and *O. undulata* Kraatz (Melandryidae).

The second new site for *A. campyloides* was more atypical than the usual woodland edge / scrub localities where I had previously encountered this species. A single specimen was swept on a cool evening (*c.* 8.00 p.m.) from tall mixed vegetation of grasses and crucifers on a fixed shingle bank of the River Taff at Llandaff (ST 1578) on 22.vi.1997. The shingle banks at Llandaff are the most extensive within the Cardiff area and again are listed as a SNCI. This is yet another site which requires further investigation, since shingle banks suitable for invertebrates are scarce in the vice-county (Glamorgan, VC 41). Other species of note included *Tachys parvulus* Dejean (Carabidae), which was abundant on the bare shingle at the water's edge, and the pollen-beetle *Meligethes fulvipes* Brisout (Nitidulidae), of which numerous examples were swept from Hoary Mustard *Hirschfeldia incana* (Cruciferae) on both the fixed shingle and the river banks.

Although the two new localities show that *A. campyloides* is well established in north-west Cardiff, it does not alter the map given by Mendel & Clarke (*loc. cit.*) since the three sites are within the same 10 km square. However, further searching in suitable localities in the Cardiff area may show a wider distribution, as it may also do throughout Britain, especially since the species appears to be spreading west. As *A. campyloides* is noted for its crepuscular habits, searching by evening / night sweeping is likely to be the most effective means for recording this species.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank: Bob Wardell of Cardiff City Council for introducing me to these sites and for making the Cardiff *Nature Conservation Strategy* document available to me; Dr Brian Levey and Mark Pavett of the National Museum and Galleries of Wales and A.H. Kirk-Spriggs for confirming my identifications; Mr Howard Mendel, the national Elateroidea recording scheme organizer, and Mr Adrian Fowles of the Countryside Council for Wales, Bangor, for their valuable information.

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Triplax russica (Linnaeus) (Erotylidae) in Norfolk

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On 15.v.1997, I found a male *Triplax russica* at Great Cressingham, Norfolk (TR 844025) on a very large, fresh fruiting-body of the fungus *Polyporus squamosus* (Huds.), growing at the base of a large moribund hawthorn *Crataegus* in a hedgerow crossing fairly open country. This appears to be the first record from Norfolk, on a fungus not mentioned by Alexander (1995).

Reference to the map in Alexander (1995) shows that *T. russica* has been recorded from less than fifty 10 km squres and raises the question: Why isn't this species listed as Notable B? Alexander (1995) also suggests that in England *T. russica* occurs at "classic ancient pasture-woodland sites". Other species found at the site included *Sphindus dubius* (Gyllenhal) (Sphindidae) **Nb**, *Dacne bipustulata* (Thunberg) (Erotylidae), *Tetratoma fungorum* Fabricius (Tetratomidae) and numerous *Mycetophagus quadripustulatus* (Linnaeus) and *M. multipunctatus* Fabricius (Mycetophagidae).

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[*Editor's note added in proof*: there are a few published records from Norfolk, albeit old ones, and an unpublished record for 1942 (M. Collier, *pers. comm.*).]

The Fern Weevil, *Syagrius intrudens* Waterhouse (Curculionidae) in Cornwall

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Relatively few sites are known in Britain for this black, flightless weevil, believed to originate from New Zealand (Morris, 1991). The first records in the British Isles were at Dublin Botanical Gardens, about 1900 (Waterhouse, 1903). There have been a few other sightings, namely at Leonard's Lee, W. Sussex in 1920 (Blair, 1932) (still breeding there - P.J. Hodge *pers. comm.*), Hothfield Common, Kent, 1960 (Philp, 1963, 1966) and Bridgend, Glamorgan in 1983 by C.R. Frazer-Jenkins (record via R.T. Thompson).

In mid August 1997, adults, numbering about 20 per fern frond (species indet.), were found beside a path in shade at Tregithy Woods (SW 774250) on the SE bank of Gillan Creek, the Lizard, Cornwall. I also saw the same species a few days later on Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, on a footpath along a field margin from Bosahan to Helford (SW 765258). These points are about 1.4 km apart. A possible source of importation is Trebah Gardens (SW 772275), but the insect would have to have crossed the Helford River. Since the weevil is flightless, it obviously could only travel larger distances by people inadvertently bringing it in when they stock their gardens with ferns. Moving Bracken for animal bedding and being carried on floodwater are also possible. It is not known whether the weevil is, in fact, present at Trebah and the nearest householder at Tregithy does not know of ferns being imported into their garden.

Two aspects of this species' biology are unusual. The larva feeds inside the rachis (stem) of the fern and is one of the very few insects adapted to this group of plants. The adults are active and feed nocturnally. It can be a pest in fern collections. The species is not keyed by Joy (1932), but a coloured illustration is given by Blair (1948). The adults are about 7 mm long (without the rostrum) and lie on their sides with their legs drawn in, perhaps mimicking small mammal droppings or seeds. On closer examination the pronotum and elytra are matt black and markedly bumpy, topped by short, bent, tan-coloured setae.

The puzzling aspect of the known distribution of this species is that it has not actually been recorded in the Antipodes, although other species in the genus *Syagrius* have been. This gives it the status of an introduced endemic in Britain! Since synanthropic and introduced species are not currently given conservation status in Hyman (1992), it is no longer a Red Data Book (Shirt, 1987) species. Nevertheless its occurrence in Cornwall is something of a surprise, since this is so far from sites recorded earlier.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to R.T. Thompson at the Natural History Museum who checked my identification and provided records plus background biological information. I would also like to thank Peter Hodge for records.

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Alphitobius diaperinus (Panzer) (Tenebrionidae) associated with old trees in open countryside

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The Lesser Mealworm Beetle is best known in Britain from warehouses, granaries, etc., where decaying stored products offer suitable habitat, and also from deep-pit chicken houses - the source of my first encounters: Woodchester Park (SO 8101), W. Glos., 12.x.1979, and Perrotts Brook (SP 0106), E. Glos., 12.v.1985. My third encounter was however in a completely different situation: dead adults were found in some numbers associated with the crumbling remains of a *Ganoderma resinaceum* Boud. ex Pat. bracket-fungus at the base of an old open grown oak *Quercus* within rough pastures at Southam (SO 9725), E. Glos., 10.iv.1997. Subsequently I have found further dead adults beneath loose bark on an old hedgerow oak on the Mottisfont Estate (SU 3126), S. Hampshire, 9.vii.1997. Other entomologists have also recently found the species in similar situations: in a large oak in Heveningham Park (TM 3573), E. Suffolk, 1997 (P. Kirby, *pers. comm.*) and M. Barclay (*pers. comm.*).

An association with old bracket fungi on tree trunks is well-known on the Continent - where its alternative English name of "Black Fungus Beetle" is more appropriate - but the British climate has formerly confined them to synanthropic situations. Recent hot dry summers appear to have made it possible for them to breed out-of-doors in a few places.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Roger Key for checking through the records held by the Cleroidea, Lymexyloidea and Heteromera Recording Scheme, and Pete Kirby and Maxwell Barclay for permission to refer to their unpublished records.

Aclypea opaca (Linnaeus) (Silphidae) unexpectedly rediscovered on Arran

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A single example of this Nationally Scarce (Notable A) species flew onto Miss J. Stewart on 18th June 1996, outside a building at Lochranza Field Centre, Lochranza, Isle of Arran (VC 100, NR 938502), and was later passed to me by Dr M. Young for identification. Although recorded by Evans at Brodick, Isle of Arran (Fergusson, 1901) during the last century, there are no recent (post-1970) records from the Clyde Islands (VC 100) (Hyman, 1992). The area surrounding the Field Centre comprises sheep-grazed pasture with bracken *Pteridium*-dominated moorland.

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Ischnomera cinerascens Pandellé (Oedemeridae) new to Gloucestershire and Warwickshire

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A single male of this species was swept by KNAA in woodland above Aston-sub-Edge (SP 143411), 31.v.1993, but languished unrecognised until recently. The habitat is undistinguished streamside woodland, probably originally ash *Fraxinus*, hazel *Corylus*, field maple *Acer*, wych elm *Ulmus* in composition, as are most unmodified ancient woodlands on the Cotswolds. Unfortunately this particular wood has suffered extensive conversion to plantations of beech *Fagus*, sweet chestnut *Castanea*, etc. It lies within parkland. Little else of note was found during the visit.

Another was beaten from hawthorn *Crataegus* by APF while surveying National Trust land at Farnborough Hall in Warwickshire. It was taken alongside Markhamhole Spinney (SP 429484), 7.vi.1996, a narrow planted shelterbelt of elm *Ulmus*, oak *Quercus* and hawthorn, and affected by Dutch Elm Disease. This belt adjoins Farnborough Park to the north-east and Mollington Wood to the south-east, the latter locality being in Oxfordshire. The wood appears to be secondary and consists of ash and sycamore *Acer*, with further dead elms, but the parkland supports a few species which are regarded as indicators of relict old forest and so there must have been some historical continuity of older generation trees in the area.

This species has a peculiar history in Britain. Following its recognition by Skidmore & Hunter (1981) from Duncombe Park, North-East Yorkshire (VC 62), and the realisation that an earlier specimen had been collected by P. Skidmore in Moccas Park, Herefordshire (VC 36), the expected rush of records as coleopterists re-checked their collections failed to materialise. J. Cooter (*pers. comm.*) has one from Moccas, 1988, but to my knowledge that is the only previously unrecognised find. KNAA has also recently checked through all of the material held in the collections of the British Entomological & Natural History Society and only flushed out an *I. caerulea* (Linnaeus), no *I. cinerascens*.

Subsequent reports have all been of fresh finds: at Duncombe (Marsh, 1983) and a new locality, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire (VC 24) in 1986 (Alexander, 1987); then Burley Wood, Leicestershire (VC 55), 6.v.1990 (Lott, 1996); Bredon Hill, Worcestershire (VC 37) (Whitehead, 1996); Cornbury Park, Oxfordshire (VC 23), 1.vi.1994 (Campbell, 1996); and Barnack Hills & Holes, by Burghley Park, Northamptonshire (VC 32), on blossom of *Rhamnus catharticus*, 15.vi.1996 (J. Bratton, *pers. comm.*).

The species is clearly thriving at present, but where has it been all this time? It is of course a duller species than the other two British blue-green *Ischnomera* Stephens and it may be that collectors chose to retain brighter specimens in their collections and therefore always inadvertantly rejected *I. cinerascens*. Many of the known localities are in or very close to classic ancient parks and other types of pasture-woodlands, or else ancient semi-natural woodland. However, some sites appear to be of relatively poor quality as woodlands, such as the West Wycombe and Farnborough Hall sites.

Dates of records include an early May 6, but are mostly from the period May 25 to June 23 - at most a seven-week period when adults are on the wing, although probably closer to three or four weeks in each individual year, the period moving according to annual weather patterns. Thus there is a restricted period when it is available for capture, although this is equally true of the commoner *I. cyanea* Fabricius.

Most records come from localities on base-rich soils, where wych elm thrives - decaying wood of elms appear to be the favoured breeding medium. This again is common to other *Ischnomera* and so fails to explain its rarity.

The species can only be described as enigmatic!

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Roger Key for checking through the records held by the Cleroidea, Lymexyloidea and Heteromera Recording Scheme, and John Bratton for permission to refer to his unpublished record.

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Sphinginus lobatus (Olivier) (Melyridae) new to Hertfordshire

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Survey work at Merry Hill, Bushey, Hertfordshire (TQ 1393; VC 20) in 1996, for a proposed development of set-aside arable land into a forest park by the Woodland Trust, included the collection of casual data on the potential of the site for invertebrates. On 11th July, remnants of former hedgerows were being examined, including a series of moderately old Pedunculate Oaks *Quercus robur* isolated on a low bank in open arable land. The weather was dull, humid and warm, but insect life was not very much in evidence.

From one of the oaks, a solitary black melyrid beetle was obtained which, upon examination later, proved to be *Sphinginus lobatus*. Available literature (Hyman, 1992; Hodge & Jones, 1995) suggests that it has so far only been found in a small area along the coast in Hampshire since its discovery in Britain in 1982. Its appearance some 115 km further north-east suggests that it is now more widespread. Although the general habitat in which it was found is badly degraded from decades of intensive arable cultivation, hedge removal, etc., the existence of old oaks and the proposed future conservation activities should provide it with a secure future. However, it might also suggest that it is well able to sustain itself in the average English landscape, so long as the current changes in climate are maintained. It will be interesting to see if it is found further north in future.

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Correction

Fig. 1 on p. 83 of the December 1997 Vol. 6, part 3, issue should have been captioned (scale = 6 mm.) (*Ed.*).

Deadwood Coleoptera of some Shropshire parklands

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The historic parklands of Shropshire appear to have been largely neglected by entomologists, with only a few notable exceptions. Lott & Alexander (1992) reported on a survey of the deadwood Coleoptera of Attingham Park, while unpublished surveys exist for Chetwynd Park (Eccles & Bowestead, 1988) and Walcot Park (Boyce, 1991). During 1996 I visited Dudmaston Park (SO 749888), Loton Park (SJ 3514), Millichope Park (SO 5288) and Walcot Park (SO 3483). The National Trust owns the first and the small area of the last which was surveyed. The other two are privately owned and recording was confined to observations made from Public Rights of Way. I report on findings of *Agrilus sinuatus* (Olivier) (Buprestidae) elsewhere (Alexander, 1997).

The small area of parkland around Dudmaston Hall is only documented back to the mid 18th Century, but was developed in a well-wooded area of heathy commons and rough pastures which in turn had evolved from the medieval Forest of Morfe. Thus some continuity of large old trees is suggested and certainly the beetle fauna was found to include some interesting species. D.K. Clements noted *Ctesias serra* (Fabricius) (Dermestidae) here in 1985 while survey in 1996 additionally revealed *Aderus oculatus* (Paykull) (Aderidae), *Bitoma crenata* (Fabricius) (Colydiidae), *Phymatodes testaceus* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) and *Prionocyphon serricornis* (Müller, P.W.J.) (Scirtidae).

Loton Park is an old deer park, still with a herd of Fallow Deer *Cervus dama* and extensive rough pasture with bracken *Pteridium*, but now with few old trees other than hawthorns *Crataegus*. One old trunk with red-rotten interior was found to contain *Cis pygmaeus* (Marsham) (Ciidae) and an elytron of an *Ischnomera* Stephens sp., presumably *I. cyanea* Fabricius (Oedemeridae).

Millichope Park forms the centre of a commercial estate but still has a number of large old oaks *Quercus* within areas of permanent pasture. I noted *Conopalpus testaceus* (Olivier) (Melandryidae) and *Bitoma crenata* here in 1985 and added *Ctesias serra* in 1996.

Walcot Park appears to be the richest and hence the most important of the four parks reported here. The early history is unclear - as is the case for Moccas Park - but an extensive deer park already existed by the early 18th century. The site first came to the attention of the National Trust in 1990, and D. Boyce and I paid a preliminary visit in that year, followed by more detailed recording of the beetle fauna by DB in the following year, so a good list already existed when I revisited the area in 1996. However many additional species were found including: *Conopalpus testaceus*; *Dorcatoma chrysomelina* Sturm and *Anitys rubens* (Hoffmann, J.J.) (Anobiidae); *Cis vestitus* Mellié and *C. festivus* (Panzer) (Ciidae). These records bring the Index of Ecological Continuity (Alexander, 1988; Harding & Alexander, 1991) up to 21, which is a very respectable score for the county and currently exceeded only by Attingham Park.

While none of the beetles reported in this note are new county records, they do represent a significant advance in our knowledge of the deadwood beetle fauna of Shropshire parklands.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dave Boyce and Tom Eccles for access to their unpublished records.

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Cicones undatus Guérin-Méneville (Colydiidae) new to Essex

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On a joint Colchester Natural History Society (CNHS) / British Entomological and Natural History Society (BENHS) invertebrate recording meeting at Marks Hall Estate, Coggeshall, Essex (VC 19) on 2.viii.1997, three of us collected Coleoptera and other insects from piles of logs stacked for charcoal-making on the edge of Lily Wood (TL 832261). Several Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* logs infested with Sooty Bark Disease (*?Cryptostroma corticale*) were investigated and a specimen of a *Cicones* Curtis was taken from beneath loose bark by JB. It was suggested by DH that it might prove to be *Cicones undatus*, a species first recorded in Britain at Windsor Great Park in 1984 (Mendel & Owen, 1984). A return visit by NC on 5.viii.1997 located a further three specimens at the same site.

On consulting the key in Mendel & Owen (1987), DH's supposition proved to be correct and, as far as can be ascertained, these are the first examples of *C. undatus* to be taken in Essex. Since the original Windsor discovery, *C. undatus* has also been found in the Reading area, Berkshire, (Harrison, 1993), Nunhead Cemetery, London SE15 (VC 17, Surrey) (Jones, 1992), and at the Decoy, Hendon, and Queens Wood, Harringey (Hackett, 1996).

Associated species at Marks Hall included *Aridius nodifer* (Westwood) (Lathridiidae) and the common barkbug *Aneurus laevis* (Heteroptera: Aneuridae). Marks Hall is a large estate with several ancient woodlands, some partly coniferised, as well as extensive parkland and wetland. Preliminary survey work by CNHS and BENHS members indicates that it is entomologically very rich.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Peter Hodge and David Nash for information on the distribution of *C. undata*, and the Phillips Trust for permission to carry out entomological survey work on the Marks Hall Estate.

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Lixus scabricollis Boheman (Curculionidae) in East Sussex

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This unmistakable weevil was first discovered in Britain by Dr Gerald Dicker on 25.viii.1987 whilst searching under plants of Sea Beet *Beta maritima* (Linnaeus) along the sea-wall at Grain, West Kent (TQ 8975) (Heal, 1992). The species has since been found by Prof. J.A. Owen at two other nearby locations: on the sea-wall near Hoo, also on the Isle of Grain, West Kent (TQ 7971) on 7.viii.1990 and on the Isle of Sheppey near Kingsferry Bridge, East Kent (TQ 9169) on 16.viii.1993. The only other British record is for a single specimen found on 13.v.1991, hanging from a cobweb, along the bed of the old Weymouth to Easton branch railway at Portland Harbour, Dorset (SY 67) (Cooter, 1992).

Hyman (1992) lists the species as Red Data Book K - Insufficiently Known, but in view of the increasing frequency of records it is quite likely that the current RDB status may have to be revised. The weevil now appears to be firmly established along the coast of East Sussex since I have recently found it at two locations between Brighton and Eastbourne: at Seaford (TV 4799), in an old brickfield site between the railway and the sea-wall on 12.iii.1997 and 10.iv.1997, several in a suction sample from Sea Beet and a few by general sweeping in nearby grassland on the latter date; and at Telscombe Cliffs (TQ 3901), on a small area of cliff-top grassland on the west side of the Portobello steps leading down to the beach on 12.x.1997, several found in suction samples from Sea Beet.

The weevils remain torpid on the collecting sheet for several minutes and, considering their size, are difficult to see. However, providing the weather is reasonably warm they eventually become active and are then very easily spotted. The species also climbs the foliage of the host plant and may be discovered by carefully lifting the stems and tapping them over the net.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank Prof. John Owen for allowing me to include his unpublished records.

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Gabrius piliger Mulsant & Rey (Staphylinidae) in Scotland

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One male of this species was sifted from a small pile of cut grass near Earlston, Berwickshire (NT 573372; VC 81) on 2nd August 1997. The grass pile was close to a lay-by in the edge of an area of mixed woodland consisting, at that point, largely of oaks *Quercus*. There were several of the little grass heaps and they contained large numbers of beetles, predominantly Aleocharinae including, on this day, 14 species of *Atheta* Thomson *s. lat.*. As there is no entry for *G. piliger* in the Scottish Insect Records Index in the National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, it appears that the species has not hitherto been reported from Scotland.

Troglops cephalotes (Olivier) (Melyridae) apparently established in Hertfordshire

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In early 1994, a large quantity of miscellaneous dried insects caught during the previous year in a night-light at Green End, Braughing, Hertfordshire (TL 3925; VC 20), was passed to me in case of any interest. This collection languished for three years, awaiting the opportunity to examine the carnage. Among the thousands of small Diptera were 79 Coleoptera, and among these were four specimens, two males and two females, of *Troglops cephalotes*, all of the variety *cruentus* Kiesenwetter with red thoraxes. The night-light was in an old house on the edge of a picturesque country village. Although the A10 trunk road is only 1.5 km away, the location is rural with mixed arable farming and horse grazing, etc., well-endowed with old hedgerows and trees as well as large gardens. This forms the second Hertfordshire record for this supposedly casual, imported species, the first having been made in 1984 (James, 1987). This is, however, the first time that more than one specimen of the species has been found at the same locality. The occurrence of males and females together certainly lends strong weight to the argument that the species is now established in south-east England. Previous records have been singletons from Buckinghamshire, Suffolk and Essex, as well as Hertfordshire, and apparently all were of specimens caught in flight (Hodge & Jones, 1995).

The habitat preference and behaviour of the species in Britain are still uncertain, but it is evident that *T. cephalotes* is highly mobile and is attracted to light. It would be interesting to see if further specimens might be forthcoming from light traps. It would also be interesting to see whether it is attracted to a range of flowers and, if so, what species.

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Trichiusa immigrata Lohse (Staphylinidae) in Yorkshire

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A batch of aleocharines sent to me for identification by Mr W.R. Dolling contained three specimens of the immigrant *Trichiusa immigrata* Lohse. The specimens had originated from a compost bin at Elstronwick, East Yorkshire (TA 2332) on 27th May 1996. The species was first recorded in Britain in 1992 (Heal, 1993) when specimens were found in Kent. Lott (1995) added to the species' spread upon finding a single example in Leiçestershire at the end of 1994 (about 100 miles north of its original recorded locality). The Yorkshire specimens show a further northward extension to this species' range of about 65 miles and indicates that *T. immigrata* is making considerable progress in its colonization of Britain.

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Field Meeting Report

Spectacular finds of beetles from the Field Meeting to "Fowler's Country" in Lincolnshire, 8th-10th June 1996

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In the late 19th Century the Canon Fowler recorded a large number of species that were, even then, described as scarce from 'Langworth Wood' near Lincoln (Fowler, 1887 etc.). From examining the records of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union and looking at 19th-century Ordnance Survey maps, we are fairly sure that, even in Fowler's time, no actual wood had that name, and it is likely that he was referring to one or more of the large complex of Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* woods in the area that now comprise the Bardney Limewoods National Nature Reserve. To determine if many of Fowler's "best" species had survived, I organised a long weekend meeting based at Horncastle College and got permission from Forest Enterprise, who own and manage most of the woods, for access and a permit to collect specimens. Although the meeting concentrated on the Limewoods, we also gained access to nearly all of the reserves of the Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation, and English Nature organised access to a number of potentially interesting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs).

Fourteen coleopterists put in over 30 man-days of work in the county, resulting in over 3000 records and adding 55 new species to the county as well as recording a number of very scarce species. Statuses quoted are as in Hyman (1992, 1994).

Three scarce lime-associated species turned up at a number of sites in the limewoods. *Ernoporus caucasicus* Lindemann (RDB1) (Scolytidae) was found at Hardy Gang, College and Scotgrove Woods by Tony Drane, Harry Henson and Roger Key and *Trachys minutus* (Linnaeus) (RDB2) (Buprestidae), a well-known species from the limewoods back to Fowler's time, was found in abundance at the first two of these woods by the above recorders and also by Tony Warne. There were a large number of leaf-rolls on Small-leaved Lime caused by *Byctiscus betulae* (Linnaeus) (Nb) (Attelabidae) at a number of the woods, but adults were found only at Hardy Hang and Great West Woods.

Although many of the new species found on the meeting were small and inconspicuous or in difficult groups, others were not; for example the weevils *Dorytomus tortrix* (Linnaeus), which was abundant in College Wood, was found by four separate entomologists at once, but never before in the county, and *Trachodes hispidus* (Linnaeus) (Nb) (Curculionidae), found new to Lincolnshire by Adrian Fowles at Fulsby Wood.

College Wood is now actively coppiced again for charcoal, and investigation of a pile of timber waiting to be burnt produced *Phymatodes alni* (Linnaeus) (Nb) (Cerambycidae) and *Enicmus rugosus* (Herbst) (Nb) (Latridiidae), the former known only from one other site in the county, at Grimsthorpe Park and the latter new to Lincolnshire, as well as a large number of other dead-wood species. Other significant dead-wood species from the limewoods were *Anaspis thoracica* (Linnaeus) (Na) (Scraptiidae) from Wickenby Wood, and *Melasis buprestoides* (Linnaeus) (Nb) (Eucnemidae) from College Wood, both found by Tony Warne and new to the county and *Cossonus linearis* (Fabricius) (Na) (Curculionidae) which Annette Binding found at Hardy Gang Wood. In the meadow in Little Scrubbs Wood, Tony Warne also found *Perapion affine* (Kirby) (Na) (Brentidae), also new to the county.

A record of particular note on the meeting was *Badister dilatatus* Chaudoir (Nb) (Carabidae) which Derek Lott found at Potterhanworth Wood and Brian Eversham also found at Calceby Beck Marsh SSSI, outside of the Limewoods. It has not been seen in Lincolnshire since 1860 when E.C. Rye found it at Boston (Rye, 1860).

Away from the woods, a species I had searched for in Lincolnshire in vain for many years is *Pseudaplemonas limonii* (Kirby) (Nb) (Brentidae) which, although fairly common in saltmarsh just across the Wash on the Norfolk coast, had not been seen in Lincolnshire until Dave Boyce found it at Frampton Marsh. Another very scarce coastal species, but one that is well known from Lincolnshire, is *Pogonus luridipennis* (Germar) (RDB3) (Carabidae), found by Annette Binding at Rimac. Ground beetles (Carabidae) are one of the best known groups of beetles in Lincolnshire and it is unusual to find new species but Brian Eversham found *Amara anthobia* Villa, new, at Donna Nook. He also found *Amara lucida* (Duftschmid) (Nb) at Donna Nook, only the second county record.

Another site which produced a number of noteworthy new finds was Rauceby Warren, an area of dry limestone overlain by sand but with a number of temporary pools. Adrian Fowles found *Oedostethus quadripustulatus* (Fabricius) (Na) (Elateridae), otherwise only known in the county as a dubious record from Barnetby-le-Wold and a number of coleopterists recorded *Acupalpus consputus* (Duftschmid), *Bembidion obliquum* Sturm, *Bembidion clarki* Dawson, *Pterostichus gracilis* (Dejean) and *Calathus ambiguus* (Paykull) (all Nb) (Carabidae). On some old ivy clad trees three coleopterists found *Kissophagus hederae* (Schmitt) (Nb), (Scolytidae), new to Lincolnshire, along with *Ptinomorphus imperialis* (Linnaeus) (Nb) and *Ochina ptinoides* (Marsham), (Anobiidae) the latter of which was last seen in the county in 1908.

A number of Fowler's scarce species, such as *Trachys minutus*, *Phytodecta decemnotata* (Marsham) (Nb) (Chrysomelidae) and *Polydrusus flavipes* (Degeer) (Nb) (Curculionidae) were rediscovered in the limewoods while, predictably, many others were not, for example *Chrysomela tremula* Fabricius (Chrysomelidae), *Ctenicera pectinicornis* (Linnaeus) (Elateridae) and *Rutidosoma globulus* (Herbst) (Curculionidae). However, many other records of new species of note were found in the Limewoods, indicating that they are still a prime site for beetles, and many other interesting species were recorded on the meeting, far too many to be detailed here, and the results are being fully written up for English Nature (Key, in prep.).

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Review

Irish Coleoptera. A revised and annotated list. by R. Anderson, R. Nash & J.P. O'Connor. 1997. The Irish Naturalists' Journal Special Entomological Supplement.

A period of 95 years has passed since the classic list of Irish beetles by Johnson & Halbert, so that a new national list has been long overdue. The present list sees great changes in the understanding of the higher classification of beetles since the turn of the century, and in part, considerable changes since the last British checklist of Pope in 1977. A rough count indicates that approximately 525 species have been added to the old Irish list, and not far off 40% of these were for the Staphylinidae alone. The many recent references to additions also indicates that the Irish list will continue to grow rapidly for some time to come.

The layout of the new work is generous, presumably to allow plenty of space for additions and corrections. For a work of 81 pages, the checklist occupies 48, the annotations 14 and the references 15. The annotations section could well have been laid out to make better use of page space. For anyone not intimately familiar with the beetle fauna of the British Isles, the lack of an index to genera, at least, will prove to be most frustrating and is my main criticism of the whole work.

The authors have aimed to produce a list which includes only native or naturalized species capable of breeding at ambient temperatures. In my view, this is a very sensible approach as to include species accidentally introduced with commerce, or worse still, to include lists of quarantine interceptions would be a nonsense. A local checklist should give the reader, whether they be a curator arranging a collection, a conservationist interested in the status of the native fauna or the ecologist interested in species ranges and faunal compositions, an indication of what they might reasonably expect to find in any area. Thus the use of an asterisk to indicate synanthropic species maintaining breeding populations is very helpful, but the lack of a sign to indicate extinct or possibly extinct species is a hindrance. It is a pity that species not recorded since Johnson & Halbert were not marked with a minus sign.

Compared with Pope's 1977 checklist, there are many changes in family and generic orders (hence the need for an index), and the inevitable changes of names. Several old homonyms are replaced and some of these are gradually becoming accepted by those more familiar with the previous names. In a few cases, familiar names, such as *Leiodes calcarata* Erichson, are replaced by older unfamiliar names, in this case, *L. polita* (Marsham). This is an example of a retrograde step because Marsham's *polita* is a junior primary homonym and therefore invalid. The change of spelling from the familiar *Rhizophagus* to *Ryzophagus* was thankfully short-lived as the ICZN has recently ruled in favour of *Rhizophagus* (Opinion 1810, June 1995). The authors will kick themselves for missing that one.

All in all, this is an absolute must for any Irish Coleopterist, and the authors are to be applauded for their work. Any Coleopterist on this side of the Irish Sea who has visited Ireland, or who intends to do so will also find this list invaluable. I fear that British visitors still outnumber the resident Irish Coleopterists. One can only hope that production of this new list will help to stimulate local interest to redress the balance.

Roger Booth

[*Editor's note added in proof*: a four-page index to families and genera has now been produced as a separate offprint and is available from Dr Roy Anderson, Dept of Agricultural & Environmental Science, The Queen's University of Belfast, Newforge Lane, Belfast BT9 5PX.]

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.

Lost beetle collection: Does anybody know the whereabouts of the collection of E.C. (Carey) Riggall? He lived at Louth and then Newark and collected in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire in the 1940s to 1970s and was recorder for Lincolnshire for that period. 50 storeboxes of beetles went to Watkins & Doncaster when he died in 1974 but there is no record of what became of them. This is a huge gap in coverage for both counties. Can anyone help with information? *Roger Key* 67 Peterborough Road, Crowland, Lincs. PE6 0BB Tel.: (01733) 210541.

For sale: Royal Entomological Society Handbooks covering: Tenebrionidae (Brendell, 1975), Scarabaeoidea (Britton, 1956 and Jessop, 1986), Heteroceridae (Clarke, 1973), Histeroidea (Halstead, 1963), Clambidae (Johnson, 1966), Buprestidae (Levey, 1977), Carabidae (Lindroth, 1974), Rhizophagidae (Peacock, 1977) and Pselaphidae (Pearce, 1957), all in fine condition. £4 each (£5 for Jessop and Lindroth). Also: *Entomologist's Mon. Mag.* Vol. 113 (1977) complete except for index (£5) and Cumulative Index, parts 1 & 2 (1983) (£3). *T.J. James* 56 Back Street, Ashwell, Baldock, Herts. SG7 5PE.

For sale: A number of entomological books, journals and separates including many items on Diptera and Coleoptera. Write for list (SAE appreciated). *Paul Sokoloff* 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent BR6 6DS or send e-mail to p.sokoloff@edexcel.org.uk.

Change of address: The national recorder for Elateroidea has moved. Please amend your records accordingly. *Howard Mendel* Entomology Dept, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD.

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.

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 tenerals) 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, obliteratus*; *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.

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