

# THE COLEOPTERISTS' NEWSLETTER

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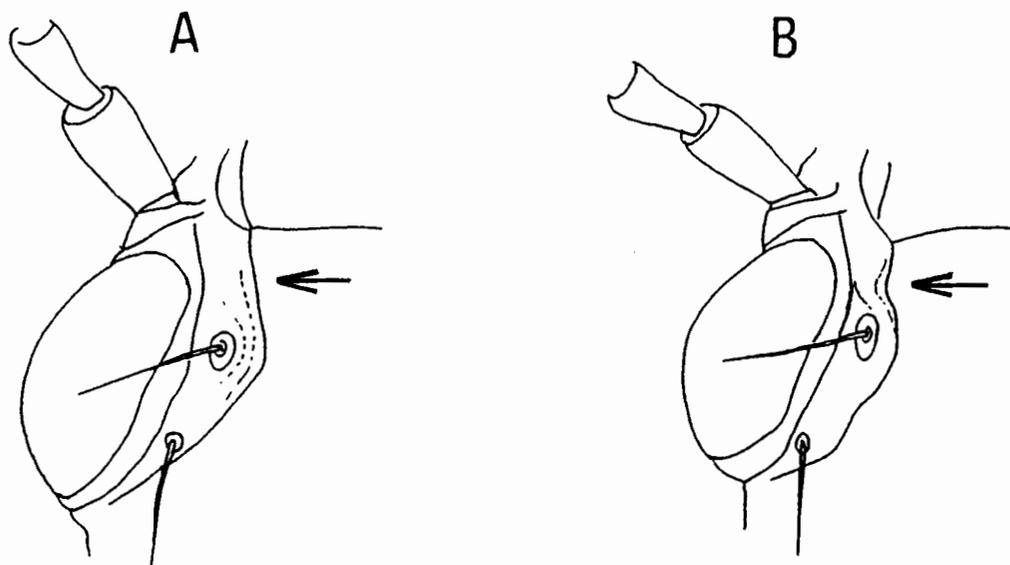
IN REPLY TO ELUSIVE SPECIES. Reading Jonathan Cooter's note on Georissus in the last Newsletter reminded me of my experience with Ceutorhynchus viduatus (Gyll.) in West Cumbria. For some years this reputedly rare and local weevil had eluded me until I discovered its haunt through subtle detective work. I had previously known viduatus to be associated with various labiate plants, in particular Stachys palustris L. On finding some plants growing near a slow flowing roadside ditch near Hensingham, I noticed some of the leaves contained a number of somewhat irregular and elongate weevil-like feeding holes. On tapping the leaves over my sweep net I took two fine adult specimens and another four from nearby plants, they were in good condition and well marked. Since then I have tracked the weevil down on a number of occasions simply by searching for the foodplant and spotting the characteristic feeding holes on the leaves. Specimens have been taken either by shaking plants over the net, or by grubbing at their roots - the latter being more productive as the weevil drops at the slightest disturbance. To date I have taken viduatus in 10km squares NY00, 01, 03, 10, 12, 13, 25, 35, SD09 and 18 (= twenty 1km squares). Specimens have been taken from June to October inclusive.

Feeding holes of  
C.viduatus on  
Stachys palustris

R.W.J.Read, 43 Holly  
Terrace, Hensingham,  
Whitehaven, Cumbria.



2 cm



Left side of head of B. properans (A) and B. lampros (B)

NOTES ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOME CARABIDAE - 2.

1. Bembidion lampros/properans. Although typically these two species can readily be distinguished by the absence (lampros) or presence (properans) of the seventh row of punctures on the elytra, difficulty arises with specimens which have just a trace of this seventh stria. The confirmatory feature given in Lindroth's R.E.S. 'Handbook' is that the frontal furrows are 'arcuate externally' in lampros, but it is evidently not clear to the uninitiated Coleopterist just what is meant by this. After examining striae and counting punctures in a series of each species, it is evident that they can be distinguished as follows -

B. properans has a seventh stria consisting of at least 9 punctures in each stria, the punctures being almost as strong as those of the sixth stria. The inner frontal furrow on the head is deeper and straight in front of the supra-orbital puncture (arrowed in fig. A, above). (View this with diffuse light - see note in 'Newsletter No. 4, May 1981).

B. lampros usually has no seventh stria at all. If one is present, the punctures are nearly all distinctly weaker than those of the sixth stria, and there are not more than 8 punctures in either seventh stria. The inner frontal furrow is shallower, and has a slight sinuation (arrowed in fig. B, above) in front of the supra-orbital puncture, so that the region between the furrows on that side of the head is constricted at that point.

Measurements of pronotal and elytral dimensions have not shown any consistent differences in proportions between the two species: properans is, on average, a larger species but exceptionally small specimens do occur.

2. Notiophilus biguttatus/quadripunctatus. These can usually be separated by having one or two setiferous punctures, respectively, on the fourth elytral interval. However in a proportion of specimens there is only one puncture on one elytron (quadripunctatus) or an extra puncture (biguttatus), so that the beetle has two punctures on one elytron and one on the other. I have not found consistent differences in the breadth of the fourth elytral interval, which is the character used in the 'Handbook': the side of the pronotum is indeed straighter posteriorly in quadripunctatus, but this is variable and somewhat subjective. A feature which separates all the specimens that I have examined, and which does not seem to have been mentioned previously, is the number of ridges on the frons, counting along a line joining the supra-orbital punctures and ignoring the outermost ridge lying more or less parallel to the inner margin of the eye. N. biguttatus has 6 rather coarse ridges whereas in quadripunctatus the ridges and furrows are finer, giving 7 - 10 ridges in the corresponding region of the frons.

3. Notiophilus palustris/germinyi. These can usually be distinguished from one another by the frontal furrows, which are parallel in germinyi, but converge basally in palustris (as in fig 18, page 31 of the 'Handbook'). In cases of doubt a confirmatory feature, not mentioned in the 'Handbook' but figured by Kevan (1949, E.M.M., 85:1-18) is that germinyi has a broad unpunctured (but densely roughened) region at the back of the head behind the frontal furrows, whereas in palustris this region is narrower, with some punctures extending in almost to the centre line of the head. The 'dense microreticulation' mentioned in the 'Handbook' as present in germinyi on the outer elytral intervals (the elytra being 'smooth, shiny' in palustris) is in fact not at all distinct as the elytra are very shiny in both species. N. germinyi has, on average, a stronger microreticulation on the outer intervals, but it is only visible at high magnification (x50) using a direct, not diffused, light. Many specimens of palustris also have a faint microreticulation under such close observation.

Martin L. Luff, Department of Agricultural Biology, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

HELP would anyone be willing to become Treasurer for the 'Newsletter' - duties are minimal, keeping record of subscriptions and outgoings. Contact J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Drive, Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL (please).

FIELD MEETINGS 1982 Two meetings are arranged for next year, again only for the weekend. If anyone is interested in taking part in a week long meeting, based at a Field Centre, please let me know.

June 19th - 20th Richmond Park, Surrey. An area of ancient Parkland very close to London. Many interesting beetles have turned up there in the past, and more recently such things as Orthoperus aequalis Sharp and Lymexylon navale (L.). For full details contact J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Drive, Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL.

July 10th - 11th, North Herefordshire. It is hoped that a meeting at Downton Gorge SSSI can be arranged - details to be confirmed. This is a very interesting area on the River Teme. Several areas of mature woodland, parkland, wet areas and the river itself. The geology varies from Devonian Old Red Sandstone at one end of the through the 'Downtonian' to Silurian limestones at the other end. The Gorge is steep in parts only, and access is not at all difficult. The better deciduous woodlands flank the gorge on more or less level ground. Fuller details will appear in the next 'Newsletter'.

DRYOPS Olivier. Colin Johnson (Manchester Museum) and Garth Foster (20 Angus Avenue, Prestwick) are currently revising the British fauna. To date one species can be added to the British List, and doubtless these two gentlemen would like to examine as much material as possible. Before sending, please contact one or the other.

J.Cooter.

EDITORIAL With this issue come the first pages of Michael Darby's Biographical Dictionary of British Coleopterists the introduction included with this is self-explanatory, and it is hoped that a questionnaire will be circulated with the next issue, (for those that wish to have their details included). I welcome this venture, as so often one only gets to know certain details of ones friends and correspondants by reading their obituaries. The pages of the 'Dictionary' will be numbered in brackets and not stapled with the rest of the 'Newsletter'.

CERAMBYCIDAE RECORDING SCHEME. The Biological Records Centre, Monks Wood have had the 'card' printed, and a stock delivered to me. At the time of writing, a few loose ends have to be tidied up, but it is hoped to start the scheme very soon. Details will be circulated in due course.

J.C.

CHANGES IN THE BRITISH FAUNA.

Not so many changes as listed last year, but once again there are a lot of new species that have not yet formally been brought forward. Those that have are -

Oulimnius major (Rey, 1889) Entomologist's Record vol.92.

Ischnomera cinerascens (Pandelle, 1867) Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, vol 116

Aloconota (s.str.) subgrandis (Brundin, 1954) Entomologist's Gazette, vol 32

Furcipes rectirostris (Linnaeus, 1758) Entomologist's Gazette, vol. 32. This is a species and genus new to Britain and comes after Anthonomus Germ. (according to Silfverberg's Fennoscandian List).

Name changes include -

Phyllobius vespertinus (Fabricius, 1792) = artemisiae Desbrochers, 1873

Spelling changes -

TRINOPHYLLUM Bates, 1878 not TRINOPHYLLUM.

Printing error in 'Kloet & Hinks' resulted in Leperisinus orni (Fuchs, 1906) (p 89) being indented and might be passed as a synonym of the species listed above (ie varius (Fab.)). L.orni is a valid species and should be 'moved out one space'.

Species on the List, but have been recently confirmed, or have only just been formally brought forward include

Cercyon granarius Erichson, 1837 Entomologist's Record, vol 92

Gnypeta ripicola (Kiesenwetter, 1844) Entomologist's Monthly Magazine, 116.

All the changes noted above have been published in 'Antenna' and elsewhere. As far as I have been able to tell, the above brings the British List up to date (from last year's installment to November 1981).

'Gyrinus natator (L) and G.substriatus Stph.

Mr. R.Carr and Dr. R.Angus have been critically studying these two species, and although their work has been written up, would like to see further material, in particular G.substriatus females, especially those with dark undersides and strong puncturation. The two species were for a long time synonymised (since F. Balfour-Browne's monograph on ~~the~~ British Hydradephaga) but the present work shows them to be distinct.

Again, send a letter before hand asking permission to send the specimens you may have (I know what it's like to be deluged with unsolicited beetles for identification) J.C.

R.Carr, 32 Kingley Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 7UN

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1982.

Due to increased postal charges (as from February 1st) and smaller increases on other items, it is necessary to raise the subscription by 20p but I hope readers will understand the need. NEW RATE = £1.20p

Please send cheques or postal orders to J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Drive, Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL BUT MAKE THEM PAYABLE TO 'Coleopterists' Newsletter', not J.Cooter 'A' account, which no longer exists.

Incase anyone missed the earlier insertion, I repeat here, anyone willing to serve as Treasurer, please contact me (address above). With the recent entry into fatherhood, plus more onerous administrative tasks at work, I find less and less time for things entomologic. If I can farm out the 'book keeping' side of this venture, it will leave me with a little more time for other matters (please dry your eyes).