

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

Number 8

May, 1982.

FINANCES: Peter Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, near Lewes, East Sussex is now in charge of the 'Newsletter' bank account. Any outstanding subscriptions or new members should contact him.

At the start of the New Year, finances are good, and with the mail bill being taken up by Monks Wood (for this issue only) and with other savings we are able to take advantage of, there should be a surplus left by the end of the year.

CERAMBYCIDAE RECORDING SCHEME - As you will see the card for the Cerambycidae is available, and a few are enclosed herewith. Completed cards should be sent to J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Drive, Bartestree, Herefordshire, and NOT to BRC Monks Wood. Through the kindness of BRC Monks Wood, and by way of launching the Scheme, the cost of mailing this heavy issue has been met by I.T.E. Monks Wood.

G.B.ALEXANDER - AN APPEAL FOR INFORMATION. A collection of beetles made by the late G.B.Alexander was recently presented to the Booth Museum, Brighton by his sister. A species not known to breed in Britain - Uloma culinaria was represented by a series of about 10 specimens, all labelled 'Rotten wood, Bushy Hall, 20.7.50' If anyone can supply any information about Alexander or the above mentioned specimens, I would be very grateful. (See also Michael Darby's Biographical Dictionary of Coleopterist's for further information.

Peter Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8

SWIMMING IN HYPERA RUMICIS (L.) COL. CURCULIONIDAE.

Last year I discovered that Hypera rumicis (L.) was capable of swimming. While making some observations on the swimming ability of certain curculionids I tested some specimens of H.rumicis in a small plastic container filled with water. The adults were observed to swim through the water by making a type of breast-stroke action, not unlike the same sort of action observed in Ceutorhynchus viduatus (Gyll.) recorded by me in the Ent. Gazette 29:76 (1978). The swimming action was made by the forelegs first and then the mid-legs, the hind pair making the final forward movement. Specimens were also capable of swimming quite efficiently while inverted. This adaption is very interesting in Hypera rumicis as it is a species which is not usually found near water or in wet situations in general. I nearly always find the weevil on Rumex crispus L. here in Cumbria mainly in drier habitats. It is interesting to note that H. rumicis according to Hoffmann, A., (1954), Faune de France, 3:581, is known to feed and develop on the Great Water Dock, Rumex hydrolapthum Huds.

Two other species of Hypera - nigrirostris (F.) and plantaginis (Dg.) were also tested for swimming, but both species when placed in water made no attempt to perform a swimming stroke, but merely floundered around in the water. R.W.J.READ, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria.

ABUNDANCE OF CARABUS - FURTHER NOTE.

Whilst reading Mr. William's article on the large numbers of Carabus problematicus I was reminded of events regarding C.nemorialis Mull. I have observed large numbers (up to 20) of this beetle in Seaton Park, and surrounding area, within Aberdeen during a one week period in April 1980 and 1981. Some beetles were seen crossing footpaths during mild humid nights, and many more were to be found later - squashed on the paths. At the time of writing it is too early (11.iii.1982) to say if this event will occur this year.

I would be very grateful to know if anyone has had similar experiences, and if any explanations can be offered to this sudden appearance of one of Britain's largest beetles.

N.D.Redgate, 9 Garlogie Cottages, Garlogie, Skene, Aberdeenshire, AB3 6SA

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER - Editor & Secretary J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Dr., Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL. Treasurer P.Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex.

BEETLES

Beetles are his special care,
Beetles, shining in the sun,
Beetles, as they crawl or run,
Beetles, beetles everywhere !

Beetles, huge as bats or birds,
Beetles, small as dust of earth,
Beetles, of Madeiran birth,
Beetles, from the Cape de Verdes.

Beetles, in Nilotic mud,
Beetles, from the bright Azores,
Beetles new, on British shores,
Beetles older than the flood !

Three of fourteen verses by Martin F. Tupper, from the Entomologist's Annual, 1867 (pages 165 - 166).

M.J.Morgan, U.C.N.W., Bangor, Gwynedd.

1982 FIELD MEETINGS

I am preparing maps and sundry information for the Richmond Park and Downton Gorge meetings. Anyone interested in attending is requested to send for details.

As per 1981, it is up to the individuals attending to find a place to stay.

I have made a tentative booking for the 3rd Annual Coleopterist's Dinner at the 'Compasses' Wigmore. The menu is to be decided, and the hotel will soon be taking on a full-time chef. The range of fare on offer will be expanded from last year's choice of steak or fresh salmon, a choice of three or four dishes it is hoped will be on offer (but must be booked). As with everything these days, the 1982 meal is expected to cost a little more, but I think everyone will agree, that if anything like last year's meal, a most enjoyable evening at reasonable price will be had.

PLEASE SEND FOR DETAILS IF INTERESTED.

Richmond Park. In a venue so near London, it is thought that most people will be commuting to the Park. I cannot supply accomodation lists, and have not considered organising a meal for the evening. SEND FOR DETAILS OF VENUE AND OTHER INFORMATION.

J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Dr., Bartestree.

PROPOSED FIELD MEETING FOR 1983. Several people have expressed an interest in taking part in a meeting of about one week's duration. No body has come up with any suggestions as to the venue, nor has anyone offered to organise such an event.

However, I am thinking of taking this upon myself - at the risk of either putting people off Herefordshire for life, or promoting their interest in the County - I have selected (tentatively) the southern part of Herefordshire/Forest of Dean as a likely venue. This area is poorly known entomologically, but has an interesting cross-section of habitats for investigation - The Wye, Carboniferous Limestone woodland grassland of the Doward, Forest of Dean (including one area of hardwood not managed for about 40 years. Not too far away are the Rivers Monnow and Teme, Moccas Park, Black Mountains and so on.

If this appeals, please let me know as I have no idea how many people might wish to take part, I might make a mess up of field-centre bookings, dates and the like. Are there any dates you cannot possibly make? What sort of price range would be acceptable (and be sensible here) and any other points you feel pertinent. J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Drive, Bartestree, HR1 4DL.

COLEOPTERIST'S WORKSHOP. Would any body be interested in taking part in (as yet hypothetical) two day indoor workshop, dealing with one or two groups of the less well known or more difficult Families? We have not had an indoor meeting since 1980, so now is about the time to start thinking about another. Please let me know if such a venture would be of interest, and which Families you would like to see especially catered for. As to venue, do we need to go to London for this - or should it be more central (geographically)? What time of year - winter would seem a good time, but the weather might be against us and might rule out field collecting. Any views - let me know.

J.Cooter, 20 Burdon Dr., Bartestree, Herefordshire, HR1 4DL