

# THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

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## BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY.

Response to the questionnaire has been excellent and I wish to convey my grateful thanks to all those who returned the form, many of whom I have been unable to thank individually.

It might be a year or so before I get to your name, but all the information is safely stored until needed.

Michael Darby.

52 Avenue Gardens, London, W3

## MORE ABOUT LARGE CARABIDS.

Whilst helping lead a field course last July (1981) at Llydisnam Field Centre, Newbridge on Wye, Powys, I notes large numbers of Cychrus caraboides (L.) in pit-fall traps set every few yards outside a barrier round the Field Centre pond. The traps were large 10 flower pots designed to catch toads ! I noticed in many traps one morning numbers (4 to 6 per trap) of Cychrus. There were about 25 traps and a total of 40-plus Cychrus around the pond perimeter. On one side of the pond was a plantation of young pines (6 - 10ft) and on the other a rough garden. The Cychrus were restricted to the traps in the pine plantation, except for the odd specimen. At night with a torch many Cychrus were to be seen running along the edge of the barrier, presumably trying to get to the pond's marginal vegetation and large snail population. Previously, like Jonathan Cooter, I have only found the beetle in one's and two's. In day time no Cychrus round the pond and only odd specimens under logs and stones so maybe they disperse in the day and converge on the pond at night to feed on the snails.

D.G.Goddard

Shelsley Beauchamp, Worcestershire.

COLEOPTERA FROM FAGGOTS.

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Some years ago, our Editor, describing collecting from faggots, commented in the Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologist's Society (1975, 34:97) that he would be interested to hear from anyone who had successfully obtained Coleoptera from specially made faggot bundles. (And 7yrs later I do hear ! Ed.) Although I have not myself made faggot traps I have had the opportunity to collect from the same two bundles of faggots over the space of several years. The faggots - chiefly hazel - are situated in an old garden hedge near Cottage Farm, Little Blakenham, Suffolk (TM 14). The owner sometimes takes some of the sticks to use for supporting peas, beans or other plants but, in general, the two bundles are left undisturbed for most of the time. At least once each year, usually in June or July, I place the bundle quickly onto a polythene sack and beat them vigorously. Most of the species taken so far have been common, but one or two better things have occurred as will be seen from the list which follows. I did not intentionally set out to make a list of species which occurred and I am sure I have omitted certain species. Those asterisked are recorded from memory -

<u>Leistus rufomarginatus</u> Duft..	<u>Stilbus testaceus</u> Pz *
<u>Trechus quadristriatus</u> (Sch.)	<u>Sericoderus lateralis</u> (Gyll.)
<u>Calathus piceus</u> (Mm)	<u>Stethorus punctillum</u> Wse.
<u>Calyptomerus dubius</u> (Mm)	<u>Mycetaea hirta</u> (Mm)
<u>Anobium punctatum</u> (Dg)*	<u>Stephostethus lardarius</u> Dg *
<u>Cryptophagus dentatus</u> (Hb.)	<u>Aridius bifasciatus</u> Rtt. *
<u>C. laticollis</u> Lusas	<u>A. nodifer</u> Westwood *
<u>C. pseudodentatus</u> Bruce	<u>Corticicera gibbosa</u> Hb *
<u>C. scanicus</u> (L.)	<u>Lissodema quadripustulatum</u> (Mm)
<u>Atomaria atricapilla</u> Stph.	<u>Vincenzellus ruficollis</u> (Pz.)
<u>A. nitidula</u> (Mm)	<u>Rhinosimus planirostris</u> (F.)
<u>A. linearis</u> Stph.	<u>Gracilia minuta</u> (F.)

In his note (Bull.Am.Ent.Soc.) Jonathan Cooter referred to the apparently authentic capture of Anthribidae using faggot bundles. Although I have taken Choragus sheppardi Kirby in numbers from dead ivy twigs only 100metres away from the faggots, it will be noted that it has never occurred in them.

I have not made a search of the literature for references to faggot collecting nor for references to the Anthribidae occurring in them. I am aware, however, of one very interesting paper published many years ago (1904, E.M.M. 15 (2nd series):100-103) which contains much of value to anyone interested in faggots or

collecting Anthribids. Entitled 'Collecting (Chiefly Coleoptera) in old Hedges near Faversham, Kent' and written by the well-known Coleopterist A.J.Chitty, it describes (amongst other things) how 30ft of dead hedge produced in 1902, 78 species of Coleoptera including numbers of Platstomus albinus L. and Tropideres niveirostris F as well as such interesting species as Lissodema quadripustulatum Marsh., Acalles turbatus Boh., Anisoxya fuscilla Ill., Orchesia minor Walk., Tetratoma ancora F., Pogonocherus hispidulus Pill. & Mitt., P. hispidus L.. It should be noted that the principle old hedge was obviously the remains of one which had been properly 'lain' and then subsequently patched up, in Chitty's words 'with long hazel boughs and loose bundles'. The resulting interwoven tangle of branches must have presented conditions somewhat akin to those of a sheep hurdle. Unfortunately the latter is not normally to be found lying in a hedge where a very different microclimate prevails compared with that of the open field. The art of laying a hedge has also virtually disappeared from our countryside and, as we know only too well, even the hedges themselves are disappearing at an alarming rate. Our Editor, in a recent 'Newsletter', lamented the noticeable dearth of insects on his return to this country from a visit to south-west France where their abundance had been equally noteworthy.

Can anyone inform us if they have encountered hedges today which are as productive as those described by Chitty, or who (to conclude where we began !) has collected with profit from faggot bundles

David R. Nash

266 Colchester Rd., Lawford, Essex, CO11 2BU

(In Herefordshire I am pleased to report that many hedges are still laid in traditional style. Usually the stout hawthorn growing in the hedge is partly cut through at the base then bent down and interwoven in the hedge. In places 'loose' sticks and poles are used. These form very stocky though, with hawthorn, almost entomologically unbeatable hedges. Alas, their tops and sides are cut by a flail mower, adding to the compact growth habit of the hedge. The idea that induced me to put pen to paper for the A.E.S. Bulletin was one of the late A.M.Massee's ideas on trapping methods. However, I cannot help but think that it might just after all be yet another good 'Massee story' - told to the innocent, they rush off making bundles of faggots and leaving them in the woods, all to no avail. Bearing Chitty's paper in mind it would seem that the correct use of artificial traps of this type might after all be very productive. Perhaps, instead of pulling the hedge apart, one might insert a bundle of thin twigs into the hedge and examine it over the collecting sheet after a year or so - any takers ?)

J.C.

CERAMBYCIDAE RECORDING SCHEME.

Thank you to all those who have sent in completed cards, I regret not being able to thank everyone personally.

Although operational, it will be a long time before any provisional or even preliminary distribution maps appear. J.C.

RICHMOND PARK FIELD MEETING.

I had thought this meeting might have been a complete disaster having read Hudson-Beare's paper on captures he made years ago. To cap it all I was unable to attend as leader.

However a small knot of stalwarts did turn out and I have heard that a few interesting beetles were captured, most notably Saprosites mendax Blackburn in fair numbers and a solitary Uleiota planata (L.) from under sycamore bark.

DOWNTON GORGE FIELD MEETING.

Unfortunately the date was perhaps a little too far advanced for most species though a reasonable number of collectors turned up at the venue. Perhaps the most interesting species taken was Nossidium pilosellum (Marsh.) in great numbers in its 'text-book' habitat = fungoid rot-hole in elm. Also present was a solitary Pteryx suturalis (Heer). All credit to Michael Darby for finding the ideal site among a lot of dead or dying elm. Along the Teme Philonthus varipes Muls. & Rey was not uncommon. The non-Coleopterists found a few species to make their trip worthwhile, and the day ended with the Third Coleopterist's Dinner.

The party split up for the Sunday, some visiting the Wyre Forest, others going to Hereford & Radnor Trust Reserves in Radnorshire and the third faction further down the Teme for the expected 'specialities' - Bembidion semipunctatum Don., Ptenidium longicorne Fuss, Philonthus varipes Muls & rey, and various Bledius, Heterocerus and other Bembidion species.