

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

Number 15

February 1984

Many readers have asked "how do you keep the price so low ?" Well,.... an increase in subscription rate is due for 1985, but with enough stencils to last the "Newsletter", headed paper envelopes and sundries, there was little point in setting the rise for 1984. Peter Hodge and myself agree that the whole or as much as possible of one's sub. should be returned in "paper work" to the subscriber; to keep "x"-pounds in the bank seems rather pointless.

Peter has drawn up the following account:

<u>Expenditure</u>	£	-	p	<u>Income</u>	
Stamps & Envelopes	61	-	67	Subscriptions	£140 - 50p
Stencils	27	-	89		
Paper, ink, sundries	75	-	81		
Bank charges	1	-	30		
	166	-	67		
Deficit for year	26	-	17		
	140	-	50		140 - 50
Balance at January 1st. 1983					50 - 26
Deficit for year					26 - 17
Balance at 1st January 1984					£24 - 09

(The deficit is partly due to the cost of producing the keys, and partly reflects inflation, "overstocking" and so on). J.C.

NEW ADDRESS J.Cooter, 222 WHITTERN WAY, HEREFORD, HR1 1QP

KENT COLEOPTERISTS' WORKSHOP - 17th MARCH, 1984.

The third meeting, of what is now an annual event, will be held at Maidstone Museum on Saturday 17th. March 1984 from 2pm to 5pm, anyone interested in beetles is welcome to attend. It is hoped that those attending will bring an exhibit and the suggested themes are Hydraenidae, the genera Stenus, Philonthus and Quedius, and collecting apparatus and techniques. There will be the usual informal discussions with a chance to get specimens identified and tea will be available.

FIELD MEETING led by L.Clemons will be held on Sunday 4th March at 10.30am at Murston TQ/919.648. Anyone interested in Coleoptera or Hemiptera is welcome to attend.

Eric Philp (Maidstone Museum).

RECORDS WANTED

Ross, Sutherland and Caithness (Vice Counties 105 - 109) Records of Coleoptera with full data for a proposed list for these Counties. All records will be acknowledged. Please contact Neil D. Redgate, 3 The Cottages, Myles Farm, TRANENT, East Lothian, EH33 2LE

Norfolk Coleoptera records wanted for a revision of the County List - published 1893 - 1914. Please contact Martin Collier, 67 Church Lane, Homersfield, HARLESTON, Norfolk.

RECORDS PUBLISHED

The long-awaited "Coleoptera of Gloucestershire" is now available from its author David Atty, 17a Eldorado Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2PU, price £4-50p inc. post. xi + 136 pages, it lists 2049 species plus 69 dubious records with notes on distribution, frequency, habits and season. The oldest records date from 1812 (excluding archaeological records). Very good value, well produced, highly recommended.

J.C.

ERRORS NOTED IN THE QUEDIUS KEY, for which I am totally responsible, (J.C.) = p3 last name = punctatellus Heer, not puncticollis; p21 couplet 32, first name (species 64) = nitipennis not nitidipennis.

Daily Telegraph 14th Feb. 1983 "While driving between Poole and Blandford, Dorset, a reader saw this sign outside a village pub "Hot meals available. Horse manure 45p" K.Alexander.

Ernoporus caucasicus (Col., Scolytidae) AND OTHER BEETLES ASSOCIATED WITH MATURE
TIMBER AT ROCKINGHAM CASTLE PARK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Rockingham Castle Park is located in north Northamptonshire on the Leicestershire border where it is situated on the Lincolnshire Limestone scarp overlooking the Welland Valley. The Park is of considerable antiquity containing areas of parkland with indigenous and exotic trees and patches of deciduous woodland. Within the parkland areas there are not many overmature trees but much of the timber is mature. There is a certain amount of fallen timber, especially in the Far Park area, but in the Front Park much has been cleared away. The predominant trees are oak, beech, lime, horse chestnut, sycamore and elm, however, the latter has suffered badly from Dutch Elm Disease. The woodland are, in the main, of fairly recent origin with only occasional mature trees.

The parkland and adjoining woodlands have been surveyed by myself since 1980 with special attention being given to the mature timber habitats. During the course of this study a number of interesting beetles have been recorded. The list below is of those most specifically attached to the aforementioned habitat with a commentary on their distribution in Northamptonshire. Many of the records are new for the county but their exact status is difficult to determine because what little collecting has been done has seldom been published, as a consequence comments on county status are tentative.

CARABIDAE:

Leistus rufomarginatus (Duft.) Not strictly attached to mature woodlands but this is a new county locality for a beetle which has now become widespread and relatively common in Northants.

Laemostenus terricola (Hb.) Local under bark and fallen timber.

Dromius agilis (F.) and D. meridionalis Dj. Local but widespread under bark.

Dromius quadrimaculatus (L.) and D. quadrinotatus (Z. in Panz.) Common and widespread under bark.

HISTERIDAE:

Plegaderus dissectus Er. A scarce species in the East Midlands and I can find no other Northants records. Two specimens taken in Front Park (SP8691) in a rotten Lime log, 12.vi.1983.

Abraeus globosus (Hoff.) Uncommon but widespread. Far Park Hollow (SP8590) on drying fungi in Elm stump, 19.vi.1983 and 30.viii.1983; Front Park (SP8791) in rotten heart of fallen horse chestnut, 30.viii.1983.

Paromalus flavicornis (Hb.) Widespread and common.

PTILIIDAE.

Ptenidium gressneri Er. This is the only record I know for the county. In numbers in rotten heart wood of horse chestnut split and brought down in gales in Front Park (SP8791), taken 30.viii.1983.

LEIODIDAE.

Anisotoma orbicularis (Hb.) Scarce and I know of no other county records. Six specimens in Front Park (SP8691) in rotten lime log on 12 + 19.vi.1983.

SCAPHIDIIDAE.

Scaphisoma agaricinum (L.) Local but widespread.

STAPHYLINIDAE.

Dropephylla ioptera (Stph.) Widespread under bark.

Hapalaraea pygmaea (Pk.) Scarce, taken in hollow stump debris of horse chestnut in Front Park (SP8791), 30.viii.1983.

Coryphium angusticolle Stph. Not common but fairly widespread.

Siagonum quadricorne Kirby, local but not uncommon.

Atrecus affinis (Pk.) Common and widespread under bark

Nudobius lentus (Gr.) Local but not uncommon under deciduous and pine bark.

Gabrius piliger Muls & Rey, Not uncommon, taken on Polyporus on lime stump in Front Park (SP8691), 30.viii.1983.

G. splendidulus (Gr.) Common under bark and on tree fungi.

Quedius microps Gr., Scarce and possible first county record. See Drane (1982, EMM, 119:162) for details.

Sepedophilus testaceus (F.) Not common but seems to be widespread in old parks and woodlands.

LUCANIDAE.

Dorcus parallelipedus (L.) and Sinodendron cylindricum (L.) Common and widespread.

DERMESTIDAE.

Ctesias serra (F.) Local but widespread under loose bark of mature and dying trees - only larvae found.

ANOBIIDAE.

Grynobius planus (F.) Local and usually taken in singles. On lime Front Park (SP8691) 19.vi.1983.

Xestobium rufovillosum (Deg.) Not uncommon but mainly associated with old timber in parks and woodlands.

Anobium punctatum (Deg.) and Ptilinus pectinicornis (L.) common.

PTINIDAE.

Ptinus subpilosus (L.) Scarce. See Drane (1982, EMM., 119:162) for details. Taken on same tree in Cow Pasture Wood (SP8691) 26.xii.1983.

CLERIDAE.

Thanasimus fornicarius (L.) Local but not uncommon.

NITIDULIDAE.

Epuraea limbata (F.) Local.

Cryptarcha strigosa (F.) Not common and probably scarce. One specimen taken in Cow Pasture Wood (SP8691) under sycamore bark 1.ii.1981.

Glischrochilus hortensis (Fourc.) Not uncommon and widespread especially on rotten fungi and at carrion.

RHIZOPHAGIDAE.

Rhizophagus bipustulatus (F.) Common and widespread under bark.

CUCUJIDAE.

Pediacus dermestoides (F.) Local but widespread under bark.

EROTYLIDAE.

Dacne bipustulata (Thun.) and D. rufifrons (F.) Local but widespread on tree fungi.

CERYLONIDAE.

Cerylon ferrugineum Stph. and C. histeroides (F.) Not uncommon and widespread under bark.

CORYLOPHIDAE.

Orthoperus mundus Matth. Local; taken in numbers in Front Park (SP8691) on bracket fungi attached to lime stump, 12.vi.1983.

CISIDAE.

Octotemnus glabriculus (Gyll.) Common.

Cis bidentatus (Ol.) Local; taken in numbers in rotten heart of fallen horse chestnut in Front Park (SP8791) on 31.viii.1983.

Cis bilamellatus Wood Not uncommon and widespread.

C. boleti (Scop.) Common and widespread.

C. nitidus (F.) Local, taken in Front Park (SP8691) on bracket fungi on lime, 12.vi.1983.

MYCETOPHAGIDAE.

Pseudotriphyllus suturalis (F.) Local but widespread on tree fungi.

Triphyllus bicolor (F.) seems very local; taken on polyporus on dying elm in Far Park Hollow (SP8590), 21.ix.1980 and on dried fungus on elm in Fir Ground (SP8591), 1.viii.1983.

Litargus connexus (Fourc.) not uncommon under bark and at fungus.

Mycetophagus atomarius (F.) local but widespread. Taken under beech bark in Big Park (SP8691), 11.viii.1983.

M.multipunctatus F. Local but widespread, taken on Polyporus on dying elms in Far Park Hollow (SP8590), 21.ix.1980.

M.piceus (F.) Scarce and seems to be restricted to habitats with mature timber. Taken on Polyporus on dying elm with previous species.

M.quadripustulatus (L.) common under bark and at tree fungi

Typhaea stercorea (L.) not uncommon and widespread.

COLYDIIDAE.

Bitona crenata (F.) Local but quite widespread, taken under beech stump bark in Far Park Hollow, 23.xi.1980.

TENEBRIONIDAE.

Scaphidema metallicum (F.) Local and not common; under log bark in Cottingham Belt (SP8590), 23.xi.1980.

Corticeus bicolor (Ol.) Fairly common and widespread under elm bark.

Mycetochara humeralis (F.) Scarce and restricted to old parks and woodlands. Taken in rotten beech log in Big Park, 11.viii.83

TETRATOMIDAE.

Tetratoma fungorum F. not uncommon and widespread at tree fungi.

SALPINGIDAE.

Vincenzellus ruficollis (Pz.) Not as common as the two species following. Taken under sycamore bark in Cow Pasture Wood, 20.iii.1983.

Rhinosimus planirostris (F.) and ruficollis (L.) common and widespread.

SCRAPTIIDAE.

Anaspis humeralis (F.), maculata Four., regimbarti Schilsky common and widespread.

OEDEMERIDAE.

Ischnomera caerulea (L.) local at hawthorn blossom. Fairly common in the Park.

CERAMBYCIDAE.

Grammoptera ruficornis (F.) Common and widespread.

Clytus arietis (L.) Fairly common and widespread.

Anaglyptus mysticus (L.) Local. One specimen taken on hawthorn in Far Park Hollow, 29.v.1982.

Tetrops praeusta (L.) Fairly common on hawthorn blossom.

CURCULIONIDAE.

Barypeithes pellucidus (Boh.) Local but widespread in old woods and parks.

Rhyncolus lignarius (Marsh.) Local but in numbers when it occurs. Heavy infestation of rotten heart wood of horse chestnut in Front Park.

Anthonomus pomorum (L.) Local and I know of only one other site in the county near Harlestone Heath. Heavy infestation on old crabapple in Far Park Hollow, 20.vi.1983.

SCOLYTIDAE.

Acrantus vittatus (F.) Local but widespread. Singles taken on lime in Front Park on 12.vi.1983 and 19.vi.1983.

Ernoporus caucasicus Linde. Only the second Northants record. Previously recorded from material collected by D.Tozer in Bedford Purliens, see Cooter (1980, EMM., 116:112). Specimens were taken from Tilia x vulgaris trees in Front Park. The trees are part of an avenue of limes and the beetles only seemed to occur on two trees at the northern end of the avenue. Altogether eight specimens were found. (A more detailed report of this is being prepared for publication).

I would like to thank the Rockingham Castle Estate for permission to collect in the Park. Dr R.C.Welch for checking my identification of some Staphylinidae and of Ernoporus caucasicus.

A.B.Drane, 14 Rockingham Rd., Cottingham, Mkt Harborough.

DIMETHYLHYDANTOIN FORMALDEHYDE or DMHF is a relatively new substance for mounting dissected genitalia. It is water soluble and sets like glass. Since first publicised by Robert Angus in EMM some years ago, many people have tried to obtain a supply but seem to have been unsuccessful. I obtained a "free sample"

many years ago, but recently Tony Irwin has informed me that it can be purchased in 250g lots from BDH Chemicals, Freshwater Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 1RZ. Their product code should be quoted when ordering = 36129.3K. Cost = £3.60 + VAT. Tony informs me that this is approximately £1 per 100ml while Canada Balsam now costs £18 per 100 ml. Unlike balsam, DMHF can be used on card as well as other surfaces. It has the advantage (over gum) of enveloping the organ, but leaving it totally visible for subsequent examination; it also serves to protect the dissection. Alas, if it breaks the chances are that the enclosed bits will snap too - however, this will only happen with extraordinarily rough handling.

J.C.

APION TRANSLATION NOTES.

The sub-genus Ceratapion is being ably revised; the part in the translation is inadequate for determining our species.

Remove brackets from afer (recently added to out List),
afer Gyllenhal, 1833
= platalea sensu auct. nec Gernar, 1817

The following index can be added to the key for easy use:

p3 difficile group = page 18
frumentarium gp = page 14
malvae gp = page 16

p4 rufirostre gp = page 17
pallipes gp = page 21
urticarium gp = page 21
pomonae gp = page 37

p5 confluens gp = page 23
onopordi gp = page 25
sulcifrons gp = page 24
radiolus gp = page 18
hookeri gp = page 26

p7 tenue gp = page 29
ononis gp = page 34
platalaea gp = page 30
atomarium gp = page 22

p9 limonii gp = page 14
violaceum/brevirostre
gps = page 15

pl1 loti gp = page 28
pavidum gp = page 34

p6 ebeninum gp = page 27
apricans gp = page 39
striatum gp = page 30

p8 simile gp = page 35
viciae gp = page 36
minimum gp = page 20
sedi gp = page 15
seniculus gp = page 28

pl0 spencei gp = page 32
virens gp = page 38
vorax gp = page 35

pl2 punctigerum gp = page 33
astragali gp = page 38
pisi gp = page 31

For the groups burdigalense and amethystinum *** should be added - these are non-British (and errors made by J.C.).

D.Nash, 266 Colchester Road, Lawford, CO11 2BU

HETEROPTERA STUDY GROUP

Many Coleopterists are bug collectors (some, I have heard, are even buggers!) so may be interested to learn that a Study Group is now in existence - details from Brian Eversham, B.R.C., Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Abbots Ripton, Huntingdon, PE17 2LS

Their first Newsletter included draft keys to Anthocoris and Phytocoris, a comprehensive review of the distribution of bugs in northern Scotland, plus articles on computer mapping of bugs in Derbyshire and on the frequency of species in Bedfordshire. It is hoped that more keys and preliminary revisions of difficult genera will be a feature of future Newsletters, together with

hints for field identification and recording.

A panel of referees willing to check identifications in critical groups has already been formed. A field and workshop meeting is planned, probably to be held at Monks Wood on 7th - 8th July, 1984.

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SCOTTISH FIELD MEETING, 1984.

This years meeting is being organised by D.M.Young, Department of Zoology, University of Aberdeen, Tillydrone Avenue, Aberdeen, AB9 2TN.

The intention is to hold the meeting from Friday June 22nd (pm) until Sunday June 24th (pm) or Wednesday 27th (am). Up to 36 people can be accomodated at the Ballater Centre and the cost will be £7 per day, full board - includes packed lunch and laboratory fees, but you have to provide your own microscope.

This part of Deeside is very good for beetles, and a visitor should guarantee getting such species as Pytho depressus, Dendrophagus crenatus, Zilora ferruginea, Sphaerites glabratus (dig a few inches under a deer corpse) with the chance of Amara alpina and other goodies on high ground. Linn of Dee, Glen Quoich (Scolytus ratzeburgi) and Glen Tanar are within a short drive of Ballater.

J.C.

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW ADDRESS: J.Cooter, 222 Whittern Way,
Hereford, HR1 1QP