

# THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

Number 28

May 1987

The accounts for 1986 can be summarised as follows:

<u>Expenditure</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Bank fees	£0 -90	Subscriptions	£242-40p
Postage	£108-26	(plus sale of back numbers)	
Stencils	£16-20	Interest	£1-33
Duplicating paper envelopes	£28-00		
Use of duplicator, ink extra paper (Hereford Nature Trust)	£25-00		
	£178-36		£243-73
Surplus for year	£65-37		
	£243-73		

Balance at 1st January 1986 = £31-82p

Balance at 3rd January 1987 = £97-19p

P.J.Hodge, 21.2.1987

## Otiorynchus auropunctatus correctly recorded from Wester Ross:

Paul Whitehead's note on this species in "Newsletter" 27 caused me to re-examine the specimen taken by the late G.E.Woodroffe and W.O.Steel at Stac Polly, 6.vi.1964 (1972, EMM., 108:45). I am satisfied that the specimen is correctly determined. This record, and Paul Whitehead's one from Coinneach Mhor, Wester Ross (Newsletter 26:10) are the only ones from Great Britain, though auropunctatus is often common in eastern counties of Ireland. M.G.Morris

BOOK REVIEW. THE CARABIDAE (COLEOPTERA) OF FENNOSCANDIA AND

DENMARK. (Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica, volume 15)

Part 1 (1985) 225 pages (246 figs + 8 coloured plates)

ISBN 90 04 07727 8 Price 80 dutoh Guilders

Part 2 (1986) 264 pages, numbered consecutively with part 1;

267 figs. ISBN 90 04 08182 8 Price 80 Dutch Guilders.

Published by E.J.Brill/Scandinavian Science Press Ltd.

(Professor Lindroth died during 1979 leaving the manuscript of this work partly completed. Several notable authorities on the Carabidae have worked to complete the manuscript for publication).

As stated in the Introduction, this work is an extension of Lindroth's revision of Swedish Carabidae ("Svensk Insektfauna" 1942, 2nd edn. 1961) the scope of which has been expanded geographically to cover the "fennoscandia orientalis" as in *Catalogus Coleopterorum*, 1960. The faunas of adjacent parts of NW Europe have recently been treated by Lindroth (1974 Britain) and by Freude et.al. (1976 "middle Europe") so there is no need to include in the present work description of species restricted to these adjacent areas. Thus many British entomologists who look to this excellent series to complement and expand the literature covering our native fauna will be somewhat disappointed. There are 55 British species omitted (seven of which are included in "Kloet & Hincks" with reservation). These are: Cicindela germanica L.; Leistus fulvibarbis Dj.; L. montanus Stph.; L.spinibarbis (F.); Nebria complanata (L.); Notiophilus quadripunctatus Dj.; N.substriatus Waterhouse; Dyschirius extensus Putz.; Aepus robini (Lab.); Thalassophilus longicornis (Sturm); Trechus subnotatus Dj.; Asaphidion stierlini (Heyden); Bembidion nigropiceum (Marsh.); B.stomoides Dj.; B.atrocoeruleum Stph.; B.geniculatum Heer; B.testaceum (Duft.) (Duft.); B.callosum Küster; Tachys edmondsi Moore; T.nicros (F.v.Wald.); T.quadrisignatus (Duft.); T.scutellaris Stph.; T.walkerianus Sharp; Pogonus littoralis (Duft.); Pterostichus cristatus parumpunctatus Germ.; Abax parallelus (Duft.); Calathus mollis (Marsh.); Laemostenus complanatus (Dj.);

Platyderus ruficollis (Marsh.); Agonum nigrinum Dj., A.scitulum Dj.; Earpalus ardosiacus Luts.; H.cordatus (Duft.); H.obscurus (F.); H.parallelus Dj.; H.punctulatus (Duft.); H.sabulicola (Pz.); H.attenuatus Stph.; H.cupreus Dj.; H.dimidiatus (Rossi); H.honestus (Duft.); H.tenebrosus centralis Schauberger; Scybalicus oblongiusculus (Dj.); Dicheirotichus obsoletus (Dj.); Bradycellus distinctus (Dj.); B.sharpi Joy; Licinus punctulatus (F.); Callistus lunatus (F.); Lebia marginata (Fourc.); L.scapularis (Fourc.); Dronius vectensis Rye; Cynindis axillaris (F.); Polistichus connexus (Fourc.); Drypta dentata (Rossi) and Brachinus sclopeta (F.).

In the distribution tables at the end of each part nine well established British species are listed as not occurring in Britain (excluding Asaphidion curtum which to be fair was added to our List after publication of Lindroth's book). However as emphasised earlier, the inclusion of the whole British fauna is not within the scope of this work. Those species omitted from the distribution charts are: Elaphrus lapponicus Gyll.; Bembidion argenteolum Ahr.; Pterostichus quadrifoveolatus Letz.; Agonum lugens (Duft.); Harpalus rufipalpis (Duft.); H.pumilus (Sturn); Bradycellus caucasicus (Chaud.); Dronius spilotus (Ill.); and Cynindis macularis (F.v.Wald.). Some of these names may be unfamiliar to the British Coleopterist and result from changes in nomenclature; several junior primary homonyms and misidentifications listed in "Kloet & Hincks" are effected:

Leistus terminatus (Hell. in Pz.)

= rufescens (F.)

Nebria rufescans (Ström)

= gyllenhali (Schoenh.)

Pterostichus quadrifoveolatus Letzner

= angustatus (Duft.)

Calathus rotundicollis Dj.

= piceus (Marsh.)

Synuchus vivalis (Ill.)

= nivalis (Ill.)

- Harpalus rufipalpis (Sturn)  
 = rufitarsis (Duft.)
- Harpalus pumilus (Sturn)  
 = vernalis (Duft.)
- Bradycellus caucasicus (Chaud.)  
 = collaris (Pk.)
- Acupalpus parvulus (Sturn)  
 = dorsalis (F.)
- Badister bullatus (Sch.)  
 = bipustulatus (F.)
- Dromius spilotus (Ill.)  
 = quadrinotatus (Zenk. in Pz.)

Despite the shortfall of British species, most British workers find this series a necessary adjunct to the study of our native fauna. Previous volumes give far greater ecological and biological detail about individual species as well as including good individual descriptions - features which are kept almost unhelpfully brief in our own RES Handbooks. Alas, the Carabidae volume lacks the detail of previous monographs in this series and in this respect the reviewer was disappointed.

Mention is made (p. 10) of the good diagnostic characters often provided by the female genitalia. Unfortunately this seems to be the only mention as the reviewer could find no reference to these characters in the text (compare for example Mlynar's Molops monograph). As with Lindroth's RES Handbook, the user is left with the impression that only a sufficient minimum of figures have been given; indeed many of these figures are common to both works. The Carabidae volume of Freude, Harde and Lohse's "Die Käfer Mitteleuropas" (vol.2) is better illustrated and the figures in general of more help - the genus Anara being a good case in point with habitus figures of each keyed species plus illustrations of the median lobe and paramere of the male genitalia.

The authors seem not to have questioned Lindroth's data (one assumes current up to 1979) as, for example David Nash's capture of Bradycellus csikii is not mentioned while Champion's older record (from the RES Handbook) is.

Overall these shortcomings do not detract from the value of this book. However while the British Coleopterist might be better using our own RES Handbook and "Freude, Harde & Lohse" anyone studying the European fauna will find this book a necessity and of course for the Scandinavian area it is now the standard text.

Pages 10 -23 of the first part cover systematics, distribution, collecting and preserving and the natural history of the family, albeit in outline only. It is good to see detailed mention of how to prepare and clear the male genitalia but again we see nothing as to how to prepare the female genitalia. Perhaps simple dissection is all that is necessary, perhaps not; we are not told.

The production and printing are of the high standard we have come to associate with this excellent series. The seven coloured plates (photographs of preserved specimens) illustrate 130 species and give a clear indication of the variation within the family. Both parts are strongly bound between hard board covers and should give many years service. At the end of each part are the distribution tables and part two has a very comprehensive bibliography and full index.

Although not mentioned in the title, the Rhysodidae (Rhysodes sulcatus (F.)) is included as an appendix to part two.

In all another excellent monograph in the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica series, invaluable and necessary for students of the Carabidae, European/Scandinavian/Palaeartic coleoptera. Its appeal to the student of the British fauna is weakened only by the incomplete coverage of the Islands' Carabidae.

J.Cooter.

NOTES FROM WORCESTERSHIRE: On March 30th, 1984 a massive cranium of a pig was brought up from the bed of the river Avon at Pensham, Worcestershire. The specimen appears to be an early domesticated Wild Boar, retaining clear characters of that animal. It may be Late Prehistoric but is definitely older than Bronze Age. Two specimens of Thanatophilus rugosus (L.) were recovered from its nasal sinuses, which they had probably entered for fly larvae, and, in our hygienic landscape, provide interesting evidence for the association of a beetle with a large mammal.

On March 4th, 1987 I took a nature adult *Bembidion assimile* Gyll. from near Childswickham, Worcestershire. The right elytron was about 5% shorter than the other, and slightly dilated basally. The entire surface of the elytron was very heavily rugose, dull, and with the striae just detectable at the base. The insect was otherwise normal.

Paul Whitehead, "Moor Leys", Little Comberton,  
Pershore, Worcestershire.

CERAMBYCIDS AND PINE-WILT DISEASE: This note describes an investigation, which is in hand, for which I am seeking the help of fellow Coleopterists.

The Forestry Commission is trying to estimate the chances, which are probably very small, of an outbreak of Pine-Wilt Disease in the UK. This disease, which is catastrophically epidemic in Japan and endemic at a much lower level in the USA and Canada, is caused by the infection of pine trees by the nematode Bursaphelenchus xylophilus. The vectors which effect the dispersal of these nematodes from tree to tree are Cerambycids whose larvae overwinter in the sapwood of trees before emerging in the Spring carrying nematodes in their tracheae to new healthy trees.

It is clearly essential for the investigation to try to establish whether there are any Cerambycids in the UK which are carrying this nematode. In Japan, the principle vector is Monochamus alternans and in the USA it is Monochamus carolinensis. We do not see Monochamus species in the UK, apart from occasional imported individuals, but Arhopalus rusticus is known to carry the nematode in Japan and the USA and Aseum striatum is a vector in the USA. Both of these species occur in the UK, Aseum striatum being reasonably common.

For these reasons, we should be most grateful if you would send us any live Cerambycids which you come across. Specimens of Aseum striatum and Arhopalus rusticus would be particularly valuable. (The discovery of an imported Monochamus is an unlikely event but might prove very interesting). Please address any specimens to Dr Hugh Evans, Alice Holt Research Station, Farnham, Surrey.

As a quite separate but related request, may I say that I am the Biological Records Centre organiser for the Cerambycid distribution scheme and, as such, I am in the process of collecting all available UK records of Cerambycid indentifications. I should be most grateful, therefore, if you would send me any records that you may have (which have not already been given to the BRC), or may have in the future. The information needed is the name of the species, the date and place (preferably an OS reference) of the observation and the name of the determiner. Other information, such as habitat, would be a most acceptable bonus. Please address any records to me at 13 Vicarage Hill, Farnham, Surrey.

P.F.G.Twinn.

ASOCIACION EUROPEA DE COLEOPTEROLOGIA: Paul Harding has sent details of this organisation. Their purpose is to bring together all professional and amateur Coleopterists working on various different biological aspects of the Coleoptera.

Their remit is very broad:

"The Association has a principle purpose the scientific study of Coleoptera, to which end will develop the following objectives:

- a - To promote and compile the scientific studies and investigation about Coleoptera fauna.
- b - The study to world level of the several biological aspects of Coleoptera.
- c - To protect Coleoptera fauna and its habitat.
- d - To spread the knowledge and information the institutions, organisations and persons asking about the referred investigating field.
- e - The coordination and collaboration in the mentioned purposes, with the rest of similar institutions in the State or abroad.

The Board of Directors contains well known Spanish Coleopterists  
President = Francisco Espanol; Vice-president = Amador Vinolas;  
Secretary = Tomas Yelanos; Treasurer = Marina Blas.

Full details can be obtained by writing to the Association at  
Museo de Zoologia de Barcelona, Apartado 593,  
08080 BARCELONA, Spain.

J. Cooter.

---

STUDY VISIT TO BIALOWIEZA FOREST, POLAND: Only a small number of people supported this venture and in its present form it was therefore abandoned. P.F. Whitehead.

BREDON'S HARDWICK, WORCESTERSHIRE: Since I recorded visiting Black-necked Grebes, and Ringed Plovers nesting at Bredon's Hardwick in 1984, the worth of these Avon Valley flood plains has begun to be understood. The extant fauna may be a reflection of what was a much richer post-glacial prehistoric fauna.

When I wrote in "Newsletter" 24 on the terricolous beetle fauna I had recognised 23 species of Carabidae; that family is now represented by 50 species, achieved without intensive surveying or worked pitfalls.

There is a clear indication that the Avon Valley flood plain meadows in the lowest reaches of the river are intensely productive with a high carrying capacity. This may result from a long history of detrital aggradation on a flood plain under the "backing" effect of the Severn near its confluence; in recent winters up to 1000 Dunlin have been noted feeding feverishly on these meadows. On January 26th, 1987 I walked along the valley side of the river Avon from Leamington Spa to Old Milverton in Warwickshire, where the turbid alder-flanked river passes the Jackdaw-bespeckled ruin of Guy's Cliffe. Here, and on adjacent permanent pasture I was hard-pressed to find 10 species of terricolous Carabidae, with only one species, Agonum dorsale (Pont.) exceeding 5 individuals. Specimens of Choleva agilis (Ill.) and Tetratoma fungorum F. on the fungus Daedaliopsis confragosa were some recompense, as were Ctesias larvae on Cedrus atlantica (Endl.) Carr. Bredon's Hardwick lies some 2 miles upstream from the Severn-Avon confluence. If one walks a comparable distance from the confluence up the Severn flood-plain, the rich beetle fauna of the lower Avon floodplain is not replicated, although downstream the Severn has a rich beetle fauna, especially on its banksides.

One evident fact is that the floodplain of the Severn in this area, and the Avon by Leamington is developed on Triassic Mercian Mudstones whereas, in its lower course, and at Bredon's Hardwick, the Avon is developed on Jurassic Lower Lias Clay.

Much more work on these matters is required, and in a few years time I hope to be able to define more closely the beetle fauna from Bredon's Hardwick, with mentions in the meantime of anything significant. On February 21st, 1987, under the bark of a solitary willow on valley side meadow I found an aggregation of 38 Endomychus with 34 larvae of various sizes.

P.F. Whitehead.

---

THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE KENT COLEOPTERIST'S WORKSHOP:

March 14th 1987 saw another and very successful Kent Coleopterist's Workshop organised by Mr Eric Philp at the Maidstone Museum. The main themes for this year comprised the families Mordellidae and Scarabaeidae though problem specimens from other families were welcome and forthcoming. In addition to the numerous specimens brought along to the meeting, the Coleoptera collections of the Museum were also made available for inspection, as well as the impressive card index database holding a vast number of records and "dot-maps" for the county. Apart from providing an opportunity for having troublesome specimens identified by specialists, the workshop provides an excellent forum for informal discussions and a chance to meet "new" people with an interest in the Coleoptera. Altogether a very enjoyable day out and thoroughly recommended.

Paul Hyman.

---

ONTHOPHILUS PUNCTATUS (MULLER) IN NORTE KENT: I took a single specimen of this rare histerid in a moles nest here at Sutton-at-Hone on 1.ii.1987. I suppose that I have sieved as many as 50 mole nests in the past few years and looked particularly for this species without success until now. It may be significant that this latest nest was in a small copse and consisted mainly of leaves, whereas all previous nests examined have been in open fields and made of grass. John Owen has recently mentioned to me that Joy observed (in print) that nests made of leaves are more productive than those made of grass, in my own experience they are far more difficult to locate. A

Also in the nest were:

Aleochara spadicea (Er.)

Heterothops niger Kr.

Quedius puncticollis (Th.)

Acrotrichis atomaria (Dg.)

Ptenidium laevigatum Er.

Rhizophagus perforatus Er.

Rhizophagus perforatus Er.

} Det. Colin Johnson

Alex Williams.

(I too have only rarely been able to find mole nests composed of leaves as opposed to the usual type made of grass one invariably finds in fields. I recall a very good one under a hawthorn hedge. Memory fails to recall the exact numbers and variety of species, but I do recall getting my first Quedius puncticollis in this way - indeed my whole series from the one nest. It may not be common knowledge, but if the nest is scooped up after sifting and pushed back into the hole from which it was excavated, covered over again and left. Good results can be had in a week or so and on subsequent exhumation/sifting. My experience of sifting grass nests confirms Alex's lack of beetles in variety; generally Heterothops niger and some common Cholevids can be expected. J.Cooter ).

PHYTOBIUS QUADRINODOSUS (Gyll.) IN RADNORSHIRE - RECORDED

IN ERROR. In the report on the Radnor meeting in last November's "Newsletter", I recorded the rarity Phytobius quadrinodosus (Gyll.) from Ciliau Dingle in error - it should have been the common P. quadrituberculatus (F.). While creating the list from my database, I inadvertantly selected the adjacent species name - something only too easily done with these new fangled computer gadgets! I am most grateful to Mike Morris for querying the record.

Roger Key, NCC, Peterborough.

(A new variation on computer enhancement! - J.C.)

---

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHURCHYARD. The 14th century church of Sutton-at-Hone stands on raised ground 200 yards from the busy A225 and provides a couple of acres of unsprayed ground surrounded by vast areas of "pick your own fruit". Until recent times it was surrounded by magnificent elms of which only the smallest stumps remain, tunnelled inside by Stag Beetle larvae and the outside covered with fungus. There is a good variety of plants, mature hawthorn and yew and on some gravestones in the older part are ivy and honeysuckle. Kestrels have been known to nest there. It is a very pleasant place (quiet!!!). I have collected there occasionally over the past couple of years and the following short list is not without interest:

Oxyporus rufus (L.) - in rotting fungus.

Oligota pusillima (Grav.) - in moss.

Hossidium pilosellum (Mn.) (det. C. Johnson) fungus on tree stump.

Epuraea limbata (F.) - in fungus.

Trachys scrobiculatus Kies. - in flowers of ground ivy.

Meligethes rotundicollis Bris. - on stray rape flowers.

Lucanus cervus (L.) - in flight.

Pogonochaerus hispidus (L.) - on ivy.

Perhaps your churchyard is worth a visit ?

Alex Williams, 79 Cedar Drive, Sutton-at-Hone, Kent