THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

Number 31 February 1988

8th SCOTTISH ENTOMOLOGIST'S FIELD MEETING will be based this year at Tarradale House, a study centre run by Aberdeen University 2 miles from the Muir of Ord overlooking the Beauly Firth.
DATES 17th - 19th JUNE.
Charge for two nights bed and breakfast, packed lunch and dinner will be about £26 + VAT. The Centre must close on 19th but anyone wishing to stay longer in the area ought to be able to find somewhere through the local Tourist Office. Alternatively accommodation at the Bein Eighe NNR Field Centre, Wester Ross has been provisionally booked for June 19th-24th - there will be no charge for the accommodation here, but persons taking part will have to organise their own catering.

Full details from: D.H.Robertson, 3 Claremont Park, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 7PH. Details of the collecting areas from: Iain McGowan, Fraser Darling House, 9 Culdathol Road, Inverness.

J.C.

NEWSLETTER - sorry about the late arrival, the duplicator I usually use has broken down, and for this issue I am trying the facilities offered by the Hereford Community Resource Centre. SUBSCRIPTIONS those few who have not paid are reminded, please do if you wish to continue receiving the "Newsletter" - £2-00 to Peter Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5EJ - thanks.

URBAN WASTEGROUNDS. Martin Henderson's article in the August 1987 "Newsletter" concerning the importance of urban wastegrounds for wildlife was of particular interest to the team of the Coventry Wildlife Survey (S.Lane, J.Piekarczyk, and D.Warren) based at the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in in city. It is remarkable how readily nature colonises such derelict urban areas. It is also distressing to see the facility with which they can be obliterated, even when their value to wildlife can be proved (see John Owen's article on page 11 of this issue as living proof of rural environments being destroyed - J.C.).

Of numerous sites surveyed within the city boundary during 1986 and 1987 one old industrial tip at Longford was found to be particularly rich in carabid species. To the south-east of the city at Herald Way Tip, approximately 430 species from 9 insect orders were recorded of which 3 were Red Data Book listed and 13 were of regional or national importance.

At Longford Tip 39 carabid species were recorded. Amongst these were:

Carabus nemoralis
Cychrus caraboides
Platyderus ruficollis
Nebria salina
Notiophilus aquaticus
Amara aulica
A. eurynota
A.tibialis
A.bifrons
Agonum marginatum
A. moestum
Olisthopus rotundatus
Pterostichus niger
P.melanarius
Acupalpus meridianus
Asaphidion stierlini

Sadly, the part of this site of most importance to these carabids is no more. On arriving at the site one morning we were surprised and alarmed this particular area totally overturned and levelled, surveyors stakes already set out in preparation for building to commence.

At Herald Way Tip a previous survey had found Amara convexiuscula. We went on to make many surprising and interesting discoveries. Some of the more interesting Coleoptera we turned up were:

Harpalus puncticeps
Metabletus foveatus
Cantharis pallida
Cryptocephalus aureolus
Agapanthia villosoviridescens
Curculio rubidus
Lampyris noctiluca (larva)

We also recorded 9 species of Odonata; 6 Orthoptera; 73 Hemiptera, including Chorosoma schillingi, a species almost exclusively restricted to coastal sand dunes; 62 Diptera of which 3 are Red Data Book listed; and 47 Hymenoptera.

This site is also soon to disappear under concrete, the developer's economic muscle once again having swayed decisions in their favour. There must be many similar urban sites around the country like this, possibly under threat of destruction before their ecological potential can be fully realised. Certainly many exist or have existed, which have never been explored. Perhaps some of them could even have been saved.

Dean Warren, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry.

FURTHER ABERRATIONS IN COLEOPTERA: In "Newsletter" No.28 OI mentioned a Bembidion assimile with an abnormal right elytron. In December 1987 at the same site I recorded another assimile with a grossly deformed left elytron. This was, put concisely, inflated, as if air separated the cuticle, producing a baloon-like structure, tumid above and below.

The same site produced a Pterostichus anthracinus with the terminal left anterior tarsomere spatulate. I should welcome any knowledge relating to such abnormalities. The habitat is small, and the temptation is to consider a response

to something "alien" in their environment. A further surprising, perhaps genetically influenced aberration is a population of Stenus tarsalis Lj. near Tewkesbury, Glos., in which the appendicular skeliton is subject to gross structural aberration. Nearby, Acupalpus dubius Sch. can be found rarely, in which the second elytral striae lack punctures, the presence of which, according to Lindroth's RES Handbook, identifies a group of species that includes dubius.

P. Whitehead, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire, WR10 3EP.

A NOTE ON METOECUS PARADOXUS (L.). A naturalist friend of mine living at Boldre in the New Forest discovered a nest of Paravespula vulgaris in her attic this summer. On the trap door to the attic were the bodies of six dead female Metoecus paradoxus (found 16.viii.1987). As it seems unusual to find this beetle in wasp nests built inside a roof space I thought it worthwhile to bring it to readers attention - perhaps others have encountered this species in similar circumstances ?

Ken Halstead, "Mistletoe Cottage", Masseys Lane, East Boldre, Brockenhurst, Hampshire, SO42 7WE.

GRAMMOPTERA RUFICORNIS (F.) AND G. VARIEGATA (GERM.). It is no wonder that Paul Whitehead ("Newsletter" 30, p.3) finds certain specimens of G. ruficornis hard to separate from G. variegata, using standard keys. Both Fowler and Joy failed to realise the extent of colour-variation in the former very common species, which in fact presents every gradation from the typical to entirely deep black, including legs and antennae (the so-called v. holomelina). However G. variegata, besides being slightly to considerably larger and having a red apex to the abdomen in the female, shows a small but constant structural difference in that the second antennal segment is shorter, being barely longer than broad, whereas in ruficornis it is slightly elongate. Most specimens of variegata can further be recognised on antennal colouration, though not as usually given: while the basal segments are quite black, those following gradually become reddish-brown - a colouration apparently not found in ruficornis, where, if the basal portion is black, so also is the rest. Total melanics do occur in variegata, but very rarely. I have little doubt that Mr. Whitehead's Pershore example, if not also the other, is ruficornis.

A.A.Allen, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London, SE7 8QG

(Several others wrote in pointing out the constant antennal character - thanks to those correspondents. J.C.).

WEEVILS IN PIT-FALL TRAPS. While Coleopterists frequently use pit-fall traps to collect surface-active preditors such as Carabids and Staphylinids, their use in collecting Phytophagus beetles has generally been overlooked. During recent pit-fall trapping surveys of grassland beetles in both north-east England and near Peterborough, (assisted it must be acknowledged, by Dave Sheppard (NCC,

Peterborough), Mick Eyre and Steve Rushton, many species of weevils have been trapped, however, some in large numbers. The traps used were plastic cups, 9 per site, part filled with "blue" antifreeze, and emptied at monthly intervals from May to October. Detailed analyses of the catch will appear elsewhere, but the occurrence of the following 'goodies' (at least to the author, admittedly not a weevil expert) may prompt other Coleopterists to get their plastic pots into the ground in 1988.

ANTHRIBIDAE

Anthribus resinosus (Scop.) (!) A single specimen in partly scrubbed-over limestone grassland near Peterborough.

APIONIDAE

Apion aeneum (F.) One as above.

A. seniculus Kirby. Several in Durham limestone grasslands.

CURCULIONIDAE

Otiorhynchus atroapterus (Dg.) Abundant in Northumberland dune grassland.

O. ligneus (Ol.) dominated the catch in an inland sand-pit County Durham.

O. porcatus (Hb.) A single example near the coast in Northumberland.

Trachyphloeus bifoveolatus (Beck) in sandy places in County Durham and Northumberland.

Omias mollinus Boh. Several from riverside meadows in two widely separated sites in Northumberland.

Brachysomus echinatus (Bonsd.) Several from limestone grassland and coastal dune-slack in both north-east counties.

Strophosomus faber (Hb.) Several in a sandy pasture in Co. Durham.

Barynotus squamosus Germ. In a number of rough pastures throughout the north-east.

Tropiphorus obtusus (Bonsd.) in unmanaged grasslands in both north-east counties.

T. terricola (Newn.) In several sandy sites with long vegetation in Northumberland, sometimes with obtusus.

Cleonus piger (Scop.) In Northumberland coastal dunes.
Alophus triguttatus (F.) Widespread, and effectively an indicator of, unmanaged (or at least unimproved) pastures in Northumberland.
Acalles ptinoides (Marsh.) One from bracken-overgrown pasture (with some heather) in Co.Durham.
Grypus equiseti (F.) Sometimes very abundant in sandy overgrown fields in the north-east.
Orthochaetes setiger (Beck) In limestone grassland Co.Durham.
Rhinoncus inconspectus (Hb.) In coastal wet meadows, both north-east counties.
Orobitis cyaneus (L.) One from limestone grassland, Co. Durham.

These species represent only the tip of the iceberg of the approximately 3000 individuals of 75 species caught by pitfalling in grasslands. Evidently weevils do a lot of moving about on the ground, but why have other workers not caught them in such numbers by pitfalling ? One possibility is that beetle collectors just do not use pitfall traps in grassland, where they get their weevils instead by sweeping or by grubbing at roots. A further thought is that weevils can climb out of most pitfall traps as easily as they can fall (or crawl ?) into them: however the use of undiluted antifreeze as a preservative in traps evidently stops this unsociable behaviour!

Martin Luff, University of Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU

INTERSPECIFIC COPULATION IN COLEOPTERA. Roger Key (Newsletter 30, p.4) recording this phenomenon in the case of Cantharis cryptica and C.decipiens (not decipennis) suggests that apparent hybrids or intermediates between closely-allied species, relatively often found, might be the progeny of such irregular matings. My impression is that, while the

latter are not altogether infrequent, good evidence for naturally-occurring hybrids (except probably between species so close as to be only just or doubtfully distinct) remains almost nil. It seems likeliest that interspecific matings are normally sterile, as we should expect, and that most apparent natural hybrids could be put down to variation. But of course this is a matter of conjecture, and only breeding experiments will settle it.

Oddly enough, the one case of this kind I remember having come across was intergeneric, between Phyllobius argentatus and Polydrusus mollis (1954, Ent. mon. Mag., 90:233). In that note I cite two other recorded instances involving the same weevil genera, both from Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913) - one of Phyllobius pyri with P. pomonae (now viridiaeris), the other of Polydrusus undatus with Apion pomonae. Incidentally, were such bizarre unions as the latter to be "blessed with issue", it would surely tax even a lively imagination to picture it!

A.A.Allen.

TO FREEZE OR NOT TO FREEZE - AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF LONG TERM STORAGE. Roger Key's note on long term storage of frozen beetles ("Newsletter" 30, p.10) prompts me to publicise more widely an alternative method of storage of beetles for subsequent mounting. This was devised by Colin Welch and myself many years ago, prior to spending a summer collecting in the bush in west Africa, where freezers had not been invented or at least were not readily available in the wild.

Our problem was to preserve large numbers of freshly-killed specimens in a hot, humid climate, where clothes went mouldy over night. The method finally adopted was to

half fill plastic pill boxes with a 50-50 mixture of flake naphthalene and dried saw dust. The boxes were then filled to the top with layers of cellulose wadding, cut into circles to fit tightly into the box. Specimens were killed with ethyl acetate at the end of each collecting day, and packed between the layers of wadding the following morning. One box was used per per habitat, per site or per day as appropriate, with a locality label put in on top of the wadding.

The saw dust and wadding absorbed excess moisture from the specimens rapidly, and the naphthalene prevented mould growth. When the time came to mount the specimens, the layers of wadding could be carefully removed and the beetles examined in situ under a lens, before the required specimens were carefully picked off and relaxed by floating on water.

Before leaving for Africa we tested the boxes in the U.K. by stacking them under a water drip in the tropical greenhouse of the Chelsea Physic Garden - probably the strangest "acid test" ever experienced by unsuspecting British beetles. They emerged with flying colours, so Roger Key is not alone in having a long back-log of specimens to be examined: not only do I still have a few of these pill boxes containing West African beetles, but the success of the method meant that I have since used it routinely for British (and Continental) collecting, and have a succession of partly-emptied pill boxes covering my collecting over the past 20 years or more.

Furthermore, used boxes can be refilled with beetles: the sawdust and naphthalene seem to last indefinitely. One note of caution however - be careful to remove all old specimens before putting in new beetles and locality labels, or else there can be some very odd distribution data as a result!

Martin Luff.

(I have successfully used a method very similar to this - prefering stout cardboard boxes no larger than 6" x 4" or so and from about 1" to 3" deep. I have occasionally put some

flake naphthalene under the bottom layer of cellulose wadding. On occasion I have mixed catches in the same box marking the division clearly with a sheet of coloured paper Data for each layer included with those layers on a slip and added to the lid of the box. I have not kept such material longer than a year prefering to get on with the mounting and labelling at once. Having lived with a back-log for many years I decided to collect only the material I could deal with. My trip to Yugoslavia and the mounting of just over 2000 beetles took evenings over about 6 months and meant I chose not to do much British collecting during that time. A personal preference.

I found relaxing the material very easy by employing shallow plastic boxes - one a Selotape box, the other had "Strepsils" in - both about ½/¾" deep. In the bottom I put a folded kitchen towel, placed sufficient beetles to keep my evening occupied on top, soaked the towel well with tap water - hot starts the process a little more quickly. The lid was placed on and a duplicate data slip tacked on. The whole then placed on top of the central heating/domestic water boiler at the close of one evening mounting session. By the following evening the beetles were sufficiently relaxed to permit dissection (even large Otiorhynchus and histerids) but not so relaxed that they become bloated at their arthrodial membranes. On occasion my time ran out and I found the beetles would remain relaxed and mould free in the relaxing box but away from heat for a day or two.

J.C.).

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Dear Sir,

Destruction of habitat at Windsor.

I refer to your comment on p.7 of the November 1987 "Newsletter" reporting "various acts of vandalism" at Windsor mentioned on a visit to Moccas Park NNR by representatives of the Crown Estate Agent and members of the N.C.C. Your readers ought to know that:

1. I have visited Windsor Forest and Great Park on over a hundred occasions in the past ten years and on only one of these have I come across damage to the environment caused by one or more over enthusiastic entomologists, damage which I in no way condone.

2. On practically every visit, I have come across new damage to the environment by agents of the Crown Estates, including the felling and sawing up or burning of many ancient trees and the sawing up or burning or scores of fallen boughs, all of this before the recent gales.

3. I have informed the relevant N.C.C. authorities of such "acts of vandalism" by the Crown Estate Authorities Authorities on many occasions but, with very few exceptions, they have failed to do anything effective; only this week (letter dated 20.xi.1987 - ed.) a letter from the N.C.C. authorities reveals that timber marked by the N.C.C. for retention because of its conservation value has been removed in "clearing up" operations.

4. In my view, it is sheer hypocrisy for the behaviour of one or more entomologists to be criticised in this way either by representatives of the Crown Estate Authorities who so blatantly go on destroying the habitat at Windsor or by members of the N.C.C. whose pathetic failure to do more for conservation at Windsor is a matter for much shame.

Yours faithfully,

Professor J.A.Owen 8 Kingsdown Road,
Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3PU

WINDSOR FOREST AND GREAT PARK. These notes about this internationally renowned site might serve to refresh readers of the extreme importance of Winsor Forest and Great Park.

According to Ratcliffe (1977, A nature Conservation Review, vol.2, p.51), "Windsor Forest is a Grade 1 site of 3150 ha managed commercially by the Crown Estate, Of this, approximately 1200 ha consists mainly of oak woodland or mixed woodland in which the oak complement will be progressively enhanced by thinning.

At High Standing Hill 18 ha of unmanaged woodland contain oak and overmature beech in the best surviving piece of the original forest ...

Some very rare beetles are known in this country only from the Windsor and Sherwood Forests. With the destruction of most of the latter, species such as Teredus cylindrus and Cryptocephalus querceti may only be able to survive at Windsor.

.... it is the size of the Forest as a whole ... that is of paramount importance. The maintenance of the high entomological importance of this area depends on sufficient oak and beech trees being allowed to become overmature, die, and rot in situ as is the present management policy."

This might be the management policy, and here we ought not to doubt the words of Ratcliffe - the NCC's Chief Scientist. Alas, it seems this policy is not employed! The "Review" fails to point out the host of insects unique in Britain to Windsor; brief mention is made of two beetles and nothing in the entry refered to above about the Diptera, spiders, pseudoscorpions and other orders.

These are a few of the beetles either unique to Windsor or known from one or two other sites in Britain:

Stenichnus godarti (Latr.)
Euconnus pragensis (Mach.)
Quedius aetolicus Kraatz and a host of other Staphylinidae
Batrisodes buqueti (adnexus auct.Brit).
B. delaporti (Aube)

Gnorimus variabilis (L.)
Agrilus pannonicus (Piller & Mitt.)
Lacon quercus (Hb.)
Ampedus ruficeps (Muls. & Gil.)
A. cardinalis (Sch.)
A. nigerrimus (Lac.)
Procraerus tibialis (Bois. & Lac.)
Megapenthes lugens (Redt.)
Limoniscus violaceus (Mull.)
Elater ferrugineus L.
Trixagus brevicollis (de Bonv.)
Eucnemis capucina Ahr.
Lymexylon navale (L.)
Cryptophagus falcozi Roubal
C. labilis Er.
Colydium elongatum (F.)
Teredus cylindrus (Cl.)
Grammoptera ustulata (Schaller)
Cryptocephalus querceti Suff.
Tropideres niveirostris (F.)
Dryophthorus corticalis (Pk.)

Among the Diptera Rainieria calceata (Fall.); Psilocephala melaleuca (Loew); Chrysopilus latus (Zett.); Chymomyza distincta (Egger) and a species of Idiognophomyia New to Science are perhaps the most notable "Windsor specialities" in a list of 50 or more very rare woodland flies known only from one or two other British sites.

One must not forget that it is the total insect/invertebrate community that put Windsor head and shoulders above all other British woodlands. It is a unique site and has in recent years suffered from "cleaning up" operations.

I hope David Attenborough is not correct in asking (Nature Conservation by Andrew Buck (1980)) "Are not the conservationists merely sentimental Canutes vainly trying to stem the tides of progress ?" I think not as "progress" is not the issue at Windsor.

It seems to the casual observer and concerned conservationist alike odd that the situation at Windsor has not been resolved after many years of negotiation by the NCC (part of the area is after all an SSSI) and pressure from individuals. One sees management policy apparently not being enforced; habitat destroyed to such an extent that ".. the violet click-beetle is now known from only a single dead tree in Windsor Forest." (Natural World, winter 1987, page 33). On the other hand HRH The Prince Philip President of the World Wildlife Fund British National Appeal, 3rd President of the World Wildlife Fund and Ranger of Windsor Great Park; HRH The Prince of Wales, Patron of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation; HRH The Princess Royal, Patron of the Jersey Wildlife Trust all have a long active and well proven interest in nature conservation. Why on earth Windsor Forest and Great Park, Crown Property, are not show-piece Nature Reserves is a mystery. Certainly their importance nationally and internationally clearly warrants such status. Lets hope something concrete can be achieved before extinctions of vulnerable species occur.

J.C.

ANOTHER LETTER TO THE EDITOR. (This arrived just in time to make the February issue and gives the official NCC view)

Dear Sir,

I am graetful for the opportunity to comment on the letter from Professor Owen which he courteously copied to me when writing to you. No coleopterist has done more than Professor Owen in recent years to increase our knowledge of the beetle fauna at Windsor, and at the same time he has given his time and expertise most generously to assist NCC staff in conserving this exceptional site. However, I must take issue with some of the points he raises in his letter.

1. Although I have visited Windsor on far fewer occasions than he, I have sadly observed several instances of over enthusiastic sampling of dead wood insects by entomologists. While the damage caused to the dead wood fauna by such investigations is small, it unfortunately gives an opportunity to those who are unsympathetic towards the views of field entomologists to condem all entomological collecting. Recording the dead wood insect fauna without disturbing and destroying a proportion of the bark, wood or associated fungi is impossible. However, it is possible, with care and consideration, to minimise the damage to ancient trees or fallen timber, and a little extra trouble taken at the end of a sampling session to replace pieces of wood and bark, will avoid an unsightly mess and encourage others (entomologists and non-entomologists alike) to treat this micro-habitat with respect. It is surely worthwhile for us all to encourage such practices in future.

2. There have been great difficulties getting the conservation of dead wood insects accepted as important, both at Windsor and at many of the other key sites in Britain. I well understand the sense of anger and frustration felt by many entomologists on this issue. Gaining the co-operation and support of those who own and manage these areas is essential, and although there have been many problems in recent years,

there are encouraging signs of changing attitudes. For example, following the great gale of 16th October 1987 the Crown Estates have agreed to leave the fallen timber marked by NCC, and despite some initial problems referred to by Professor Owen, recent experience suggests that this agreement is now working well. While there is no excuse for past losses, the staff of NCC are determined to conserve the dead wood fauna at Windsor effectively. I hope we will continue to receive the support of coleopterists and other entomologists in doing this, because as we have seen with the conservation of other groups, the more people who are prepared to express their views and join in the efforts to change attitudes, the greater is the chance of success. I would suggest that we should all work together in trying to increase understanding among non-entomologists of the needs of dead wood insects, so that if others do not share our enthusiasm for studying these animals, at least they will recognise that what we seek to conserve is worth saving for the future.

3. In my experience the vast majority of entomologists behave responsibly and in accordance with the JCCBI Code for Collecting, and I am sure this will continue to be the case. However, when lapses occur it is only fair to point them out in a firm but reasonable manner so that the image of entomologists is not tarnished. To accuse others of hypocrisy in this context will do no good for entomology or conservation.

Yours faithfully

Dr I.F.G.McLean, Entomologist, Chief Scientist's Team, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster, Peterborough, PE1 1UA

IRISH RECORDS. Amongst beetles recently shown to me by Mrs Linda Losito were two from Muckross Park, County Kerry, Ireland, 31.vii.1985. One determined by Mrs Losito as Pterostichus madidus (F.) and clearly keyed out to this, was quite markedly flat, broad and robust. The explanate sides of the pronotum were especially well marked, approaching those of P.melanarius (Ill.). Is this the Irish condition ?

I was able to determine also Sitona ononidis Shp. from the site, although I know nothing of its status in Ireland.

P.F.Whitehead.

1987 NEWSLETTER ACCOUNTS:

Expenditure		Income	
Bank fees	.36p	Subscriptions and sales	£188-00p
Paper	11.13p	Interest	7-96p
Ink	2.93p		
Duplicator	10.00p		
Postage	99.77p		
	£124-19p		
Surplus for the year	£71-77p		
	£195-96p		£196-96p

Balance at 3rd January 1987 = £97-19p

Balance at 1st January 1988 = £168-96p

P.J.Hodge (12.i.1988).

KENT COLEOPTERIST'S WORKSHOP. The next meeting will be held at Maidstone Museum on Saturday April 9th 1988 from 2 pm until 5 pm; anyone interested in beetles will be welcome to attend. Exhibits or demonstrations on any aspect of the study of beetles will be welcomed and it is hoped to pay particular attention to the genera Philonthus and Quedius and weevils Hypera and Cionus.

Collections, keys and microscopes will be available for those wishing to name their own material, but if you are brining beetles for naming (other than those for special study mentioned above) then it is requested that you limit this to just three species so that the few experts do not have to spend all the afternoon naming material for others.

There will be a short formal meeting with among the points that must be discussed are: 'has the Workshop now served its purpose, or should it continue in this or some other form ?' and, is there any requirement for field meetings.

Tea will be available. I hope that you or any friends who are interested in beetles will be able to attend.

Eric Philp, Maidstone Museum.

FIELD MEETING FOR 1988 - BIDEFORD, NORTH DEVON, 3rd - 6th JUNE 1988. After my note in the last issue of the "Coleopterist's Newsletter", quite a number of people contacted me to say they would be interested in a field meeting in North Devon this year. Nobody was enthusiastic about a meeting longer than a weekend, and the only one free with the field centre was the 3rd - 6th June (with apologies to those who specifically asked me to avoid that weekend).

I have booked the Halsannery Field Centre as used by the Heteropterists last year (grid ref. SS 456-244 on O.S. sheet 180) - a fine old mansion in its own grounds overlooking the Torridge Estuary. There's lots of very rich habitat in the area, most of it, with the exception of Braunton Burrows, almost completely unknown country so anything might turn up! Habitats available include dunes, coastal and deep valley woodlands (lots of dead wood), cliff grasslands, clean streams, rivers and estuaries, and the moorland of Exmoor and Dartmoor are within easy reach. We cannot guarantee it, but the weather is usually better than in Cumbria (it couldn't be much worse than last years' !).

The cost is a bit more than the Cumbria meeting, but the standard of accommodation is very high. You can have a single/double room for £17 per night, reduced to £15 per night if you are prepared to share a common room; small bar and laboratory. The price includes breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal. Last year the evening meals were so good (very generous helpings of excellent home cooking - no defrosted rubbish) that a separate "Coleopterist's Dinner" will not be necessary.

NB Devon is a long way from most parts of Britain - it might be advisable to book Sunday night as well as Friday and Saturday.

Indications are that booking is likely to be high, so it would be advisable to book early. Please send a £5 deposit with the enclosed booking form to:

Dr Roger Key (PERSONAL),
Nature Conservancy Council,
Northminster House,
Peterborough,
PE1 1UA (tel., 0733 40345 ext. 2279)

WEST CUMBRIAN FIELD MEETING 1987. Appeal for outstanding records.

I was intending to include a full account of the results of 1987's West Cumbrian field meeting in this issue, but my previous appeal for outstanding records only stimulated two more people to send records in. I will produce a full list in the next issue - regardless of anything left outstanding. In the meantime, I hear some very interseting rumours about some of the "goodies" that did turn up .....!?

Roger Key (address above).

THE DEAD LINE FOR THE MAY "NEWSLETTER" is the second week of April. Please send your contribution. J.Cooter, 9 Adrian Close, Hereford, HR2 7QB