THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

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NATIONAL REVIEW OF BRITISH COLEOPTERA: With lack of space and the need to budget limited fund stringently, I edited out the NCC's reasons for the long delay in publishing the REVIEW in the last "Newsletter". The official NCC account is given below

"The original text for the note that appeared in the last NEWSLETTER about Paul Hyman's REVIEW was edited and inadvertantly the explanation for the delay was lost. This lead to some misapprehension among contributors to the REVIEW.

The situation is this. When Paul Hyman left the NCC in March 1988 there remained considerable editing of the text to be completed, notably on sections referring to threats to species and proposals for site management to accommodate the species' needs. At about the same time, another contract entomologist left for a longer term post. Both of these projects, the completion of two internal reports, devolved to me, in addition to my own work. Hence the slow progress. We have been further hampered by a changeover in the NCC's wordprocessing facility, the new system being totally incompatible with the old (on which the REVIEW is stored).

I have now completed the first of these reports, and am able to devote much more of my time towards the completion of the REVIEW. It is my hope to have the REVIEW ready for printing during the forthcoming winter. We are as keen as all the contributors to see the REVIEW published as soon as possible, to become available both to conservation workers and contributors alike, but at the same time we want it to be as good as we can get it, given the time and resources available.

Meanwhile, two season's field work have elapsed since the major effort on collecting data. Naturally, records and observations on the scarce species would be most welcome for incorporation into the REVIEW. Paul and I are working in close collaboration to get the REVIEW finished, so records sent to Paul Hyman at Luton Museum, Wardown Park, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2 7HA or to me (address below) will find their way into the finished product. "

Roger Key, Nature Conservancy Council, Northminster House, Peterborough, PE1 1UA

(It is good to see in print the hope of the NCC to get this important NATIONAL PUBLICATION to the printers within the next few months. With winter fast approaching, anyone willing to submit records ought to do so at once. - J.C.).

WORBARROW BAY, DORSET: Having a spare day on a visit to Bournemouth, June 1988, I decided to visit Worbarrow Bay east of Lulworth Cove, a promising area for Trachyphloeus weevils which are especially found on cliffs where chalk meets clay. The area is part of the Lulworth Ranges and is at times closed to the public.

Walking along the beach and working up the cliffs, at the point where clay and chalk met, patience was rewarded and I found a few Trachyphloeus alternans. Other beetles discovered included Harpalus parallelus on the cliff path and several Sitona waterhousei.

David Copestake, 22 Meadow View, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

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STRIDULATION ? I recently noted an adult Ceutorhynchus quadridens (Pz.) repeatedly emitting pulses of audible sound - a rasping buzz similar to that produced by Phymatodes but much quieter. Is this a well-recognised phenomenon ?

Paul Whitehead, 'Moor Leys', Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcs.

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FLIGHT. On 3.viii.1989 at Broadway, Worcs., I observed a specimen of Elmis aenea (Müll.) in flight. Although adults are clearly long-winged, perhaps flight is a secondary method for dispersal of a species frequently of the upper reaches of watercourses. P.Whitehead.

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ANTHRENUS ETC. Paul Hyman recently introduced me to a spray insecticide NUVAN STAYKILL, perhaps it is not a widely known product. The insecticide remains viable for twelve weeks (manufacturers data) and can be sprayed inside the cabinet carcase after removal of drawers, around the cabinet, store-boxes and shelves. It is reputed to kill Anthrenus, mites, psocids, clothes moth etc. I purchased mine from a dispensing chemist.

J.Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford, HR1 1NQ

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EQUIPMENT: Anyone experiencing difficulty in obtaining a supply of fine-pointed watch-makers forceps, especially size 5 and 5A in stainless steel or s/s antimagnetic, should try SOUTHERN WATCH AND CLOCK SUPPLIES LTD., PRECISTA HOUSE, 48-56 HIGH STREET, ORPINGTON, KENT, BR6 0JH. They offer a rapid postal service.

J.Cooter.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF COLEOPTEROLOGY - BARCELONA, SPAIN, 18th - 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1989. A PERSONAL REPORT.

The purpose of this account is to provide a personal insight into the CONGRESS and its peripheral events. The formal communications will be available in ADVANCES IN COLEOPTEROLOGY (notice of the formal sessions appeared in Congress Abstracts published prior to the CONGRESS).

The First International Congress of the ASOCIACION EUROPAEA DE COLEOPTEROLOGIA took place in the virtually brand new brick-built Faculty of Biology on the Avinguda Diagonal, Barcelona and was formally declared open on Monday 18th Spetember. Although delegates attended from Mexico, Uruguay and the USSR (providing with Poland, despite contrary intentions, only a single delegate apiece) the more northern European countries were thinly represented.

The United Kingdon provided four participants, not enough to create embarassment when they all dozed off simultaneously (I woke up long enough to prove it! - the conference room was air-conditioned and restful). There was some laxness in getting delegates into sessions on time. The attendence was officially put at 197, but probably nearer to 140, averaged about 70 for most oral sessions. Maelfait was required to discuss Belgian carabids in the initial presence of only 18 people. Petitpierre, the eminent cytogeneticist, was obliged to await the arrival of delegates on Friday. Taking free time into account, the CONGRESS sessions extended to only four full days, and such situations might have been avoided.

CONGRESS orgainisers and staff at the University were unstintingly helpful anbd obliging. The teaching library and private collections were most generously put at my disposal. The affable 'grandfather' of beetle study in Catalonia, F. Espanol, engaged himself with my difficult Crypticus; shortly after he was awarded a Diploma for his outstanding contribution to coleopterology. Tomas Yelamos was continually willing to demonstrate his wide knowledge of the Catalonian biota, and a few CONGRESS organisers could hope to match the naturally theraputic vocal charm of Dra. Marina Blas. The organisers are to be congratulated for their considerable personal efforts. the substantial information pack we each received included splendid numbered etchings by Eva Figueras.

A number of logistical difficulties arose from the inanities of the CONGRESS-appointed travel agents who caused some personal inconvenience and who were evidently unable to provide a coach to within two hours of its stipulated arrival.

The field trip to Montseny Highlands (up to 4000ft) was totally memorable, if not for invertebrates (such as the rare scorpion Belisarius xambeui, endemic to Catalonia, the large black opilione Melaphalangium, lacewing Mantispa styriaca, Metrioptera roeselii, Timarcha ?montserratensis, Brachinus scolopeta, Bembidion cf tibiale, Chlaenius vestitus, Dicladispa terstacea and the geotrupid Thorectes, as well as for the stunning vegetation . The field-trip (killing tubes provided) took us through a Quercion ilicis community (with Juglans regia, Alnus glutinosa, Acer opalus, Populus tremula, with an

understorey of Cistus salviaefolius, Calycotome spinosa, Ruscus aculeatus, Erica arborea etc.

When our coach failed to appear on time the after-dinner company of a Russian, Spaniard, two Germans and two English took on a new complexion. The finer details of "I-Spy" were discussed and a desultory game of "consequences" somehow evolved. It was largely John Bullock's international sense of humour that prevented the mind enlarging on the theme of prolonged incarceration in a remote hunting lodge for too long.

Few delegates could have failed to grasp how Barcelona is well able to provide as a backcloth the social and cultural fabric demanded by a CONGRESS of this type. I rambled through it and met many interesting people and situations; others did likewise and went further afield. This and the pleasure of long informal talks on one of my great loves, Mediterranean ecosystems, provided further sparks to keep the CONGRESS alight.

I wish the ASOCIACION EUROPAEA DE COLOEPTEROLOGIA every success with its future endeavours.
P.F.Whitehead.

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REQUEST FOR BRITISH MELIGETHES (NITIDULIDAE). As some coleopterists may already be aware, I am currently preparing a key to and notes on distribution of the British pollen beetle genus MELIGETHES, I am hoping to complete this by early 1990. Dr Alan M. Easton, who sadly died recently, very kindly passed all his notes and records, which he amassed from 1949 to 1973, on to me. These notes are an invaluable source of detailed and meticulously recorded data for a much neglected group.

I do, however, require to examine MELIGETHES from Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight and the Channel Islands. I am also very interested in examining any specimens which have been identified as M.HAEMORRHOIDALIS Förster. Whilst I'm sure many coleopterists have been amassing MELIGETHES for somne years I am unable, due to a large back-log of museum specimens to examine MELIGETHES from other areas at present, unless these are related to special research projects.

A.H. Kirk-Spriggs, Dept. of Zoology, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF1 3NP

BOOK REVIEW LONGHORN BEETLES (COL., CERAMBYCIDAE) OF FENNOSCANDIA AND DENMARK by S.Bily & O.Mehl

203pp + 9 colour plates (ISBN 90 04 08697 8) Price from E.W.Classey Ltd., £32=00p

Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica volume 22 (1989) E.J.Brill/ Scandinavian Science Press Ltd.

The twenty-second volume of the Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica series covers the Cerambycidae and is the sixth in the series devoted to a family of Coleoptera. This work is of the same high standards of production we have come to expect for this excellent series, the volume under review is hardbound.

The familiar sequence of "Introduction", "Adult and Larval Morphology", "Faunistics", "Bionomics and Ecology","Ecomonic Importance", Collecting & Preserving" occupy the first twenty-five pages. This is followed by the taxonomic section which takes up the bulk of the book and contains various keys from subfamily to species level for adult Cerambycidae. Each of the species is given, on average, about a half page of text which includes a brief but concise description and notes on biology and distribution. The text has 61 figures, remarkably few in a book of 203 pages covering in the region of 120 species. Doubtless this merely reflect the fact that, with a very few exceptions, determination of adult longhorns is a very straightforward business. The nine colour plates by Mrs S.Brantlova depict 86 beetles. The work concludes with the usual distribution catalogue, extensive list of references and an index.

It is somewhat odd that in a work covering a family of beetles of such economic importance that there is no key to larvae, indeed the whole "Economic" section (pages 24 and 25) occupies just over one page of text. Bily, co-author responsible for the taxonomic detail, in his earlier Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica volume, number 10 - Buprestidae, includes larval keys to species. (Volume 20, the aquatic adephage, has keys to generic level for 3rd instar larvae). This omission is a great disappointment and the value of the book, especially to forest entomologists, is greatly diminished as a result. Although I have seen no indication of this, perhaps the larval stages and more detailed biology will appear in a separate volume, rather akin to E.A.J.Duffy's "A Monograph of the Immature Stages of British and Imported Timber Beetles". The pre-publication notice issued by E.J.Brill indicated volume 22 would be of about 240 pages. At 203 published it is hard to explain such a high over-estimate by the publisher; were there 30+ pages on larvae ? (Please note this is pure speculation by the reviewer).

The British coleopterist will doubtless be dismayed by the number of name changes, and with our limited fauna such whole-scale changing (19 species out of a total of 65) is bound to be unpopular, even if it does bring us into line with our European and Scandinavian colleagues and, more importantly, correct errors of past interpretation. In the list below I

give, for ease of reference the name as in Kloet & Hincks (1977) first, where necessary the generic details are also given:

Acmaeops collaris (L.) = Dinoptera collaris (L.)
Dinoptera Mulsant, 1836

Grammoptera variegata (Germ.) = abdominalis (Stephens,1831)

Leptura livida Fab.,1777 = Pseudoalosterna livida (Fab.,1776)
Pseudoalosterna Plavilstshikov, 1934

Leptura sexguttata F. = Anoplodera sexguttata (F.)

Leptura scutellata (F.) = Stictoleptura scutellata (F.)
Stictoleptura Casey,1924

Leptura rubra L. = Corymbia rubra (L.). Corymbia DesGosiz,1886

Leptura sanguinolenta L. = Anastrangalia sanguinolenta (L.)
Anastrangalia Casey, 1924

Judolia cerambyciformis (Sch.) = Pachytodes cerambyciformis (Sch.

Strangalia quadrifasciata (L.) = Leptura quadrifasciata L.

Strangalia maculata (Poda) = Rutpela maculata (Poda)
Rutpela Nakane & Ohbayashi, 1957

Strangalia melanura (L.) = Stenurella melanura (L.)

Strangalia nigra (L.) = Stenurella nigra (L.)
Stenurella Villiers, 1974

Strangalia revestita (L.) = Pedostrangalia revestita (L.)
Pedostrangalia Sokolow, 1897

Molorchus umbellatarum (Schr.) = Glaphyra umbellatarum (Schr.)
Glaphyra Newman, 1840

Phymatodes alni (L.) = Poecilium alni (L.)

Mesosa nebulosa (F.) = Aplocnemia nebulosa (F.)
Aplocnemia Stephens, 1831 (A most unfortunate change as we already have Aplocnemus Stephens (Melyridae)).

Pogonochaerus fasciculatus (Degeer) = Pityphilus fasciculatus (DeGeer)
(Note Continental spelling of authority)

Saperda carcharis (L.) = Anaerea carcgaris (L.)
Anaerea Mulsant, 1839

Saperda populnea (L.) = Compsidia populnea (L.)
Compsidia Mulsant, 1839

Perhaps with the passing of time a few of these new generic names will be sunk to or revert to sub-generic status. The species on the British List but not included in the volume under review are:

Grammoptera holomelina Pool
Leptura fulva Degeer
Leptura rufa Bruille
Trinophyllum cribratum Bates

(The reviewer will try to find if any of these species have been transferred to other genera).

The distribution data, as they relate to the British fauna, at times seem a little inaccurate and inconsistent. The repeated

use of "known from Great Britain" might be interpretted as meaning excessively rare or recorded but not established. In most instances with reference to our native/breeding fauna "Great Britain" would have sufficed. Some examples are:

p.29 Ergates faber (L.) "Great Britain occasionally imported from the Continent."
p.31 Prionus coriarius (L.) "Not in Great Britain" - an error corrected later (p.178) in the Distribution chart.
p.41 Stenocorus meridianus (L.) "Known from Great Britain"
p.79 Strangalia attenuata (L.) "Also in Great Britain."
p.82 Spondylis buprestoides (L.) "Great Britain: now and then in imported timber from the Continent."
p.85 Asemum striatum (L.) "Also known from Great Britain."
p.89 Tetropium gabrieli Weise "Known from Great Britain."
p.115 Phymatodes testaceus (L.) "Common in Great Britain."
p.137 Monochamus galloprovincialis (Ol.) "Introduced in Great Britain."
p.138 Monochamus sutor (L.) "Introduced in Great Britain."
p.139 Monochamus urussovii (Fischer) "occasionally with imported timber from the Continent and Fennoscandia."
p.139 Monochamus sartor (F.) "reported from Great Britain ..."
p.150 Leiopus nebulosus (L.) "known from Great Britain."
p.165 Phytoecia cylindrica (L.) "abundant in Great Britain."

Fortunately the authors have not indulged in listing the multiferous "varieties" in colour pattern exhibited by several species, all of which are of extremely dubious taxonomic merit.

Apart from the lack of coverage of the immature stages, the other points raised here are indeed minor and do not detract from the value or interest of the book. However, at £28=00p its appeal to British coleopterists must seem less attractive than that of its sister volumes as our fauna is so restricted and easily recognisable.

J.Cooter

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FIELD SEPARATION OF CERCYON MARINUS Thom. & BIFENESTRATUS Kust.

Earlier this year I took a small number of Cercyon, their characters agreeing with those of bifenestratus (testé Allen). It appears to me, and others may wish to check for themselves, that bifenestratus has shorter more tumid elytra, more strongly curved in plan than marinus, in which species the elytral apex is distinctly visible from above (whereas it is not so in bifenestratus).

These features are readily observed in the field, but as with all things, experience helps.

P.Whitehead.

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FOODPLANTS. I recently reported Cionus scrophulariae (L.) breeding on Cape Figwort in Worcestershire 12 years ago. In 1989 I observed large-scale breeding of C.scrophulariae on a cultivated Phygelius at Broadway (SP03). The plant in question

is known as "Phygelius cream" and is probably a selected seedling of Phygelius aequalis Hiern.

P.Whitehead.

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HOST PLANTS OF CEUTORHYNCHUS MIXTUS Muls & Rey. Several years ago, I discovered C.mixtus in considerable plenty on Corydalis clavicula growing thickly on a shaded west-facing bank on the edge of the New Forest at Gorley Hill near Fordingbridge.

Although I have taken odd specimens in more open places, usually swept from Fumitory (F.officinalis) the species may in fact have a preference for either shaded sites or Corydalis. I have not yet had the chance to search Corydalis lutea for the weevil.

P.J.Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5HJ

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HOST PLANTS OF CEUTORHYNCHUS ASPERIFOLIARIUM (Gyll.). Probably in common with several other coleopterists I have been examining every clump of Forget-me-not (Myosotis) in the hope of finding Ceutorhynchus euphorbiae Bris. On several occasions I have observed specimens of C.asperifoliarium on Myosotis, a fact which does not appear to be well known in Britain, its most usual hosts being Hound's Tongue (Cynoglossum officinale) and Comfrey (Symphytum officinale) but it is probably found on other Boraginaceae (eg Alkanet, Pentaglottis sempervirens). Has anyone ever found it on Viper's Bugloss (Echium vulgare) ?

P.J.Hodge.

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STENOCARUS UMBRINUS (Gyll.) ON POPPIES. This supposedly common weevil, one I have always found quite elusive but in a variety of habitats as single specimens. I have never been quite sure what to do in order to be sure of finding the species. I once found numerous specimens in moss on a chalky bank but this gave no clue as to the host plant.

Poppies (Papaver sp.) are the recognised host plant of S. umbrinus but although I have always swept stands of the plant I have never actually taken the weevil off any species of poppy until last week when examining the roots of Yellow Horned Poppy (Glaucium flavum) in the hope of finding C.verrucatus Gyll. on The Crumbles, Eastborne. A number of S.umbrinus dropped onto the sheet and seemed set to hibernate in the roots of G.flavum and may not have actually bred there, dead stems of Papaver sp. were present at the same site.

P.J.Hodge.

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REQUEST. If anyone has records of Phacophalus tricolor (Kr.) or Crytpopleurum subtile Sharp and could let me have full details, especially with regard to habitat, I could include them in a short note. Post 1980 records especially welcome.

P.F.Whitehead.

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I have a lot of experience of the situation in which Mr. Measday finds himself (NEWSLETTER 36) and fully understand his difficulties. Whilst hardly being the last word on the matter, I offer the following contribution which I trust willbe helpful regarding field identification of the Staphylinus 'morio-group'. All three species, globulifer, winkleri and melanarius can be determined by examination of the male genital armature but I am concerned with the "art" of field identification.

S.globulifer: Head essentially quadrate, antennae with last 4-5 segments pink. The smallest species, whole insect ± parallel in outline. Habitat, dry short turf grassland, thin soils on acid or basic rock, downland, fixed screes, often under bark.

S.melanarius: Head transverse, frons ± unpunctured between antennal insertion (use lens), antennae with last segment pink. Pronotum uniformly contracted to base; whole insect not parallel in outline. Habitat, wet woodlands, wet saw dust piles in woods, under moist bark, rank grassland, water meadows, flood plains. Open country in high rain-fall areas to sea level and littoral on Irish Sea coasts and Western Isles.

S.winkleri: Can be confused with melanarius. More robust, head noticably transverse, frons ± punctures between antennal insertion. Falcate mandibles massive, relatively wide. Habitat, somewhat uncertain, old pasture, unimproved grassland (in Midlands).

The real key to success with beetles is perseverance. Do not be affriad of making mistakes, seeking advice from knowledgeable people; don't stop looking at "common or garden" beetles - this is how I recently found a rare inland Bembidion minimun. Build up a collection and use it as a reference tool.

P.Whitehead.

(With respect to the last paragraph, always remember that professional entomologists are very busy indeed and tend to specialise in certain families, often to the exclusion of others. More often than not it is their own time they are giving when helping. Always ask before sending specimens and always include return postage. Never publish a doubtful record even if you have retained the specimen. Always try to get to use a good Museum collection - nothing beats first hand experience - J.C.)

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ELATEROIDEA RECORDING SCHEME - THE FUTURE. Following the publication of "The Provisional Atlas of the Click Beetles of the British Isles" (Mendel, 1988), I have set myself the target of producing definitive maps within a further five years. There are still parts of England and Wales which are very poorly recorded, for example (VC 39) Staffordshire, (VC's 53 & 54) Lincolnshire and (VC47) Montgommeryshire. Scotland is generally under-recorded and much of Ireland is virtually unknown territory.

It is surprising how one person's efforts can transform our knowledge of a vice-county. Only this month a batch of record cards from Adrian Fowles did just that for (VC 46) Cardiganshire. Recorder's efforts will be fully acknowledged.

One error in the "Atlas" that has come to light is on the distribution map (p.48) for Athous hirtus (Hb.). All the records for the Shetland Islands (VC112) should be ignored. The error occurred as a result of miscoding a record-card - all my own work! .....

..... Coleopterist's wishing to keep right up to date with name changes will be interested in the following:

Trixagus brevicollis (de Bonvouloir, 1859) NOW = Aulonothroscus brevicollis (de Bonvouloir, 1859) (Burakowski,B., 1975. Development, distribution and habits of Trixagus dermestoides (L.) with notes on the Throscidae and Lissomidae (Col., Elateroidea). Annales Zoologici, 32:376-405.

Ampedus pomonae sensu auctt.Brit. NOW = A.quercicola (du Buysson, 1887)

Ampedus praeustus sensu auctt. Brit., NOW = A.pomonae (Stephens, 1830).
Mendel,H., 1989/90. The status of Ampedus pomonae (Stephens), A.praeustus (F.) and A.quercicola (du Buysson) (Col., Elateridae) in the British Isles. Entomologist's Gazette, in press.

Keep sending those specimens for identification and batches of record cards (BRC "Gen 7" single species cards preferred but all records gratefully received, including computer printouts).

After recording the distributions of the British species comes the interesting part: explaining them. With this in mind I am always pleased to hear details of your field observations relating to Elateroidea - notes about biology, life history, behaviour or habitat. It is surprising how such 'random' observations can be assembled, like pieces of a jig-saw, to contribute significantly to our knowledge of the British Fauna.

Howard Mendel, The Museum, High Street, Ipswich, IP1 3QH

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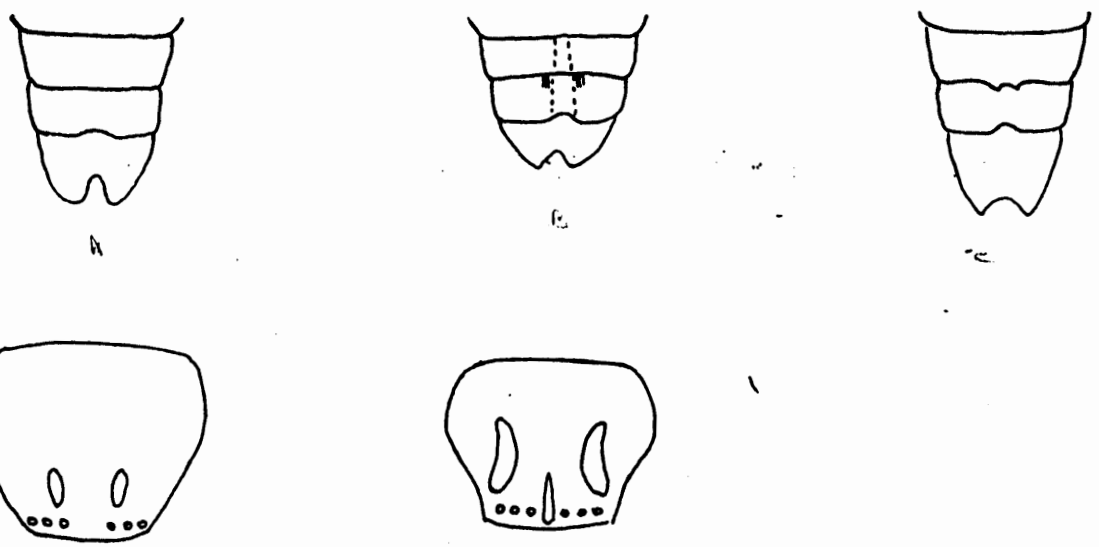
THE SEPARATION OF THE BRITISH EUAESTHETUS Grav. SPECIES.

More often than not, the characters given in British literature for the separation of the three British species of this genus are comparative. The figures given here therefore might be of some help when comparative material of these distinctive little staphs is not at hand.

Abdomen of male (ventral view) (After Palm, 1961, Svensk Insektfauna Coleoptera: Staphylinidae hafte 2)

Pronotum (After Szujecki, 1965 Klucze do Oznaczania Owadow Polski, 19 Coleoptera, Zeszyt 24c)

A = laeviusculus Mannh.
B = ruficapillus (Bois. & Lac.)
C = bipunctatus (Lj.)



J.Cooter.

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QUESTIONNAIRE AND SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER. With this issue you will find a short questionnaire, it ought to take only a few minutes to fill in - please do.

The 1990 subscription rate has been fixed at £3-00p for three issues during the year. It is hoped the clearer type-face and, when submitted, figures will be an adequate form of compensation for the rise. Needless to say postage and other costs have risen and these should be absorbed by the new rate.

The various options on the questionnaire will relate to fixing a subscription for 1991 and will give the readership the chance to make suitable suggestions (sensible ones please) as to the future format and content of the NEWSLETTER.

I think all will agree that the use of a more modern type-writer with a clearer type-face, slightly condensed lines and photocopying are all a great improvement on the previous Gestetner duplicated NEWSLETTERS. Personally, I now have a lot less to do in preparing each NEWSLETTER - the whole is copied, collated and stapled in one go. What is time consuming is sorting out those that have paid their annual subscription and the late payers. PROMPT PAYMENT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY PETER HODGE AND MYSELF - sorting the subscriber list in one go though tedious is preferable to a piecemeal every now and then treatment.

A reminder is sent to non-payers with the first edition in each New Year. If no subscription is received after that, we assume that person to have "resigned" and we do not bother them with subsequent letters.

Thanks to everyone for the support and comments received during the year.

J.Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford, HR1 1NQ

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