

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

February 1990

Number 38

EDITORIAL

Thanks to all who have paid their subscription promptly - it really does help. Thanks too for returning the questionnaire. Having read through these and the many accompanying comments, it is quite clear that while we cannot please everyone all the time, the Newsletter is generally well received. It is hoped that several suggestions from the readership will be incorporated in future editions.

You will have noticed a change in the *Newsletter*, the A5 format reduces greatly the production and postal costs - unlike some entomological bulletins we get no subsidy. Roy Anderson has very kindly offered to 'word-process' the *Newsletter*, this in itself makes for a more professional product. I hope the new look is greeted with approval.

The rest is up to you - please send in contributions, especially useful are notes describing how to separate closely related species; these and other notes can be illustrated. Included here is the first part of *Contents of Journals*, very few coleopterists take all three journals reviewed, so hopefully this will be well received.

J.C.

'AN AFTERNOON WITH CHARLES MACKECHNIE-JARVIS'

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM

24TH MARCH 1990

2.00 p.m. - 5.00p.m.

Charles Mackechnie-Jarvis will be talking about his Coleoptera collection of some 50,000 specimens, which he has kindly donated to the Liverpool Museum.

The Museum's extensive beetle collection will also be available for viewing in the morning between 10.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Please write to Stephen Judd, Liverpool Museum, National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, William Brown Street, Liverpool, L3 8EN, or telephone (051) 207 0001, if you would like to attend or require further information.

10TH SCOTTISH ENTOMOLOGIST'S FIELD MEETING

The 1990 venue is the Island of Rhum and the dates are from either Monday June 25th or Wednesday June 27th to June 30th, the choice is yours. Accomodation is free, but bring towels and a sleeping sheet. Meals can be provided at reasonable rates (full breakfast at £5, packed lunches at £2 and evening meals not more than £8) or food can be purchased and prepared personally, full facilities are available.

Two light traps will be running, transport around the island is also available, as is laboratory space.

Anyone interested should contact : Geoff Hancock, Keeper of Natural History, Art Gallery & Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDED ACCOMODATION

Since the field meeting at Merthyr Mawr Warren during September 1983, a number of coleopterists have visited this rich locality on the Welsh coast near Bridgend. Those wishing to visit in the future may like to know of a very nice bed and breakfast establishment close by. This is the bungalow of William and Joan Morgan, 17 Lon-yr-Eglwys, St Brides Major, Mid-Glamorgan, CF32 0SH (tel., (0656) 880611). Entomologists are sympathetically received, accomodation consists of one single and one twin-bedded room. The 1989 charge was £10 per night.

(It is worth remembering when at Merthyr Mawr that the car park gate is padlocked at 7 o'clock during the summer; if in doubt it is best to check closing time in the village - there being no notice to this effect in the car park! J.C.).

DETAILS OF A SPIDER-HANDLING DEVICE which is equally suitable for other invertebrates has been sent to me by Neil Redgate. It can be easily made from a plastic disposable syringe. For full details see *Bulletin of the British Arachnological Society*, (1981) 5(6):278-279.

J.C.

DR LOTHAR DIECKMANN

It is very sad to report the unexpected and sudden death of Dr Lothar Dieckmann at the age of 70; he passed away on 9th February 1990.

An expert insect taxonomist with an unrivalled knowledge of Palaearctic Curculionidae and a prolific author, he will be greatly missed by the scientific community. To those who knew him, he was a good and friendly correspondent, generous to a fault, his warm personality easily came across in his interesting and helpful letters.

Full obituary notices will appear in the entomological press.

J. Cooter

SOME RECENT RECORDS OF CARABIDAE IN THE BRITISH ISLES

Recently I have been sorting out records for the forthcoming Atlas of British Carabidae. It appears that the following records refer to species rarely recorded in modern times, at least, in the areas where I found them. I am indebted to Martin Luff for providing me with distribution maps and details of recent records for these species.

Trechus subnotatus Dejean, 1831.

This species was first taken by de la Garde at Shaldon, S. Devon in 1910 (Newberry E. A., 1910, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 46: 131-132). Subsequently records have been published for Co Dublin, the edge of Dartmoor (S. Devon), and Yorkshire. On 20th April, 1987, I found a single specimen by a trickle on a recently collapsed section of the Old Red Sandstone cliff at Ness Cove, Shaldon. The description of the original capture in 1910 leads me to suppose that my specimen comes from almost the exact location and habitat of de la Garde's.

Bembidion stomoides Dejean, 1831

This species seems to be widespread in northern England, but very rare elsewhere in Britain. In 1981 it was found by a stream in the Brecon Beacons (Alexander K.N.A., 1986, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 122: 71). I can add a further Welsh record from under stones by a woodland stretch of the river Enig near Talgarth, Breconshire, July 8th, 1983.

Agonum lugens (Duftschmidt, 1812)

Introduced to the British List after being found in numbers by the river Fergus and Lough Bunny, Co Clare in 1983 (Anderson, R., 1985, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 121: 133-135). David Bilton and myself can add as third site, having each found a specimen on mud under algal mats by a eutrophic turlough called Lough Gash, Co Clare on 11th June, 1989.

Harpalus puncticollis (Paykull, 1789)

A single specimen of this chalk and limestone species was taken at Devil's Dyke, nr Swaffham Prior, Cambridgeshire on April 30th, 1989. It was found in moss at the base of a *Lasius flavus* nest-mound in company with *Panagaeus bipustulatus* and *Badister sodalis*. It has been recorded before in this county, but there are very few known modern records in Britain and none from Cambridgeshire.

Harpalus schaubergerianus Puel, 1937

Another chalk/limestone species whose published distribution extends as far north as Cambridgeshire. On 20th April 1986, I took a single male in the disused part of Yarwell Quarry in the vice-county of Northamptonshire. Four weeks later, on May 18th, a single specimen was found in Rutland about 20km away. Since then I have found the species in some numbers on two occasions in Geeston Quarry, another disused quarry in Rutland. Thus it seems that *H. schaubergerianus* is established in disused limestone quarries in this area. However, it has not been found at other apparently suitable sites in Rutland, including Grange Quarry, Ketton, where its close relative *H. rufibarbis* (F.) is abundant. These two species are sometimes confused in collections.

Harpalus quadripunctatus Dejean, 1829

This species is mainly confined to the eastern Highlands of Scotland. However, Fowler (1887, *Col. Brit. Islands*, I) quotes records from Newcastle, Somerset and Ireland and there have been recent records from isolated sites in Derbyshire and Yorkshire (Horsfield D., 1981, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 117: 124). On 1st April 1989 I found three specimens in moss near a limestone stream in Deepdale, Derbyshire. This site is 10km away from the previous Derbyshire site, which is also a limestone dale and it may be that this species is more widely distributed in such habitats.

Anisodactylus nemorivagus (Duftschmidt, 1812)

On 28th March 1986 I took a single specimen of this beetle at the roots of heather on an exposed part of Chobham Common, Surrey, in rather bleak weather. The site was by a track in an area completely dominated by heather not far from the valley bog known as Long Arm. Modern records for this species appear to be very rare and otherwise confined to South Hampshire.

Cymindis axillaris (Fabricius, 1794)

Modern records for this species are mainly confined to the Breckland area, but on 2nd April 1985, I found a single specimen under a stone on Landguard Common, a sandy coastal site in Suffolk.

D. A. Lott, Leicestershire Museums Service,
96 New Walk, Leicester, LE1 6TD

ISCHNODES SANGUINICOLLIS (PANZER) REDISCOVERED IN WEST KENT.

On 2nd January 1988 I was surprised to sieve a specimen of this attractive insect from an old ivy-covered elm stump in a churchyard in the Darent Valley not far from Darenth Wood. The church is one of the oldest in the county and was once noted for its fine avenue of elms, of which only rather sad stumps remain. There are several old records for the county of which the most recent is that in the unpublished notebook of J.A.Stephens which is now in my possession. He bred it from larvae collected from an old tree stump in Cobham Park and only about 8 miles from the present capture. Unfortunately, Stephens does not give a date for his captures, but it was between the wars and probably in the 1930s.

Mr S.A.Williams, 40 Preston Park,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 8LN

LUMINOUS *NEBRIA BREVICOLLIS* ?

A friend gave me a photocopy of the Coleoptera section of *The Museum of Natural History*, vol. 11. From the appearance of the text and drawings I would date it around 1870. The following text intrigued me:

"One dark and warm night, in the early part of the present month [the month is not stated - E.I.] I observed a considerable quantity of some brightly luminous matter on a gravel path in my garden. On closer inspection I found that this consisted of many small detached patches, among which some animal was moving at a rapid pace, carrying with him a large quantity of the same luminous matter and every now and then depositing a fresh patch. My curiosity was much excited by such a remarkable proceeding; I procured a light as quickly as possible, and discovered, to my surprise, that all this illumination had been the work of a *Nebria brevicollis*, who was literally detected *flagrante delicto*. I have often before this seen a strong phosphorescent light produced by various species, such as worms, centipedes and the small white animals allied, I believe, to the Oniscidae, so common in decaying vegetable substances; but this is the first instance I have met with of a coleopterous insect depositing luminous matter on the ground. I can form no conjecture as to the cause of its proceedings, unless the light was intended for a sexual signal".

Can any readers offer an explanation ?

Ernie Ives, 63 Church Lane,

Sproughton, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3AY.

A GOOD HAUL OF BEETLES IN WEST KENT

During January 1988 I spent some time sieving old tree stumps here at Sutton-at-Hone, taking home about a cubic foot of wood mould and putting it through a Berlese funnel. This way I usually end up with a few beetles, occasionally an interesting one (for example *Aeletes atomarius* (Aubé)). On one occasion however I took no fewer than 33 species, this time at alder roots a foot below the surface and two yards from the river Darent. I have not achieved this high figure again despite much sieving. Not all the beetles were common: *Anommatus duodecimstriatus*

(Müll.), *Mycetaea hirta* (Marsh.), *Euplectus bonvouloiri-rosae* Raff., *E. nanus* (Reich.), *E. piceus* Motsch., *Sepedophilus bipunctatus* (Grav.), *Meotica apicalis* Benick, *M. exillima* Sharp. A few specimens of *Oligota pusillima* (Grav.) were present, this is an uncommon insect south of a line drawn from Bristol to the Wash.

Mr S.A. Williams, 40 Preston Park,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 8LN

FURTHER NOTES ON THE FOODPLANTS OF *CEUTORHYNCHUS ASPERIFOLIARIUM* (GYLL.)
AND *C. EUPHORBIAE* BRIS.

With reference to my recent note on the foodplants of these two weevils (*Coleopterist's Newsl.* No. 37: 8) it is of interest to note that G.C. Champion recorded both species at the roots of *Echium vulgare* (viper's bugloss) near the reservoir on Woodbury Common not far from Budleigh Salterton, Devonshire (1916, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.*, 52: 230-231). It therefore seems likely that any species of Boraginaceae may be used as host plants by either species of weevil, although I am unable to state with any confidence which are preferred. In Sussex, *Ceutorhynchus asperifoliarium* is most often associated with *Cynoglossum officinale* (hound's tongue) and *Myosotis* (forget-me-not) but because these plants frequently grow together it is often impossible to decide whether adults are merely feeding or using a plant for breeding purposes. As far as *C. euphorbiae* is concerned, I have no personal experience of this species, but since many records are for specimens found in moss or at the roots of mixed vegetation it is difficult to state hostplant preferences. More information on the ecology of this weevil would be welcomed; how many coleopterists have actually found it on a potential foodplant ?

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

FOODPLANTS OF *CEUTORHYNCHUS ASPERIFOLIARIUM* (GYLL.)

Until I read Peter Hodge's note in the Coleopterist's Newsletter no. 37 I had imagined that British coleopterists found this species on a wide range of Boraginaceae, like their colleagues in central Europe; Lohse (in FHL 11, 1983) says "polyphagous on the most varied Boraginaceae". I have taken the weevil on *Echium vulgare* on six occasions, mostly in the Breckland but also in Hampshire and Devon, although only once on *Cynoglossum*; thus does experience vary! I agree that *Symphytum* is a very common host plant. A feature of the occurrence of *C. asperifoliarium* on *Myosotis* is that it occurs on *M. scorpioides* as well as *M. arvensis* (in my experience). It is clear that by feeding on Boraginaceae in very dry places (*Echium*, *M. arvensis*), mesophilic ones (*Cynoglossum*) and wet sites (*Symphytum*, *M. scorpioides*) the weevil occurs in an exceptionally wide range of biotopes.

M. G. Morris, Orchard House, 7 Clarence Rd,
Dorchester, Dorset DT1 2HF

HOST PLANTS AND PRESENT DAY ABUNDANCE OF *CEUTORHYNCHUS MIXTUS* MULSANT & REY

Peter Hodge's discovery that *Corydalis claviculata* is a major food plant of this weevil is of particular importance because the host does not seem to have been recognized on the Continent. I have not been extensively into the literature, but the *Corydalis* record finds no place in the standard works: FHL and Hoffmann and Scherf, for example. Interestingly, Dieckmann (1972) has a record of *C. depressicollis* from *C. lutea* in his account of the Ceutorhynchinae of the DDR, although *C. mixtus* has not been recorded from East Germany.

Corydalis claviculata is clearly an important host of *C. mixtus*, but the weevil also occurs in abundance on *Fumaria* spp. Specimens I took from

the latter host at Penlee Point, Cornwall, in May 1988 were noticeably larger than weevils in a series collected from Hickling, Norfolk, in June 1987.

A point worth making is that *C. mixtus* seems to be much commoner nowadays than formerly. Fowler (1891) even suggested that "the species seems to require some further confirmation as British" (p. 365). I have records (1962-1989) from S. Wiltshire, Dorset, Cambridgeshire, (s.str.), Huntingdonshire, Cardiganshire, and several other places in Cornwall (W. and E.) as well as the other localities mentioned.

M. G. Morris

CEUTORHYNCHUS PARVULUS (BRISOUT) AT THREE SITES IN 1988

This rare, or rather, extremely local weevil has not been recorded, as far as I can tell, since 1924 when Champion found it commonly at Budleigh Salterton on its apparently only host plant, *Lepidium heterophyllum* (=smithii) (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 60: 211). The species has been recorded only from East Cornwall and N. and S. Devon.

I took a few specimens at Rame (SX4249) on 17 May 1988, and the weevil occurred in abundance at Kingsand (SX4350) (one of Key's old localities) on the following day. Finally, as already reported in the Newsletter, specimens were collected on Westward Ho! cliffs (SS4128) on 5 June. In all cases the weevils were on *L. heterophyllum*.

M. G. Morris

STRIDULATION IN WEEVILS

The answer to Paul Whitehead's query in *Newsletter* 37 is probably "Not as much as it should be". Although stridulation has been known to occur in weevils for many years (e.g. a note on "musical Curculionidae" was

published as long ago as 1860 by Wollaston (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 6: 14-19) the only detailed study known to me is that of Claridge (*Trans. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* 120: 287-296) on stridulation in *Rhynchaenus*, particularly *R. fagi* (L.). However, I suspect that stridulation is common in many genera; many years ago my attention was drawn to the phenomenon in species of *Dorytomus* and since then I have noticed stridulation in other species. Many coleopterists must have speculated on how the sexes come together for mating. Pheromones are clearly important in some species, but I suspect that stridulation is also a major mechanism for aggregation. It is likely that stridulation is by the "file and scraper" method in many cases and these structures should be detectable by careful examination of specimens in collections. There is clearly a great amount of work needed to investigate the phenomenon thoroughly.

M.G. Morris

SCHISTOGLOSSA BENICKI LOHSE IN BRITAIN

S. benicki (Lohse, 1981, *Entomol. Blätter* 77: 7) is a species which resembles *S. curtipennis* so closely that the only distinguishing feature so far recognised is the shape and size of the male genitalia. I found recently that I had a male of this species at Loch Garten, Inverness-shire in May 1985 by shaking moss. As it happened, all the other specimens I had standing over the label *S. curtipennis* were females and I am much indebted to Mr P.M. Hammond of the British Museum for allowing comparison with a male of the true *S. curtipennis* from the Sharp Collection. The male from Loch Garten was accompanied by two females which should also be *benicki*. According to Lohse (1989, in *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas*, vol. 12) the beetle has only been recorded near Hamburg and in the Harz Mountains. I hope to search for further examples this summer.

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

MONTGOMERYSHIRE FIELD MEETING - 8TH-10TH JUNE - STILL A FEW PLACES LEFT.

We now have 16 coleopterists visiting this almost unknown part of Britain this summer, leaving space for seven more up to our maximum booking. If you are interested in coming along, please either send in the booking form that accompanied details of the meeting in the last issue of the Newsletter or contact me direct.

Roger Key (0733) 40345 ext 2279 (day)
NCC (0733) 210541 (evening/weekends)
Northminster House,
Peterborough

1989 ACCOUNTS

4 Jan - 13 Nov 1989

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
Postage	£106-65	Subs	£210-00
Printing	192-93	Interest	11-03
M. Darby	20-00		
Bank fees	0-70		
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	£320-28		£221-03

Balance at 3 January 1989 = £210-44

Loss for year* 99-25

Balance @ 13 November 1989 = £111-19

* 1989's loss was made good with Funds carried over from 1988.

P. J. Hodge

16/02/90

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