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parsley in May prior to flowering and place on the surface of a compost heap. Shake the parsley lightly over a sheet every two days.

In Worcestershire, this proves an irresistible draw for aphidophagous species of many genera, and has produced, usually unfailingly, *Anthicus antherinus* (L.), *A. bifasciatus* (Rossi), *A. floralis* (L.) and, once, *A. tobias* Mars.

P.F. Whitehead

NAME CHANGES

Dieckmann (1989, *Reichenbachia* 27(12): 77-78) has shown his interpretation of *Apion sicardi*, which was followed by Mike Morris when adding the species to the British List (1975, *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 111: 165-171), to be incorrect. The synonymy is as follows:

Apion modestum Germar, 1817

= *sicardi sensu* Dieckmann, *nec* Desbrochers, 1893

This species feeds on *Lotus uliginosus*, the true *sicardi* Desbrochers, now correctly known as *plumbeomicans* Rosenhauer, 1856, is not likely to occur in Britain; its host plant being *Lotus creticus*. It is also now generally accepted that the species hitherto known as *Miarus degorsi* is in fact *M. distinctus*:

Miarus distinctus (Boheman, 1845)

= *degorsi* Abeille de Perrin, 1906

Shortly before his death, Dr Lothar Dieckmann pointed out to me that our use of the generic name *Strophosomus* is wrong, and further, after studying type material in the Curtis Collection, Melbourne, that the use of *curvipes* as a specific name for British specimens in the genus should be discontinued. Thus

Strophosoma Billberg, 1820

= *Strophosomus* Schoenherr, 1823

and *S. fulvicorne* Walton, J., 1846

= *curvipes* Thomson, C.G., 1868

(For full details see Dieckmann, 1980, *Beitr. Ent.* 30(1): 271-273).

J. Cooter

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Thanks to all those subscribers that have written saying how much they like the new format. Two did say the print is rather small, but as one added the rider that anyone studying beetles really ought to cope, there are no plans to change.

Thanks too to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire circulated during November 1989, about 80 were returned and the results and many extra comments added have been of great use. The new format is perhaps the most evident feature resulting from that exercise. With the reduced production and postal cost it is hoped that the 1991 subscription will not be increased, but the matter will be reviewed in the autumn.

Subscription apart, 40 subscribers would like to see the *Newsletter* confined to British Coleoptera, a further 35 thought mention of non-British species useful if relevant to our fauna. The remaining five either did not reply or thought that foreign matters ought to be included.

Not everyone replied to the question relating to die-stamped mounting cards; 40 would like a British supplier, 28 would not. The result has been passed to Watkins & Doncaster, so please direct further enquiries to them rather than the *Newsletter*.

Several people thought the *Newsletter* ought to be registered as a serial publication as they thought it might attract contributions of a higher calibre and allow reference to published matter. Some even said they would be more willing to submit articles. I wisely kept a list of these names and at the same time had the *Newsletter* registered. So, we can hope for some weighty matter in the future.

J. Cooter

ZOROCHROS MERIDIONALIS (LAP.) (COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE) A BRITISH SPECIES?

P.B. Mason (1898, *Entomologists' mon. Mag.*, 34: 207) was first to draw the attention of British coleopterists to a specimen of *Zorochores meridionalis* (Lap.), labelled as taken at Pegwell Bay (presumably in Kent), in the collection of the Rev. A. Matthews who died the previous year. A footnote by G.C. Champion suggested that the species was hardly likely to prove indigenous and that Matthew's specimen may have been an accidental introduction. This was a reasonable conclusion considering that *Z. meridionalis* was at that time, according to Champion, known from Austria, Switzerland, Lombardy, Piedmont and southern France but not from either Northern France or Germany. Based on the distribution outlined by Champion, Fowler and Donisthorpe (1913, *The Coleoptera of the British Islands*, Vol. 6 (suppl.). London: Lovell & Reeve) concluded that the species could not 'be as yet allowed a place on our lists'.

I have recently had the opportunity to examine the same specimen which survives in good condition in the Matthews Collection at Bolton Museum. It is indeed *Z. meridionalis* and labelled 'Pegwell Bay 1834'. According to Leseigneur (1972, *Bull. mens Soc. Linn. Lyon*, Suppl. 1: 1-381) the

Tetrops starkii is monophagous on *Fraxinus excelsior*, the adults feed on the leaves, duration of life cycle, one year. Adult emergence, May-June.

J. Cooter

STRIDULATION IN WEEVILS AND OTHER BEETLES

Anyone interested in stridulation in weevils may care to look at the peculiar and rather overlooked book by A.H. Swinton entitled *Insect variety: its propagation and distribution. Treating of the odours, dances, colours and music in all grasshoppers, cicadae and moths; beetles, leaf insects, bees.....etc*, published in 1881 (?) by Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., and usually to be had fairly cheaply in antiquarian bookshops. In this, the author devotes some 129 pages to stridulation including 22 on beetles. Amongst the weevils he mentions *Plianthus*, *Acalles*, *Mononychus*, *Cryptorhynchus*, *Ceutorhynchus*, *Eriirhinus* (and *Scolytus*). Although written in a rather florid style, Swinton makes a lot of interesting observations and comments. To illustrate his account of Wollaston's notes on Madeiran *Acalles*, we are treated to a woodcut of the Peak of Teneriffe, N. 70° W, complete with sailing ships!

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ATTRACTING *ANTHICUS* SPP.

A singularly successful method of attracting these interesting beetles demands only (a) organically grown parsley, and (b) a compost heap. Method: allow the parsley to remain unsprayed with insecticide and aphids to colonise, become established and proliferate. Lift the

Atheta umicula (Steph.)
A. indubia (Sharp)
A. angusticollis (Thoms.)
Aleochara cuniculorum Kraatz
Cryptophagus distinguendus Sturm

In 1989 Mr D. Atty most generously passed to me his scripts updating the *Coleoptera of Gloucestershire*. From these it appears that *Aleochara cuniculorum* is new to the county, no doubt due to the practical difficulties outlined above. Despite its epithet, *A. cuniculorum* is not confined to rabbit burrows. *Atheta indubia* is also evidently new to Gloucestershire, but it is by no means a rare species. In the region it takes part in spring flights, but may be somewhat stenotopic. It evidently favours weakly structured soils subject to a minimum of disturbance. Of the other species, *A. angusticollis* is well known from moles' nests, and *Cryptophagus distinguendus* is also frequently subterranean.

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FIELD KEY TO THE *STAPHYLINUS* 'MORIO' GROUP, A REVISION

In *Newsletter* 37 I presented a 'field-key' to the *Staphylinus* 'morio' group. I am now providing a revised version to the three species involved because (a) a number of errors crept into the previous text inadvertently and (b) two important specimens used in its construction had apparently been misidentified.

This has necessitated the following amendments:

- (i) *Staphylinus globulifer* Fourc. is found only occasionally under bark
 (ii) *S. winkleri* Bernh. is not more robust on average than *S. melanarius* Heer, does not have a noticeably transverse head, and does not have massive falcate mandibles.

One of the specimens misidentified as *S. winkleri* is a male with an exceptionally large head and mandibles and is, in my opinion, referable to *S. melanarius*.

The revised field key is as follows:

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

S. melanarius: Head transverse, frons \pm unpunctured between antennal insertions (use lens), and the antennae with only the last segment pink. Head and pronotum shiny, sometimes bronzed. Pronotum uniformly contracted to base; whole insect not parallel in outline. Mandibles falcate, sharply pointed. Habitat, short-turf grassland on heavy soils (usually shaded), wet woodlands, wet sawdust piles in woods, under moist bark, in rank grassland, water meadows or flood plains. Found in open country in high rainfall areas, to sea level and littoral on Irish Sea coasts and in the Western Isles.

S. winkleri: Head somewhat transverse, frons \pm punctured between antennal insertions, antennae with last segment pink. Head and pronotum matt black, not bronzed. Pronotum with diagnostic lateral 'kink' just above the posterior angles (use lens), mandibles blunt. Habitat hard to characterise. The author has found it on damp, minerogenic substrates as a predator of small isopods (where it competes with early instar larvae of *S. olens*).

P.F. Whitehead

ONE TO LOOK FOR

Bily and Mehl (1989, Longhorn beetles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) of Fennoscandia and Denmark, *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* 22: 156) in discussing the distribution of *Tetrops starkii* Chev. state " - Not in Finland, Soviet Karelia or Great Britain, but perhaps overlooked".

Similar to the common *Tetrops praeusta*, the two are differentiated by Bily and Mehl thus:

T. praeusta: Lateral pronotal margins with short, rigid, white pubescence.

Outer apical angle of elytra rounded.

Anterior tibiae of male not enlarged apically.

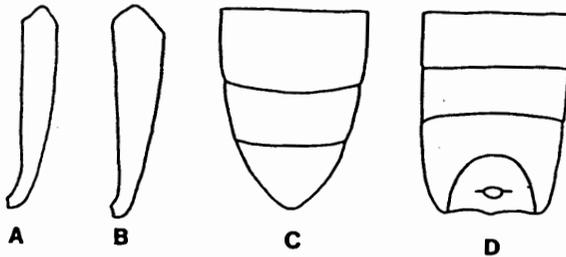
Anal sternite of female rounded, not modified.

T. starkii: Lateral pronotal margins without white rigid pubescence.

Outer apical angle of elytra with very small spine.

Anterior tibiae of male enlarged apically.

Anal sternite of female somewhat swollen, excavated apically, and with a small pit in the middle of the excavation.



Anterior tibiae of, A. *T. praeusta* and, B. *T. starkii*. Ventral view of female abdomen, C. *T. praeusta* and, D. *T. starkii*.

species is known from Britain, Holland and Belgium !

Z. meridionalis is the smallest of the European species of *Zorochoros* and might easily be overlooked. It is widely distributed in Europe and Asia, usually found near water on sandy riverbanks or in gravel pits. Its habits make it an unlikely candidate for accidental introduction and, in the light of its distribution as known today, perhaps Fowler and Donisthorpe(1913) were a little hasty in so resoundingly dismissing the record ?

Acknowledgements

I thank Mr S.P. Garland for the loan of the specimen of *Zorochoros meridionalis* from the Matthews Collection at Bolton Museum.

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FAUNA ASSOCIATED WITH A RABBIT WARREN

Whilst there are frequent opportunities to examine bird and small mammal nests, it is far more difficult to assess the fauna of the runs of large subterranean animals.

Whilst walking past a rabbit warren at Stanton, Gloucestershire (SP 03) on 6 April 1990 I spotted a pile of nest bedding that had only just been brought to the surface. In it the following beetles were represented:

Catops fuscus Panz.
Anotylus inustus (Grav.)
A. tetracarinatus (Block)
Philonthus sordidus (Grav.)
Heterothops niger (Kraatz)
Platarea brunnea (Fab.)