

HETEROPTERA STUDY GROUP

Newsletter No. 14

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Editor: Peter Kirby, 21 Grafton Avenue, Netherton, Peterborough, Cambs., PE3 9PD.
Tel./Fax 01733 265043; E-mail: pete@kirby-lambert.dkfamily.co.uk

What, a Heteroptera Study Group Newsletter only a year after the last one? Surely, a portent? Lay in sand-bags and Hoover the bunker! But no, perhaps the fabric of reality is safe. One warning is needed, however. Because I have produced a newsletter a mere year after the last one, but have not actually had sufficient personal information on anyone to blackmail them into sending me things to put in it, an even larger proportion than usual of what follows has its origins entirely in my own brain. The commendable exceptions are the reports of their sterling work on aquatic hets by Thomas Huxley and Brian Nelson, who fairly shower me with news. I would urge everyone to send in more things for the next newsletter: if insufficient material accumulates to make a varied and edifying issue, I shall introduce a free-style poetry section and employ it to muse on the spiritual significance of hebroid synapomorphies. I am happy to receive almost any material in almost any form, provided it is in at least some vague way of relevance to the British Heteroptera, is grounded in reality, and isn't so very important that it belongs in a refereed journal.

In case any readers are wondering what rules govern the arrangement of material in this newsletter, I can reveal that though, in the past, there have been none, I have now adopted a sequence of going from the general to the specific, and within the specific from terrestrial to aquatic (more or less in the sequence of the Kloet & Hincks). If I ever receive news of a field meeting (does anyone remember those?) this will be put at the very back.

News Digest

There was a lot of news last year, and three year's worth of news at that. It would be unreasonable to expect so much this year. Extra information continues to accumulate about the recent arrivals in Britain reported in the last newsletter. A fair proportion of the papers listed in the recent publications section include records of the recent additions, along with suggestions of spread and increase amongst long-established residents, especially (but by no means exclusively) southern xerophiles. Perhaps the most interesting of the new bits of information is the finding of *Amblytulus delicatus* in Surrey (Denton 1998) the first record of this species for a long time. The recent finding of *Hydrometra gracilentia* in Ireland, though reported by Brian Nelson later in this newsletter, is interesting enough to deserve a second mention here: there seems no way of guessing where this insect will turn up next.

Since I've annotated the recent publications list with points of interest, I shall not repeat any more of what they say. One or two things not included in the publications list are worthy of note, though. *Stictopleurus punctatonervosus*, as well as *abutilon*, has been recorded in south-east England in recent years, so don't make any untested assumptions about any *Stictopleurus* you may have. John Campbell, hot as ever on the trail of Oxfordshire Heteroptera, has produced the first county record for *Heterogaster artemisiae* for over thirty years by the novel collecting method of having one crawl out of an orange-tailed clearwing exit hole in a small branch collected from a wayfaring tree on the 6th of January. Perhaps this is the way to go for rare lygaeids. John Hunnisett has recently found *Aphanus rolandri* in Dorset by splitting a hogweed (probably) stem during a winter walk past some gorse scrub. A recent trip to look at Heteroptera in the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff produced an interesting set of records from Tuddenham, Suffolk, amongst previously unidentified material in the late Basil McNulty's collection. In the 1960s and 1970s he caught *Arenocoris waltli* (the most recent confirmed record I know of by about thirty years), *Eysarcoris aeneus* (first record in East Anglia) and *Heterogaster artemisiae* (likewise).

Regional lists

Gloucestershire

This year's featured county is Gloucestershire. Keith Alexander has sent me copies of his two-part account of the Heteroptera of that interesting place. The references are:

- ✎ Alexander, K.N.A. 1995. The land and freshwater bugs (Hemiptera) of Gloucestershire: Part 1. shield bugs to stilt bugs (Heteroptera: Pentatomorpha). *The Gloucestershire Naturalist*, 8: 37-53.
- ✎ Alexander, K.N.A. 1996. The land and freshwater bugs of Gloucestershire: Part 2. Lacebugs to plantbugs (Heteroptera: Cimicimorpha). *The Gloucestershire Naturalist*, 9: 31-62.

These are nice publications, first because they include details of all records of each species listed by 10-km grid square, and second because they show a fauna sufficiently interesting to whet the appetite, but with sufficient gaps and species without recent records to get the impression that a well-timed busy visit could make a real difference.

Recent literature (mostly 1998)

As usual, this list does not claim to be comprehensive, but covers some major entomological journals and any other snippets which have come my way. I am long overdue for some time in a library, and so the offering may be more conspicuously incomplete than usual. If there are things not in it, because of either my carelessness or my ignorance, let me know about them and they can be put in the next newsletter. Since the list of references is not great, I've attached rather more annotations than usual. These annotations are notes on the things I found most significant in the article (other than what is obvious from the title); I can't guarantee that the authors would agree with the selection. I haven't repeated references given in the aquatic Heteroptera articles which appear later in this newsletter.

- Alexander, K.N.A. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 176.
Eurydema oleracea from Surrey; *Myrmedobia distinguenda* from Salop.
- ✎ Alexander, K.N.A. 1998. *Drymus pumilio* Puton (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) in Surrey. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 202.
From weedy grassland with *Hypericum perforatum* beside woodland ride.
- Alexander, K.N.A. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society 1997. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 11: 110.
Adelphocoris ticinensis, Sussex; *Catoplatus fabricii*, Glos; *Macroplox preysleri*, Gloucestershire (3rd county site); *Metopoplax ditomoides*, Bucks.; *Odontoscelis lineola*, Norfolk; *Sehirus dubius*, IoW.
- ✎ Ashwell, D. & Denton, J. 1998. Firebugs *Pyrrhocoris apterus* (L.) (Hemiptera: Pyrrhocoridae) breeding in Surrey. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 219.
- ✎ Chalkley, A.K. 1998. The aquatic and semi-aquatic Heteroptera of Suffolk. *Suffolk Natural History*, 34: 51-68.
- ✎ Clemons, L. 1998. *Metopoplax ditomoides* (Costa) (Hem.: Lygaeidae) in north-west Kent. *Entomologist's Record & Journal of Variation*, 110: 255.
- ✎ Denton, J.S. 1998. Rare and notable Hemiptera in southern England, 1995-97. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, 110: 265-266.
Amblytytus delicatus, Surrey; *Aquarius paludum*, Hampshire; *Aradus cinnamomeus*, Surrey; *Bathysolen nubilus*, Kent; *Deraeocoris olivaceus*, Surrey; *Dicranocephalus agilis*, Dorset; *Hebrus pusillus*, Hampshire; *Henestaris halophilus*, Kent; *Heterogaster artemisiae*, Dorset; *Lygus pratensis*, Surrey; *Megalonotus dilatatus*, Surrey; *Megalonotus praetextatus*, Kent;

Metopoplax ditomoides, Surrey, Dorset; *Micracanthia marginalis*, Surrey; *Microvelia pygmaea*, Hampshire, Sussex; *Nysius helveticus*, Surrey; *Odontoscelis fuliginosa*, Kent; *Odontoscelis lineola*, Surrey; *Rhopalus rufus*, Surrey, Hampshire; *Rhyparochromus pini*, Surrey; *Saldula arenicola*, Dorset; *Spathocera dalhmanni*, Hampshire; *Stictopleurus abutilon*, Middlesex, Hampshire.

- 6 Denton, J. & Rørdam, C. 1998. Observations of *Ilyocoris cimicoides* (L.) (Hemiptera: Naucoridae) in flight. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 225.
- 7 Greatorex-Davies, J.N., Sparks, T.H., & Hall, M.L. 1994. The response of Heteroptera and Coleoptera species to shade and aspect in rides of coniferised lowland woods in southern England. *Biological Conservation*, 67: 255-273.
- Halstead, A.J. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 176.
Live nymph of *Reduvius personatus*.
- Hawkins, R.D. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 176-177.
Dicranocephalus medius, Surrey; *Metopoplax ditomoides*, Surrey.
- Hawkins, R.D. & Menzies, I.S. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society 1997. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 11: 110.
Gonocerus acuteangulatus; further sites away from Boxhill in 1997.
- Hodge, P.J. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 177.
Emblethis denticollis, Hampshire; *Nysius senecionis*, Hampshire; *Stictopleurus abutilon*, Hampshire.
- Hodge, P.J. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society 1997. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 11: 110.
Emblethis denticollis, Sussex; *Metopoplax ditomoides*, Berkshire, Sussex.
- Jones, R.A. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 177.
Eurydema oleracea, Surrey, Kent; *Orsillus depressus*, two Surrey localities; *Stephanotis rhododendri*, Surrey.
- 8 Judd, S. 1998. New national, regional and county records of British seed bugs (Hem., Lygaeidae). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, 134: 311-314.
Chilacis typhae, Ayrshire; *Cymus glandicolor*, Denbighshire; *Drymus brunneus*, Denbighshire, Shropshire; *Drymus ryei*, Perthshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Shropshire; *Eremocoris podagricus*, Berkshire, Staffordshire (old record); *Gastrodes grossipes*, Denbighshire; *Heterogaster urticae*, Flintshire, Shropshire; *Ischnocoris angustulus*, Anglesey; *Kleidocerys resedae*, Flintshire, Shropshire; *Kleidocerys truncatulus*, Denbighshire; *Lamproplax picea*, Cheshire; *Megalonotus chiragra*, Cumbria, Flintshire; *Megalonotus dilatatus*, Tayside, vc85/88 (old record); *Megalonotus emarginatus*, Cornwall, E & W Kent; *Nysius ericae*, Flintshire; *Nysius helveticus*, Dorset; *Nysius thymi*, Flintshire; *Ortholomus punctipennis*, Kent; *Stygnocoris fuliginosus*, Shropshire; *Stygnocoris sabulosus*, Shropshire; *Stygnocoris rusticus*, Flintshire; *Peritrechus geniculatus*, Flintshire, Shropshire; *Plinthinus brevipennis*, Cumbria; *Scolopostethus decoratus*, Shropshire; *Scolopostethus grandis*, Cheshire, Flintshire; *Scolopostethus thomsoni*, Flintshire; *Taphropeltus contractus*, Flintshire; *Trapezonotus arenarius*, Flintshire; *Trapezonotus desertus*, Denbighshire, Somerset.
- 9 Judd, S. & Straw, N.A. 1998. A new seed bug, *Emblethis denticollis* Horváth (Heteroptera: Lygaeidae) for Britain, with a key to nymphs of *Emblethis*. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 220-225.
- 10 Judd, J. & Hodkinson, I. 1998. The biogeography and regional diversity of the British seed bugs (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae). *Journal of Biogeography*, 25: 227-249.
- Kirby, P. 1998. Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, 10: 177-178.
Acatypia brunnea, Somerset; *Acompus rufipes*, Herts.; *Adelphocoris seticornis*, Carmar.; *Adelphocoris tictensis*, Norfolk;

Aepophilus bonnairei, Devon; *Capsus wagneri*, Northamptonshire; *Drymus latus*, Kent; *Drymus pumilio*, Herts; *Emblethis denticollis*, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire; *Eremocoris podagricus*, Northamptonshire; *Hebrus pusillus*, Kent; *Ischnodemus quadraus*, Kent; *Lasiosomus enervis*, Kent; *Liorrhysus hyalinus*, Bedfordshire; *Lygus pratensis*, Kent; *Megalonotus praetextatus*, Beds; *Megalonotus sabulicola*, Northants; *Metopoplax ditomoides*, Surrey, Beds; *Nysius senecionis*, Beds; *Pachycoleus walli*, Northamptonshire; *Peritrechus distinguendus*, Kent; *Pionosomus varius*, Glamorgan; *Raglius alboacuminatus*, Kent; *Rhyparochromus pini*, Somerset; *Spathocera dahlmanni*, Bedfordshire; *Trapezonotus ultrichi*, Carmns.

- **Nau, B.S. 1998.** Further notes on some range-changes of Hemiptera-Heteroptera in Bedfordshire. *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, **134**: 52
Bathysolen nubilus new to county; *Sehirus luctuosus* at four sites; *Thyreocoris scarabaeoides* at several sites.
- Porter, D.A. 1998.** Exhibit at the annual exhibition of the British Entomological & Natural History Society, 1996. *British Journal of Entomology & Natural History*, **10**: 178.
Corizus hyoscyami, Sussex; *Metopoplax ditomoides*, Hants; *Ortholomus punctipennis*, Sussex; *Stictopleurus abutilon*, Hampshire, with report of breeding.
- **Price, J.M. 1987.** *Viscum album* (mistletoe) in Warwickshire: distribution and some insect associations. *Birmingham Natural History Society Proceedings*, **124**(4): 207-211.
- **Savage, A. & Swift, E. 1997.** The identification of British adult specimens of *Sigara lateralis* (Leach), *Sigara concinna* (Fieber), *Callicorixa praeusta* (Fieber) and *Callicorixa wollastoni* (Douglas & Scott) (Hemiptera Heteroptera: Corixidae). *Freshwater Forum*, **9**: 25-34.

Red Data Books and Heteroptera

It has occurred to me that I have been lax in not including, in the past, mention of entries for Heteroptera in county Red Data Books that have come my way in recent years. I thought, therefore, that I would gather together information from such volumes as are sitting on my shelves. This amounts to only a few counties. I shall, unless a significant number of people plead with me not to, add others as I become aware of them, or as people with knowledge of their own counties (and, perhaps, of provisional lists of RDB species they would like to present for wider comment) send anything for printing.

Cambridgeshire

Colston, A., Gerrard, C. & Parslow, R. 1997. *Cambridgeshire's Red Data Book*. The Wildlife Trust for Cambridgeshire, Cambridge. [Hemiptera pp. 48-49]

Criteria for inclusion: National Red Data Book and nationally scarce (notable) species.

Species included: *Adelphocoris ticinensis*, *Agnocoris reclairei*, *Aquarius paludum*, *Capsus wagneri*, *Catoplatys fabricii*, *Cimex columbarius*, *Drymus latus*, *Drymus pilicornis*, *Drymus pumilio*, *Empicoris baerensprungi*, *Eremocoris plebejus*, *Globiceps flavomaculatus*, *Halticus saltator*, *Megalonotus antennatus*, *Megalonotus praetextatus*, *Microvelia pygmaea*, *Microvelia umbricola buenoi*, *Myrmedobia coleoprata*, *Pachycoleus walli*, *Saldula opacula*, *Scolopostethus pictus*, *Sehirus dubius*, *Systemonotus triguttatus*, *Tingis reticulata*, *Tytthus geminus*.

Brief accounts of ecology are given for national RDB and category A nationally scarce species; category B nationally scarce species are merely listed, with annotations for species not recorded since 1970.

Cornwall

Alexander, K.N.A. 1997. *Hemiptera*. pp. 175-189 in: Spalding, A. (ed.) *Red Data Book for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly*. Croceago Press, Camborne.

Criteria for inclusion: all national RDB and nationally scarce (notable) species; also a single species (*Xylocoris cursitans*), listed as locally scarce and regarded as confined to the older parks and pasture-woodlands.

Species included: *Aepophilus bonnairei*, *Aphanus rolandri*, *Berytinus hirticornis*, *Capsodes flavomarginatus*, *Capsodes sulcatus*, *Dicranocephalus agilis*, *Dicranocephalus medius*, *Emblethis griseus*, *Eysarcoris aeneus*, *Geotomus punctulatus*, *Globiceps flavomaculatus*, *Graptopeltus lynceus*, *Halticus macrocephalus*, *Hebrus pusillus*, *Henestaris halophilus*, *Heterogaster artemisiae*, *Lasiacantha capucina*, *Megalonotus antennatus*, *Megalonotus dilatatus*, *Megalonotus praetextatus*, *Megalonotus*

sabulicola, *Microvelia pygmaea*, *Myrmedobia coleoprata*, *Myrmedobia inconspicua*, *Odontoscelis fuliginosa*, *Odontoscelis lineola*, *Physatocheila smreczynskii*, *Piesma quadratum spergulariae*, *Pterotmetus staphyliniformis*, *Raglius alboacuminatus*, *Rhyparochromus pini*, *Sciocoris cursitans*, *Strongylocoris luridus*, *Taphropeltus hamulatus*, *Trapezonotus ulrichi*, *Tropistethus holosericeus*.

Each species receives a useful short account covering range and status, distribution within the county and dates of key records, habitat, threats and conservation measures.

Derbyshire

Budworth, D. 1996. *True bugs*. pp. 120-124 in: Elkington, T. & Willmot, A. (eds.) *Endangered wildlife in Derbyshire. The county Red Data Book*. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derby.

Criteria for inclusion: national RDB and nationally scarce species; species with very few county records in the preceding 15 years (4 is the maximum number listed).

Species included: *Amblytylus brevicollis*, *Aradus depressus*, *Callicorixa wollastoni*, *Campylosteyra verna*, *Chlamydatus evanescens*, *Coriomeris denticulatus*, *Cymus clavicolus*, *Drymus pilicornis*, *Drymus ryei*, *Elasmucha ferrugata*, *Glaencorisa propinqua*, *Globiceps juniperi*, *Halticus luteicollis*, *Ilyocoris cimicoides*, *Monosynamma sabulicola*, *Pitedia juniperina*, *Salda muelleri*, *Salda morio*, *Scolopostethus decoratus*, *Stenodema trispinosum*.

A brief account of ecology and county distribution is given for each species. The record of *Chlamydatus evanescens* is, as the RDB points out, from Staffordshire, but the site (Dovedale) straddles the county boundary. The use of species having few recent records, though understandable in a county where few nationally scarce or rare species are known to occur, has led to the inclusion of one or two rather dubiously scarce species, but on the whole has worked fairly well.

Dorset

Surry, R. 1993. *Bugs (Hemiptera; Heteroptera)*. pp. 74-76 in: Mahon, A. & Pearman, D. (eds.) *Endangered wildlife in Dorset*. Dorset County Council.

Criteria for inclusion: 3 categories are used for the RDB as a whole: National Red Data Book, nationally scarce species; Dorset scarce species (not in categories 1 or 2 but occurring in three or fewer sites in the county. Only species recorded since 1945 are included. The Heteroptera listed are all assigned to the national RDB category. However, the RDB categories used are those of the insect Red Data Book published in 1987. This means that the national statuses used in the Dorset RDB are not the same as those in any other Heteroptera county RDB list, all of which use the proposed statuses of the national review (published in 1992 and used on Invertebrate Site Register printouts and on Recorder software). This, and the absence of nationally scarce species from the list, probably result from the timing of publication.

Species included: *Aradus corticalis*, *Drymus pilipes*, *Drymus pumilio*, *Heterogaster artemisiae*, *Lygus pratensis*, *Micracanthia marginalis*, *Microvelia pygmaea*, *Myrmecoris gracilis*, *Nabis brevis*, *Nabis pseudoferus*, *Nysius helveticus*, *Ortholomus punctipennis*, *Peritrechus gracilicornis*, *Physatocheila harwoodi*, *Piesma quadratum*, *Pyrrhocoris apterus*, *Saldula setulosa*, *Taphropeltus limbatus*, *Tuponia carayoni*.

The inclusion of *Piesma quadratum* is presumably the result of confusion with subspecies *spergulariae*. Nonetheless, the RDB suggests that in Dorset *P. quadratum* is restricted to Poole Harbour. It isn't. A brief account of biology and of national and county occurrence is given for each species.

Lincolnshire

Smith, A.E. (ed.) 1988. *Endangered wildlife in Lincolnshire & South Humberside. A Red Data report*. Lincolnshire & South Humberside Trust for Nature Conservation, Alford.

This book suffers, from the point of view of the Heteroptera, from being a treud-setter. It was published too early to take advantage of most accumulations of data which would have helped produce either a good list or useful statuses. Heteroptera get only a brief mention under "Other invertebrates; insects", p. 101. Only aquatic species are considered. There is no list of RDB species as such, which is perhaps as well since the species mentioned as scarce in the county are *Ilyocoris cimicoides* (probably increasing), *Notonecta maculata* (fond of water troughs and concrete garden ponds) and *Notonecta viridis* (rather common in the south of the county).

Northamptonshire

Colston, A., Gerrard, C., Jackson, M., Moore, L. & Tero, C. 1996. *Northamptonshire's Red Data Book*. The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Peterborough, Northampton. [Bugs, p. 38].

Criteria for inclusion: national Red Data Book and nationally scarce (notable) species.

Species included: *Drymus latus*, *Megalonotus antennatus*, *Tingis reticulata*.

Poor old Northamptonshire. No national RDB Heteroptera, and only three nationally scarce. A brief account of ecology is given for each species.

Northumberland

Kerslake, L. 1998. Red Data Book for Northumberland. *Transactions of the Natural History Society of Northumbria*, 58(2). [Bugs (Hemiptera): sub-order Heteroptera, pp. 105-109]

Criteria for inclusion: all national RDB and nationally scarce (notable) species; species with ten or fewer records for the county (listed as Regionally Notable).

Species included: *Anthocoris limbatus*, *Aradus depressus*, *Arctocoris carinata*, *Callicorixa wollastoni*, *Conostethus brevis*, *Corixa dentipes*, *Cyrtorhinus caricis*, *Dichrooscytus rufipennis*, *Dicyphus constrictus*, *Empicoris culiciformis*, *Empicoris vagabundus*, *Gerris costae*, *Globiceps dispar*, *Halticus apterus*, *Hesperocorixa castanea*, *Heterocordylus genistae*, *Lygus punctatus*, *Megalonotus chiragra*, *Micronecta minutissima*, *Microvelia pygmaea*, *Myrmedobia distinguenda*, *Nepa cinerea*, *Notonecta obliqua*, *Orthops viscicola*, *Pachytomella parallela*, *Salda muelleri*, *Sigara limitata*, *Sigara selecta*, *Stygnocoris rusticus*, *Zicrona caerulea*.

The information for this list was got from the Invertebrate Site Register at English Nature. There was no separate editor for the Heteroptera, and it was perhaps unwise to attempt a RDB list for the group without one. The majority of the included species are listed as regionally notable, but on a national basis are only local. The use of a cut-off number of records within a county or region is always a worrying criterion unless a group is very well-recorded, and has led to some rather surprising inclusions in this RDB. The record of *Micronecta minutissima* (from 1872) is presumably wrong. There are at least two nationally scarce species with recent published records for the county which are not included. Each species has a very brief account of biology and county distribution/key records.

Arbeitsgruppe Mitteleuropäischer Heteropterologen

Dr H.J. Hoffmann has been kind enough to send me copies of the first four issues of *Heteropteron*, the newsletter of the Arbeitsgruppe Mitteleuropäischer Heteropterologen, with the suggestion that the contents could be cited in the *Het. Study Group Newsletter*. I have taken up this suggestion. There are some interesting articles. The group has been meeting since 1975, but only recently began a printed newsletter. Contents are mostly in German, with occasional English summaries. I can produce photocopies of any of the articles listed below for anyone who wants them. For those wanting more information about the group, Dr Hoffmann's address is: Universität zu Köln, Zoologisches Institut I, Weyertal 119, 50931 Köln.

No.1, June 1996

[An introduction to the group and the publication]

Hattwig, F. & Büchs, W. Untersuchungen zur postembryonalen Entwicklung der Wanze *Dolycoris baccarum* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Pentatomidae). pp. 10-12.

Wanzenliteratur Hans-Jürgen Hoffman, pp. 13-14.

No. 2, December 1996

Rietschel, S. Bericht zum 22. Treffen der Arbeitsgruppe Mitteleuropäischer Heteropterologen vom 23-25.08.1996 in Erfurt/Thüringen, pp. 2-4.

Hoffmann, H.J. Zur Wanzenfauna der Grostadt Kln (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) - 2. Nachtrag, pp. 5-7.

Kott, P. Ergebnisse aus der Beschäftigung mit *Prostemma guttula*, pp. 8-10.

Schirdewahn, S. Weitere Ergebnisse zur Wanzenfauna (Heteroptera) ausgewählter Friedhöfe der Stadt Bonn - Drei Neunachweise für NRW, pp. 11-13.

Sühlo, K. Tierökologische Untersuchungen zur Fauna terrestrischer Wanzen (Heteroptera) in ausgewählten Teilbereichen des Roten Luches (Märkische Schweiz, Brandenburg), p. 14.

Werner, D.J. Die Ausbreitung von *Graphosoma lineatum* (Heteroptera - Pentatomidae), 15-18.

Hoffmann, H.J. Die Platanen-Gitterwanze *Corythuca ciliata* (Say) weiter auf dem Vornarsch (Hemiptera-Heteroptera: Tingidae), pp.

- Wanzenliteratur Hannes Günther, p. 22.
 Wanzenliteratur Peter Kott, p. 23.
 Wanzenliteratur Gunther Bornholdt, p. 23.
 "Graue" Literatur 1. Teil: Diplom- und Doktorarbeiten, p. 23-24.

No. 3, July 1997

- Frau Dr Ursula Göllner-Scheidig zum 75. Geburtstag (includes a bibliography), pp. 3-6.
 Hoffmann, H.J. Ergänzungen zur Wanzenfauna des Moselgebietes (Hemiptera-Heteroptera), pp. 7-13.
 Werner, D.J. Die Streifenwanze *Graphosoma lineatum* L. (Hemiptera-Pentatomidae) in Meckleburg-Vorpommern, Berlin und Brandenburg, pp. 15-22.
 Zimmermann, G. Zur Verbreitung und Gefährdung (Rote Liste) der aquatischen und semiaquatischen Heteropteren Hessens (Nepomorpha und Gerronomorpha), pp. 23-31.
 Heiss, E. Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen, pp. 32-35.
 Rietschel, S. Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen, p. 35.
 Zimmermann, G. Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen, pp. 35.
 Wanzenliteratur: Neuerscheinungen, pp. 35-36.

No. 4, January 1998

- Voigt, K. Bericht über das 23. Treffen der "Arbeitsgruppe Mitteleuropäischer Heteropterologen in Eichstätt, pp. 3-5.
 Wegener, Ch. Serologische Untersuchungen zum Nachweis der Prädatoren von *Notostira elongata*, p. 6.
 Werner, D.J. Ergebnisse aus Zuchtversuchen von Verschiedenen Heteropteren (Pentatomidae, Lygaeidae, Coreidae, Stenoccephalidae, Rhopalidae), pp. 7-10.
 Rietschel, S. *Arocatus longiceps* Stal, 1873 (Lygaeidae) ein Platanen-Neubürger in Mitteleuropa, pp. 11-12.
 Hoffmann, H.J. Zu einem Massenvorkommen von *Arocatus roeselii* in der Großstadt Frankfurt/Main, pp. 13-16.
 Hoffmann, H.J. Bearbeitung der Heteropteren für das Projekt "Entomofauna Germanica", pp. 17-19.
 Hoffmann, H.J. 2. Nachtrag zur Wanzenfauna des Moselgebietes (Hemiptera-Heteroptera), p. 20.
 Martschei, Th. Bibliographie der Veröffentlichungen über Wanzen (Heteroptera) in Meckleburg-Vorpommern, pp. 23-26.
 Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen K. Adlbauer, p. 27.
 Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen W.H.O. Dorow, p. 27.
 Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen Fr. Faraci, pp. 27-28.
 Verzeichnis der Wanzenpublikationen R. Heckmann, p. 28.
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English names of Heteroptera

I am only moderately disappointed to find that no-one has apparently invented any additional English names for British bugs (or, for that matter, sent me any already in existence). I had thought expressing mild disapproval would summon forth lyric nomenclature to make even the more arcane Lepidoptera names seem merely commonplace in comparison. No doubt everyone is too busy conscientiously preserving biodiversity to find time for anything so frivolous. Not so me. Always happier to fritter time pointlessly away than to do anything useful (for it is on futile frittering that civilisation is truly built, and by its permissible duration that the height of civilisation is best measured) I have attempted to give a small kick to the process by suggesting a few names of my own. I have chosen to name the British members of the Microphysidae, Ceratocombidae and Dipsocoridae, on the grounds that they don't always receive quite the attention they deserve, and providing English names might make them more accessible to a popular audience. Here they are:

<i>Loricula elegantula</i>	the tasteful tiny
<i>Loricula pselaphiformis</i>	the tubby tiny
<i>Myrmedobia distinguenda</i>	the stylish tiny
<i>Myrmedobia exilis</i>	the thin tiny
<i>Myrmedobia coleoprata</i>	the tough tiny
<i>Myrmedobia inconspicua</i>	the little tiny
<i>Pachycoleus waltli</i>	the light drinker
<i>Ceratocombus coleopratus</i>	the dark drinker
<i>Cryptostemma alienum</i>	the secret drinker

Batbugs

Les Jessop has been looking for records of *Cimex pipistrelli*, and not finding very many. If anyone out there has any records, I'm sure he would be delighted to hear from you at: Sunderland Museum & Art Gallery, Borough Road, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear SR1 1PP.

A note on finding and recognising *Saldula opacula*

Saldula opacula is a species with a declining reputation as a rarity. Southwood & Leston gave confirmed records from coastal marshes of Suffolk and Norfolk only. They keyed it out using the ratio of the lengths of the first and second antennal segments. Such segment ratios are difficult to use, not least because the first antennal segment is not symmetrical at the end, and this, coupled with a warning of the likelihood of mistaking a variety of *S. saltatoria* (*marginella*) for *S. opacula*, has probably frightened a few people off deciding that they have *opacula* in the past. Keys from elsewhere in Europe have tended not to involve themselves with such ratios. In Péracart (1990), *opacula* can be separated from *saltatoria* on the basis of a continuously pale corial margin and an unmarked, or poorly marked, front tibia. I've found this to work well with such British material as I have seen. Some specimens are ambiguous in one or other characteristic, and occasional ones are ambiguous in both, but this is just the way it is in *Saldula*: it doesn't seem wise to assume that every individual will be identifiable. I notice another difference which appears consistent in the material that I've identified. Whereas *S. saltatoria* has quite a lot of rather fluffy golden pubescence on the fore-wings, especially towards the base, *S. opacula* has relatively very little. As a result, *S. opacula* looks much neater: the dark pubescence lies in a uniform direction and gives it a nicely-combed look; the golden hairs on *saltatoria* are wiggly and erratic in direction, making it look comparatively scruffy. The difference in the pubescence is just about detectable in the field with the naked eye on a bright sunny day, when the gold pubescence of *saltatoria* is more conspicuous. The difference tends to decline with age, inevitably, as the rather loose gold pubescence of *saltatoria* wears off relatively easily. To the eye (or at least to my eye) *opacula* also appears rather more parallel-sided and rather longer relative to width than *saltatoria*, but this character seems to defy measurement.

There have been quite a lot of records of *S. opacula* since Southwood & Leston, and these are not only fairly widely distributed but also cover a wide habitat range. It seems most frequent in brackish ditches and pools near the south and east coasts, seeming to like sheltered moderately saline areas and not to wander onto saltmarshes where it might be upset by the tide. It also occurs in old fens and washlands in East Anglia, beside upland peat pools in Scotland, and I've recently found it beside pools in clay pits in Peterborough. It often occurs with other *Saldula* species - indeed, I have never seen it alone. These other species include the omnipresent *S. saltatoria*, but in brackish waters it can occur with *S. pilosella* and *S. palustris*, and I have also seen it with *S. pallipes*. Such multiple additional species increase the likelihood of missing *opacula*. Beside brackish ditches, this is especially the case because *opacula* appears to live in more heavily vegetated places than the other *Saldula* occurring with it. While *S. saltatoria*, *pilosella* and *palustris* occur on bare mud and are relatively easily caught, in such places *opacula* is more likely to be found amongst *Bolboschoenus* or other tall marginal vegetation, often with *Chartoscirta cincta*.

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Péricart, J. 1990. Hemiptères Saldidae et Leptopodidae d'Europe occidentale et du Maghreb. *Faune de France*, 77.

Aquatic Heteroptera recording scheme in the British Isles

Thomas Huxley, The Old Manse, Pitcairngreen, Perth PH1 3LR

(Tel.: 01738-583397, Fax: 01738-582113, E-mail: t.huxley@btinternet.com)

Changes re National Scheme Organisers

There are now two National Scheme organisers for aquatic bugs. In England, Wales and Scotland (= Britain) records should be sent to me at the above address: in Ireland to Brian Nelson at the Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast BT9 5AB, NI (Tel: 01232-383000, Fax: 01232-383003, E-mail: brian.nelson.um@nics.gov.uk). Eventually, Brian and I intend to provide the BRC with an atlas for the British Isles. In the meantime, the need is for a major effort to send records for England, Wales and Scotland to me and for Ireland to Brian Nelson and we shall each provide feedback for our respective areas.

Our warmest thanks go to John Blackburn at the ITE River Laboratory, Dorset for having discharged the role of National Scheme Organiser with dedication for so many years.

Feedback reports re Britain

Two reports have been produced. The first is my annual update of how the scheme is progressing in Britain with accounts of my own recording in Scotland and north England (Huxley, 1999a). This report follows my earlier progress reports mainly about Scotland. The second provides preliminary maps for 56 species in Britain (Huxley 1999b). Originally both reports were produced privately with a limited circulation to recorders who had made substantial contributions. However, Paul Harding has kindly agreed to run off more copies of the second report with maps and these should be requested from the BRC at Monks Wood.

At any time, I can provide up-to-date "allspecies" maps for Britain showing 10-km squares for which there is at least one record and "zoomed-in" maps at, say, 1-km centres, for parts of the country of particular interest to individual recorders. This service is provided free of charge but I expect a quid pro quo of new records.

Progress since last Newsletter No. 13 (March 1998)

This was accompanied by a separate document reporting on efforts to map the distribution of aquatic bugs in Britain using RECORDER and DMAP. It included a map showing distribution of records at 10-km centres based on 8467 records producing 899 symbols, i.e. at March 1998 there was at least one record for 899 10-km squares. At 31 December 1998, the number of records had increased to 13,166 and number of symbols to 1,248. Much of this increase has been due to records being sent to me, in consequence of the Newsletter alerting recorders that the aquatic bug scheme was moving forward. Thank you.

Regarding England and Wales, the main gaps are in the following parts of 100-km squares: southern two-thirds of NZ(45), parts of SD(34) and SE(44), northern half of TF(53), central Wales and the marches, i.e. SN(22) and nearby, much of SP(42) and, in southern England, almost everything west of TQ(51), except for the Isle of Wight which is well surveyed.

Sending in records

As stated frequently before, I much prefer it if people submit records using BRC aquatic bug cards. However, if you must use some other method, PLEASE MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE THE VICE-COUNTY, PREFERABLY USING THE WATSONIAN NAME. My SITE system is predicated on Vice-counties and so, without knowing the vice-county, I cannot enter a record. I can, of course (albeit sometimes with difficulty), derive the Vice-county from the grid reference and location name but this is tedious and disrupts the rhythm of entering records. If the wrong Vice-county is given (or the wrong grid reference) RECORDER shouts! And of course records should include date recorded, location name, and name of determiner if different to recorder. If you use a BRC card, dates of records made on several dates can be batched on one card, eg 10.2.95-18.7.99; ditto records made from several nearby habitats within, say, the same 10-km square. BRC cards provide space for succinct habitat data, altitude, etc. This information is not essential for entering records but it is of interest in learning something about the places collecting has taken place.

Conclusion

Brian and I look forward to reporting in the Millennium Newsletter that excellent progress has been made in 1999. IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU!

Bibliography

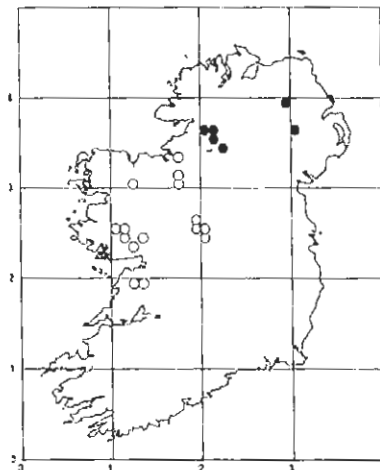
- Huxley, T. 1999a. *Distribution of aquatic bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) in Britain: 2nd Supplement to 1997 Report.*
- Huxley, T. 1999b. *Distribution of aquatic bugs (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) in England, Wales and Scotland: 1st Feedback Report.*

Aquatic Heteroptera Recording Scheme - an update from Ireland

Brian Nelson, Dept. of Zoology, Ulster Museum, Belfast BT9 5AB
(Tel.: 01232 383145, E-mail: brian.nelson.um@nics.gov.uk)

It is fair to say that the state of the recording scheme in Ireland is not on as sound a footing as in Britain. The modern records are heavily biased towards N. Ireland. Coverage here is very good and distribution maps covering most of the species have been published (1995, *Bulletin of the Irish biogeographical Society* 18: 66-131). Irish maps are presented here for the two species absent from Britain, *Sigara fallenoidea* and *Limnopus rufoscutellatus*.

Sigara fallenoidea is confined to very large lowland lakes in the north and centre of Ireland. Most of these are base-rich, but contrary to earlier accounts it is not confined to these. I would not expect this species to occur in Britain. It has a similar distribution to some other freshwater organisms which occur in northern Europe and Ireland but not in Britain. The pollan, a coregonid fish, and the Irish damselfly *Coenagrion lunulatum* have similar patterns. *S. fallenoidea* also occurs in North America in the central states of Canada.



Limnopus rufoscutellatus is a truly spectacular insect. It is the size of female *Aquarius najas* and has a reddish pronotum which is obvious in the field. *L. rufoscutellatus* has been found in the north and south-west of Ireland. There is an additional record for Co. Cork which I have not mapped as yet. This record refers to a breeding population. *L. rufoscutellatus* is undoubtedly a resident in Ireland. I have seen individuals in all months and dead adults on a lake in spring. This latter was on a small lake in the far west of Donegal, Lough O'Muilligan, which is situated on the edge of the Atlantic on Slieve League. It is well worth a visit for the view if nothing else. The species has mainly been taken on small mesotrophic and oligotrophic lakes typically with *Carex rostrata* beds but also on small pools on cutover bogs, and amongst sparse reed beds on Upper Lough Erne. I consider there is a possibility it may occur in western Scotland.

Other records

Hydrometra gracilentata was found for the first time in Ireland at Kilkieran Lake (W338344) in Co. Cork in 1991. This came to light during a survey of brackish lagoons. Also found during this survey was *Sigara selecta* on one of the Aran Islands. The only previous Irish record was one from Kerry. The same survey produced many records of *Sigara stagnalis* all round the Irish coast and *Notonecta viridis* along the south coast. These records are referred to in Oliver, G. & Healy, B. 1998. Records of aquatic fauna from coastal lagoons in Ireland. *Bull. Ir. biogeogr. Soc.* 21: 66-115.