



Het News

Newsletter of the UK Heteroptera Recording Schemes

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Spring 2014
3rd series

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Announcements

The future of *Het News*

This is the first issue of *Het News* to appear for some time and comes with a change of editorship, following the resignation of Bernard Nau and Sheila Brooke. Bernard and Sheila produced *Het News* to a very high standard for many years and I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their hard work in making it such a useful and authoritative reference work.

While I am very happy to take over the editorial duties of *Het News*, the scope of this 3rd series will be greatly reduced in comparison to its previous incarnation as a fully-fledged newsletter and e-journal. The publication will now function largely as a newsletter, with a focus on providing the following:

- updates on species new to Britain
- summaries of significant national and regional records
- a forum for announcements and requests for information
- contact details for county recorders and recording scheme organisers

The success of this enterprise is, as ever, entirely dependent on its contributors, so **please do send any short items or records which you feel are worthy of inclusion** to tristanba@googlemail.com.

A new e-journal for Hemiptera

In order to fill the void left by this new shorter format of *Het News*, a new e-journal *The Hemipterist* has been launched to cater for longer papers, edited by Rob Ryan.

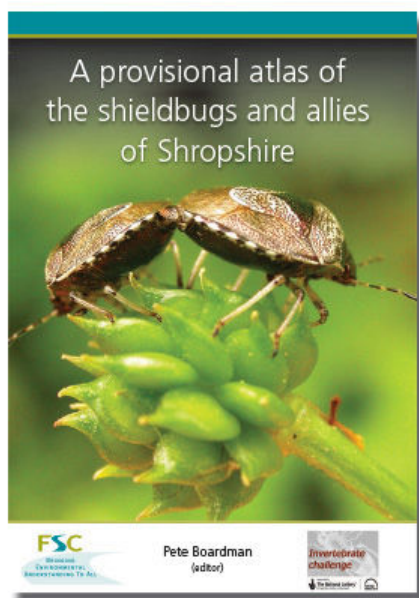
The journal aims to provide a quick and easy means for authors to publish their work on the natural history of the Hemiptera of the British Isles

Contributions should be sent in Microsoft Word format to TheHemipterist@gmail.com. All submissions are reviewed by the editor, and a proof of the work in PDF format is supplied prior to publication.

Both *Het News* and *The Hemipterist* will be made available for download on the British Bugs website at <http://www.britishbugs.org.uk/HetNews.html>.

Shropshire Shieldbug Atlas

'A provisional atlas of the shieldbugs and allies of Shropshire' is now available from the Field Studies Council. This publication maps all known species of shieldbugs and allies in the county. The idea for the atlas was germinated in 2009 at the Worcestershire Entomology Day and the cause progressed over the course of the Invertebrate Challenge project led by Pete Boardman.



Throughout the project recording days were organised at various sites in a variety of habitats. These provided additional training in finding and identifying shieldbugs and their allies to more fledgling recorders. The organised days continued throughout the atlas period, but as individuals' confidence and depth of knowledge increased, they set out to explore the rest of the county, culminating in a busy final season as the deadline for record submission approached. The result of this effort is the collation of over 3000 records.

Copies are £15.00 and can be ordered online via the FSC website, or customers can phone 01952 208910, fax 01952 208919 or e-mail publications@field-studies-council.org

The proceeds of this book will go towards the remaining four atlases we are planning to release this year, covering Shropshire's long-horned beetles, bees, wasps & ants, micro-lepidoptera, and craneflies.

Pete Boardman & Keith Fowler

Kent Shieldbug Atlas

Kent is the latest county to undertake an atlas project focused on the 64 species of shieldbugs and allies. The survey organiser is Jonathan Barnard and all records should be sent to KentshieldbugAtlas@gmail.com.

Jonathan will also take on county recorder duties for Kent, following the sad death of Eric Philp last winter.

Jonathan Barnard

Bugs & Hoppers of Surrey

With publication anticipated for autumn 2016, the Bugs & Hoppers of Surrey is a twenty year project finally coming to fruition. Any additional records and information are most welcome for inclusion in the atlas. Remember, if we don't know it is out there it won't get in!

The book will follow the existing Surrey Wildlife Trust atlas format, with all species mapped to 2km. Aquatic bugs and Shield Bugs and allies have already been covered in the Surrey Atlas series, but a lot has changed so updated maps and accounts will be included. Species coverage maps and sample species accounts can be found at:

<http://jontydenton.co.uk/surrey-bug-hopper-atlas/>

Please send all Surrey records of heteroptera, auchenorrhyncha and psylloidea to JontyDenton@aol.com

Jonty Denton & Tristan Bantock

County Recorder News

East and West Norfolk (VC27 & 28) are now covered by Rob Coleman and all records should be sent to mail@rob-coleman.co.uk.

East and West Kent (VC15 & 16) are now covered by Jonathan Barnard and all records should be sent to KentshieldbugAtlas@gmail.com.

East and West Sussex (VC13 & 14) are now covered by Graeme Lyons and all records should be sent to graemelyons@sussexwt.org.uk.

IUCN Status Reviews for Heteroptera

Following the first phase of data collation in 2013, it is hoped that Natural England will be able to fund the completion of two status reviews for Heteroptera during 2014. These will cover shieldbugs & allies and aquatic Heteroptera and be authored by Tristan Bantock and Tony Cook respectively.

It is not too late to submit records for inclusion in this exercise. The plant bugs & allies recording scheme is also actively collating records for a future review. Please send all records to the relevant national scheme organisers:

Aquatic Heteroptera (Waterbugs & allies): Tony Cook (tony.cook20@btinternet.com)

Terrestrial Heteroptera (Plantbugs & allies): Jim Flanagan (jimflanagan@btinternet.com)

Terrestrial Heteroptera (Shieldbugs & allies): Tristan Bantock (tristanba@googlemail.com)

Species new to Britain

Coranus aethiops (Reduviidae)

Stuart Foster has re-examined a series of *Coranus* specimens collected on Thorne and Hatfield Moors (VC63) in 1979 and 1990 and concluded that they all belong to *C. aethiops* (Foster 2013). The bugs were originally mis-

identified as *C. subpaterus*. This boreo-alpine assassin bug is much more cold tolerant than its congeners and must be regarded as a post-glacial relict species in Britain which has long been overlooked. It can be distinguished from both *C. subapterus* and *C. woodroffeii* by its black or almost completely black abdominal venter, as well as differences in the shape of the male parameres.

References

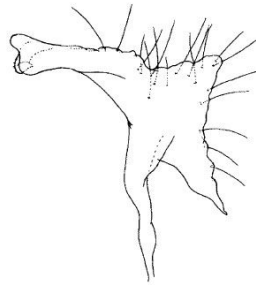
Foster, S. (2013) *Coranus aethiops* Jakolev (Hemiptera : Reduviidae) – New to Britain, from South Yorkshire. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* 26: 185-186

Tristan Bantock

Orthotylus junipericola (Miridae)

In recent years many people have reported finding small Orthotylinines on *Cupressus* in the London area, which did not match any of the known British species. Peter Hodge was the first to collect examples from Kingston Cemetery (VC17) on 15.ix.2008. My first specimens were taken in Morden Park (VC17) on 23.vii.2009 and I subsequently found the species in Chiswick (VC21) during 2011. Further records are from Cheshunt (VC20) on 3.ix.2012 (Jonty Denton) and Crystal Palace (VC17) on 19.vii.2013 (Mark Telfer). In all cases bugs were beaten from *Cupressus*.

In 2012 I showed several to Fedor Konstantinov, who confirmed their identity as *Orthotylus junipericola*. This species was previously known only from Tunisia, but is now recorded from much of Europe, including northern France, where it was found on *Cupressus* rather than *Juniperus*. Carapezza (1997) provides a very comprehensive account of this species with excellent figures of the male claspers (Fig. 1).



Left: *Orthotylus junipericola* ©T. Bantock. Right: ♂ left clasper (after Carapezza, 1997)

References

Carapezza, A. (1997) Heteroptera of Tunisia. *Naturalista Siciliano* 21:Suppl. A1–331.

Tristan Bantock

Dyroderes umbractulatus (Pentatomidae)

A single specimen of this attractive shieldbug was swept by Ken Merrifield at Perivale Wood (VC21, TQ1683) on 29.vi.2013. The species is known from the Channel Islands, but this is the first record for mainland Britain. The foodplants in much of continental Europe are bedstraws *Galium* spp.



Dyroderes umbractulatus ©T. Bantock

References

Nau, B.S., Merrifield, R.K. & Merrifield, R. M. (2013) *Dyroderes umbractulatus* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae: Sciocorini) new to Britain and related possible immigrants. *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History* 27: 13-20.

Tristan Bantock

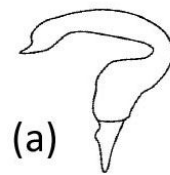
Notostira erratica (Miridae)

Brian Nelson recorded a single *Notostira erratica* male at Aston Rowant NNR, Oxfordshire in October 2013, adding this species to the British list. The species is present in Ireland where it replaces the very similar *N. elongata*.

Like *N. elongata*, this bug is both sexually and seasonally dimorphic and only males can be reliably separated with reference to the claspers (Fig. 2a,d). However, winter *N. erratica* females usually have longer wings than *N. elongata* (Fig. 2b,e) and there are apparently also differences in shape of the abdominal sternites (Fig. 2c,f).

Full details will follow in the *British Journal of Entomology and Natural History*.

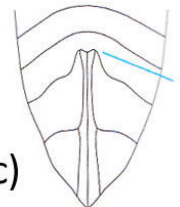
elongata



(a)

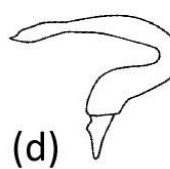


(b)



(c)

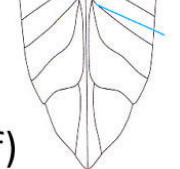
erratica



(d)



(e)



(f)

Fig. 2a,d ♂ left clasper

Fig. 2b,e ♀ winter form forewing apex

Fig. 2c,f ♀ abdominal underside apex

Fig. 2a,c,d,f after Rintala & Rinne (2011), Fig. 2b,e after Gaun (1974)

References

Gaun, S. (1974) Blomstertaeger. Danmarks Fauna, bind 81.

Rintala, T. & Rinne, V. (2011) Suomen luteet. 2. pianos. Hyönteistarkvike Tibiale Oy. Helsinki.

Species notes

COREIDAE

Coreus marginatus

First records for Lincolnshire:

Teal Lake, Whisby Nature Park (VC53, SK924668).

One adult on 13.vii.2013 (Alan Lazenby)

Boultham Moor (VC53, SK965683). One adult on 26.ix.2013 (Mick Talbot).



Coreus marginatus at Boultham Moor ©M. Talbot

Gonocerus acuteangulatus

Further records for Norfolk and Gloucestershire:

Shotesham (VC27, TM245995). One adult on 6.iv.2013 (Andy Musgrove).

Nunnery Lakes (VC28, TL8781). One adult on 20.iv.2013 (Andy Musgrove).

Bagendon (VC33, SP006069). One adult on Box on 17.x.2013 (John Widgery)

Woolstone (VC33, SO959302). One adult on Box on 8.x.2013 (John Widgery)

Cheltenham (VC33, SO9523). Three adults on Box on 7.x.2013 (John Widgery)

CYDNIIDAE

Canthophorus impressus

First record for East Sussex:

Southerham Downs (VC14, TQ432101). Two adults on 15.iv.2013 (Graeme Lyons).

Tritomegas sexmaculatus

Further records from Kent. In all cases bugs were associated with stands of Black Horehound *Ballota nigra*:
Dartford (VC16, TQ568745). One adult on 27.ix.2012 (Trevor Pendleton)

Bingley's Island, Canterbury (VC16, TR140576). Several nymphs collected on 22.viii.2012 and reared to adult (Tristan Bantock)

Faversham (VC16, TR021620) One adult on 24.vi.2013 (Peter Pearson)

Minster Marshes (VC16, TR308629) 12 adults on 29.ix.2013 (Tim Hodge)

Westbere (VC16, TR1961) A very large colony of over 1000 individuals discovered during 2013 (Jonathan Barnard)



Tritomegas sexmaculatus adults and final instar nymphs on *Ballota nigra*. Photo ©J. Barnard

PENTATOMIDAE

Second interception of *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Britain

The Brown Marmorated Stink bug *Halyomorpha halys* is a large shield bug native to East Asia (China, Japan, North and South Korea, and Taiwan). It is a highly invasive species that is rapidly expanding its geographical range in North America (Canada and the USA; first detected 1996) and Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Lichtenstein and Switzerland; first detected 2004). In the USA, it is a household pest (one house in Western Maryland was infested with over 26,000 individuals between January and June 2011) and has caused unprecedented damage to agriculture crops (the most severe losses have been reported in apples, peaches, sweet corn, peppers, and field crops including wheat and soybeans).

Halyomorpha halys has been found on two occasions in Britain. In September 2013, a single live adult was intercepted at Teesport, North Yorkshire, associated with a consignment of stone imported from China (det. Christine Tilbury of Forest Research). Previously, in April 2010, two live adult *H. halys* were found in London, in association with passenger luggage flown in from the USA. *Halyomorpha halys* is expanding its range in Europe and has the potential to establish in southern Britain. Adult bugs frequently travel long distances as stowaways, either in vehicles, ships or planes. The potential economic impact in the UK that *H. halys* may have on the agricultural and horticultural industries, particularly on pome and stone fruit trees, is relatively low, as although climatic conditions are suitable for establishment, low summer temperatures will limit this species to one generation per year. Reports from the USA suggest that more than one generation per year is required before serious economic damage is observed.

The bug may be identified using the following links:
<http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/plants/publications/plantPestDiseaseFactsheets.cfm>
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/pestalert/pabrownmarmorated.html>
<http://njaes.rutgers.edu/stinkbug/identify.asp>

In Britain, it is most similar in appearance to the hairy shield bug *Dolycoris baccarum* (L.), which is common and widespread in Britain. Adult *D. baccarum* may be distinguished from adult *H. halys* as it is smaller, about 11-12 mm long, and covered in long hairs, whereas *H. halys* is about 17 mm and not covered in long hairs.

Halyomorpha halys is likely to be encountered in Britain in the future (especially at light traps) and is just one more example of an exotic introduction resulting from anthropogenic activities such as international trade and travel.

Chris Malumphy

The Food and Environment Research Agency, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, UK
Email: chris.malumphy@fera.gsi.gov.uk
Web: www.defra.gov.uk/fera

***Carpocoris* species in Britain**

The genus *Carpocoris* contains several species in Europe and these shieldbugs are notoriously variable and difficult to identify. There has been much debate regarding the taxonomy of this group, in particular whether *Carpocoris mediterraneus* should be regarded as a good species. A recent study (Lupoli et al., 2013) combining DNA barcoding with a re-examination of various morphological and genitalic characters concluded that this taxon is indeed valid. Using the new identification key presented in this paper, Alex Ramsay has checked the *Carpocoris* specimens present in the British collection of the Natural History Museum and confirmed records of *C. mediterraneus atlanticus*, as well as *C. purpureipennis*.

References

Lupoli, R., Dusoulier, F., Cruaud, A., Cros-Arteil, S. & Streito, J. (2013) Morphological, biogeographical and molecular evidence of *Carpocoris mediterraneus* as a valid species (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae). *Zootaxa* 3609 (4): 392-410.

Tristan Bantock

Peribalus strictus

Further records from the south coast of England:
Whippingham, Isle of Wight (VC10, SZ514935). A single adult on 24.iv.2011 (Roger Hewitt).
Boscombe Chine (VC11 SZ109912), Two adults on 13.vi.2012 (Robert Walker).

Rhaphigaster nebulosa

Further records from the London area:
Wembley (VC21, TQ338755). Multiple adults on various dates during 2012 and 2013 (Jean Geiger).
Warwick Gardens (VC17, TQ337762). Multiple adults and nymphs on various dates during 2012 and 2013 (Penny Frith).
Earl's Court (VC21, TQ250784). A single adult on 21.vii.10 (Richard Jones); retrospectively the first for Britain.
Newham (VC18 TQ48). Adult and nymph on 3.ix.2013 (Mark Telfer).

RHOPALIDAE

Liorhyssus hyalinus

Newham (VC18 TQ48). Adult on 3.ix.2013 (Mark Telfer)
Queen Elizabeth Park (VC18 TQ378838). Adult on 31.vii.2013 (Marcel Ashby)
Horton, Gower (VC41 SS47838561). Adult to MV light on 4.x.2013 (Barry Stewart)
Horsell Common, Woking (VC17 SU994607). Adult on 23.vii.2013 (Andrew Halstead)
Hockham Pits, Great Hockham (VC28 TL933913). Adult on 23.viii.2013 (Geoff Nobes)

Corizus hyoscyami

The inland and northerly spread of this species continues unabated. Further records from many counties including the first records for VC63:

From garden of residential property in Worsbrough Common, Barnsley (VC63 SE3405). Adult on 17.vii.2013 (Dennis Giggall)
Moorends former colliery pit, Doncaster (VC63 SE7016). Adult on 7.viii.2013 (Stuart Foster)

LYGAEIDAE

***Arocatus roeselii* in Britain?**

During 2013, a species closely resembling *Arocatus roeselii* was found on *Alnus* at multiple sites in southern England. This has reopened the debate regarding the taxonomic differences between *roeselii* and *longiceps*, initially prompted by the realisation that published morphological characters failed to assign long-series of *Platanus*-feeding *Arocatus* to a single species (Barclay 2007, Hoffmann 2008). Further recent work suggests that the species limits of these two species have become even more confused. There are no genitalic differences between bugs on *Alnus* and those on *Platanus* and genetic studies have also failed to separate them (Hoffmann 2012). The only apparent difference between these two species is ecological; *longiceps* feeding on *Platanus* and *roeselii* on *Alnus*.

This raises intriguing questions about the appearance of '*roeselii*' in Britain. If the two species really are distinct and ecologically isolated, then *roeselii* must have arrived independently of *longiceps*. However, it is tempting and perhaps more plausible to suggest that the *Alnus*-feeding populations are descended from those associated with *Platanus*, in which case they would be nothing more than different forms of the same species.

Alnus-feeding *Arocatus* have so far been found in Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Huntingdonshire, on mature trees growing along river corridors. All known records are listed below:

King's Meads (VC20, TL344137). A single male beaten from *Alnus* on 25.vi.2013 (Tristan Bantock).
Buckden Gravel Pits (VC32 TL2168). Several adults and nymphs beaten from *Alnus* on 11.viii.2013 (Tristan Bantock & Marcel Ashby).

River Cherwell, Oxford (VC20 SP5108). Several adults beaten from *Alnus* on 31.viii.2013 (Rob Ryan).

References

Barclay, M. (2007) Some observations and thoughts on the *Platanus* feeding *Arocatus* "*roeselii*" (Lygaeidae) established in London. *Het News*, 10: 8-9.

Hoffmann, H.J. (2008) On Plane trees, not only *Arocatus longiceps* (Lygaeidae) but also *Arocatus roeselii*? *Het News* 12: 4-6.

Hoffmann, H.J. (2012) Versuche einer gentechnischen Differenzierung Platanen-bewohnender Wanzen der Gattung *Arocatus* (Heteroptera, Lygaeidae). *Heteropteron* 37: 23-26

Tristan Bantock

Nysius huttoni – on the increase?

This New Zealand native has been found widely and in numbers during 2013, with records from Suffolk, Essex, Kent and West Sussex; the latter new for the county:

Crumbles, Eastbourne, (VC14, TQ6503). Hundreds of adults swarming in a bare sandy area on 6.vii.2013 (Graeme Lyons).

Rhyparochromus vulgaris

Home Park, Hampton Court (VC21, TQ1688). Many adults hibernating under willow bark on 5.ix.2013 (Jonty Denton)



Rhyparochromus vulgaris ©S. Cole

Duke's Meadows, Chiswick (VC21, TQ2076). One adult under log on 27.viii.13. (Mick Massie).

Drymus pumilio

Filsham Reedbed (VC41, TQ775097). Several adults in moss on 21.iii.2013 (Graeme Lyons).

Megalonotus species in Yorkshire and *M. sabulicola* new to the county

Megalonotus chiragra, though infrequent, is the most commonly recorded species of its genus in Yorkshire. The Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Hemiptera database, held by Stuart Foster, has records from five localities in South Yorkshire (VC 63) and one from Flixton, on the boundary between VC 61 and 62.

There are only two published Yorkshire records of *M. praetextatus* and both refer to its presence of at Spurn, East Yorkshire (VC 61) (G.B. Walsh, *Naturalist* 1924: 219;

C. Hincks, *Naturalist* 1951:145); I have not examined vouchers for these records and I am not aware of any other Yorkshire captures, published or not.

Megalonotus emarginatus has been taken by Stuart Foster at two localities in South Yorkshire but his records remain unpublished.

There is an unpublished record of *M. dilatatus* for VC 61, at Barmby Moor in 2011, collected by Roy Crossley and determined by me, and another for South Yorkshire is also unpublished as yet.

On 20.viii.2013, I visited the coastal dunes at Beacon Lagoons Nature Reserve in East Yorkshire (TA4116), just to the north of the more famous Spurn Nature Reserve, to collect insects. Turning over a piece of folded fabric lying on the sand surface among dune grasses, I found that it had a strong smell reminiscent of fox. Its under surface and folds yielded perhaps ten or a dozen mostly adult specimens of *Megalonotus* and no other insects. As it is unusual to find any members of this genus in Yorkshire, I secured about half of the bugs and let the remainder go.

On examination at home, I found the sample comprised the following two species: *Megalonotus chiragra*, one macropterous male and one submacropterous female. *M. sabulicola*, one submacropterous male, two submacropterous females, one macropterous female. The powerful fox odour may have served as an attractant to the bugs and might even be genus-specific, given that no other insects were present.

W.R. Dolling

MIRIDAE

Tropidosteptes pacificus

The second British record. A single specimen found in malaise trap material collected in the wildlife garden of the Natural History Museum (VC21, TQ265790) between 3.x.2012 and 10.x.2012. (Tristan Bantock)

Macrotylus solitarius breeding on Marsh Woundwort

On 16th July 2013, whilst surveying a species-rich unimproved wet meadow next to Hedge End Station in South Hampshire (SU4915), I swept dozens of *M. solitarius* from luxuriant stands of flowering Marsh Woundwort *Stachys palustris*. Adults were still numerous on 8th August, despite many of the flower stems and surrounding tussocks being flattened to the ground (probably by human trampling). I have only taken this bug on Hedge Woundwort *S.sylvatica*, although Dolling (2006) reported the species from this hostplant. Both these woundworts hybridize freely and the Hybrid Woundwort *Stachys x ambigua* can persist in quite dry sites in the absence of *S.palustris* with which it is most easily confused. It may therefore be worth looking for the bugs on the hybrid.

Jonty Denton

31 Thorn Lane, Four Marks, Hants GU34 5BX

References

Dolling, W. R. (2006) Unusual hostplants in Yorkshire. *Het News* 6: 14

***Deraeocoris flavilinea* – further northward range extension**

Last year our recorder for plantbugs & allies received a number of photographs of *Deraeocoris flavilinea* from locations in Lancaster (VC60) taken by Brian Price. The sightings occurred during July and August in the north part of Lancaster, north of the River Lune (SD4662 and SD4663). The records are possibly the first for VC60 and make these the most northerly stations so far recorded for this species in Britain.

D. flavilinea was previously recorded for the first time in the county during 2008 from a site near Crosby (VC59) to the north of Liverpool by J. McGaw. Steve Judd lists this and another VC59 record from Hulme in Manchester for the period up to 2011 (Judd, 2011).

On the opposite side of the country *D. flavilinea* was recorded by Bill Dolling from Elstronwick (TA2232) a few miles northeast of Hull (VC61) on 4th July 2011 where he obtained two female specimens from beating hazel in his garden. It is likely to have spread further north from this area since then and may also already be present in Cumbria.

References

Judd, S. (2011) Checklist of Heteroptera recorded from Cheshire & Lancashire (VCs 59/60) *Het News*, 2nd Series, 17/18: 25-26

Jim Flanagan

***Capsodes gothicus* re-discovered in South Yorkshire after 95 year absence and a summary of other Yorkshire records**

The striking mirid bug *Capsodes gothicus* has been re-discovered in South Yorkshire at a site ('The Brecks') in the Rotherham area. The only previous record (and until this latest discovery the only one for VC63) was from a site in Doncaster (Martin Beck) in 1917 by H.H. Corbett (Naturalist, 1918: 262). The Rotherham record came to light through a contact on Flickr who alerted me to the publication of a photo by Glyn Ryles, a local photographer who lived very near to the site where he found the bugs in late June 2013. I was able to visit the site a few days later and found several in a rather un-remarkable mix of scrubby woodland and open glade habitat, along a footpath lined with bracken, scrub (bramble) and creeping soft-grass and other species such as angelica and rosebay willowherb. There was no sign of the usual host plant – greater bird's-foot trefoil – within the immediate vicinity but nearby ancient semi-natural woodland is on very steep and varied terrain with seepages common so the plant may be present albeit in inaccessible spots.



Capsodes gothicus ©J. Flanagan

There are barely a handful of Yorkshire records since the first by Corbett. Bill Dolling and Stuart Foster, Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Hemiptera Recorder kindly provided me with details of the following records from the county:

- W. J. Fordham reported two locations (in VC61) within his home patch from East Cottingwith and Melbourne but no dates are given (Fordham, W. J., Preliminary list of Yorkshire Hemiptera-Heteroptera. Naturalist, 1921:413)
- H.D. Smart - from Whitby (VC62)
- J.M. Brown - records from Sandsend, near Whitby on the northeast Yorkshire coast (VC62) for the years 1924 and 1931 (quoted in A Preliminary List of Cleveland Hemiptera, M. L. Thompson, Cleveland Naturalists' Field Club, Record of Proceedings 1928 to 1932, Vol. IV, part 2, pp. 146-156); also in 1944 a further VC62 record inland at Ramsdale (NZ9203)
- Roy Crossley from Hagg Wood Marsh (SE8389) in the North Yorkshire Moors National Park (VC62) during 1988.
- Bill Ely from verge of minor road at Castle Leavington (SE4410), near Yarm (VC62) during June 2013.

Another welcome re-discovery of this species was by Bill Dolling at Sandsend (NZ8513) during a trip in June 2005 where he recorded it in one small location, backing up Brown's comments that its occurrence at the site is quite localised. Bill found the bug in a fairly herb-rich area with tall grasses, wood-sage and bitter-vetch.

Jim Flanagan

NABIDAE

A macropterous example of *Himacerus mirmicoides*

A single macropterous adult at Thorne Moor (VC63, SE707160) on 1.x.2013 (Stuart Foster).

Macropterous forms of this species are very uncommon in Britain although frequent on the continent.



Himacerus mirmicoides macropter
©S. Foster

TINGIDAE

Lasiacantha capucina new to Wales

A significant record of this species has come to light from Strumble Head, Pembrokeshire on 31.v.2005, when two specimens were collected by Darren Mann in coastal grassland (SM8911). Both specimens were short-winged and probably flightless, as is the case in Cornwall, suggesting that they could represent a long-established and overlooked population.

Stephanitis takeyai new to Yorkshire

Edenthorpe (VC63 SE6206). Numerous adults on *Pieris japonica* plants on 20.x.2013 (Stuart Foster).

Around the British Isles

Shropshire (VC40)

Jim Flanagan and Tristan Bantock presented a two day "Introduction to Terrestrial Heteroptera" course at Preston Montford FSC as part of the Bio Fell project. The tutors took the attendees through the various families and provided expert guidance on identification. Unfortunately the weather was poor (actually pretty good compared to the current dismal succession of gales and rain storms) which prevented us from getting out to sample different habitats, but the grounds of Preston Montford provided sufficient interest when the showers relented. The presenters also brought a range of specimens to be examined when the local catch ran out. All in all a very informative two days.

The "Introduction" was followed late in the year by an "Intermediate" day at the nearby Liverpool World Museum which several Shropshire heteropterists were able to attend. This was very much focused on identification, using keys that Jim and Tristan provided and specimens from the Museum's collection.

We have been fortunate to benefit from two projects which have given prominence to this group of invertebrates.

With regards to the rest of the terrestrial Heteroptera, in the last year we have almost doubled the number of records on the county list by adding more than 1500 records provided by more than 20 recorders. Included in these were about 150 historic records that we were able to mine from reports of surveys on various sites made by Liverpool Museum.

The county database now holds just over 3000 records across 180+ species. All the main hectads within the County have records although the majority of the records, as with many other groups, are concentrated around a few areas. Subject to verification we have added nine new species during 2013:

Anthocoridae

Anthocoris butleri

Found on Box in Apley woods, Telford in March. Apley Woods is part of a formal garden of the now demolished Apley Castle.

Miridae

Cyrtorhinus caricis

Taken in Cardingmill Valley, Church Stretton in August. Cardingmill Valley is in the foothills of the Long Mynd.

Orthops basalıs

There were several records for this species so it was surprising to find that it had not been recorded before. The first appears to be from Halesfield, Telford in May.

Orthotylus prasinus

Recorded from the Wyre Forest in July.

Phytocoris dimidiatus

Found on Little Hill, The Wrekin in September.

Platycranus bicolor

Recorded from an ex-coal washing and landfill site at Coalmoor, Telford in August.

Psallus albicinctus

Taken in The Hem, a small area of ancient woodland in Telford, in June.

Psallus montanus

From the bio.fell course at Preston Montford in August, recorded by one of the tutors Tristan Bantock.

Pseudoloxops coccineus

Recorded from Prees Green in July.

Keith Fowler

Ireland

In their annual summary report Met Eireann, the Irish Meteorological Office, reported 'Temperature and rainfall near normal; windy at times' for 2013. This hides the fact that winter turned up in March with the coldest ever spring, followed by (fortunately) by a warmer than normal summer which is what I will remember 2013 for. Definitely a year of two halves but not a very average year in truth.

So this is a brief round up of Heteroptera news and discoveries that came to light in Ireland during 2013. Details of all these records will be published more formally in the near future. As with previous news items these are largely personal discoveries as Heteroptera remain very much a minority interest. Some progress in addressing that was made in 2013.

An introductory training course on bugs was run for the National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford in late July. This concentrated on collecting techniques and shieldbugs to tie in with the Centre's production of a simple

identification guide to the Irish Shieldbugs (available here <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/home-page/shop/>).

This guide has certainly helped produce more records of these relatively easily identified species. The most interesting shieldbug records were those of Juniper Shieldbug *Cyphostethus tristriatus* which was reported from three sites in Dublin City including the National Botanic Gardens by Nash & Hardiman (2013). They found many specimens on cultivated conifers (Nootka Cypress *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis* and Lawson's Cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*). Juniper shieldbug was reported in Dublin first in 1996 on Lawson's Cypress and these are the first records since then, which indicates that the species may be widespread. The species also occurs on native Juniper as reported in the previous Het News (Nelson 2013).

Megaloceroea relicticornis was added to the Irish list from my garden last year and was found at several new sites around Lough Neagh in 2013. This year I collected another grassbug new to Ireland *Acetropis gimmerthalii* in Co Longford. Dik Hermes informed me of his discovery of *Lopus decolor* in Co Wicklow in 2006. The sudden appearance of the first two bugs plus some other species including Hazel Dormouse, Small and Essex Skippers in Ireland does lead to the suspicion that species are being imported with fodder in the same way that many species have been moved to North America, Australia and New Zealand. In 2013, 30000 tons of emergency feed was imported into Ireland so it would not be surprising if some non-natives arrived with them. Finally on the grassland theme, a strong population of *Notostira erratica* was found in the grounds of the NBDC during the bug course which is the first Irish record since 1936. And as reported elsewhere I also found *N. erratica* in Oxfordshire in October (Nelson, 2014).

As well as *Lopus decolor*, Dik Hermes has added several other bugs to the Irish list, including *Anthocoris simulans*, *Macrolophus pygmaeus* and *Megacoelum beckeri* (although the last needs confirmation). Specimens of a *Macrolophus* I collected last year are confirmed as *M. rubi* by Berend Aukema as is the previous Irish material standing under the name *M. nubilus* in Dublin's Natural History Museum. Amongst some material I collected in the Burren in 2007 was a single specimen of *Berytinus clavipes* which is perhaps a surprising addition to the Irish list given its SE distribution in Britain.

The Nettle Ground Bug *Heterogaster urticae* was listed as an unconfirmed Irish species in the latest checklist (O'Connor & Nelson 2012) but it has been found in SE Ireland independently by Martin Cawley and myself (Cawley & Nelson 2013).

Details of a second Irish site (Curraclloe, in Co Wexford) for *Thyreocoris scarabaeoides* were given in O'Connor & Nelson (2013). However this record was from 1934 and the species has not been seen since. I visited one of its two Irish sites, the extensive sand dunes at Ballyteigue on the south coast of Co. Wexford, in July of last year to look for it but had no success. There is no reason given the habitat quality why it should not still be present. So in my defence I have no experience of the species and it was in the middle of the summer heat.

Finally in addition to those mentioned, these are some of the notable Irish records from 2013 or of uncommon and notable species:

Anthocoris limbatus

Co Armagh. First county record and first Irish report since 1930s.

Corixa panzeri

Co Armagh, inland records are unusual

Halosalda lateralis

Co Wexford, a new site for this SE and rarely reported species

Limnoporus rufoscutellatus

Cos Offaly, Roscommon and Clare. New to Co Offaly and second Roscommon record

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GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING RECORDS

- Spreadsheet format preferred (e.g. MS Excel)
- One record per row
- Essential columns:
 - 1-species name| 2-date (dd/mm/yyyy)| 3-site name| 4-grid ref(XX#####)| 5-VC| 6-recorder| 7-determiner|
- Desirable columns:
 - abundance | age | sampling method | habitat | plant associations