

THE COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

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Yet another year nearly gone and yet another appeal for subscriptions! Please send your subscription - held at £2 for yet another year - to Peter Hodge, 8 Harvard Road, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5HJ. Cheques should be made payable to "The Coleopterist's Newsletter" - Thank you and thank you for your support during 1988. J.C.

During 1988 I have made a number of records of Parabathyscia wollastoni (Jans.) and offer the following notes. The species is evidently adapted to a subterranean existence, feeding on decaying plant tissue in the ground, often in company with Rhizophagus perforatus Er. Small numbers have been found in decaying potato tubers, decaying turnips, and by clear preference, up to 14 together, at the bulbs of onions infected by White Rot (Sclerotium cepivorum Berk.). Atheta amicula (Stph.) A. triangulum (Kr.), and A. xanthopus (Th.) often share this niche.

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

Trox scaber (L.) one understands is frequently a bird-nest species. Within 24hrs of stacking a pile of dry dead wallflower stems on 19.v.1988, I isolated two scaber in it, and much later more in a compost pile. Despite efforts to make the pile even more acceptable - by hand-crafting a stork nest look-alike - I failed to find others. P.F.Whitehead.

KEYS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF POLISH INSECTS: This series continues with the publication in 1986 of volume 48/49 Parnidae, Limniidae, Psephenidae; 59 Colydiidae, Bothriideridae, Cerylidae, Anommatidae; and in 1987 volume 84 Meloidae.

As with other volumes in the series each starts with introductory pages covering classification, anatomy and biology. Next a check list, followed by the identification tables and information relating to individual species. Each volume is very well illustrated and ends with a biography and full index. In all not dissimilar to our own Royal Entomological Society Handbooks.

To the British Coleopterist the main interest in these books must lie in the text figures. The Polish language, to me as a poor linguist, looks very foreign indeed, but as with all languages ought not to present insurmountable barriers to the serious student, especially anyone with an interest in languages; the entomological vocabulary is after all rather restricted.

These and other parts in print can be purchased from ARS POLONA, 00 - 068 Warszawa, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 7, Krakowskie Przedmiescie 7, Poland. However, the ordering process through official avenues can take a considerable time. The official price of the Keys varies between \$US 1 - 4 depending upon the number of pages. Anyone intending to purchase is advised first to write to Prof. Marek Wanat, Wroclaw University, Wladyslaw Rydzewski, Museum of Natural History, Sienkiewicza 21, 50 - 335 Wroclaw, Poland. He is prepared to purchase and despatch 'unofficially' (but quite legally) and so cut out burocratic delay (which can be up to six months!).

Volume 48/49 Parnidae, Limniidae, Psephenidae, by
Witold W. Wieszlak. 67 pages, 121 text figures.

It will probably strike the student of Coleoptera that the old family names Parnidae and Limniidae have been retained, and without a knowledge of the Polish language, the reviewer is at a loss to explain this. It might reflect a degree of scientific isolation brought about by domestic circumstances as well as political at present operating in Poland. The Heteroceridae will be dealt with in volume 47, but the Limnioidae, following similar non-modern practice are included in volume 50 Byrrhidae.

As mentioned earlier, the text figures will be of great value to the student of British Coleoptera. Several are taken from published work by Olmi, but there are plenty of original drawings, especially of genitalia of species of Dryops and these ought to help in determining species in this difficult genus.

Volume 59 Colydiidae, Bothrideridae, Cerylidae, Anommatidae, by Boleslaw Burakowski and Stanislaw Slipinski. 86 pages, 170 text figures.

Once again an unfamiliar classification with the Cerylidae and Anommatidae raised to family status and associated with the Colydiidae; Bothrideridae too has been raised to family level. It is thus essentially the Colydiidae of many authors, Freude Harde and Lohse for example.

Alas, these beetles are poorly represented in Britain, the bulk being inhabitants of ancient forest (it is interesting to see how many times "Bialowieskiej" occurs in the distributional data). The original drawings of

the genitalia of the species of Cerylon, as well as the habitus figures will be of use, often the genus gives problems.

Volume 84 Meloidae, by Zdzislawa Stebnicka.
34 pages, 75 text figures.

With such a limited fauna as we have in Britain, this volume will be of little interest to the British Coleopterist. The species are rarely found, apart from Meloe violaceus and proscarabaeus and generally present no problems as to their correct determination. For anyone collecting in Eastern Europe it will be of considerable help.

J.C.

OBSERVATIONS ON SOME STAPHYLINIDAE : Armed only with 'Joy' and a desire to make beetles conform to their expected identity the aspiring Coleopterist must expect many (human !) pit-falls.

In September 1986 I took a Philonthus in flight at Broadway, Worcestershire (a site now with 14 species of Histerid recorded) which I eventually placed in a 'suspence account.' Recently Mr.A.A.Allen and Mr.H.R.Last examined this beetle, and agreed from scrutiny of the aedeagus that it was P. debilis (Gr.). It is a large robust example and to all practical purposes is entirely black (except for the front tarsi). Additionally, the elytra are atypically diffusely punctured, as is the scutellum, variations, so I am advised, that "one has to accept."

In April of this year together with more typical examples of the species at the site, I took an example of P. debilis with dull dark red elytra and a somewhat reddish abdomen, the 'ab. coloratus Tott.'. In Worcestershire there is a striking tendency amongst the genus Carpelimus to produce deep rust-red colour forms which occur in, at least, populations of elongatulus, gracilis (s.l.) and zealandicus. Mr Allen has also been so kind as to receive from me clear red Calodera from Worcestershire, which he has decided cannot be regarded as distinct from aethiops (Gr.).

Quedius nemoralis Baudi is an enigmatic taxon. Atty (Coleoptera of Gloucestershire) records it as a dominantly haystack species. I know only two further records - ix.1986 in a compost heap (Worcs.) and v.1988 under a mat of Alyssum in virtual total dryness against a house wall.

P.F.Whitehead.

(Since writing the above, Paul reports further examples made during 1988 in dry lignified plant remains. J.C.).

ADDITIONS TO THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE LIST: In the five years since the publication of "Coleoptera of Gloucestershire", some 49 species have been added to the 2049 listed therein, thanks mainly to the efforts of Keith Alexander, Ian Carter, John Owen and Paul Whitehead; the few species without initials in the following list are my own records.

Harpalus puncticollis Pk. 1♀, Rodborough Common, 30.v.85
(KNA)

Hydroporus ferrugineus Stph. 1 in spring, Longhope, 1.iii.64
(R.B.Angus)

Cercyon marinus Thoms. Bishops Cleeve, 11.vi.87 (PFW)

- Abraeus granulum Er. 1 under bark of felled oak, Sherborne Estate, 29.v.85 (K.N.A.)
- Aeletes atomarius Horn. 1 in rotten ash, Lydney Deer Park, 14.vi.87 (KNA)
- Plegaderus vulneratus Pz. In oak bark; Crickley Hill, 14.viii.85; Whitcliff Park, 17.viii.85 (ISC)
- Ptenidium gressneri Er. Under rotten beech log, Crickley Hill, 14.viii.85 (ISC).
- P. intermedium Wank. 1 in pond-side refuse, Sandhurst, viii.83 (JAO)
- Ptinella aptera G-14 Abundant under bark of deciduous logs, Chepstow, 17.xi.87 (PFW)
- Hapalarea pygmaea Pk. In ditch litter, Masfield Ham, 17.vii.85 (ISC)
- Manda mandibularis Gyll. Evening sweeping, Masfield Ham, 30.vi.85 (ISC)
- Carpelimus zealandicus Sharp Bishops Cleve, 11.vi.87 (PFW)
- Autalia longicornis Schpz. Several in fungi, Cannop, x.82 (JAO)
- Dochmoneta clancula Er. Several in pond refuse, Sandhurst, viii.83 (JAO)
- Dacrila difficilis Bris. and D. vilis Er. Several of each in pond refuse, Sandhurst, viii.83 (JAO)
- Atheta harwoodi Williams 1 on path under leaves, Cheltenham, 15.ix.88 (PFW)
- Gyropaena joyi Wend. 3 in Dryad's Saddle, Badgeworth N.R., 10.vi.88
- Phloeopora angustiformis Baudi 1 in old beech, Cannop, x.88 (JAO)
- Oxypoda induta Muls. Chepstow, 19.ix.87 (PFW)
- Amauronyx maerkeli Aube Fossil remains in Roman Well, Barnsley Park, (F.J.Osborne).
- Aphodius borealis Gyll. 1 in fresh horse-dung, Newent Woods, 11.ix.85
- Prionocyphon serricornis Mull. Swept under beech, Hailey Wood, 31.vii.84 (ISC)

- Agrilus sinuatus Ol. Beaten off dead hawthorn boughs:
Leckhampton, 29.vii.85; Rendcomb Park,
3.viii.85; Whiteliff Park, 17.viii.85 (ISC)
- Trachys scrobiculatus Kies. 1 at ground ivy, Oakley Wood,
22.iv.83 (P.Hodge)
- Ampedus balteatus L. In hollow willow, Tewkesbury, 19.v.85 (PFW)
- Procrærus tibialis Lac. Swept under pollard willow,
Hasfield Han, 30.vi.85 (ISC)
- Malthodes guttifer Kies. 1 flying, Staple Edge Wood,
6.vii.86 (KNA)
- Anobium inexpectatum Lohse Old ivy, Leckhampton, 22.viii.85
(ISC)
- Axinotarsus marginalis Mots. 1 swept, Ashchurch, 29.vi.85
(KNA); Hasfield Han, 30.vi.85 (ISC);
Tewkesbury, 20.vii.86 (PFW)
- Carpophilus marginellus Mots. 1 on rotten pear in compost
bin, Cheltenham, 6.x.84
- Epuraea adumbrata Mannh. Sweeping Dogs Mercury, Collinpark
Wood, 11.viii.85 (ISC)
- Uleiota planata L. Winchcombe, 23.vi.87 (PFW)
- Caenoscelis subdeplanata Bris. Under beech log, Crickley Hill,
14.viii.85 (ISC)
- Myrmecixenus vaporarium Guer. Swept, Cranham Woods, 19.viii.
85 (ISC)
- Mycetophagus populi F. 1 under wych elm bark, Dorvel Wood,
12.ii.84 (KNA)
- Prionychus melanarius Germ. larvae in elm stump, Norton,
4.vii.83 and 31.vii.84; adults emerged
vi.1985. (JAO)
- Lissodema cursor Gyll. Beaten off hawthorn, Leckhampton,
30.vii.85 (ISC)
- Abdera biflexuosa Curt. Off dead lime branches, Leckhampton,
30.vii.85 and off dead oak boughs,
Whiteliff Park, 17.viii.85 (ISC)
- Phlobiotrya vaudoueri Muls. Winchcombe, 23.vi.87 (PFW)
- Adonia variegata Gz. Pilning, 13.vii.75 and Kenbury 14.vii.75
(J.Muggleton); 1 in supermarket, Henleaze,
21.iii.87.
- Callosobruchus maculatus F. 2 emerged from stored chick-peas,
Cirencester, xi.81 (KNA)

- Phyllotreta diademata Foud. Under willow bark, Tewkesbury,
10.ii.88 (PFW).
- Rhynchites longiceps Th. 4 and pair on sallows, Hope Wood,
3.vii.85.
- Apion sicardi Desbr. 1 swept in damp woodland, Blaisdon NR.,
30.vi.84.
- Ceutorhynchus rapae Gyll. 1 on hedge mustard, Cirencester Park,
5.v.85 (KNA).
- Anthonomus bituberculatus Thom. A few, Brampton Cotterell,
3/17.iv.71 (R.W.J.Read).
- Mecinus collaris Germ. In Plantago maritima stems, salterns,
Aust, ix.1910 (I.M.Roper).
- Leperisinus orni Fuchs. 1 swept, Watledge Wood, 12.vi.86.

Two corrections. Firstly Emus hirtus : when I was shown the Bodington specimen it proved to be Ontholestes tessellatus ! Amazingly, a genuine Emus was found soon afterwards in the same area by Nicholas Lenr : on a path in Hidger Wood, 9.vi.84. Secondly, Megapenthes lugens : the vague Britten record was probably the same as the Limoniscus violaceus recorded by L.D.Hodgkinson, a male near Tewkesbury on 23.v.1939.

There are also a good number of interesting second records - the first this century for the county - which may appear in a later "Coleopterist's Newsletter".

Copies of "Coleoptera of Gloucestershire" can still be obtained, for the bargain price of £3-00 including p&p, from me at the new address below. For at Christmas this year I am migrating from Gloucestershire on early retirement, to pursue entomology amidst the Cumbrian Fells, with a beck, the millpond and two acres of oak woodland on the doorstep for a start.

D.B.Atty,
Beckhouse Mill, Embleton,
Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9TW

A NOTE ON QUEDIUS FULIGINOSUS (GRAV.) AND Q. CURTIPENNIS BERNH.

On August 20th, 1988 I took a large *Quedius* at Norton, Worcestershire, which in the field appeared totally black, including the antennae. My large series of *Q. curtipennis* are in terms of their antennal colouration essentially consistent, the basal segments in particular are clear 'light tan',

I therefore compared the Norton specimen with them, and despite it being a male lacking genitalia, conclude that it is *Q. fuliginosus* on the basis of the blackened antennae and eyes, which in profile form a more nearly perfect arc of a circle.

Q. curtipennis is a widespread taxon which is probably mildly hygrophilous occurring in damp litter in broadleaved woodland, extending into scrub grassland, and like a number of species with similar preferences, extending not only to sea level but to the coast in Western Scotland and the Western Isles (both species appear to be equally widespread there according to Waterson *et al.*).

At the moment, there is a suggestion that *Q. fuliginosus* may be a quite localised species in this area; more particularly the Norton specimen was on bare wet fen-mud, which led me to think it may be distinct. Any comments on this note would be welcome.

Paul Whitehead, Moor Leys,

Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire.

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ATHETA LURIDIPENNIS (Mannh.) IN A LEAF HEAP. Whilst clearing a year-old leaf heap at Evesham, Wores., in October 1988, I noticed a number of large *Atheta*. The two I collected proved to be *A. luridipennis*, a species held to have fluviatile affinities. A proportion of the leaves, often those of Norway Maple, had largely resisted decay, and their

interfaces were saturated with water. These conditions must have proved acceptable or attractive to luridipennis a species that I have not previously encountered in any man-made accumulations of organic matter.

Paul Whitehead.

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ONE OF THE PROBLEMS of larger scale distribution mapping is that it is not sensitive enough to reflect small-scale population changes. Inevitably these make themselves felt most tangibly at 'site level', often with dramatic clarity. Examples from Worcestershire are :

Peranus bimaculatus (L.) : In 1988 frequent at one site where previously poorly known.

Atheta triangulum (Kr.) : Now rarely seen at one site where frequent up to 1986.

Lithocharis ochracea (Gr.) : In 1988 made a welcome well-marked resurgence at one site, where previously scarce.

Alphitophagus bifasciatus (Say) : In 1988 generally more widespread outside, in small numbers, than in any other year.

Some of these changes may have been signalled by the atypically (or is it typically ?) wet summer of 1988.

Does Lithocharis nigriceps Kr. prefer slightly drier conditions ? I recently had 60 in a pile of damp yellowing cypress foliage.

Paul Whitehead, Moor Leys,
Little Comberton, Pershore,
Worcestershire, WR10 3EP

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PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

Prompt payment is greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

FIRST CONGRESS OF COLEOPTEROLOGY. During the third week of September 1989 the first Congress of Coleopterology will take place in Barcelona. A wide range of subjects are likely to be covered and the Congress languages will be English, French, German and Spanish. For details please write to: Asociacion Europea de Coleopterologia, Departamento de Biologia Animal (Invertebrados), Facultad de Biologia, Universidad de Barcelona, Avda. Diagonal 645, 08028 Barcelona, Spain.

J.C.

ON OCTOBER 28th, whilst having a quick sandwich on Bredon Hill, I became aware of something colourful in a nearby hedgebottom. Clearly, the coleopterist, renowned for amongst other things, enterprise and resourcefulness, occasionally has these qualities put to the test; my investigation revealed a batch of 'girlie mags'. Although my embarrassment was acute, I nevertheless "felt it my duty" to make a cursory investigation of the matter. My attention was rewarded by a small beetle that fell from the pile, which proved to be Cryptophagus pseudodentatus Bruce. In all other respects the beetle appeared to be entirely normal. (Footnotes: The mags are now buried in dense brambles for "degradation" to be completed; For their map reference see the personal column in the next 'Private Eye'.) P.Whitehead.

(Editorial: I'm surprised you noticed the beetle! J.C.)

OTHER NOTES: On October 26th at Broadway, Worcs., whilst moving a large bundled plastic sheet, one each of Catops fuliginosus Er., and C.nigricans (Spence) fell out of it. I concluded that decomposing earthworms attracted them into it.

P.F.W.

LONG SUMMER OF ST. LUKE: The long run of mild weather ended on October 29th with the first real frosts of the autumn. On the day before, Small Tortoiseshell butterflies were still flying, and I found a bug, Dicyphus errans (Wolff), on Henbane. On 29th a rather sluggish Palomena prasina (L.) was on our garden blackberries. Although warm weather did not interfere with the usual autumn surge of Omalius, in the final week of October a wider range of beetles than usual was active, either foraging, or in flight, here in Worcestershire. I cite the following :

<u>Notiophilus germinyi</u> Fauv.	<u>Xantholinus jarrigei</u> Coiff.
<u>Bembidion properans</u> (Steph.)	<u>Quedius schatzmayri</u> Grid.
<u>Badister sodalis</u> (Duft.)	<u>Lamprinodes saginatus</u> (Gr.)
<u>Helophorus nubilus</u> F.	<u>Aleoconota gregaria</u> (Er.)
<u>Abraeus globosus</u> (Hoffh.)	<u>Aleochara bilineata</u> Gyll.
<u>Carcinops pumilio</u> (Er.)	<u>Trox scaber</u> (L.)
<u>Leptinus testaceus</u> Mull.	<u>Onthophagus coenobita</u> (Hb.)
<u>Xylodromus depressus</u> (Gr.)	<u>Meligethes aeneus</u> (F.)
<u>Stenus fuscicornis</u> Er.	<u>Cryptophagus scutellatus</u> Nw.
<u>S. rogeri</u> Kr.	<u>Micrambe</u> sp.
<u>Sunius melanocephalus</u> (F.)	<u>Anthicus floralis</u> (L.)
<u>Othius laeviusculus</u> Steph.	<u>Oulema melanopa</u> (L.)
<u>Leptacinus bathychrus</u> (Gyll.)	<u>Sitona hispidulus</u> (F.) at light

(1.xi.1988 after frost Aphodius sphaecelatus (Pz.) and C. coenobita (Hb.)).

On October 30th, whilst clearing a hollow, hedge-row ash stump at Little Comberton, Worcs., I found some fragments of a blue Chrysolina orichalcea (Mull.) tucked into it by a mouse. This is an insect that I have not seen at all for 14 years, but it may favour hedgerow herbage, in this case Hedge Woundwort. My last specimen was on Black Horehound. P.F.W.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION PROMPTLY - IT MAKES ADMINISTRATION SO MUCH EASIER. Thank you.

1988 ACCOUNTS

Expenditure		Income	
Paper	£23-85	Subscriptions	£235-00
Stencils	£15-89	Interest	£6-99
Envelopes	£19-84		
Postage	£140-93		
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	£200-51		
Surplus for			
year	£41-48		
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	£241-99		<hr/>
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Balance at 1.1.1988		£168-96	
Surplus for 1988		£41-48	
Balance at 3.1.1989		<u>£210-44</u>	

P.J.Hodge

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ANASPIS FLAVA (L.) I have found Anaspis flava (L.) new to Britain. If anyone has any yellow Anaspis standing as costal but taken between April and June and would like me to check their identity, please send them along with return postage. J.Cooter, 19 Mount Crescent, Hereford, HR1 1HQ

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FIELD MEETING, PORTLAND, DORSET, June 1989. Now fully booked. Details will be circulated to participants in Spring.
J.C.