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ISSN 0959·9711

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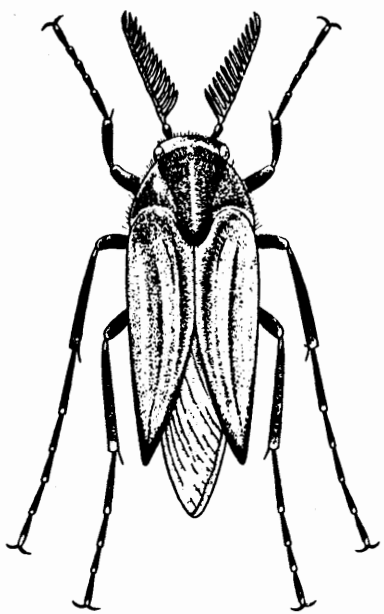

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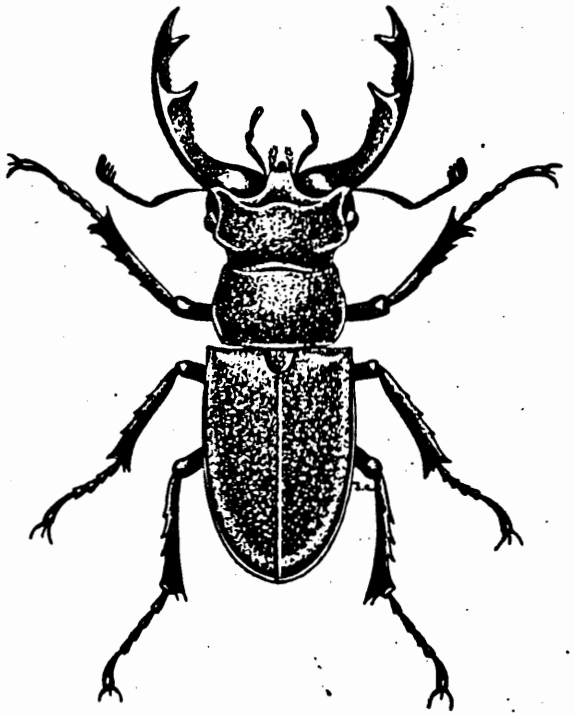

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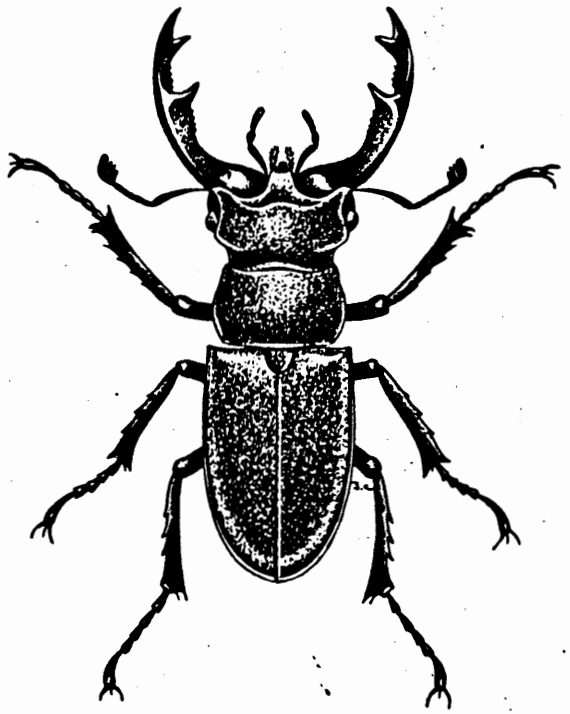

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May 1991 Number 43

EDITORIAL

This edition of the *Newsletter* sees a major 'first' in that it carries a paid advertisement - inside back cover. At the time of writing, the third edition of the Amateur Entomologists' Society's *Coleopterist's Handbook* is printed and awaiting binding, so should be available in a week or two.

Personal involvement with the book rules out any further comment. As editor in charge of content I have been lucky beyond hope in involving many specialist authors and the whole exercise has shown me how eclectic my knowledge of Coleoptera is. There is only a very little text brought on from the first edition - these few pages have stood the test of time so well it would be wrong to re-write them and put my own name to them, they have, however, been brought up to date, especially with regards to nomenclature.

J.C.

QUEDIUS FROM THE PENINE HIGH PEAK

During the last decade one of us (ES) persistently collected *Quedius* from the Penine High Peak, and requested Mr. Colin Johnson to authenticate vouchers of critical species.

The records constitute an important body of information from a physically, geologically and ecologically well-defined area. They cover altitudes ranging from 185m to 615m.

Quedius aridulus Jansson
This was found between 1982 and 1989 in treeless open environments (SK08, SK19, SE10) amongst calcifuge plants at altitudes up to 615m (last on 25 March 1989). It is interesting that *Quedius boops* (Grav.) was found to be either rare or absent in these environments. Elsewhere in Britain PFW has encountered *Q. boops* at altitudes up to 680m, so there is a possibility that populations of both species are tending to be mutually exclusive.

Q. aridulus we regard as a hardy species with rather broad ecological tolerances but (?) always on acid sediments. We both agree that a population from Hillsborough Steelworks (SK38) South Yorkshire, is correctly assigned. Some males from this site have very robust antennae and conspicuously margined parameres. They inhabit old ingot pits infilled with heavy metal residues, steel slag, refractory bricks and melting shop refuse. Such a substrate would contain no soluble bases.

Quedius boopoides Munster
Located amongst flood refuse by tarn, Alport Dale (SK19), Derbyshire, 2 January 1982 at 430m, and amongst *Empetrum* litter , Cartledge Flats (SK29), South Yorkshire, 12 June 1988 at 525m. Both sites are on acid rock in open treeless situations, and support the contention that this is largely an orophilous species.

Quedius fulvicollis (Steph.)
There are three records of this rare species, more or less boreal in range, in Derbyshire (SK10, 275m, 21 July 1984) and in South Yorkshire (SK29, 185m, 2.4.1988; SE10, 260m, 23 August 1986). These records bring *Quedius aridulus*, *Q. boops* and *Q. fulvicollis* into the same British altitudinal range. ES, however, carefully recorded the substrate details and observed that in each case *Q. fulvicollis* was taken amongst a higher percentage of organic matter, and in situations with pioneer tree species close by or overhead. This subtle (but not universally confirmed) distinction

COLEOPTERIST'S NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0959-9711

Annual subscription (1991) £3.00p. Please send cheque, payable to Coleopterist's Newsletter to:

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between the habitat of *Q. aridulus* and *Q. fulvicollis* indicates that, in the south of its range, this last species is more closely limited by microsite features, congeneric competition, or both.

In the High Peak *Quedius curtipennis* Bernh. has been recorded (1984 - 1991, SK16, SK17, SK19, SK29, SE20) between 170m and 350m (mean altitude 245m) in a similar range of habitats to *Quedius fuliginosus* (Grav.) but demonstrating broader eurytopism. *Quedius fuliginosus* has been recorded (1985 - 1989, SK19, SK27, SK28) between 185m and 460m (mean 305m) sometimes in marsh, carr, and woodland litter.

E. Smith,
44 Springhill,
Sheffield S10 1ET

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

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APION LOTI KIRBY AND *APION MODESTUM* GERMAR (COL., APIONIDAE): UNRESOLVED IDENTIFICATION DIFFICULTIES

Having recently acquired a copy of the excellent new Royal Entomological Society Handbook, *Orthocerous Weevils* (Morris, M.G., 1990, *Handbk. ident. Brit. Insects*, 5(16)) I decided to work through my British *Apion* species. All previous difficulties were resolved, except one.

Apion loti is one of those species that 'falls out' at the end of most keys, recognisable by the fact that it lacks characters that would make it any of the other species! The discovery that in Britain two species masqueraded under the name '*loti*' (Dieckmann, L., 1973, *Apion*-Studien Coleoptera, Curculionidae), *Beitr. Ent.*, 23: 71-92) was followed by the formal addition of *A. modestum* (*A. sicardi* auctt. Brit.) to the British list (Morris, M.G., 1976, *Apion sicardi* Desbrochers, a species of weevil (Col., Apionidae) new to Britain, *Entomologists' mon. Mag.*, 111 (1975): 165-171). Since that time, most British coleopterists have separated out typical *A. loti*, usually found on bird's-foot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus* L.) and *A. modestum* from marsh bird's-foot trefoil (*L. uliginosus* Schkuhr), conveniently disregarding those specimens that did not quite 'fit'. Difficult specimens from food plants other than *L.*

corniculatus or *L. uliginosus* have been particularly liable to be ignored.

Among a long series of *A. loti/modestum* that I carefully compared and dissected I had a typical *A. modestum* from Amberley Wild Brooks TQ0313), West Sussex, 21.6.1983 and Oulton Marsh (TM5093), East Suffolk, 18.7.1983, two vice-counties in addition to those listed by Morris (1990). More interesting were the significant number of examples intermediate on every key character, and one example which had a quite different aedeagus.

Coleopterists who collect series of *A. loti/modestum* from specific, identified foodplants are likely to be rewarded for their efforts in the event of a revision of the *A. loti* group of species.

Howard Mendel,
The Museum,
High Street,
Ipswich IP1 3QH

(When collecting the *Apion loti* group, it is important to accurately record the host plant. On the Continent different species of *Lotus* support different but very closely related *Apion* with specific differences difficult to appreciate in isolation; often the host plant may confirm the weevil's identity. - J.C.)

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NORTH WALES COLEOPTERA

The North Wales Invertebrate Group issue regular lists of insects from sites in North Wales. Coleopterists are welcome to join in any of the field trips organised by the Group.

For further details, dates and venues, contact Mrs M.J. Morgan, School of Animal Biology, U.C.N.W., Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2UW and enclose a stamped addressed envelope for reply.

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from specimens reared from *Inonotus cuticularis* (Fr.) Karst from the island of Hallands Väderö, southern Sweden. It has not been found elsewhere. In common with *D. serra* and *D. chrysomelina*, *D. ambjoerni* has double pubescence. The elytra are strongly and densely punctured (unlike *D. serra*) and so the species is most likely to be confused with *D. chrysomelina*. Compared with that species it is even more strongly punctured and noticeably less elongate. The male genitalia are diagnostic. It is easily identified using Baronowski's key to the central and southern European species of *Dorcatoma*.

It is possible that in Britain *D. ambjoerni* is confined to Windsor Forest. However, one of us has specimens from Suffolk (unfortunately females) which may be this species. We shall be pleased to examine any specimens which may be *D. ambjoerni* before writing a full account of the discovery.

Acknowledgement: We thank Mr A.R. Wiseman for authorising access to Windsor Forest and "English Nature" for arranging this.

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DORCATOMA AMBJOERNI BARANOWSKI (COL., ANOBIIDAE), ANOTHER WINDSOR SPECIALITY ?

On 21 February 1988, we visited Windsor Forest to search for *Megapenthes lugens* Redt. in the abundant dead wood made accessible by the 'great storm' of the previous October. We found the characteristic larvae of *M. lugens* in wood infested with *Rhyncolus truncorum* (Germ.) lining the hollow interiors of several ancient beech trees. Inside one of these hollow trees were the hard fruiting bodies of a fungus (*Inonotus* sp.) which contained *Dorcatoma* larvae.

A sample of the fungus was collected and in May 1989 produced a swarm of *D. serra* Panz. adults. Many more *D. serra* emerged in May 1990 and in June a few females of an unfamiliar *Dorcatoma*. Fortunately, dead males were found amongst the frass in the rearing jar so that the species could be positively identified as *D. ambjoerni*. Specimens have been sent to Rickard Baronowski for confirmation.

Baronowski (1985, Central and northern European *Dorcatoma* (Col., Anobiidae), with a key and description of a new species, *Ent. Scand.*, 16: 203-207) described *D. ambjoerni*

BOOK REVIEW

Ground beetles: their role in ecological and environmental studies, ed.
Nigel Stork, 1990.
ISBN 0 946707 332. 424 pp.
Intercept Ltd., P.O. Box 716, Andover, Hants. SP10 1YG.
Price £40.

This is the proceedings of the 7th European Carabidologist's Meeting in London in 1989 with 30 papers on carabid ecology and comprehensive summaries of 16 poster papers. It is divided into four main subject areas: Carabid assemblages; Agroecosystems; Environmental quality; and Life-histories/populations.

Not unexpectedly, most papers deal with European studies, from the Finnish taiga to the Mediterranean maquis and from the Pyrenees to the Soviet Union. A few papers are from even further afield - flooded forests of Amazonia and Eucalyptus forests of Australia.. There is a paper on the success of European carabids in Canada (including some surprising species), and the endemism of carabids in the Galapagos, where the biggest genus is good old *Pterostichus* ! There is much here to whet the appetite for foreign travel but at the same time the majority contribution is from Britain and our close European neighbours, so enough also to satisfy the stay-at-home coleopterist.

While the level may be a bit academic, there is much here to interest the serious amateur - papers on the efficiency of ethylene glycol (antifreeze) in pitfalls, explanation of red and black legs in *Pterostichus madidus* and the attractive colours of diurnal carabids, and observations on the feeding habits of *Harpalus*. There are some nice studies on the importance of carabids in controlling agricultural pests and on the nasty effects of pesticides on them. Here is a chance for the conservationist to say "I told you so". There is also a suggestion on how to increase the abundance of carabids in arable fields - a sort of 'conservation headland' in the middle of a field. Naturally I gravitated to the section on environmental quality. A very useful paper is on the carabids' colonising attempts at regenerating raised mires on abandoned peat workings. Here there is ammunition for Britain's Peatland Campaign which is attempting to save the last vestiges of places like Thorne Moors in Yorkshire, the only site for *Bembidion humerale*. While a diverse carabid fauna developed on one ofthese

regeneration attempts in Germany, it was composed of pretty unexciting species. 'Proper' raised mire species, such as *Agonum ericeti*, voted with their tarsi and shunned the new bogland.

Other conservation papers include a most impressive study of the full range of grassland carabid assemblages from all over Europe by the Newcastle team (together with a bewildering paper on effects of grassland management on carabids in N E England), a poster paper on the significance of the dry, sandy areas in dures, and an intriguing paper on the carabid fauna of a heathland reserve used as a tank training ground in Germany. If only we could similarly encourage species such as *Amara infima*, *A. quenseli* and *Cymindis macularis* in Britain - every conservation organisation should be kitted out with its own tank to cause such heathland 'damage'!

The book has a consistent style throughout, a good tribute to the editor, and there are adequate general and species' indexes, the latter including some synonymies where we differ from our European counterparts. I suppose that £40 is now about par for the course for a hardback book of this quality. Certainly recommended for the coleopterist with a serious interest in ecology or conservation.

Roger Key

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ENTOMOLOGIST'S GAZETTE VOLUME 41 (1990)

ENTOMOLOGIST'S RECORD AND JOURNAL OF VARIATION (1990)

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ENTOMOLOGIST'S MONTHLY MAGAZINE VOLUME 126 (1990)

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