

THE COLEOPTERA OF A SUBURBAN GARDEN: A SUPPLEMENT

A.A. ALLEN

49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

IT IS NOW upwards of forty years since the first instalment of this list (*Ent. Rec.* 1951 to 1964, *passim*) appeared, and at the end of the last (1964: 264) I expressed the intention of adding a supplement at some later date. The interest aroused by the list – despite the inevitable spread and break-up of its parts over thirteen years and the resultant inequality between them in regard to the period covered – has been an added encouragement, even at this late hour, to carry out that intention. The garden (at Blackheath, near Greenwich in south-east London) continued to be worked for beetles, rather intensively at times and much less so at others, up to late 1973 when external pressures brought about a change of residence. The period covered thus spans the better part of half a century, and could have been much longer had circumstances permitted.

The garden underwent relatively little change since the body of the list was published. Suffice to say here that it was a fairly typical and entirely unremarkable suburban garden of half an acre with the house in the middle (up to 1926 a grass field), but which in the latter half of the collecting period was allowed to become increasingly less cultivated. Lawn mowing was eventually discontinued, and a number of wild plants appeared.

In later years two new features were added, each responsible for many additional records: a small pond (already mentioned in the last part of the list) and a standard 125-watt mercury-vapour lamp, run from a top-floor room overlooking the back garden, on suitable nights from the end of May 1959 but less frequently after 1960. The second of these introduces a certain complication, for it might be objected that the lamp would attract insects from beyond the confines of the garden. The point is debatable, but I tend to think that the great majority of them would have been flying in or over the garden before coming under the influence of the light; interested readers who disagree are of course free to ignore such species as components of the list if they so choose. A high proportion of those species have never been found *in* the garden (nor indeed, by me, elsewhere in the district) and may have arrived from a distance – as must certainly be true of at least of few such as *Bembidion varium* and *Stenopelmus rufinasus* (which came in on the same night). Nidicoles, however (*Trox*, *Dermestes*) doubtless originated near at hand.

The pond, about six by four feet in area, was dug out on the back lawn and filled on 4.x.58; water beetles and bugs arrived within two days. To increase water retention it was lined with stout polythene. However, after a year or two this lining became weathered and air bubbles formed under it, forcing the floor up; it was then removed. The character of the pond thereby changed from something like a silt-pond to a fairly typical detritus-pond – a change reflected in its overall fauna.

An investigation pursued, albeit unsystematically, over such a protracted period as this (collecting had begun in a small way in 1927) prompts a few reflections. Above

all, one overwhelming fact emerges: the longer the survey is continued, the more obvious becomes the unstable, ever-changing nature of the fauna over time, in which species wax and wane, appear and disappear, reappear or are replaced by others. It follows that the very notion of "the fauna" of such an area, unqualified by a time factor, is a mere abstraction; only with reference to some given instant does it acquire concrete reality, yet that, even for so small an area, is never completely knowable in practice. At any such instant, it is made up of (1) breeding species (the "backbone" of the fauna), some long established and others recent colonists; and (2) visitors (more or less casual) which do not remain to breed, because the conditions are not right or the visitor is not a gravid female.

A few examples will serve to illustrate some of these and other differences. (A) Species found throughout the whole 46 years with only minor fluctuations in their frequency: *Carabus violaceus*, *Leistus spinibarbis*, *Agriotes lineatus*, *Barypeithes pellucidus*. (B) Species that died out early: *Carabus nemoralis*, *Clivina fossor*, *Pterostichus melanarius*, *Melolontha melolontha*. (C) Species not present from the first but which later became successful colonists: *Amara aulica*, *Stenus clavicornis*, *Quedius molochinus*, *Othius punctulatus*, *Rhagonycha limbata*, *Barynotus obscurus*. (D) Probable unsuccessful colonists: *Harpalus tardus*, *Hoplia philanthus*, *Oxypoda procerula*, *O. amoena*. (E) Rare denizens: *Bembidion 5-striatum*, *Amarochara umbrosa*, *Parabathyscia wollastoni*, *Orthochaetes insignis*, *Ceutorhynchus punctiger*. (F) Casual visitors (very numerous): *Harpalus rubripes*, *Cantharis rustica* & *livida*, *Malachius marginellus*, *Leptura livida*, *Phyllobius maculicornis*, *Aphodius ater*. (G) Species found only at m.v. light: *Amara convexiuscula*, *A. apricaria*, *Ilybius fuliginosus*, *Necrobia ruficollis*, *Cantharis rufa*, *Malthodes fuscus*, *Cercyon laminatus*, *Trox scaber*, *Dorcatome chrysomelina* and many more. (H) Species liable to wide periodic fluctuations in numbers: *Synuchus nivalis*, *Calathus fuscipes*, *Aphthona euphorbiae*, *Longitarsus parvulus*.

Inevitably, several errors had crept into the published list; all cases requiring correction or comment will be dealt with as they arise. Mere changes of name will not be noticed unless there is some special reason to do so, e.g. to avoid confusion. Thus, for instance, the *Oxypoda nigrina* Wat. of British authors is now referred to *O. sericea* Heer, this and similar changes being taken as understood. Specific nomenclature follows Pope (1977), but in certain cases more familiar and basic generic names are retained where I consider that splitting has been carried to unnecessary or inordinate lengths – the unwisdom of such a course being manifest upon reflection. For ease of collation, order of families, genera, and species more or less follows the original list, except insofar as the order of family groups therein was dictated by convenience (the "Clavicornia" and Staphylinidae being for good reasons treated last).

An asterisk indicates the more notable of the added species. Separate entries which are not additions, but species of which there is something further to be said, have their names enclosed within brackets. The abbreviation m.v.l. is used for "mercury-vapour light".

Carabidae (24 additions)

A point of interest concerning the Carabidae in particular is the apparently sharp distinction between species that habitually fly to artificial light (Lychnophiles), and their congeners which evince no such attraction. This marked difference is presumably (though not necessarily) determined by the natural flight-time of the species, whether diurnal or nocturnal. Thus, for example, in the large genus *Amara*, several species habitually visit the lamp, but the ubiquitous *A. aenea* and its allies (common in the garden) have never once done so; *Harpalus* (*Pseudophonus*) *rufipes* is strongly light-seeking, while *H. affinis* (equally common) again has never shown itself at the lamp.

My belief in 1951 (p.62) that "probably only the Adephaga are now tolerably complete, and here but few additions can be expected" turns out to have been very wide of the mark! The short list I gave there of Carabidae that might be expected to occur would, had I been writing now instead of at the mid-century, be considerably different. In particular I would correct my remark there on the frequency of *Notiophilus palustris* Dufts. (not a garden species) whose apparent commonness proved to be a very temporary affair.

(*Carabus nemoralis* Müll.) – One or two more seem to have occurred in the first few years, but by the early 1930s the species had disappeared. A supposedly common beetle which has never been so to me. *C. violaceus* L., on the other hand, though not seen every year, continued sparingly throughout the whole period.

(*Leistus fulvibarbis* Dej.) – Increased during the 1950s to become eventually about as common as *L. spinibarbis* (F.), with which it often occurred; no observable habitat difference, though elsewhere I definitely associate it with damper situations.

(*Notiophilus rufipes* Curt.) – Not at all uncommon from about 1950 on. A very soft example at roots of grass, 23.ix.53. Its supposed rarity is a complete myth.

(*Loricera pilicornis* (F.)) – Continued to be found singly at rare intervals, mostly under ground-traps near the house; one dropping on to a stone from flight, which was definitely terminated in the air, 20.iv.55 (1955, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 91: 200).

(*Badister bipustulatus* (F.)) – After a long absence this species began to "revive" in the autumn of 1970 and became frequent but never really common. Usually under tiles at base of house wall; one by sweeping, 10.v.71.

(*Bradycellus verbasci* (Dufts.)) – Also at m.v.l., often common and on some warm nights in July and August in profusion.

B. harpalinus (Serv.) – First detected at m.v.l., 15.vii.59, and later rather often but sparingly at intervals with *verbasci*. Also in the garden but not commonly, by evening sweeping only.

**B. ruficollis* (Steph.) – One by grubbing along base of fence, 26.x.55. Doubtless a stray from another garden not far off where heather was grown, as the species inhabits sandy heaths.

Acupalpus dubius Schil. – One example swept off weeds, 15.v.52. A very common beetle of wet pond-sides etc.; no doubt a stray from such a situation barely quarter of a mile distant.

(*Harpalus affinis* (Schränk) and *H. (Pseudophonus) rufipes* (Deg.)) – Both increased during the later 1950s or thereabouts. As noted above, *H. rufipes* also often at m.v.l. in July and August.

H. latus (L.) – Under stones and similar traps, and in or under vegetable rubbish, at roots of herbage, etc.; first noted October 1953, and thereafter at intervals, singly or more seldom in pairs.

H. rubripes (Dufts.) – A female under a piece of boarding, 22.v.52. This species prefers sandy, gravelly or chalky soils.

H. tardus (Panz.) – Five isolated examples, mostly male, found at roots of grass and other herbage: 21.iv.56, 27.v.56, 23.iii.59, 30.ii.59, 28.iv.59.

H. (Ophonus) rufibarbis (F.) – Under tiles at base of house wall; odd specimens at intervals from June 1952 to July 1971; two at m.v.l., 1.vii.73.

Amara aulica (Panz.) – This fine *Amara* first appeared on 10.vi.52 (a pair) under traps set for ground beetles at the side of the house, followed by another in August of that year at base of fence; others in 1963-4. A teneral example under a large stone, 22.v.72; a male at m.v.l., 20.vii.72.

- A. convexiuscula* (Marsh.) – This (a slimmer edition of the last), a great lychnophile, has never been found in the garden or elsewhere in the area, but was often numerous at m.v.l. on suitable nights from June to August (first 26.vi.59). Before the 1950s it was regarded as a saltmarsh insect exclusively – a habitat it still frequents; but where these recent large inland populations (it was the same here at Charlton) originate is something of a mystery.
- (*A. apricaria* (Payk.)) – Another strongly lychnophilic species, so the occurrence of the first specimen (and of *B. verbasici*) in a bedroom of the house is no surprise. General at m.v.l. without being abundant, but, like the last, never found in the garden.
- **A. cursitans* Zimm. – A female amongst grass by a fence, 16.iv.53. Only the second specimen known as British; its identity was confirmed by the carabid specialist Prof. C.H. Lindroth. As no other has been found, the species clearly has the status of a casual adventive in our fauna. (See Allen, 1956. *Ent. mon. Mag.* 92: 215-6; 1960, 96: 218).
- A. bifrons* (Gyll.) – Seven examples taken by grubbing along the base of a fence, with *A. aenea* and *A. anthobia*, 26.vi.52; one under a trap behind the house, 24.ix.52, and another at m.v.l., 6.viii.60. (A frequent visitor to the lamp here at Charlton.)
- A. tibialis* (Payk.) – One floating on the pond, 8.v.59; another in the same vicinity, swept, 16.vii.64. This small species has no connection with damp places but favours sandy and gravelly soils, and never bred in the garden.
- (*A. ovata* (F.) and *A. similata* (Gyll.)) – Both remained very sporadic in later as in earlier years.
- (*A. eurynota* (Panz.)) Must be deleted from the list, the specimen having been taken in Blackheath Village and placed on the garden list through some confusion.)
- (*A. anthobia* Villa) – Continued to be found throughout the period, especially under weeds on paths and flowerbeds etc., but irregularly.
- (*A. lunicollis* Schdt.) – Formerly rare in the garden, but about the mid-1950s began to increase, becoming in later times commoner than the next.
- (*A. convexior* Steph.) – Remained infrequent, but both it and *A. lunicollis* were found rather freely in company in lawn turf freshly dug out, October 1958.
- (*A. plebeja* (Gyll.)) – Seemed to have either died out or (more likely) been lost sight of until about 1950, after which it was again found widely but rather sparingly.
- (*Pterostichus melanarius* (Ill.) (*P. vulgaris* of the list)) – There appear to have been two further early finds: 29.iv.31 and 29.viii.31. This is a typical field species, so its disappearance soon after the field became a garden is little surprising.
- (*P. madidus* (F.)) – Despite its overall abundance, it has periods of scarcity. I noted that on 14.vii.73 it was suddenly common, with *Harpalus rufipes*, under the two large stones by the garage, though not seen at all earlier that year.
- (*Calathus fuscipes* (Goeze)) – This normally common species seems liable to very wide and slow fluctuations in its numbers. After being more than usually frequent in 1952 and 1953 it disappeared rather abruptly until the autumn of 1970, when a revival set in, gradually developing into a wave of unusual abundance lasting, in this district, well into the 1980s. *C. melanocephalus* (L.) also recovered its earlier moderate frequency, but in a far less spectacular way.
- (*C. piceus* (Marsh.)) – Though only twice noted up to 1950, like so many other species it turned up more often in later years, especially in hay and straw litter along the base of a brick wall from about 1965, often with *Abax parallelepipedus*.
- (*Synuchus nivalis* (Panz.)) – After a lapse of 35 years from the original capture, this uncommon beetle was at last found again, this time in some numbers (often three together) under tile-traps behind the house and more seldom at a distance therefrom, through the summer of 1965 (first on 19.vi). Also sporadically in later years.
- (*Agonum dorsale* (Pont.)) – Only two records of this very attractive species up to 1950; but a year or two later it turned up in plenty in early spring (perhaps still hibernating) under an old dustbin-lid placed on a disused vegetable plot as a beetle trap. Since then not uncommon at times under cover, e.g. tile-traps near the house.
- **Bembidion quinquestriatum* Gyll. – A single example beaten out of ivy on a wall, 6.xi.51. An elusive insect whose true habitat is in some doubt (underground mammal nests have been suggested), but seeming from the records to have some association with old walls.

- B. lunulatum* (Fourc.) – Rather common at the edges of the pond from about 1964 (much commoner than the next).
- (*B. guttula* (F.)) – Infrequent in later years; swept near the house, 16.iv.70; at m.v.l., 20.vii.72.
- B. properans* (Steph.) – Doubtless often confused with *B. lampros* and probably not uncommon; checked specimens are dated 1 & 9.viii.57, 12.iv.60 and 29.vi.68 (two under a stone).
- B. quadrimaculatum* (L.) – Occasional: among roots at foot of earthen bank, 15.iv.51; by grubbing along base of fence, 11.ix.53.
- (*B. tetracolum* Say) – This, the *B. ustulatum* of the list, seems to have become extinct in its very restricted habitat some time after 1955.
- B. varium* (Ol.) – A coastal and saltmarsh species of which a specimen occurred at m.v.l., 6.viii.59.
- Trechus quadristriatus* (Schrank) – One by sweeping, 22.ix.52; occasional at m.v.l. in 1959-60. One would expect so common a beetle to have been found more often.
- T. obtusus* Er. – Very sparsely under tile-traps along rear wall of house in the 1960s and autumn of 1970; in hay and straw along base of garden wall, under which were mouse runs, 30.iii & 25.iv.66.
- Demetrias atricapillus* (L.) – Rare: swept off grass under apple trees, 10.vi.53; swept near the pond, 12.v.61; shaken out of weeds, 14.v.65. Once at m.v.l., 8.viii.59.
- Dromius linearis* (Ol.) – Only one of this common beetle has occurred, by sweeping near fence, 14.ix.58.
- D. meridionalis* Dej. – Well established, but met with on few occasions. From ivy, 29.x.51; four from dead leaves and shakings of ivy, 13.x.52; at m.v.l., 21.vii.59, and 9.viii.57; several under flakes of apple bark, 4.iv.73.
- D. quadrimaculatus* (L.) – Very scarce: one beaten from apple tree, 9.v.54.
- D. quadrinotatus* (Zenk.) – Under flakes of apple bark: 19.x.59 (one) and 4.iv.73 (one live, one dead).
- (*Metabletus foveatus* (Fourc.)) – Only one earlier record, but in later years quite common at roots of grass etc., especially along base of fence.

Haliplidae (one addition)

- Haliphus lineatocollis* (Marsh.) – One found swimming in the pond, 14.viii.59, two more on the 25th, then a long absence until 23.iii.72; and a few more subsequently.

Dytiscidae (14 additions)

Unless otherwise stated, all listed members of this and the next family were taken from the pond (October 1958 onwards).

- Laccophilus minutus* (L.) – A single specimen dredged, 23.v.59.
- Hydroglyphus pusillus* (F.) (*Bidessus geminus* auctt.) – Two specimens only : 27.ix & 6.x.59.
- Coelambus confluens* (F.) – One, 27.iv.59. (Common in a pond on Blackheath.)
- C. impressopunctatus* (Schall.) – Singly on 3.iv., 27.iv., and 8.v.59.
- Hydroporus palustris* (L.) – The sole record for this common water-beetle is one on 3.iv.69, which is curious (but the species seems absent from the ponds on Blackheath).
- **H. incognitus* Sharp – 9.x.58, 26.x.58, 13.v.61, all singletons. One of the first arrivals at the pond; as I have suggested elsewhere, this may possibly mark the beginning of a habitat-extension from acid to neutral water.
- H. memnonius* Nic. – A male on 13.v.59. (Tends to occur singly in my experience.)
- H. nigrita* (F.) – The only record is for one on 24.iv.59.
- H. tessellatus* Drap. – One of this rather pretty species fished out of the pond, 14.iv.59.
- H. pubescens* (Gyll.) – Singly on 14.x.58, 27.xii.58, 19.iv.59. This used to be one of our very commonest Hydropori, but in later times the following species has most definitely usurped that position at least in my area.
- H. planus* (F.) – By far the commonest Dytiscid in the pond at all times, though varying much in numbers; often abundant; first on 11.x.58. Active also in winter; in some plenty, 27.xii.58, 15.ii.59, swimming freely over floor of pond. Less often noticed in later years when the bottom was muddier and the weed thicker.

Agabus nebulosus (Forst.) – First taken 26.x.58, and never common but not infrequent in at least the next few years; not seen after the plastic lining was removed from the pond. (Except for one in Surrey these are the only examples of *nebulosus* I have met with.)

(*A. bipustulatus* (L.)) – This very common *Agabus* was present almost continuously, I believe, whatever the condition of the pond. Several larvae, with one adult, 23.iii.72; more larvae, 23.v.72.

Ilybius fuliginosus (F.) – One at m.v.l., 8.viii.59, is the sole record for the garden (another in swimming-pool in next-door garden when drained, 10.vii.73). This species might have been expected in the pond when recent, but it prefers gently moving water (perhaps not a common commodity in the district).

Rhantus suturalis MacL. (*pulverosus* (Steph.)) – First found 9.x & 26.x.58, thereafter singly from time to time. (Certainly the commonest overall of our *Rhantus* spp.)

Hydrophilidae (18 additions)

Hydrobius fuscipes (L.) – Frequent both in the pond (still there 28.iv.69) and at m.v.l. singly from spring to autumn. The first was at the lamp, 24.vii.59.

Enochrus melanocephalus (Ol.) – At m.v.l., one, 15.viii.73.

Helochares lividus (Forst.) – One, 14.ix.62, by which time there was plenty of vegetation in the pond.

Anacaena globulus (Payk.) – Also one only, 28.iv.69.

A. lutescens Steph. – One by dredging, 23.iii.59; another under board floating on pond, 21.iv.70. A recently separated species.

A. limbata (F.) – Also twice: 11.v.59, at surface; 5.v.72, amongst pondweed (*Elodea crista*).

Laccobius bipunctatus (F.) (*alutaceus* Thoms.) – First on 2.iii.59, soon becoming frequent.

Helophorus grandis Ill. (*aquaticus* auct.) – Mostly in early spring; several under boards floating on the pond, from 1.iii.59, with others of the genus; one amongst leaves of loose pieces of *Elodea* at pond-edge, 12.iii. Subsequently sporadic.

H. obscurus Muls. (*aeneipennis* auct.part.) – Not uncommon, often with the preceding and following species.

H. minutus F. – As the last, or rather more common. Like the others, often on floating boards.

**H. griseus* Hbst. – A very few in company with *H. minutus*, and only in early March 1959. (Occurred with *H. longitarsis* Woll. in a pond on Blackheath.)

H. brevipalpis Bed. – Common along with the other species; occasionally swept, in flight, and at m.v.l. (The most abundant of the genus.)

Hydrochus angustatus Germ. – A single specimen by dredging, 9.vi.63.

Ochthebius minimus (F.) – A stray example of this small water-beetle by sweeping, 22.v.53, long before the garden pond existed.

Sphaeridium lunatum F. – A male found under fish bait, 2.vii.52. The commoner *S. scarabaeoides* does not seem to have occurred, but both are typically dung insects.

(*S. marginatum* F.) – This is the correct name of the species recorded in the list (1951) as *S. bipustulatum* ab. *marginatum*; *bipustulatum* is now recognised as a separate species. A few more were met with at the end of June 1953 in compost.

Cercyon laminatus* Sharp – This very distinct *Cercyon* was captured exclusively at m.v.l. (occurring similarly here at Charlton), but its true habitat is almost certainly the nests of pigeons which would explain its never having been found in the garden. It was new to Britain when first taken on 6 & 8.viii.59 (1969, *Ent. Rec.* **81: 211-2), and so far is recorded from very few other localities in southern England though it rapidly spread over much of Europe from Japan. Always erratic and scarce but one or two have visited the lamp in several of the years up to 1973.

(*C. unipunctatus* (L.)) – Continued to turn up rarely, including one at m.v.l. 19.viii.71.

C. quisquilius (L.) – This long expected species appeared first at m.v.l., 8.viii.59, and again much later on 20.vii.72, 17.vii. & 1.viii.73.

(*C. atricapillus* (Marsh)) – Only one specimen had occurred in earlier years; but several were found in rotting straw and compost; 7-8.viii.53.

**Cryptopleurum subtile* Sharp – One at m.v.l., 17.vii.67. (Another immigrant from the Far East, previously taken in Cheshire, Merionethshire and Essex.)

**C. crenatum* (Kug.) – An example of this rarity sieved from compost, 13.viii.55.

Staphylinidae (36 additions)

- (*Megarthrus sinuatocollis* (Boisd. & Lac.)) – Since the one example recorded, another was found (29.v.58) in the decayed remnants of a grass heap.
- **Proteinus macropterus* (Grav.) – One at m.v.l., 15.viii.73. (I mark this as notable because I have never found more than singletons anywhere – so unlike our two really common species of the genus.)
- (*Omalium excavatum* Steph.) – A second specimen on 15.v.73 by sweeping mixed herbage.
- (*Carpelimus bilineatus* Steph.) – Only one previous record for the garden, but since taken twice at m.v.l.: 25.viii.69 & 4.vii.73.
- C. rivularis* Mots. – At the damp edges of the pond at grass roots, etc., or floating; three or four at m.v.l., 20.vii.72.
- C. corticinus* (Grav.) – One on the wing, 15.iii.72. (I have a memory of collecting it on a much earlier occasion in rotting herbage, but no definite record.)
- C. pusillus* (Grav.) – One on the wing 15.iii.72. (I have a memory of collecting it on a much earlier occasion in rotting herbage, but no definite record.)
- (**C. gracilis* (Mann.)) – Further single examples swept, 25.iii.53 (a warm, bright day) and 2.x.54. Doubtless rare only because of its subterranean habitat.
- (*Oxytelus sculptus* Grav.) – Rather frequent at m.v.l. throughout the period (vi-ix).
- (*O. rugosus* (F.)) – Common at m.v.l. on the night of 20.vii.72, and odd ones at other times. It is worth noticing that no species of *Anotylus*, to which most of our species of the old genus *Oxytelus* are now referred, appears to have visited the lamp.
- Platystethus cornutus* (Grav.) – One at the pond, 26.v.60 (where however there was not enough mud for the species to have bred).
- Stenus juno* (Payk.) – One specimen only has been met with, by sweeping (not near the pond), 10.v.67.
- (*S. clavicornis* (Scop.)) – Continued to flourish throughout the period of the survey from its appearance in 1954. Several found under a plank, others by sweeping.
- S. ossium* Steph. – First noted 1.iii.59, when one was sieved from refuse which included old mouldy apples; a second swept on an overgrown lawn, 12.vi.62.
- S. aceris* Steph. – The first swept, 13.v.68; another 8.ix.70, thereafter becoming more frequent; most by sweeping, but several times under traps along base of house wall, summer 1972. This was just the start of a wide increase of *S. aceris* throughout the district, lasting into the 1980s. The very closely allied *S. impressus* Germ., normally far commoner, seemed absent from the garden and is in fact rare in the district.
- S. flavipes* Steph. – Has occurred, singly, only twice: in debris of moss and litter, 23.iii.61; and running on a wall of the house, at the foot of which was a small heap of straw refuse, 26.iv.68.
- S. nitidiusculus* Steph. – A macropterous female by sweeping, not near the pond, 14.iii.72. (This not very common species has been associated with springs.)
- S. picipennis* Er. – One swept by the pond, 5.viii.61, but not seen again until 1969 when a few more were taken similarly up to ix.71.
- S. cicindeloides* (Schall.) – One swept off pondside herbage, 22.vi.70.
- (*Stenus fulvicornis* Steph.) – Continued to be found, mostly by sweeping; one on washing hung out to dry; well established by the mid-1960s. (A dozen species of *Stenus* seems a respectable total for the garden, even though a few were doubtless casuals.)
- (*Lathrobium multipunctum* Grav.) – Continued sparingly through the rest of the period; two by the pond, quite near the water, 5.v.71, though usually but little hygrophilous.
- (*Lithocharis nigriceps* Kr.) – Yet another Oriental immigrant, which remained very common to the near-exclusion of our native species.
- (*L. ochracea* (Grav.)) – Very seldom found since the last species became dominant. Singly in decaying pond-weed (5.v.72) and at m.v.l. (15.ix.73).
- Othius punctulatus* (Goeze) – First found 26.viii.64, after which it soon became not at all uncommon, but almost restricted to the traps along the rear wall of the house.

- **Neobisnius lathrobioides* Baudi (*cerrutii* Grid.) – Two females swept on or over the back lawn, just behind the house, within a few minutes and about a dozen yards apart, 15.iv.71. This corrects the published record (1972, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **108**: 37) where the identification as *N. prolixus* Er. was, I am now satisfied, erroneous. (It can be difficult to separate these two species on females.)
- (*Philonthus succicola* Thoms.) (*chalceus*, *proximus* auctt.) – Became not very uncommon at carrion during the 1960s; three or four in a long-dead pigeon, 30.iv.67.
- (*) *P. decorus* (Grav.) – A distinctive species connected with small mammal nests or runs underground. Appeared 10.v.59 under a tile-trap in a moist spot behind the house, singly at first but in a year or two had become by no means scarce, continuing on and off into the early 1970s. Like the *Othius* above, not or hardly found elsewhere in the garden. (I have met with it in very few other places, and not nearly as freely.)
- (*P. marginatus* (Ström)) – Remained very rare: a second specimen at fish bait, 18.viii.53.
- (*P. albipes* (Grav.)) – Two examples in warm mouldy grass-cuttings, 7.viii.53.
- (*P. concinnus* (Grav.)) – One more on 26.iv.66 (male), out of dry grass.
- P. cruentatus* (Gmel.) – The first and only specimen of this bright species sifted from well-rotted grass, 20.iv.59. Largely a dung insect, like *P. intermedius* Boisd. & Lac. (also unique for the garden).
- (*P. agilis* (Grav.)) remains unconfirmed and would be best deleted from the list.)
- (*) *P. longicornis* Steph. – Though it figures in the main list, it turns out that the specimens were misdetermined. The true *P. longicornis* (male) was taken from a rotted-down grass-heap, 20.vi.53, and is not only unique for the garden but also the only one I have found anywhere. The species is not accounted a rarity, but I can only conclude that it has become so in the last half-century, at least around London.
- P. quisquiliarius* (Gyll.) – One in or under drying blanket-weed out of the pond, 5.v.72. (A frequenter of muddy watersides.)
- Gabrius subnigritulus* Reitt. – Not uncommon on 15.iv.71 and later occasions at the edge of the pond, especially in pondweed left there as a trap. Appears to have been the first suburban record (1972, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **108**: 37).
- (*Ocypus olens* Müll.) – A second example, 4.x.52, under a large stone at the side of the house. *O. globulifer* Fourc. and *O. winkleri* Bernh. have both recurred (data not to hand).
- (*Ontholestes murinus* (L.) & *Creophilus maxillosus* (L.)) – Both became rather frequent at carrion (fish). On one occasion a titanic struggle between one of the former and a green-bottle (*Lucilia sericata* Meig.) was witnessed – victory going to the fly, which was so doggedly determined to free itself that the aggressor had finally to retire crestfallen and sacrifice its prospective meal!
- (*Quedius mesomelinus* (Marsh.)) – Not as uncommon and restricted in later years as formerly, becoming tolerably frequent in grass-cuttings, compost and rubbish heaps.
- Q. fuliginosus* (Grav.) (*subfuliginosus* Britten) – Had not been recognised from the garden when the list was compiled, but proved a little later to be by no means scarce. (I have little doubt that its sibling *Q. curtipennis* Benh. also occurred, but have no definite record; both species have occurred in my Charlton garden.)
- (*Habrocera capillaricornis* (Grav.)) – Two further examples of this fragile species in straw litter, 11.v.65.
- (*Mycetoporus longulus* Mann.) – One at roots of grass along base of fence, 18.iv.56.
- (*Sepedophilus marshami* Steph.) – As will probably have been guessed, the *Conosomus testaceus* of the list is really the above common species, the true *testaceus* being a very local species unlikely to inhabit a London garden. When I wrote however, what we now call *S. marshami* was known as *C. testaceus* (formerly as *C. pubescens*).
- (*S. immaculatus* (Steph.)) – Tended to increase latterly; six from hay and straw litter along base of wall, 11.v.65.
- Tachyporus obtusus* (L.) – One by sweeping on lawn, 14.v.65; another on house wall above cut grass, 3.v.69. (This bright and distinctive species is chiefly found in flood refuse.)
- T. pallidus* Sharp – A few specimens in early May 1970 swept near the pond, one ditto 14.iii.72; also one on front lawn (and so well away from the pond), 8.v.70.

- **Tachinus flavolimbatus* Pand. – A single male, not until 30 years later recognised as this species (1988, *Ent. Rec.* **100**: 234), was taken on 15.xi.58 in vegetable refuse and passed at the time as *T. marginellus* (F.). The first London record of this rather scarce and restricted *Tachinus*.
- (*Callicerus obscurus* Grav.) – Only two specimens had occurred up to 1970, but from then began a remarkable increase for a few years. By sweeping grass on mild days from March to May only, mostly (in some numbers) on the front lawn; a few stragglers elsewhere in the garden in 1973 were the last seen.
- (*) *Amischa soror* (Kr.) (*sensu* S.A. Williams) – A single female swept on front lawn, 14.iv.70. (Possibly passed over earlier with *A. analis*, but its larger size should draw attention to it and I think it is genuinely rare here.)
- Atheta* (*Philhygra*) *malleus* Joy – This must replace *A. (P.) halophila* in the list; a male occurred at the pond, 3.ix.71.
- (*A. (Plataraea) brunnea* (F.)) – Captures became less infrequent later – always single specimens in varied conditions, but mostly swept.
- (*A. (Microdota) liliputana* Bris.) (*alpina* Benick) – A second female of this rarity sieved out of decaying pondweed, 5.v.72.
- (*A. (M.) “n.sp?”*) after *A. indubia* in the list. – Not a distinct species but a spermathecal abnormality of *A. indubia*, as I later became convinced; *cf.* the next entry.
- (*A. (A.) “sp.?”*) after *A. trinotata* in the list, of which, again, it must be regarded as a spermathecal “sport”, on exactly the same plan as the last (it was taken in the same spot). In each case the apical half of the organ is in effect rotated through 180°, giving the spermatheca a strikingly different appearance from the normal.
- (*A. (A.) triangulum* (Kr.)) – One from decaying pondweed, 22.v.72. (The supposed coastal bias of this species is perhaps questionable.)
- **A. (A.) harwoodi* Wlms. – Both sexes from rotted grass, 23.iv.68; and a male by general sweeping, 14.iii.71.
- (*A. (A.) aquatica* (Thoms.)) – Only one already recorded, but it later occurred freely under rotting cauliflower leaves (14.iii.72) and under dog dung (iv-v.68).
- A. (A.) graminicola* (Grav.) – As for *A. triangulum* above, 1.v.72, but unlike that species the present one is strongly hygrophilous.
- **A. (Liogluta) pagana* (Er.) – A female of this uncommon largely subterranean species sifted out of moist surface soil rich in humus, on what used to be a marrow bed, 18.x.64.
- A. (Dimetrota) ischnocera* Thoms. – This must be substituted for *A. (D.) cauta* in the list, which is much the less common of the two and has not been taken in the garden.
- (*A. (D.) setigera* Sharp) – The previous specimen whose identification was provisional is definitely of this species. One caught flying, 8.viii.65; another under dog dung, 2.v.68.
- A. (D.) cinnamoptera* (Thoms.) – Of this distinctive species two have been taken under dog dung, 9 & 15.v.68.
- **A. (D.) laevana* (Muls. & Rey) – Another dung species of which a male occurred in the same habitat, 20.iv.68.
- A. (Acrotona) parvula* (Mann.) (*parva* auctt.) – One taken with the last; another swept, 29.iv.69.
- (*A. (A.) “n.sp.”* after *A. aterrima* in the list) – The question of this form and its status is a difficult one, and this is not the place to discuss it: for present purposes it is best included under *A. (Acrotona) pygmaea* (Grav.).
- (*A. (A.) exigua* (Er.)) – A second example by sweeping herbage near the house, 3.vii.73.
- (*A. (A.) muscorum* (Bris.)) – A second sifted from loamy soil, 1.iii.59; a third by sweeping, 10.iv.71.
- A. (Mocyta) amplicollis* Muls. & Rey – Not uncommon, mostly by sweeping, but till relatively lately confused in Britain with the ubiquitous *A. fungi* (Grav.). The latter is Fowler’s “*fungi* v. *dubia*” while the present species is his “*fungi*”. The species is well-named: the larger specimens with noticeably ample thorax and long pale antennae are *amplicollis*.
- (*Alevonota gracilenta* (Er.)) – A further male of this rare beetle was swept, like the others, from grass on a warm afternoon, 14.v.65. The “*Alevonota n.sp.*” after *A. gracilenta* in the list, though considered as new by Dr G. Benick, appears after all to differ very little from the last-named species to which I now unhesitatingly refer it; unlike any of the others it is a female.

- **Oxypoda longipes* Muls. & Rey – A male of this very local moles'-nest species was found by grubbing along the base of a fence, v.1973. Its occurrence in the garden is problematic, moles having for very long been absent from the entire area.
- (*Oxypoda lividipennis* Mann.) – Only one previous find, but on 18.v.66 two occurred in litter along the base of a wall.
- **O. procerula* Mann. – A rare species of wet places which suddenly turned up in very small numbers in 1969-71. One swept near the remains of a bonfire, 7.iv.69; one not far off in a damp spot under a stone against the house wall, and another 19.v; one in a small pile of moss, 8.v.70; a few more the next year similarly, the last 29.viii.71 (1969, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **105**: 279).
- **O. amoena* Frm. & Lab. – Only in 1966: single examples by sweeping grass, 20.iii., 8.iv., 10.iv. (1968, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **105**: 279). Another rarity, like the last to be regarded as a failed colonist.
- (*Aleochara funebris* Woll.) – This is the now-accepted name of the *A. diversa* of the list, also lately known as *albovillosa* Bernh. Later records for the garden are of two specimens from a heap of decayed grass, 23 & 27.iv.68.

Pselaphidae (five additions)

- Rybaxis longicornis* (Leach) – A female swept from mixed vegetation, 7.vii.63, presumably a stray. A species of pondsides, etc.; if breeding at the garden pond it was never found there, and the same applies to the next two species. The pond some distance away where *Rybaxis* used to occur had by then been drained and filled in.
- Brachygluta haematica* (Rchb.) – One at m.v.l., 30.viii.67, towards the end of a period favourable for this species.
- Reichenbachia juncorum* (Leach) – One swept on the front lawn, 20.iv.71, early in a favourable period for the species.
- (*Euplectus signatus* (Rchb.)) – Must be deleted from the garden list, as the record was based on what since proved to be a small pale individual of the common *E. sanguineus*.
- (*) *E. infirmus* Raffr. – Not very uncommon from the 1960s on; a series with a few *Anommatus* on soil under mouldy grass and hay refuse, 18.x.64; several times in rotted-down straw, e.g. 26.iv.66. (First recognised as British in the 1920s as a guest of the ant *Lasius brunneus* at Windsor and only later found to have a far wider distribution and habitat.)
- E. karsteni* (Rchb.) – One swept over cut grass, vi.54; at grass roots along base of fence, males, 16.viii.57, 19.iv.69; one in hay, 5.v.70.

Scydmaenidae (three additions)

- **Scydmorephes helvolus* (Schaum) – The sole example I have taken of this scarce beetle was sifted from litter and debris of straw placed as a trap along the base of a brick wall (1969, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **105**: 198). It was probably connected with mouse runs which the insect fauna of the material suggested were under the surface.
- **Euconnus duboisi* Mécq. (*murielae* Last) – One netted in evening flight over lush grass under apple trees, 13.v.54, with the atmosphere close and humid after a shower (1954, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **90**: 185). Only four specimens previously known, with few records since.
- (*) *Eutheia scymaenoides* Steph. – One of this long-expected species crawling on a leaf of a beech hedge, 12.vii.69. The usual habitats are grass-heaps, hotbeds, manure heaps and the like.

Silphidae

- (*Necrophorus interruptus* Steph.) – A supposedly rare or uncommon species which became rather frequent at fish bait in the few years after 1952 when the first specimen was found. This burying-beetle increased very markedly around London at least (probably far more widely), becoming much the commonest of the genus from about the mid-1940s.
- (*Thanatophilus sinuatus* (F.)) – Continued periodically common at the fish bait; whilst one specimen was found at roots of herbage nowhere near any obvious carrion, 9.vii.65.

Catopidae (three additions)

- Nargus velox* (Spence) – Singly in small piles of rather fresh grass: 28.ix.54; 4.xi.55, 26.iv.66.
- N. wilkini* (Spence) – One specimen with the last, 28.ix.54.

Catops grandicollis Er. – Occasional in rotting herbage etc. in 1966 (4.v, 11.v, 29.v.)
(C. fuliginosus Er.) – In rubbish, 31.iii.59, and odd ones since by sweeping, up to 1972. (The most generally common *Catops* in later years in these parts.)

Leiodidae (three additions)

Colenis immunda (Sturm) – One by evening sweeping, 9.viii.53.
Leiodes rufipennis (Payk.) – A male of this, the *L. dubia* of our lists, found floating on the pond the day after it was filled, 6.x.58. Possibly derived from the lawn turf dug out to make the pond.
Agathidium varians Beck – Three at different times from hay litter along base of brick wall: the first undated, the others 28.ix.59 & 22.iv.65. A not uncommon species but not gregarious.

Clambidae (one addition)

Clambus gibbulus* (LeC.) (*radula* E.-Younga) – One of this rare species in cut grass, 14.iv.46 (1994, *Ent. Rec.* **106: 190). The specimen being only recently identified, others could have been present but taken for *C. punctulum* Beck, the usual species in the garden (the *C. minutus* of the list).

Histeridae (two additions)

(*Acritus nigricornis* (Hoff.)) – It is worthy of note that this small beetle was never seen again after the last record cited in the list (14.viii.42), though hardly scarce in the earlier years and its normal habitat continued to be closely worked.
Kissister minimus (Aubé) – Two by sweeping, 24.ix.61, not far from the pond; another, 15.iii.72, swept near the pond. The species increased markedly from somewhere around the early 1960s for about two decades in this district. Lives both in rotting herbage and on the ground at roots of plants, much as the next species.
(Hister purpurascens (Hbst.)) – Had occurred only three times up to 1953, but continued to be found singly at intervals in the later years, in each of its two types of habitat. Widely dispersed in the district.
H. striola Sahlb. – One from rotting vegetables, July 1933, but only much later determined. The singularity of this find is explained by the absence from the garden of the beetle's specific habitats, namely flowing tree-sap and tree fungi.
(Atholus duodecimstriatus (Schränk)) – In earlier times this was much the commonest of the smaller *Histers* in the garden, but it became far less so during the 1950s and from about 1955 was no longer to be found – a fact hard to account for, like the case of the *Acritus* above.

Ptiliidae (one addition)

(*Ptilium exaratum* Allib.) – The garden species is *P. horioni* Rossk.; the true *P. exaratum* is very rare in Britain.
Acrotrichis cognata Matth. (*platonoffi* Renk.) – A distinctive species found rather freely under dryish dog dung with *A. fascicularis* (Deg.) and *A. atomaria* (Hbst.), 18.iv.69 (1969, *Ent. mon. Mag.* **105**: 169). It had not long been added to our list (as *platonoffi*) and was spreading rather rapidly. (The record of *A. championi* must be transferred to *atomaria*, and that of *A. brevis* to *sericans*. *A. bovina* is now referred to *dispar* Matth.)

Nitidulidae (four additions)

Kateretes rufilabris Latr. – Single examples swept by the pond: 3.viii.60, 21 & 28.vii.68.
Meligethes atratus (Ol.) – One in June 1968 in a blackberry flower is the sole record. (Elsewhere often occurs gregariously in flowers of dog-rose.)
M. morosus Er. – Accidentally omitted from the original list, the first having been taken 31.viii.53; another 5.v.56. The hostplant, *Lamium album*, was absent from the garden.
Nitidula rufipes (L.) – Three times singly in 1966 under fish put out as bait: 18.v., 12 & 14.vi. (No longer a rare species since the 1940s.)
(N. carnaria (Schall.)) – A second specimen found in soil under the fish, 25.ix.68. (This can no longer be called rare, an epithet now better suited to the once-common *N. bipunctata* (L.))
(Eपुरaea unicolor (Ol.)) – This is the *E. heeri* of the list, where one find only was noted. A very common species in woods at tree-sap, but in the garden it turned up in later years in compost, in a grass-heap, by sweeping (15.iii.72) and at m.v.l. (20.vii.72).
(Pria dulcamarae (Scop.)) – One on the kitchen window, 20.viii.68. Undoubtedly established.

Monotomidae

(*Monotoma picipes* (Hbst.)) – Also at m.v.l. in 1959: 21.viii, 5.ix.

Silvanidae

(*Ahasverus advena* Waltl) – A second specimen sieved out of compost, 16.ix.57.

Lathridiidae (five additions)

(*Lathridius minutus* (L.)) – The data given in the list under *Enicmus minutus* relate to the following; the true *L. minutus*, much scarcer, is hard to separate and is not known to have occurred.

(*L. anthracinus* Mann.) – Data given under the above name apply here. On house wall, 24.vi.60. Despite its name, usually rusty-brown and *not* coal-black.

L. pseudominutus Strand – One at roots of grass along fence, 1.iii.59. (Usually the largest and blackest of the group.)

Dienerella (formerly *Cartodere*) *ruficollis* (Marsh.) – Found very sparingly on a wall of the house, where there were probably small moulds, end of June 1960.

D. separanda Reitt. – Two examples of this often common species (split off from the rarer *D. elongata* (Curt.)), by grubbing along base of fence, 16.iv.67.

**Cartodere* (formerly *Lathridius*) *constricta* (Gyll.) – A solitary specimen in a mouldy grass-heap, 21.v.59. (Mostly occurs singly in my experience.)

(*Enicmus brevicornis* (Mann.)) – Odd specimens continued to be swept increasingly often since the first occurred in 1951, up to the end of the period. The transformation of this beetle from a rare old-forest species, into one found sometimes by the million on sycamores infected with sooty-bark disease, is one of the more remarkable events in the recent history of our Coleoptera. The latter habitat was not found in the Blackheath district, but *E. brevicornis* soon became general.

(*Corticaria elongata* (Gyll.)) – Remained quite scarce in the garden, but occasionally rather numerous at m.v.l. on “good” nights.

(*C. inconspicua* Woll.) – This is the *C. crenicollis* of the list, the true species of that name not being British.

Mycetophagidae (one addition)

Mycetophagus quadripustulatus (L.) – Stray specimens have twice been swept: 29.x.58, 30.v.63. (One of our commonest fungus-feeders.)

(*Typhaea stercorea* (L.)) – Often quite common at m.v.l.

Colydiidae (one addition)

**Aulonium trisulcum* (Fourc.) – This *Scolytus*-predator was by no means infrequent at m.v.l. during and after the peak-period of Dutch elm disease in the district, the decade 1960-70. It bred freely in the local elms when conditions were right. First noted 19.vi.60: another on 24.vi.61; seven on 1.vii.73.

Erotylidae (one addition)

Dacne bipustulata (Thunb.) – Three examples in a fungus on trunk of dead cherry tree, 3.vii.63; one swept at end of beech hedge not far from same tree, 18.v.70.

Coccinellidae (three additions)

(*Coccinella septempunctata* L.) – A number found hibernating at roots of a clump of michaelmas daisies (*Aster novi-belgii*), 2.ii.71.

**Halyzia sedecimguttata* (L.) – One at m.v.l., 24.vi.60 (the only one I had seen in the area until last year, 1996. Recently found to be often associated with sycamore, as a mildew-feeder).

Myrrha octodecimguttata (L.) – Singly at m.v.l., 8.vi.60, 9.viii.67, 7.vii.70; one from foliage of red-flowering hawthorn overhanging from next garden, 25.viii.60 (curious site for this pine-dwelling species).

Scymnus haemorrhoidalis Hbst. – Occasional in later years, by sweeping rough herbage, etc.: 3.vii.58, 27.iv.63; 21.vii.68 (by the pond).

(*S. auritus* Thunb.) – A male on *Pyrus japonica* 17.v.64, the second to have been found on this shrub; twice later on a young self-sown oak (its proper host tree), the last 29.vii.73.

(*Stethorus punctillum* (Weise)) – Further records; singly, 23.v.62 & 19.v.72, on the beech hedge.



Allen, Anthony Adrian. 1998. "The Coleoptera of a suburban garden: a supplement." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 110, 119–130.

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