

**Some recent records of localised synanthropic Coleoptera**

*Cryptopleurum subtile* Sharp (Hydrophilidae). An immigrant from eastern Asia first recorded in Britain in 1966.

Compost heap, Little Comberton, Worcs. (SO/94) 7-8.viii.1989 (3)

Compost heap, Broadway, Worcs. (SP/03) 6.vi.1989 (1)\*

Manure heap, Helmdon, Northants (SP/54) 18.viii.1989 (1)

*Phacophallus tricolor* (Kraatz) (Staphylinidae). First taken in Britain by Mr P.M. Hammond on 9.vii.1980 in London (*Entomologist's mon. Mag.*) **118**: 231-232) as an immigrant, probably initially from the eastern Palaearctic. This is a distinctive species with pale elytra, the suture bisecting dark confluent triangles widening basally (Smetana, A. 1980 *Ent. Scand.*: **54**). Now almost cosmopolitan.

Compost heap, Broadway, Worcs. (SP/03) 4.viii.1988 (female)\*

Compost heap, Little Comberton, Worcs. (SO/94) 6.viii.1989 (male)

*Myrmexixenus vaporariorum* Guérin-Méneville (Colydiidae).

According to *Faune de l'Europe et du Bassin Med.* **8** (pub. Masson 1977) this species is pan-European, rarer in the east, extending to Cape Verde Islands, Morocco and Egypt, and is found in "les bouses desséchées," doubtless the French equivalent of "old manure heaps."

Compost heap, Little Comberton, Worcs. (SO/94) 27.vii.1989 (1)\* in breeding colony *Labia minor* (L.) (Dermaptera, Labiidae) in friable laminated decomposing vegetation with some lignified stems. One of the few modern British records.

*Anthicus tobias* Marseul (Anthicidae).

Compost heap, Broadway, Worcs. (SP/03) 19.viii.1988 (1)

According to Hammond, P.M. 1974, *Changing flora & fauna of Britain*, this species was first taken in Britain in 1935. This specimen was taken in fresh lettuce leaves, with the clear indication in this case of aphidophagy.

My identifications were confirmed by A.A. Allen, M.L. Cox, C. Johnson and R. Madge whom I wish to thank. Mr P. Hodge kindly allowed me to publish his Northamptonshire record of *C. subtile*.

"\*" indicates species new to Worcestershire, v.c. 37.— P.F. WHITEHEAD, Moor Leys, Little Comberton, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3EP.

**Unusual flight times of *Eupithecia tripunctaria* H.-S., *Operophtera brumata* L. and *Colostygia multistrigaria* L. (Lep.: Geometridae) in Rothamsted Insect Survey light traps.**

There have recently been several interesting articles in this journal which discuss the voltinism of *E. tripunctaria* (White-spotted Pug). The conclusion appears to be that this species is at least partially bivoltine in Britain. However, a single male was caught at the RIS trap at Yarner Wood, Devon (Site No., 266, O.S. Grid Ref. SX 786 788) on 29.xii.1988.



This record constitutes a third emergence at Yarner Wood during that year, possibly as a result of the mild winter of 1988/89. A single male *O. brumata* (Winter Moth) was caught at the same site on 29.vi.1988. This species usually flies between mid-November and mid-February at Yarner Wood, though one late capture was recorded on 2.iii.1979.

A single male *C. multistrigaria* (Mottled Grey) was caught at Rowardennan, Stirling (Site No. O.S. Grid Ref. NS 378 958) on 5.vii.1989. This species is usually recorded during March and April at Rowardennan, with occasional specimens in late January and early May.

These unusual records may be of particular interest considering the current discussions on climatic change which may affect the life cycles of moths as well as their distribution and abundance. Thanks are extended to P. Page and his staff at Yarner Wood and to R. McMath at Rowardennan for their continuing support in operating Rothamsted light traps.—ADRIAN M. RILEY, Dept. Entomology and Nematology, AFRC Inst. Arable Crops Research, Rothamsted Exp. Stn., Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

#### ***Evergestis extimalis* (Scop.) (Lep.: Pyralidae) in the Isle of Wight.**

On 18th July 1990 I took a specimen of this species at light at Freshwater which was presumably a migrant. According to Goater the last date given for this species for the island was at Bembridge on 11.vi.1858 by Wall. The only other migrant worthy of note taken in June or July 1990 was *Mythimna vitellina* (Hübner) which I took on 26th June 1990.—S.A. KNILL-JONES, 2 School Green Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight.

#### **Abundance of *Leptura livida* F. (Col.: Cerambycidae) in a S.E. London locality**

This season, 1990, the small but attractive longhorn beetle *Leptura livida* L. has been extraordinarily plentiful in suitable spots on Woolwich Common (barely ten minutes' walk from my house). An idea of its numbers will be given by the fact that, on an isolated plant of *Heracleum sphondylium* in a bush area (24.vi) the average count of *L. livida* was a dozen to each of several umbels. This profusion, admittedly, was not quite equalled elsewhere on the Common, and the distribution though wide was not uniform over the area; but still it occurred copiously in other parts too, affecting chiefly (besides hogweed) rose, blackberry, and thistle flowers — more especially in sheltered bushy spots.

This singular abundance bears all the marks of a temporary "outbreak" and may well prove a one-year phenomenon, perhaps paralleled by an immense quantity of familiar Cantharid *Rhagonycha fulva* Scop. in a neighbouring locality, to be seen as a rule only sparingly in this district. The *Leptura* first appeared on the Common in 1987 when, and up to this year,



Riley, A M. 1990. "Unusual flight times of *Eupithecia tripunctaria* H.-S., *Operophtera brumata* L. and *Colostygia multistrigaria* L. (Lep.: Geometridae) in Rothamsted insect survey light traps." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 102, 303–304.

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