

No. 425) — singletons on 30th April, 30th May and 1st June 1987 and Chopwell Wood, Tyne and Wear (O.S. Grid ref. NZ 136 582, Site No. 481) — one on 20th December 1987.

A. abietana has not previously been recorded in England (Emmet, A.M. pers. comm.) though single specimens have been caught in Perthshire in 1965 (Pelham-Clinton, E.C. (1967), *Ent. Rec.* **79**: 151-152) and 1987 (The R.I.S. trap at Kindrogan, Site No. 48, O.S. Grid ref. NO 341 299. (Ident. J. Parrack, pers. comm.)) and Aberdeenshire in 1975 (Smith, P. and Young, M.R. (1977), *Ent. Rec.* **89**: 53).

There is uncertainty as to whether or not *A. abietana* overwinters in the adult stage. Emmett (1979, *Field guide to the Smaller British Lepidoptera*. B.E.N.H.S., London: pp.159-160) states that it probably does so, and the dates of capture of these adults also suggest that this is likely.

Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), on which the larva feeds, is very common in the vicinity of the traps and it is interesting to note that *Eupithecia abietaria* Goeze (Lep.: Geometridae), which is another very localised spruce-feeding species, is also known to occur at some of these sites.

Thanks are extended to J. Parrack and T.C. Dunn for identifying the specimens along with the other microlepidoptera from several of our traps; D. Kerr and B. Walker who operate the traps at Kielder, (D.K.) and Hamsterley and Chopwell (B.W.); T. Hancock for confirming the identifications of *A. abietana* and to A.M. Emmet for his comments on this species. ADRIAN M. RILEY, Entomology and Nematology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

A RELICT OLD FOREST BEETLE FAUNA FROM LYDNEY DEER PARK, GLOS. — A large well-rotted fallen ash trunk in Lydney Deer Park, W. Glos. (SO 615025), on 14th June, 1987, produced three beetles listed in *British Red Data Books: 2, Insects* (Shirt, D.B., ed., 1987, N.C.C.): a single *Aeletes atomarius* (Aube), new to Gloucestershire; two adult *Prionocyphon serricornis* (Muller, P.W.J.) with pupae, the second county record; and larval *Ampedus ? cinnabarinus* (Eschs.) (prov. det. H. Mendel). The same trunk was riddled with the burrows of *Dorcus parallelipipedus* (L.), and also contained larvae of *Prionychus* sp. and *Stenagostus villosus* (Fourcroy), and adult *Biphyllus lunatus* (F.). Beetles found elsewhere in the Park included *Cerylon ferrugineum* Steph., *Mycetophagus atomarius* (F.), *Bitoma crenata* (F.), *Pyrochroa serraticornis* (Scop.), *Melandrya caraboides* (L.), and *Rhagium mordax* (Degeer). Eight of these species are listed in Harding and Rose (1986, *Pasture Woodlands in Lowland Britain*. I.T.E., Huntingdon) as associated with sites where there has been ecological continuity of dead wood habitats. The Park was presumably originally enclosed from the ancient Forest of Dean. K.N.A. ALEXANDER, 22 Cecily Hill, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 2EF.



Alexander, Keith N. A. 1988. "A relict old forest beetle fauna from Lydney Deer Park, Glos." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 100, 187–187.

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