

## References

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LACON AT LARGE. — On a visit to Windsor Great Park on 16.5.87, I found myself by chance near the site at which *Cicones undatus* Guer. was first noted in Britain (*Ent. Rec.* 99: 93) and took the opportunity to check on its fortunes. I found it sparingly on three dead sycamore trees and was somewhat surprised to find with it on the third tree a specimen of *C. variegata* (Hellwig), a beetle usually found on beech trees. I was even more surprised to find, on the same tree under a small flake of bark, a live female *Lacon querceus* Herbst.

This is a beetle which has been found by a number of coleopterists at Windsor since it was rediscovered there by my friend Mr. A. A. Allen in 1937 after a lapse of more than a hundred years but, as far as I can determine, it has been found exclusively where it has bred in red rotten oak in standing or fallen trees or in fairly large fallen boughs. Indeed, Mr. Allen, who has probably come across it at Windsor more frequently than anyone else, was led to state (1966, *Ent. Rec.* 78: 14) "... probably nocturnal, as it is never found at large." It is perhaps debatable whether a beetle hiding under a small flake of sycamore bark was truly "at large" but at least it was not in its usual habitat.

From my own limited observations it appears that once a bough containing a breeding colony of *Lacon* becomes detached from its tree and falls to the ground, the colony does not thrive for long, for reasons yet to be determined. Perhaps this is the time, possibly the only time, when adults disperse to found new colonies. My friend Mr. H. Mendel has told me that he with others found a number of *Lacon* adults in a large piece of fallen oak in Windsor Great Park about six weeks prior to my visit and it could be relevant that this was only a few 100 m from where I found the specimen under sycamore bark, presumably hiding temporarily while she sought an appropriate breeding site.

I thank Mr. A. R. Wiseman (Deputy Ranger, Crown Estates) for permission to study beetles at Windsor and Mrs. S. Garnett, Nature Conservancy Council for arranging the permit. — J. A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.





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