

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A *Clubiona* spider infected with a parasitic fungus.—On 22.ix.1992 while undertaking counts of large copper butterfly (*Lycaena dispar* (Haworth) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)) eggs and larvae at Woodwalton Fen NNR, V. C. Huntingdonshire (TL 231846) a single female *Clubiona* (Araneae: Clubionidae) was found on a dried leaf of great water dock (*Rumex hydrolapathum* Hudson). This spider was infected with a parasitic fungus (see Plate IV, Figure 1), with distinctive chalky white processes emerging from the body and legs. Dr A. G. Irwin (Norwich Castle Museum) has kindly identified the fungus as *Gibellula araneorum* (Schw.) Syd. (Moniliales: Stilbaceae) a common species on spiders in fens and meadows (Ellis, 1956; Petch, 1948). Tony Irwin tells me that recent opinion is that *Gibellula* may be a non-conidial form of *Torrubiella* (Ascomycetes, Sphaeriales: Clavicipitaceae) which is also known as a spider parasite.

I am grateful to Tony Irwin for his determination of the fungus, for background information and for the literature references cited.—I. F. G. McLean, 109 Miller Way, Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE18 8TZ.

REFERENCES

- Ellis, E. A. 1956. Entomogenous fungi in Norfolk. *Trans. Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Soc.* **18**(3): 23–28 + 11 plates.
 Petch, T. 1948. A revised list of British entomogenous fungi. *Trans. Br. Mycol. Soc.* **31**: 286–304.

A chironomid midge 'milking' aphid honeydew?—On 30.vi.1992, I took a series of photographs of a chironomid midge on the underside of a leaf of runner beans in my garden in Surbiton, Surrey. The fly was moving slowly and awkwardly over and around the aphids which were feeding on the central vein of the bean leaf. It appeared that the midge was attracted to the aphids, possibly by the sugary substance that they produce. Observations were made through the SLR viewfinder which is not ideal for this purpose, particularly when trying to maintain focus on the insect. It would appear from the photograph (Plate IV, Fig. 3), that the midge might have been extending its front legs forward much as an ant's antennae when it is stroking aphids in its attempt to 'milk' them—N. A. Callow, 25 Cranes Park Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8BS.

Plate IV.

1. A *Clubiona* spider infected with a parasitic fungus. I. F. G. McLean. 1993. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **6**: 88. Olympus OM4Ti, fitted with Olympus 80 mm, f4 macro lens on bellows, using an Olympus T28 twin-head macro flash and Agfa CT100 colour reversal film.
2. Antennal cleaning behaviour in *Vespula germanica* (F.) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae). N. A. Callow. 1993. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **6**: 89. The wasp drawing its right antenna through the notch at the end of the tibia, beneath the apical spur. Pentax LX, 50 mm macro lens, 50 mm extension tubes plus 12 diopetre supplementary lens. Kodachrome 64.
3. A chironomid midge 'milking' aphid honeydew? N. A. Callow. 1993. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **6**: 88. The midge appears to be extending its front legs forward over the aphids. Pentax LX, 50 mm macro lens, 82 mm extension tubes plus 10 diopetre supplementary lens, Kodachrome 64.
4. 'Cuckoo pupation' in the 6-spot burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae* (L.) ssp. *stephensi* Dupont. R. A. Jones. 1993. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* **6**: 89. Olympus OM1, Olympus 80 mm, f4 macro lens on Olympus 65–116 variable extension tube, two bracket-mounted flash guns, f22, Kodachrome 64. Burnet caterpillar inside the empty silk cocoon of the emperor moth (?). A burnet cocoon is just visible inside the emperor cocoon, on the right-hand side.



Callow, N. A. 1993. "A chironomid midge 'milking' aphid honeydew?" *British journal of entomology and natural history* 6, 88–88.

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