

whilst the larvæ of the *Euthrips* and *Oxythrips* are clear yellow or orange-yellow, and the antennæ of our little friend, under a lens, have the definition usually attributed to a mature thrips. *A. ericae* appears to prefer the large bell heather, *Erica tetralix*, from which plant I have more recently taken it on the moors near Riding Mill, Northumberland.

Hard work examining the junipers which grow so luxuriantly in the Holystone burn failed to produce the *Thrips juniperina*, L. (Bagn.), but special attention to the grasses and sedges in the neighbourhood of the Harbottle and Selby's Loughs brought to light single examples of four species not yet recorded from the British Isles, namely, the very distinct *Chirothrips hamatus*, Trybom (*dudae*, Uzel), ♀; and apparently the ♂ of *Bagnallia klapaleki*, Uzel, from sedge-like grasses on Harbottle Lough; ♀s of *Frankliniella tenuicornis*, Uzel, and what agrees well with Uzel's *Anaphothrips ferrugineus*, from a soft pasture grass on the banks of Selby's Lough. Several examples of *Euthrips pallipennis*, Uzel, ♀s, a distinct species we have only recently recognised, occurred with the *Chirothrips*, and a mutilated ♂ of *Bagnallia dilatatus*, Uzel, another addition to the British fauna, was taken from the Marsh Red Rattle or Lousewort, *Pedicularis palustris*, growing in a marshy spot near Holystone. *Oxythrips brevicollis*, Bagnall, was unsuccessfully searched for in *Sphagnum*, but as the insects usually found in *Sphagnum* were very scarce indeed, little time was spent in what appeared to be a thankless task. Most of the pines were too tall to examine easily, but by jumping up and tapping some of the lower branches over a paper, a few examples of *Oxythrips brevistylis*, Trybom, were shaken from the flowers, together with its earlier stages, and a single example of *O. ajugae*, Uzel. Uzel has also recorded the latter from *Pinus sylvestris*, as well as from the bugle (*Ajuga reptans*). *Aeolothrips vittatus*, Haliday, which, in my experience, appears to be attached to the pine, was not seen. A good deal of thrips material, less typically moorland, were taken for study, and a little attention was paid to the Coleoptera.

Altogether, insects were scarce, probably due to the dryness of the season, and only one typical hill beetle was particularly noted, a single *Pterostichus vitreus*, but *Microglossa pulla* was found in a wren's nest, whilst several examples of what at first appeared to me to be a small and peculiar jumping *Anobiid*, were discovered boring into the trunk of a small mountain ash tree growing on the moors between Harbottle and Holystone. These proved to be referable to that puzzling little *Anthribid*, *Choragus sheppardi*, Kirb., an addition to the local fauna, and a beetle that might well prove to be a stumbling block to any one unacquainted with it.

A *Scolopendrella* from Alwinton was referable to a new species, which I have named *S. delicatula* in a "Synopsis of the British Symphyla," which I hope to publish shortly.

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### The Latest in Nomenclature.

By R. SHELFORD, M.A., F.Z.S., F.E.S.

In *Psyche*, vol. 18, p. 88 (1911), my friend Mr. A. N. Caudell, whose assiduity in raking up names from the decent obscurity of synonymy I cannot but deplore, states that *Steleopyga* must replace



*Polyphaga* (syn. *Heterogamia*). In other words, orthopterists having just grown accustomed to call the *Blatta aegyptiaca* of Linnæus, *Polyphaga aegyptiaca* instead of *Heterogamia aegyptiaca*, must now learn to call it *Steleopyga aegyptiaca*!

Mr. Caudell's line of argument is as follows:—

(1) In 1833, Fischer von Waldheim erected the genus *Steleopyga* for three species, *orientalis*, L., *americana*, L., and *trichoprocta*, sp. n.

(2) Latreille in 1810 selected *orientalis*, L., as the type of the genus *Blatta*, L.; *americana*, L., "has long been the designated type of *Periplaneta*"; therefore *trichoprocta* is the type of the genus *Steleopyga*.

(3) *Steleopyga trichoprocta*, Fisch., is identical with *Blatta aegyptiaca*, L.

(4) It was not till 1835 that Brullé instituted the genus *Polyphaga* for *Blatta aegyptiaca*, L.

(5) Therefore *Steleopyga* antedates *Polyphaga*.

It seems to me that there is a flaw in the argument. Granting that *orientalis*, L. is not available as the type of *Steleopyga*, the next species on the list, *americana*, becomes available. Mr. Caudell lightly skates over the awkward fact that it was not till 1838 that this species was made the type of the genus *Periplaneta*, Burm., since it was only in that year that the genus was established. Consequently, if we rigidly apply the law of elimination, *americana* is shewn to be the type of *Steleopyga*, and *Periplaneta* sinks as a synonym. But there is really no necessity for these bewildering changes. In the early part of the last century it was not the custom to designate the types of genera, *hinc illae lachrymae*. When Fischer von Waldheim described the genus *Steleopyga*, his object was to remove from the heterogeneous Linnean assemblage *Blatta*, those species which in the male sex bore two symmetrical styles at the apex of the abdomen, and he deliberately disregarded Latreille's designation of *orientalis* as the type of *Blatta*, or else he was unaware of it. Surely then *orientalis* may fairly enough be regarded as the type of *Steleopyga*, as it is the first of the three species described under this generic term, and *Steleopyga* therefore sinks as a synonym of *Blatta*. This is the line of argument that has been followed by a generation or so of orthopterists, and I must confess to thinking it good enough for me. It may also be noted that in 1846, *i.e.*, after the establishment of the genera *Periplaneta* and *Polyphaga*, Fischer von Waldheim redescribed *Steleopyga* under the emended name *Stylopyga*, placing in it the single species *orientalis*. This is not only an additional argument in favour of regarding *orientalis* as the true type of *Steleopyga*, but illustrates the absurdity to which Mr. Caudell's line of argument leads. If Mr. Caudell is to be followed, a generic name stands in one sub-family, and in an emended form sinks as a synonym in another. That is, *vide* Mr. Caudell, *Stylopyga* is not synonymous with *Steleopyga*, though the author of both genera made it so.

Both Mr. Caudell and Mr. Burr have drawn my attention to the error I have made in employing *Stylopyga* for species which are not congeneric with *Blatta orientalis*, L. I acknowledge my fault and suggest the new name *Neostylopyga* for all the species included under *Stylopyga* in the *Genera Insectorum*, *Blattidae*, sub-family, *Blattinae*; the type of the genus is *Blatta rhombifolia*, Stoll.



Shelford, Robert W. C. 1911. "The latest in nomenclature." *The entomologist's record and journal of variation* 23, 241–242.

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